



St Joseph's School, Chelsea

Term 2, Week 5 Friday 14th May 2020

Stay safe, be kind



Dear Families,

The news of a timeline of a transition back to school was a welcome relief to all. The parents, teachers and students have all done an amazing job.

Following advice from the Chief Health Officer, the Victorian Government and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV) have advised that schools can begin a phased return to onsite schooling.

In the first stage, students in Prep, Grade 1 and Grade 2 will return to school from Tuesday 26 May.

To support all school staff to prepare for this transition, Monday 25 May will be a student-free day.

In the second stage of our return to onsite schooling, year 3-6 will return to school from Tuesday 9 June.

For those students who cannot be supervised at home and vulnerable children, the existing model of onsite schooling will remain in place during the two-week period from Tuesday 26 May to Tuesday 9 June. I will be sending a form for those families requiring continued supervision of their Year 3-6 child next week.

All other students in those year levels will continue learning from home until Tuesday 9 June.

Once a year level has returned, all students will be expected to attend school as normal. This means if you

choose to keep your child/children home after their year level has returned to onsite schooling, we can no longer support their learning from home.

This does not apply to children who need to be absent for health or medical reasons. For those families, please contact us so we can make an appropriate plan.

This same approach is being taken by all Catholic and government schools in Victoria.

To support the health and wellbeing of all students and staff, our school will continue an enhanced cleaning routine and will encourage frequent handwashing.

If your child is ill or is feeling unwell, they must not attend school. They must remain home and seek medical advice.

While the Chief Health Officer has advised that students will not be required to maintain physical distancing at school, there will be a number of important changes to our school operations, consistent with health advice to all schools that will be made available in coming days. These will apply until further notice. I will provide more details about our local school context next week, but it is important to note that changes will include:

- To minimise congestion adjusted arrangements for drop-off and pick-up, including staggered school start and finish times
- restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff and students
- the way we conduct parent–teacher meetings and interviews

We understand that some families may feel anxious about this move back to classroom teaching and learning. I can assure you that this decision has been taken on the basis of the best health advice available to our state.

More information about the return to school and coronavirus (COVID-19) can be found on the CECV website, which will continue to be updated: www.cecv.catholic.edu.au/Coronavirus-information-for-parents.

Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. We look forward to welcoming students back to the classroom.

Next week on Friday 22nd May the preps and year 1/2 teachers will have a report writing day. The teachers will provide activities you can do on the day but will not be providing any feedback. You may also wish to have a well being day with your children.

Semester one Reports

Semester One Reports will be substantially modified due to the learning environment that has taken place this term. Staff will provide a summary of the Victorian Curriculum covered in term 1 & 2 and comment on your child as a learner in the remote learning environment. There will be no A-E reporting scale (dots). A more comprehensive view of your child's learning will be provided in December.

Loving God,

Often in our prayers we ask you for guidance & help but we also want to say 'Thank you' for all the great things that we have in our lives:

For our families and friends,

We say 'Thank you!'

For the chance to be at school learning different things,

We say 'Thank you!'

For the love of our families and the time we spend with them at home and on holidays,

We say 'Thank you!'

For our teachers and other people who help us at school and who encourage us to be the best we can be,

We say 'Thank you!'

We also ask you to bless the families at St Joseph's in Baguia in East Timor. Help us to share so that they can enjoy the good things in our world.

Loving Saint Joseph, help us to make our way to God.

Amen

Survey results....

Thank you to all the parents who took the time to respond to our survey last week. It was great to hear how you have all embraced the learning and the challenges. Thank you for the shout outs to the staff as well. Below is some of the feedback we received.

Survey On How Remote Learning is Going?

