



# NEWSLETTER

## ST MONICA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL:

MRS MELISSA BEGGS

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL:

MRS ANNEMARIE BOND

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:

FR GAYAN THAMAL

Week 2 Term 4

Tuesday October 12, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Welcome back to school and Term 4!

This is a term filled with hope as we near the time when some of life's normalities begin to return. There is excitement in the air too as we get ready to welcome back students on site and can gather with our friends face to face.

However, as we approach the return of the students to school we have had a number of questions from parents in regards to real and understandable concerns about the safety of their children once at school. In response to these questions, we will continue to review our routines and procedures to ensure the safe return of all students to school and respond to their learning needs with a strong focus on numeracy and literacy. As always please contact the school if you are unsure or have concerns. Under health guidelines all staff onsite from 18th October will be fully vaccinated.

An outline of the procedures for returning to school is included further in this newsletter. Please take some time to alert your children to these so they are aware of the changes as well and can feel reassured as they come back to school.

### Building News

During the school holidays tenders were called for the refurbishment of the school toilet block. Beginning mid term the old toilet block will be demolished and in its place will be built a new block with a breezeway so that it can be accessed from both sides of the playground. It will also include new individual boys and girls toilet cubicles, a purpose built accessible bathroom and a storeroom. Whilst this has been a long awaited project and will be of great benefit to the school it will mean that for a time we will need to accommodate the worksite. All contractors will be following COVID safe plans and will be restricted from the school by temporary fencing and a portable toilet block will be installed for student use.

### October is the Month of the Rosary

The month of October is a powerful time to draw close to Our Blessed Mother by praying the Rosary. She loves it when we draw near to her in trust. Praying the Rosary is similar to small children reaching up to hold the hand of their mother in complete trust. During her lifetime, Mother Teresa always carried a rosary in her hand. In this way, she said, she was holding Mary's hand.

Saint Louis de Montfort said, "Mary is the safest, easiest, shortest, and most perfect way of approaching Jesus."

*May she draw us ever nearer to her Immaculate Heart and to that of her beloved Son. Our Lady of the Rosary,  
Our Lady of Victory – Pray for us!*



Take care and stay safe

Melissa Beggs

Principal



Happy Birthday to the children who celebrated last week and will be celebrating over the next 2 weeks

<i>Jude B – KW</i>	<i>Felicity R – S2B</i>
<i>Rose H – S1G</i>	<i>Archer H – S1G</i>
<i>Sophier M – KB</i>	<i>Gatleen K – S1W</i>
<i>Brodie R – KB</i>	<i>Zoe L – S2B</i>
<i>Emily M – S2B</i>	<i>Tahlia N – S1B</i>

## *Return to School and Safety Procedures*

### **Morning Drop Off**

Our morning drop off will continue through the Francis Street gate. Parents are not permitted onsite, and we ask that you do not wait at the gate as your child enters to avoid a crowd building. Children will be asked to sanitise their hands as they enter school. (School supplied)

### **Learning Spaces**

To ensure that we have adequate ventilation doors and windows will be open and fans will be turned on each day. The school will be monitoring the air quality and students are asked to ensure that they bring a jumper as it may be cooler inside the rooms.



### **Mask Wearing**

Mask wearing is strongly advised for all students. A school mask has been purchased for each child to wear during the day however these are not compulsory.

Masks can be removed whilst students are sitting to eat and playing outdoors. Masks are mandatory for all staff.

### **Recess / Lunch Breaks**

Students will be remaining in their stage groups when they go out to play. Each cohort will have their own play space which will be rostered throughout the week so that everyone has use of the different play areas. Sip and crunch will continue as usual. The canteen will remain closed until further notice and the bubblers will be closed. Please ensure your child brings a refillable water bottle each day to school.

### **After school Pick Up**

Pick up for students will occur from the gates in the junior playground and the gates beside the play equipment in Bourke St. (The regular Bourke Street entrance will be out of use due to the toilet refurbishment - see information further in our newsletter) These will be in family groups and will be allocated by alphabet and signposted on the gates. (Gate allocation will be sent home on Friday) The pickup time for students will be at 3pm to allow slightly more time and to aid congestion with buses etc.

Children catching the bus or going to after school care will leave via the Francis St gate as per usual.

### **Parents on site**

Until further notice for the health and safety of the students current health guidelines state parents are currently not allowed onsite. We are hopeful that this will be eased as we move into Term 4.

## SCHOOL LEAVERS

We are planning for the 2022 school year and to help us with this please let the office know if your family will not be continuing at St Monica's in 2022. A reminder to families that a term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing MUST be given to the principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. The notice can be given any time during the term for the next term and where appropriate notice has been received, a pro-rate credit will be calculated. Where a term's notice has not been given to the principal, the term's school fees will be charged for your child/children.



