

St. Mary's Primary School

Newsletter

Thursday May 14th, 2020
Term 2 Week 5

St Mary's Primary School Donald
Woods Street, Donald
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DATES:

**Tuesday May 26th –
Students in Grades
Foundation, 1 & 2 return
to school.**

**Monday June 8th –
Queen's Birthday Public
Holiday – NO STUDENTS**

**Tuesday June 9th –
Students in Grades 3, 4,
5 & 6 return to school.**

**Friday June 26th –
Last day of Term 2**

**Monday July 13th –
School resumes for Term 3**



Vision Statement:

*St. Mary's community,
with Jesus as our
inspiration, aims to
educate and nurture the
development of the
whole child.*

**Mission Statement
focus this week:**

Learning & Teaching

*Provide opportunities for
each student to achieve
their academic potential,
in an engaging,
contemporary
educational
environment*

RETURNING TO SCHOOL.

The staff are very excited to have a date when the students return to school. It has been quiet for the students at school and staff without so many happy faces.

Monday 25th May: Pupil Free Day - Students are not expected to complete Remote Learning Activities on this day. This day is to provide teachers with preparation time and staff will be at school.

Tuesday, 26th May: Return to school for students in Foundation, Grade One and Two.

Tuesday, 9th June: Return to school students in Grade Three, Four, Five and Six.



Actions to continue to limit the spread of the virus at St. Mary's will include:

- Additional cleaning including daily cleaning of tables, doors etc.
- All staff and students will be expected to NOT attend school when unwell.
- Hand- sanitizer will be used on entering the classroom, after outdoor or art activities and after using the toilet.
- Students will have individual tables for the remainder of Term Two and throughout Term Three.
- Social distancing while eating.
- Social distancing when practical for school activities.
- Commitment to follow Government medical recommendations.
- Children to use drink bottles, not bubblers. If students forget their water bottles, water bottles will be provided by the school.
- Minimize visitors entering the school
- No camps or excursions during Terms Two and Three.

Families with any concerns about returning to school or with any other suggestions to minimize health risks please contact me.

Anne Anderson

Government Recommendation Regarding Remote Schooling during Term Two:

Students commenced Remote Schooling at St. Mary's from the 15th April at home except

- Children of parents who cannot work from home.
- Children who cannot be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made.
- Vulnerable children.

St. Mary's continues to remain open for these students.

RELATE:

Throughout 2020, St. Mary's will commence implementing the *ReLATE* Model (Rethinking Learning and Teaching Environment). This program is being implemented throughout the Ballarat Diocesan schools and St. Mary's is a pilot school.



On Monday, May 11th, the staff participated in an introductory session.

Support for *ReLATE* has come from the recognition that students, staff, and families have many stresses and these greatly impact the quality of life of individuals. An increased understanding of emotions, self-care, and the ability to communicate feelings in an effective manner will help all members of the school community to engage in learning more fully and successfully.

AIMS:

- Reduce stress, disengagement, and disruption to learning
- Build a greater understanding of the impact stress on our emotions, learning, and behaviour to guide policies and practice that enhance safety and wellbeing
- Equip staff, students, and families with improved communication, emotional management, and self-care skills leading to improved wellbeing and learning.
- Strengthen relationships between students and their families with others in the school community.
- Sustain commitment to and effectiveness of whole-school change.

Placed on the School App and attached is an article explaining the ReLATE Model more fully.

Families: The Coordinators would like to speak to a group of families to look at the strengths and challenges of the school. Any parent willing and able to participate in discussions is asked to contact me. Email: principal@smdonald.catholic.edu.au

Text: 0428814884

The Zoom meeting will be held next Monday, May 18th at 11.00am and last for about half an hour. I will send a link for all families able to attend.

The School App also has a ReLATE Form which families are asked to complete. This information will provide some additional ideas and knowledge of the school community.

Students: The Program Leaders will also hold a 'Google Meet' with students on Monday, May 18th at 10.00am. The link will be placed on their Google Classroom and students are invited and encouraged to share their thoughts about St. Mary's.

My apologies that these initial sessions are via Zoom but future sessions should be face to face. The program will be implemented over the coming 3 years.

Sincere thanks, Anne Anderson

LEARNING PACKS:

Week Five Learning Packs will be delivered on Monday afternoon,
from 2pm.

Each week materials will be provided on Monday and students are asked to complete the work on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Monday.

Families are requested to leave the students work and readers either in their mail box or at the front of the house.

Contacts:

Office 54971116 (8.30am – 4.00pm)

Anne: Office or Phone 0428814884

Teachers: 9.00am – 3.30pm

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