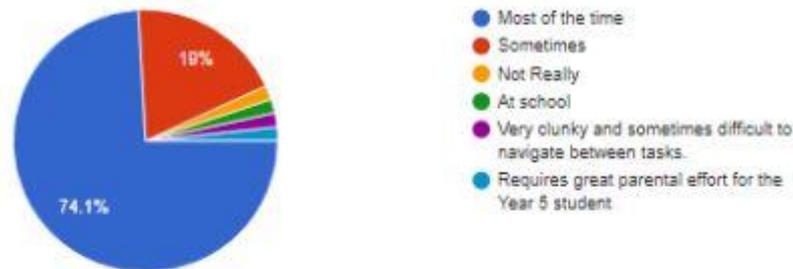
Year levels of children

58 responses



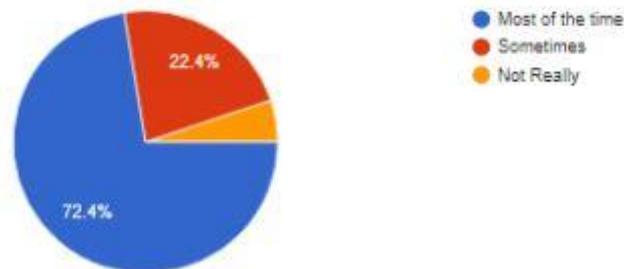
Is the Learning model we are using working well for you?

58 responses



Are you and your child managing most tasks?

58 responses



How is/ your children managing the remote learning?

- They are enthusiastic and organised. They love starting the day early and working to their own times. Toward the end of the day I think having been in front of a screen has taken its toll, emotionally... however in the circumstances we are just rolling with it. It has made them more resilient, adaptable and upskilling in technology is fantastic. They very much miss their friends though. Grade 1, no one on one time with other kids is hard. At least in grade 5 they are video chatting regularly.

- They're both starting to struggle with motivation but have been relatively independent so far.
- Some days are good and some days are not. When he encounters some difficult subject he shuts down.
- Some days are ok, some days they get frustrated and think it's too hard
- Children are managing well most of the time.
- It felt a little overwhelming at first but once we learnt about all the various platforms etc, they settled into a good routine by 2nd week.
- All of my kids are doing well. I do need to help them, so it's full on but over all they are learning heaps and excelling with the one on one time
- Better than I expected
- Over all good but we do have emotional days
- Both doing incredibly well and enjoying the daily activities, and they are definitely making progress across all subjects.
- He is managing the remote learning well. He would like to be with his friends and teachers but understands that he can't for now.
- My child is managing the remote learning extremely well. She has surprised me with her work ethic and her commitment to completing and submitting all her tasks. She is enjoying the aspect of working at her own pace without any interruptions by other students but is also missing the physical side of schooling, ie playing with her friends.

Would you like to give words of encouragement to the teachers?

- We really appreciate all the feedback (in a variety ways) you are providing and are very impressed with how quickly you've adapted.
- They are doing an amazing job
- Thank you for the great support from all the staff, class teachers to LSO helpers. Without their continuous support we won't get through this challenging time easily.
- Everyone is doing such a fantastic job! I know how much (and the long hours) you are putting into everything you do. We are proud to be a part of the St Joseph's family, where our teachers are so dedicated and caring. Thank You so much for all you are doing for the wellbeing and education of our children.
- We appreciate all the hard work, you have all been amazing! The quality of work, the support, the kindness and feedback. We know it's lots of work and thank you for your outstanding professionalism through it all. Thank you!
- Thank you for all the time,effort and sacrifice.. It is much appreciated.
- Thank you for all of the extra work you are doing. It's certainly changed the way of every day teaching and we are very aware of the challenges and time that this takes.
- You are doing an excellent job and we appreciate the time and effort you put in to make sure our kids are happy. We couldn't survive remote learning without your help and support. Thank you!

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- The teachers have showed incredible persistence and resilience also.
- All of my child's specialist teachers are also doing a great job with providing interesting tasks and giving very constructive feedback to my child. Overall I feel very secure in the fact that my child's learning is not being overly impacted throughout this challenging time.
- I think the school and teachers are doing an absolutely outstanding job.

Anything else you would like to say?