## KINDERGARTEN AND YEARS 1-6 IN 2022

### Have you enrolled your child for 2022?

If not, limited places remain for next year's Kindergarten intake and Years 1-6

Enrolment packs for kindergarten and other grades are available from the school or alternatively the enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website

<https://www.stmonicasrichmond.catholic.edu.au>



If you have not yet submitted your enrolment form and accompanying documents could you please contact the school office as soon as possible.

## BRYNORMS UNIFORM SHOP

We are delighted to write and inform you that with the anticipated changes to the Sydney Metropolitan Area Covid 19 Lockdown and stay at home orders, Brynorm's uniform shop at Richmond will be re-opening. We will be opening in line with the Health Directive requirements for staff and customers.

Our **initial weekday** opening times will be: Monday 18th October 2021 9.30am - 4.45pm

Wednesday 20th October 2021 9.30am - 4.45pm

Monday 25th October 2021 9.30am - 4.45pm

Wednesday 27th October 2021 9.30am - 4.45pm

Please note that we do close for lunch between 1pm and 1.30pm on weekdays.

Our **initial Saturday** opening times will be: Saturday 23rd October 2021 9am - 12.45pm

Saturday 30th October 2021 9am - 12.45pm

We will **resume our normal trading days and times** from: **Monday 1st November 2021**

Monday - Thursday 9.30am - 4.45pm (Closed for Lunch between 1pm and 1.30pm)

Saturday 9am - 12.45pm

Closed on Friday and Sunday

Our new website is online and available for orders to be placed in anticipation of our re-opening.

The website address is: [brynorms.com.au](http://brynorms.com.au)

The password that customers will require to use the website is: brynorms



## COVID-19: Identifying the Symptoms

Symptoms		COVID-19	Cold	Flu	Allergies*
		Symptoms range from mild to severe	Gradual onset of symptoms	Abrupt onset of symptoms	May be abrupt or gradual onset of symptoms
<b>Fever</b>		Common	Rare	Common	No
<b>Cough</b>		Common	Common	Common	Common (asthma)
<b>Sore Throat</b>		Sometimes	Common	Sometimes	Sometimes (Itchy throat and palate)
<b>Shortness of Breath</b>		Sometimes	No	No	Common (asthma)
<b>Fatigue</b>		Sometimes	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
<b>Aches &amp; Pains</b>		Sometimes	No	Common	No
<b>Headaches</b>		Sometimes	Common	Common	Sometimes
<b>Runny or Stuffy Nose</b>		Sometimes	Common	Sometimes	Common
<b>Diarrhoea</b>		Rare	No	Sometimes, especially for children	No
<b>Sneezing</b>		No	Common	No	Common

*Adapted from material produced by WHO, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. \*Respiratory allergies include allergic rhinitis (hay fever), and allergic asthma. Other common symptoms of hay fever include itchy nose and itchy, watery eyes.*

*It is very difficult to distinguish between the symptoms of COVID-19, influenza and a cold. If you have any infectious or respiratory symptoms (such as a sore throat, headache, fever, shortness of breath, muscle aches, cough or runny nose) don't go to work. You need to self-isolate and to be assessed by a medical professional. You may need testing for COVID-19. You must not return to work until cleared by a medical professional. You need to ensure that the people you care for are protected and safe. People who have respiratory allergy symptoms such as allergic rhinitis (hay fever) and allergic asthma should stay home and get tested for COVID-19 at the onset of their symptoms and if they experience symptoms that are unexpected, seem different or worse than usual, or do not respond to their usual medication.*

For more information about **Coronavirus (COVID-19)** go to [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au)

Visit [www.health.gov.au/resources/translated](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/translated) or for translating and interpreting services call 131 450.



Dear parishioners,

Though we can legally open churches from the 11<sup>th</sup> of October, now that NSW has reached 70% vaccination status, the Bishop of Parramatta Diocese has decided not to open churches for public Masses until the 80% target has been reached. **This first stage then**

**means we will resume public Masses for all on the 25th of October.**

**Stage 1** means we will again be subject to the following restrictions:

- 1 person per 4 square metres; 130 congregants at St Monica's and 28 at St Gregory's.
- Online registrations will be required.
- No congregational singing.
- Masks will still be required to be worn.
- The Sign of Peace will resume by way of bowing or a nod of the head to each other.

**Stage 2** begins on the 1st of December, with the following restrictions:

- The 4 square metre rule will reduce to 2 square metres; 250 congregants at St Monica's and 47 at St Gregory's.
- Congregational singing can resume.
- Masks will not be mandatory but are still highly recommended.

