

Important Dates

School Dentist on site for Week 11

Monday 11 April

Last School Day of Term 1

Wednesday 13 April

Pupil Free Day

Thursday 14 April

Good Friday

Friday 15 April

Easter Sunday

Sunday 17 April

Pupil Free Day

Monday 2 May

Start of Term 2, School Begins

Tuesday 3 May

From the Leadership Team

Dear Families, In the last newsletter I spoke about our school (Mercy) values of Compassion, Courage, Hospitality, Justice, Respect and Service and how these are still a focus in our school today. In particular, I spoke about the value of Compassion. Today I would like to share my thoughts about the value of Service.

Service is where one person does something for another. Often we might pay someone for a service, such as to mow our lawn, repair our car or to deliver a parcel. Sometimes this might be above and beyond what one might normally expect from another person and may not require money at all. Parents, from day one, need to provide for and serve their children, with clothing, food and a safe place to live. In the bible we are all challenged, in many passages, to serve one another. Even Jesus (in Mark's Gospel) came 'not to be served but to serve and to give life'. Traditionally, it has been women who have done most of the serving. Today however, gender has nothing to do with service. We are all, in fact, called to serve others. Our leaders, in particular, must be at the service of the community in which they reside or operate. Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy have been and continue to be a great example of service to the poor and vulnerable in society. How do you serve others? How can we be good role models for our children and help them to understand the importance of 'Service'?

"the greatest among you must become like the youngest and the leader like one who serves" – Luke 22:26

A real life example of Service is shown by our Sports Captains and Vice Captains who were announced to the students last Thursday at a short assembly. Our Captains for 2022 are:

House/Team	Captain	Vice Captain
McAuley	Mitchell McCafferty	Rahwa Habtesilasie
Coolock	Eugenio Bria	Taylor Feast
Fitzpatrick	Chelsey Pix	Aguer Majok

I would like to congratulate each of these captains who were chosen by their peers to lead their teams throughout the year. Each of them nominated and gave a speech, explaining why they would be a good choice to lead their teams. We have high expectations for each of them to lead by example and 'serve' their team and their school in a positive way. Thank you to the other students who nominated but

were unsuccessful. Each one of them still has an important role to play in being of service to their team.

Our other important leaders are our Student Leaders who are 'of service' to all children in our school. This is an important group of two children from each class who meet with me once a fortnight to discuss Positives/Celebrations, Ideas, Questions and Issues relating to the school. We held our first meeting on Tuesday of this week with Hallie, Elias, Stella, Jakob, Charlotte, Jayden, Tina, Maike, Tayla and Hassan. Congratulations to each of these children for being chosen by their peers and for taking on this role of service to others.

Next term we will be holding Parent Teacher Learning Conversations. These will take place in Week 2, from 9 to 11 May. Depending on the Covid situation these may be face to face or by telephone. A decision around this will be made closer to the time. You should have received a letter with information about booking a time(s). Please return this as soon as possible. You will receive notification of your conversation time in the last week of this term.

Last week our Year 3 and Year 5 students undertook the NAPLAN Practice Test. We wish them well for the actual test which will take place in Week 2 next term. NAPLAN provides us with a snapshot of information about how students are travelling with their learning.

At St Mary Magdalene's School we take child protection seriously. We do all that we can to ensure your children are safe. There are a number of policies, procedures and guidelines that we utilise to support us in this important task. For your information I offer you links to some of these important documents.

- Reporting Harm of Children and Young People Procedure
- Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy (Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide)
- Responding to Online Safety incidents in South Australian schools: Guidelines for staff working in education settings
- Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum information for educators (Department for Education SA)

With this Newsletter I have included two letters, one about the importance of vaccinations for children and one about two Pupil Free Days – one on the last day of this term (Thursday 14 April) and one on the first day of next term (Monday 2 July). I encourage you to read them as a matter of urgency. In the last week of this term, we are giving away a whole lot of school jackets that have been 'lost' and not collected. This highlights the importance of writing the family name somewhere inside their clothing and to rewrite the name on the labels on a regular basis! Please keep an eye out for these freebies. Remember that Daylight Saving ends this Sunday morning. You will need to move your clock back by one hour if you want to enjoy an extra hour of sleep.