- I can't think of any more you could do to support us at the moment.
- Can't wait for the school to re-open
- I like the shared reading session, it helps a lot to his understanding.
- Looking forward for things to go back to normal soon hopefully
- We love assembly.
- We love knowing what the kids are learning and being part of it - through seeing daily schedules and work on seesaw.
- It is a great way to keep connected to one another and really be part of their learning journey. We are learning too!
- It would be fantastic to maintain as much of this as possible, post covid!!
- The switch to online learning has been great. I also love that we have been able to manage the class work around our own time schedule. Also the online reading/learning programs have been great also to keep the kids engaged in different ways . Thank you.
- We follow the schedule as best we can but with younger siblings it can become difficult. We are putting more of a focus on literacy and mathematics on days where the household is very busy. On a positive note, our son's reading and writing has greatly improved since learning from home for which we are very proud of him. We will continue to support him as best as we can in and around our busy household as we understand his education at this age is very important.
- The work is quite repetitive sometimes. Creative elements would make the work more fun eg. Writing in dirt / sand/ rice instead of their workbooks, finding letters in magazines/ newspapers to make words for spelling (instead of always writing) . Maybe include some art projects related to current surroundings e.g. Autumn related.
- What the school has done during this time is amazing and I thank everyone involved. It purely just doesn't work when both parents are working /working from home. Thank you for providing the opportunity to share our thoughts.
- Reports this term should look and be different. It's not fair on the teachers to write full reports on only what's being uploaded and it's not fair on the kids whose teaching looks very different to all.

- We are very lucky to be a part of the St Joseph's community - lots of help, support & encouragement at this

challenging time. Keep up the great work! And please let us know how we can help. We understand that

challenging time. Keep up the great work, team! And please know that we appreciate you & understand that you are real people with your own families 😊

- Thank you from our hearts. As a parent I'm very grateful to the team at St Joeys, you've made a very daunting time manageable and fun for the kids. Hats off to you all!



Parish News....

Earlier this week, Archbishop Comensoli announced some lessening of the coronavirus restrictions.

We are now able to have public Mass, but with only **TEN PEOPLE** present as the congregation ... plus the reader(s), the altar server, a singer and musician, a couple of people to monitor the door ... oh, and the priest!

Due to the requirement of having to clean the Church after every service, there will be some alteration to Mass times.

Public Mass will be held at St Joseph's:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday – 9am AND 4pm

Saturday – 9am AND 6pm Vigil Mass

Sunday – 8:30am AND 11am

Booking ahead is absolutely essential!

The Government requires St Joseph's to keep an accurate record of every person who attends services at St Joseph's. Please do not turn up at the door of the Church without booking first and having the Parish confirm the booking!

If you would like to attend Mass at St Joseph's under these restrictions, then please call the Parish Office on 9772 2211 and leave your name and telephone number, in addition to the date and time you would like to attend.

The parish will then call and confirm your booking. We are hoping to have all this up and running by Saturday 23rd May.

The parish will try and provide Mass for as many people as possible, rather than the same people every day, and due to the severe restrictions on numbers available, it will be a case of "first-come-best-dressed!"

Oh, and please remember, during this time Catholics are not obliged to attend Mass. So if you miss out GOD UNDERSTANDS!!! Keep safe; keep strong; keep the faith.

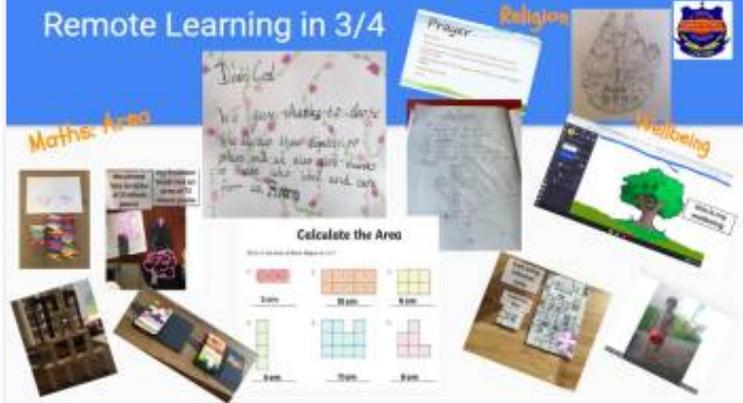
Our learning

Remote Learning in 1/2

We have been learning about collecting data, making tallies and creating picture and bar graphs.



