

NEWSLETTER

St Francis Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement

“Providing a catholic education
that develops the whole person”

Vision Statement

“To provide challenges for all students
enabling them to develop as well rounded
individuals and socially responsible
catholics”



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Last school newsletter before the lockdown:

Our prayers go out to Elliot Davies (Room 3) and his family who lost their Grandfather this weekend. In this uncertain time it is important to remember our loved ones.

I wish to acknowledge the amazing support and commitment of the St Francis Catholic School staff who have made a speedy transition to ‘remote learning from home’. These are difficult times but our Teachers and Support Staff have been here every day facing the reality of COVID 19, reassuring the children and their families that by working together we can successfully make it through this crisis. They have put many hours into preparing lessons suitable for our children to complete at home, and will continue to work tirelessly throughout the lockdown period. I am so proud to call these people my colleagues.

Our children should also be commended. While the world has changed around them they have remained calm, happy and kind. They have prayed for others, worried about others and looked after others, while many adults in society have been busy only thinking of themselves. Our children are amazing and resilient, and will continue to be so even after all of this is a distant memory.



And, of course, our wonderful parents, families and community. Thank you for trusting us with your children throughout the first few weeks of this difficult time. It is now time for you to take over. I recognise that you will be under some stress, both personal and financial at this time, but I ask that you help your child with their 'remote learning from home' as much as you can. We completely understand that most of you are not school teachers, we don't expect miracles from you. Please communicate with the classroom teachers if you need any help.

Room 1 - Nisha Nadarajah - nishan@stfrancis.school.nz
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Easter: Lockdown means that our children are going to miss our annual Holy Week / Easter celebrations. This is an important time of the year for Catholic people, so please remember to talk about it and celebrate as a family.

- Sunday 5 April - Palm Sunday - Jesus rides into Jerusalem
- Thursday 9 April - Holy Thursday - The Last Supper with the Apostles
- Friday 10 April - Good Friday - The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ
- Sunday 12 April - The Resurrection of Jesus Christ



There are heaps of videos for children on Youtube that will help your child / children understand the significance of these celebrations. Bishop Pat will be doing online Holy Week Masses if you want to participate as well.

'Remote Learning for Home' Well Being Reminders:

- Try to keep the children in routine as much as possible - we sent home the suggested "Daily Schedule" yesterday to help with this. Following a familiar routine helps children feel safe and secure. Helping your child / children stay in communication with their friends, teacher and extended family will be really important. They need to know that people that are special to them are safe and well.
- Balance screen time with practical activities, make sure your children spend lots of time playing outside as well. Keep children occupied with exercise, play and conversation rather than devices.

- Try not to panic, stress out or talk about being bored during lockdown / self isolation in front of your child / children. Put on a brave, happy face and talk positively about this weird, exciting adventure that we are all about to experience. Remember that children look to their parents to both feel safe and to know how to respond - reassure them, let them know you will all be fine together.
- Let your child / children ask questions, and answer these in plain language appropriate to their age.
- Be understanding - your child / children might have problems sleeping, or be upset or anxious. They might need extra love, care and cuddles at this time.
- And lastly, keep your child / children in a prayer routine. Praying for others, rather than just thinking about ourselves, will help our children keep this situation in perspective. Other people and other countries have it a lot worse than us, and our children need to remember how lucky we are and that we have hope, because of our love for God.
- Professional Help: If your child's / children's distress is escalating, or they are displaying an worrying behaviours such as extreme withdrawal, seek help early. You can call Healthline on 0800 358 5453 or text 1737 for mental wellbeing support.

Lockdown Timeline:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	23/3 School open	24/3 School closed - Learning from Home	25/3 School closed - Learning from Home	26/3 School closed - Learning from Home	27/3 School closed - Learning from Home
Week 2	30/3 School Holidays	31/3 School Holidays	1/4 School Holidays	2/4 School Holidays	3/4 School Holidays
Week 3	6/4 School Holidays	7/4 School Holidays	8/4 School Holidays	9/4 School Holidays	10/4 School Holidays
Week 4	13/4 School Holidays	14/4 School Holidays	15/4 School closed - Learning from Home	16/4 School closed - Learning from Home	17/4 School closed - Learning from Home
Week 5	20/4 Lockdown lifted???? School open again????				

Stay healthy and safe. May God Bless you and your family.

Lisa Bateman lisab@stfrancis.school.nz or principal@stfrancis.school.nz





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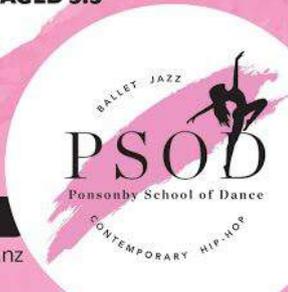
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