Livestreaming will continue for Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday 9:30am Masses, until the 1st of December at which time we will review the situation.

We will continue with the current Lockdown Roster until the 29th of October, after which time the previous Covid Rosters will resume; that will be the weekend of the 30th/31st of October.

Should you be unable to access online registrations for Masses, please contact the Parish Office. We look forward to welcoming you back and celebrating the Eucharist together.

God bless,

Fathers Gayan, Thomas and the Parish Team.

The Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Patrick Conolly has announced a new Christmas competition for Hawkesbury Children between the ages 5-16.

The competition is to design the front image for his Christmas Card this year.

The entry form and template can be found here - <https://bit.ly/3ocJvU0>

There will be 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize given out with the 1st place winner's design to be printed on the front of the Mayor's official Christmas Card.

Entries are open until 25 October.



**Ho, ho ho! Christmas is on its way!** Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Patrick Conolly invites children aged 5 to 16 years to participate in this special Christmas card design competition. We need your help to design the cover of the Mayor's annual Christmas card.

The winning design will be used on the Mayor's annual Christmas cards with special credit given to the artist!

We'd love to see your drawings, sketches and paintings.

All you have to do is fill out the entry form and in the space provided submit your design by scanning your design (high resolution JPEG or PDF) via email [events@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:events@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

Please ensure you use the template provided and remember to complete all your details to be eligible.

**Gift cards to be won!** Join in on the **FUN** and you could **WIN**:

 <b>1st</b>	\$200 Voucher	 <b>2nd</b>	\$100 Voucher	 <b>3rd</b>	\$50 Voucher
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**Hurry, competition close Monday 25 October**

**Mayor's CHRISTMAS card design competition**

**Print this page on a A4 sheet of paper and start designing.**

▶ Please design inside the rectangle.

## ENTRY FORM

Entrant Name:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Email Address:

Contact Number:

Age:

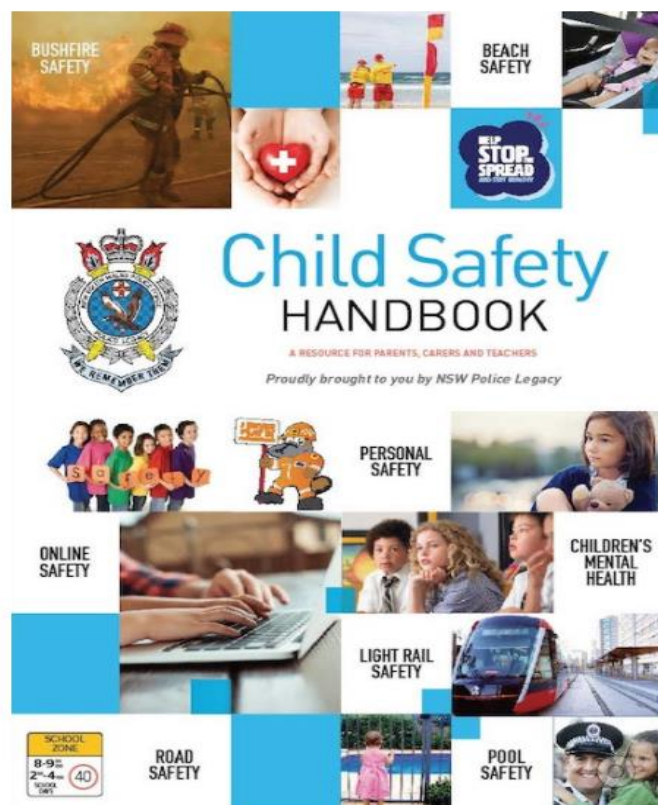
Email your design to [events@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:events@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au) and include a PDF or JPEG of your drawing or design by Monday 25 October.

The “NSW Police Legacy Child Safety Handbook” is a comprehensive resource to assist parents, carers as well as teachers on a range of topics essential to child safety. Over the past 10 years most NSW primary schools have received hard copies of this most important child safety handbook and have distributed them to the parents and carers of their pupils.

The handbook has been updated to include key messages about COVID-19 safety and bush fire safety with Summer just around the corner.

The updated digital edition (link below) also includes important content updates from: NSW Ministry of Health, NSW Police Force, Fire and Rescue NSW, Rural Fire NSW, Transport for NSW, Sydney Trains, NSW Department of Family & Community Services, eSafety Commissioner and NSW Office of the Children's Guardian.

Please click on the cover below to view the updated digital handbook:



Here are a couple of other links where digital handbook can be viewed.

NSW Police Legacy – <https://www.policelegacynsw.org.au/resources/>

Child Safety Hub Website – <http://nsw.childsafetyhub.com.au/handbook/>