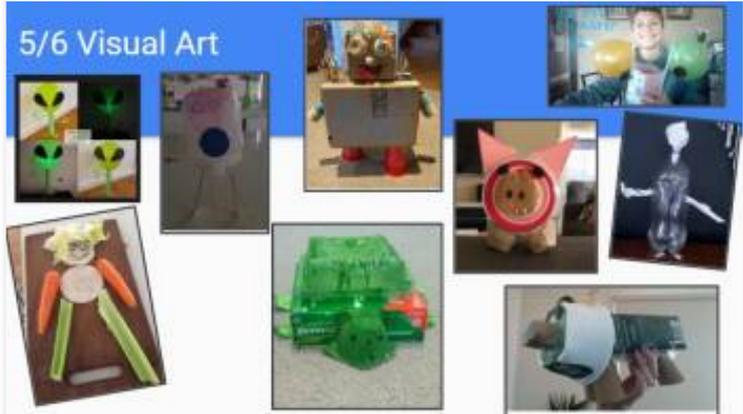
Remote Learning in 3/4



5/6 Maths



5/6 Visual Art

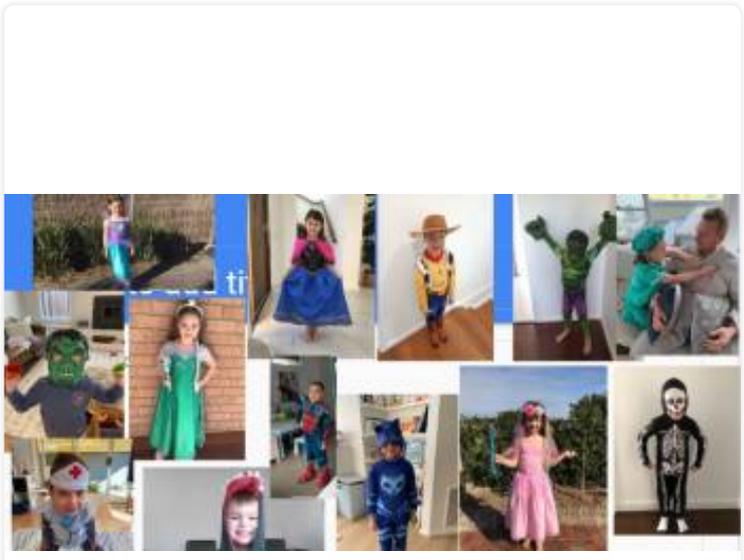
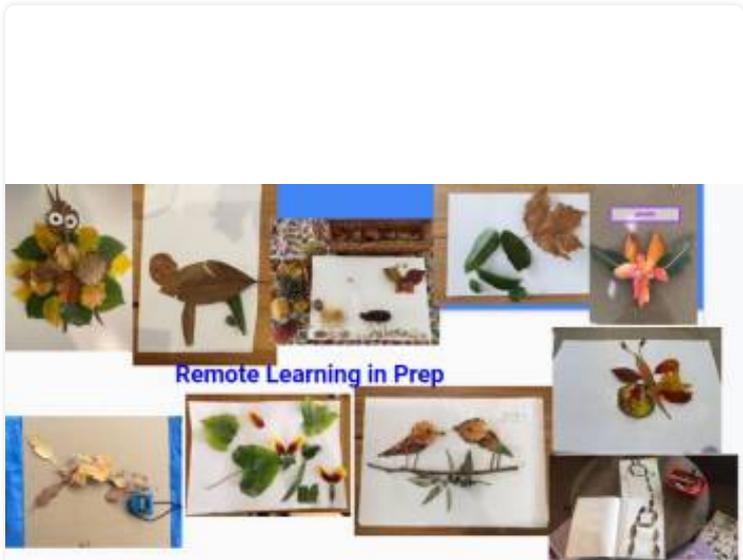
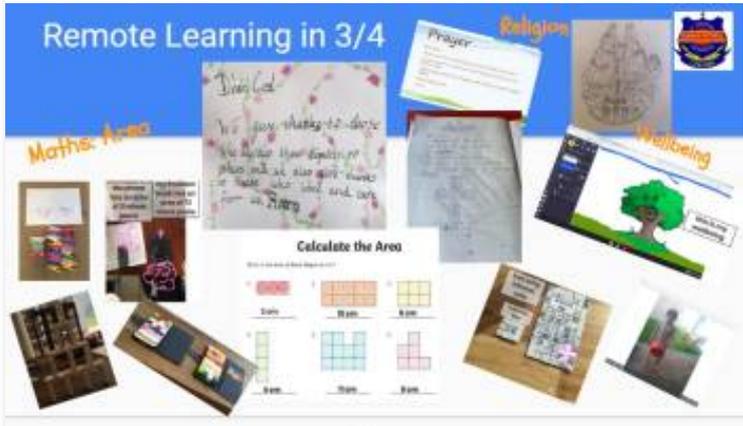