Working in Partnership

Peter Mercer

Acting Deputy Principal

Head of Campus

Recent News

From the APRIM

The Season of Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving

Project Compassion – 20c Challenge'

'Alms' are what we give to people in need. Project Compassion is a great way of doing this. We thank you for the coins that you are continually adding to the Project Compassion boxes on the prayer space in your child's class. In week 10 we will gather as a school community to see if we can outline the word 'give' with our coins in preparation for sending our proceeds to CARITAS Australia.

The story below is an example of those who are supported by the donations so generously provided through Project Compassion.

Anatercia 12, was struggling to cope with adult responsibilities after her father died. Then she participated in Caritas Australia-supported training and gained access to psychosocial supports.

Now, Anatercia can easily access clean drinking water, community members are able to grow healthy crops all year round, and there is enough nutritious food to eat. Anatercia feels better supported by her community, has more time to study and do her homework, and

hopes to fulfil her dream of becoming a nurse.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 to help young people succeed in the future and bring stability to vulnerable youth like Anatercia.

Holy Week

You will notice the beginnings of our Holy Week display under the flag pole, as you enter through the school gates. Holy Week is during week 11 of this term and follows the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, gathering with his disciples at the Last Supper on Holy Thursday and his dying and rising with Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

As we celebrate these events during week 11, we will gather for prayer and class sharing via Microsoft Teams with staff and students from St. Thomas More School and St. Mary Magdalene's School.

Sacramental Program 2022

If you would like your child to be involved in the 2022 Sacramental Program, please see Melissa Musolino. Due to Covid we are currently looking at the possibility of offering an online version of this program.



30 March 2022

**PUPIL FREE DAYS WITH STUDENT SUPERVISION AVAILABLE
ON THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2022 AND MONDAY 2 MAY 2022**

Dear Parents/Caregivers

There is no doubt that COVID-19 has impacted school communities significantly during Term 1.

Thank you for your continuing support to adapt to the changing circumstances throughout the term, and for supporting your child to engage with learning at school, and where necessary from home.

You will recall that the year began with additional time set aside for staff to prepare for the term in the knowledge that COVID-19 would cause disruption. It is now clear that Term 2 will be at least as challenging as Term 1 has been to date.

In order to ensure we are best prepared to support learning continuity for and wellbeing of our students throughout Term 2, two preparation days are being set aside for staff ahead of Term 2. These will be on Holy Thursday (14 April, in Week 11 this Term), and on the first day of Term 2 (being Monday 2 May).

Noting that these two dates are fast approaching and that some families will not be able to make alternative arrangements for the care of their child, supervision (not a learning program) will be made available for students who need to attend school on one or both of those dates. In addition, please be assured that the usual before and after school care arrangements remain in place for both of these days. You can book in the usual manner.

Please advise your child's class teacher (through Seesaw) if your child will be attending school on one or both of these days.

The preparation days are intended to be used by staff to undertake marking and reporting and to prepare materials for Term 2 with a focus on being ready to deliver remote learning where that becomes necessary, including the preparation of learning packs as reserve materials for junior primary classes in the event the school needs to move to a remote delivery model during the term.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to our staff, students and our school community for the way you have supported each other during this challenging time.

If you have any immediate queries in relation to this correspondence, please speak to either Peter Mercer or Chris Platten via the front office on 8255 6152.

Working in partnership

Chris Platten and Peter Mercer



30 March 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

I am reaching out prior to the end of first term to encourage and remind you all to book a COVID-19 vaccination for your child.

Over 50 per cent of all children aged 5 to 11 have now received a first dose, with many now due for a second dose (eight weeks after the first). In particular as we approach school holidays and the weather cools down, it is important to take steps to minimise the impact of COVID-19. Vaccines are a safe and effective way to protect your child, and the community.

The Department of Health website provides a number of resources with further information about seeking COVID-19 vaccination. Attached is a Fact Sheet which you could use to have a conversation with your child. Further resources are also available at: www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/who-can-get-vaccinated/children

Vaccines are widely available across the country at general practices, state-run clinics and Aboriginal Health Services. You can find a participating clinic and make an appointment by visiting the Vaccine Clinic Finder at: <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking>

Thank you for your efforts to keep your child and the wider school community safe.

Working in partnership

Chris Platten and Peter Mercer



How to speak to kids about COVID-19 vaccines

Last updated: 21 March 2022

The safety of the Australian population has always been the Australian Government's highest priority. For this reason, decisions regarding COVID-19 vaccines have been, and continue to be, based on the expert medical advice of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

ATAGI recommends COVID-19 vaccination in everyone from 5 years of age.