5/6 Reading



Remote Learning in PREP





Prep 2021

We would like all families who have children starting school in 2021 to email enrolments@sjchelsea.catholic.edu.au and let us know your child is starting. If you have already let us know - thank you. We have emailed an enrolment form to you and require it to be scanned/posted back to us with a copy of the birth, baptism and immunisation certificates. We do not require a deposit for current families. We aim to put the information into our system asap.

A little mindfulness for this week....

LONG OUT BREATH



- * Begin by focusing on your breath for 1 minute and simply notice how your breath feels.
- * Now keeping your focus on your breath, try to make your out breath twice as long as the in breath.
 - * Take as much air in as you breathe out.
 - * Do this for 2 minutes.
- * Return to your normal breathing and simply notice the natural flow of breathing for a few minutes.

Breath Meditations



Some ideas on how to manage those challenging conversations with your older child!

By Andrew Fuller

While young children may be diverted and entertained by a cunning mix of board games, art activities, books and clips of cats doing weird things, for families with teens, life may not be quite so rosy.

Parents of older children and teenagers may feel like they have gone back 10 years and their 14-year-old is acting like a four-year-old, demanding, 'I want it now.'

Negotiators come out with high-stake claims and often lack a fall-back position. They will stake a claim and demand instantaneous resolution. Parents will need to slow down the wheeling and dealing.

While it is tempting for parents to just outline what can and can't happen at this time, we can also use these situations to help young people to think through the pros and cons of different issues and solutions. Help them be both compliant with social distancing and inventive.

For example, if they are worried about a friend, how else could they reach out and support them. If you can't go to the skate park, how else can you get some exercise?

What you may consider doing

Here is a chance to help your kids develop a sense of responsibility to themselves and others. Here is an opportunity for us all to look beyond considering what our own personal 'needs' are and think about the consequences of our actions on other people.

You could, of course, dream the impossible dream: your family stuck together in a confined place for an uncertain period of time with barely a word of discontent and certainly no flare-ups.

Do I really need to tell you, you're dreaming?

Back in the land called 'reality', you will need to be prepared to make some tough trade-offs. Even though it seems your kids have been on screens all day long, you need to accept that remote school learning does not equal socialising with friends. You will need to accept that screen time will increase dramatically for the duration. Quietly plan for some adventures outdoors with good communication and connecting when this time has

passed.

What you may say

There are some lines that are easy to over use with kids and will cause them to roll their eyes and shut their ears:

- 'We are all in this together, you know.'
- 'Some people are doing it tougher than you.'
- 'You should be grateful for what you have.'
- 'At least I'm a reasonable parent.'
- 'Haven't you got homework to do.'
- 'Why don't you go and read a book?'

Most parents will 'plea bargain' in some of these ways – just don't expect them to work.

Instead use the **RESOLVE** model:

Respond with Respect – begin by acknowledging that their feelings and frustrations are valid.

Engage – ask them to tell you how they feel.

Seek understanding – I know you value your friends and you will be missing them but they also need you to take care of them.

Observe feelings – this is hard and it's frustrating and no one chose life to be this way. However, it is not the hardest challenge in life and it won't last forever.

Lower the tone - when in doubt, play for time. Slow the discussion down. It won't make the issue go away but it will give you time to think.

Value add - let's try to work some other ways to keep in touch with your friends.

Empower - right now we all need to be role models. There are people in our area who are much more vulnerable than we are and we need to help save their lives.

It is likely we will cycle through the three cycles already mentioned in this series of papers – [fear and bewilderment](#), [anger](#), and bargaining – several times before reaching some form of acceptance.

School Uniform details....



Welcome Back!

**ALL PSW STORES ARE REOPENING FROM
WEDNESDAY MAY 20th**

**Wed, Thurs & Fridays / 9am-5pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm
(Closed Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays)**

**OUR ONLINE STORE IS OPERATIONAL AT PSW.COM.AU
& SHIPPING ORDERS WITHIN 72 HRS!**