It's natural for your child to be curious and to have lots of questions about COVID-19 vaccinations. Here are some tips for speaking to children before and after they receive a vaccine.

Stay up to date with the latest information and advice

It's important to stay up to date with the latest medical advice available on [Health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au).

You can also discuss any concerns or questions you have about COVID-19 vaccination with your immunisation provider and/or your GP before your child receives the vaccine.

Start a conversation and listen to your child's response

Start a conversation with your child and invite them to share what they have heard about COVID-19 vaccines. It's important to listen to their responses and acknowledge any fears they have about being vaccinated.

For example:

- Tell me what you know so far about the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Have you ever had a vaccine before?
- What did that feel like?

The chances are your child has had a vaccine before and it may not have been so bad.

Be open about the vaccine and the vaccination process

Explain honestly and in an age-appropriate way what you know about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Remember children take emotional cues from adults, so oversharing fears may not be constructive and may make your child feel uncomfortable.

It may help to explain to your child what they can expect on the day of the appointment.

Explain that the doctor or medical professional will ask your child some questions, that your child will receive a needle in their arm, that they'll feel a small prick and their arm might be a little bit sore afterwards. Reassure your child by telling them it's normal for their arm to be a little bit sore, and it means the medicine is working.

If your child seems anxious about getting vaccinated, try exploring their feelings further or seek further advice from your GP if necessary.

Answer your child's questions

Have some kid-friendly responses ready to go for any questions your child might have. Here are some of the key questions and answers that might help in this conversation:

What is a vaccine?

A vaccine is a medicine that helps people fight a virus if they come in contact with it.

It can stop people from getting very sick.

Why do I need to be vaccinated?

The COVID-19 vaccine is a safe way to protect you, your family, and your friends from getting sick.

Use real examples, such as protecting the child's grandparents, and being able to get back to school and back to team sports if you think this will help.

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines work by teaching your body how to fight illness.

Is the vaccine safe?

Vaccines are very safe. In Australia, they have been tested thoroughly by an agency that makes sure all medicines are safe. They would not be given to people if they were not safe.

Fear of needles

If your child is afraid of needles, effective preparation and distraction techniques are important.

It may help your child to attend a smaller, more familiar location, such as a local pharmacy or general practice. Large scale vaccination sites may be loud and busy and increase distress.

Bring along your child's favourite toys or books to create a positive experience and distraction.

Let your provider know in advance if your child is afraid of needles so they can set aside enough time and make sure the process is not rushed or forced.

More information

You can visit the Department of Health website at www.health.gov.au for more information about the vaccine.

You can call the National Coronavirus and COVID-19 Vaccine Helpline on **1800 020 080**.

If you need information in a language other than English, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450**.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can call the National Relay Service on **133 677**.

Harmony Day

Harmony Day

In Year 5/6 we have been working on being leaders in the school. Harmony day was a great way for us to practise skills in guiding other students, especially in the situation of games.

The year 5/6s formed groups and planned and presented games from around the world to the Year 2/3 class (our buddies). They were required to select spokespeople to explain the game, demonstrate the game and prepare the equipment for a round robin style afternoon





Free Kids Clothes!

The **Community Hub** has a range of Brand new children's clothing available to our families.

Please **text or call: 0437 609 976** to make an appointment to view and collect some of these brand new items, Kindly donated by Big W & Good360

*Limited stock available so be quick!

*Some limits apply

All remaining items will be on display on the Community Hub decking

Monday 4th April

9am - 10:30am

Art, Craft and Wellness - All Welcome!



Everyone Welcome!

Art, Craft & Wellness

Conversational English Class

Monday Mornings @ 9am

Community Hub

- Weekly art or craft activity
- Focus on wellbeing and self care
- Practice your English
- Create, share and learn
- Morning tea provided

Free English Classes!



FREE ENGLISH CLASSES

*Free Child Minding / Crèche for young children

For more information and to make a booking

CALL OR TEXT KERRY N - 0437 609 976

فصول مجانية للغة الإنجليزية
အခမဲ့စတင်သူအင်္ဂလိပ်စာသင်တန်းများ
मुफ्त अंग्रेजी कक्षाएं

GRATIS ENGELSE KLAS

ਮੁਫਤ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਕਲਾਸ

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GRATIS KELAS INGGRIS

LIBRENG ARALIN SA INGLES

ບຸນເຮືອນກາຮາອັງກຣາຟຣີ

LEZIONE DI INGLESE GRATUITA

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Find us on Facebook - @CommunityHubSMM