



St Joseph's Primary School

1-3 Bridge St Korumburra

Vic 3950

Ph: 56552040

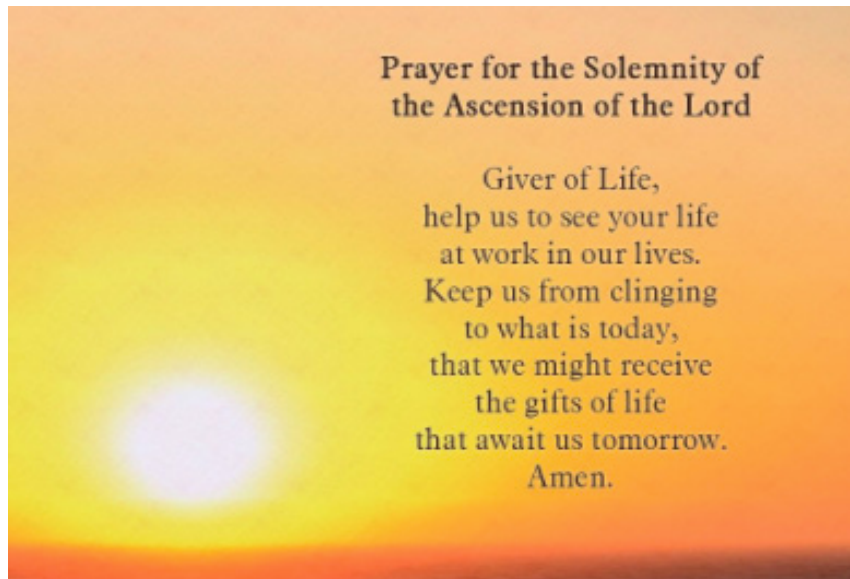
Email: principal@sjkorumburra.catholic.edu.au

Thursday 21st May 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

There will be a CareMonkey sent out in the days that will outline the before and after school arrangements for the drop off and pick up of children and other protocols that have been put in place for the resumption of face to face learning at St Joseph's.

Just a reminder there will be **no school for any students on Monday 25th May**. Foundation to Grade 2 will resume face to face learning as normal on Tuesday 26th May. Grades 3 – 6 will continue remote learning until Tuesday June 9th when they will resume at school. Children whose parents cannot work from home during this time in grades 3 to 6 and need to be supervised on site must fill in the intentions form sent out via CareMonkey. Please note this must be done by today.



We know some children will be starting to think about what returning to school will be like, as they reconnect with their teacher and friends. The following article is from ABC Life and is about how to Help kids with the transition back to school.

“What if my friend gives me a big hug?”

With school resuming in most states after weeks of lockdown, many kids will be busting to see their friends and get out of the house. But for some, the thought of returning to the classroom is enough to induce a bout of anxiety. Over weeks of online wellbeing sessions, teacher and friendship skills expert Dana Kerford has heard a steady stream of concerns.

“Of the 4,000 plus kids I’ve worked with in my online classroom, many of them have expressed anxiety and nervousness around going back to school,” says Ms Kerford, who founded a company teaching friendship strategies.

As well as concerns about social distancing and how they will be able to safely interact with their friends, some kids are also concerned about how to reconnect with their friends. “Many friendship groups have changed or dissolved during coronavirus, so there’s this underlying uneasiness,” Ms Kerford says. “Where do I fit?” and “Is that group I was in still my group?” are among the concerns she has heard recently.

Children’s anxiety expert Karen Young says even if your child is eager to go back to class, they may need help with the transition. “It might still be jarring because they’ve become settled into a new routine,” says Ms Young. “This is not like going back to school after the holidays. They’ve been disconnected from their friends for such a long time.”

Signs your child might be worried

Ms Young says parents should be aware their kids may not share their back-to-school worries. “You might get the ‘What ifs’ — such as, ‘What if I go to school and I get sick? What if I go to school and something else happens?’” says Ms Young. Other signs could be trouble sleeping, restlessness, bursts of anger over seemingly benign things, withdrawing, or complaints about headaches or feeling sick in the tummy.

Helping kids transition back to school

We can help our children by encouraging them to express how they feel about going back to school, and validating their concerns. Ms Young suggests a conversation opener such as: “It’s a big thing going back to school and it’s OK if you feel a bit worried. That’s really understandable and normal.”

After validation comes strength: where we tell our kids it might be a bit hard at first but it’s going to be OK, and we know they’re going to get through this. “This is very different to saying there’s nothing to worry about,” says Ms Young. “They don’t buy that anyway, and it also just increases their anxiety because they feel the person they have turned to for support doesn’t get it.”

Thinking it might be easier to keep kids home?

If stress levels are running high in your home, you may be tempted to let your child stay a little longer, especially if they have siblings in other grades or schools who are not starting back yet.

Georgina Manning, a counsellor and student wellbeing expert, was asked by one mother if she should allow her child in prep to stay home, because it might be too hard for her little one to go back to school earlier than her grade three sister.

Ms Manning says you might be asking for trouble with this approach. “The anxiety will be worse if she goes back two weeks later than her friends, when the class has all settled back in. It’s best to rip the bandaid off quickly and just go,” she says.

Teachers can help kids settle back in

It isn’t just kids and parents who are anxious. Ms Young has received many emails from teachers just as concerned about how to best support their students transition back to face-to-face learning. “With social distancing in place, teachers will need to convey that welcome and warmth to put their children at ease in other ways,” says Ms Young. “It can happen by your face lighting up when you see them.” That may mean spending more time on the social and emotional side of learning. “Academics are second to relational safety. Because if you want them to learn, they have to feel safe,” says Ms Young.

Keeping our own anxiety in check will also help our kids

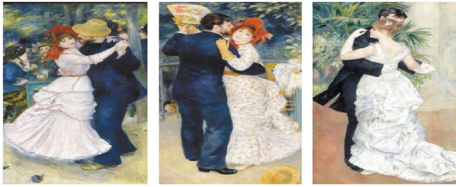
As for us parents, we can help our children by managing our own emotions. “If a parent feels anxious about dropping off, the child may pick up on that and may see the situation as anxiety-provoking,” says Ms Manning. “But if a parent is really relaxed, the child will model that.” And remember, our children are often more capable than we think. “We underestimate how resilient kids are and how easily they can adapt,” says Ms Manning. “Once kids are back with their friends and back with the teacher, they’ll settle back in.”

Revisiting Art Activity from Week 3

I thought I needed to explain the activity I set for Week 3 again as I don’t want you to miss out on this family fun if you haven’t done it yet.



First, you need to choose a famous artwork e.g. a painting. Then using dress ups and things around your home you create the artwork by dressing up and freezing in the same pose as the person/people in the artwork. If the artwork has more than one person in it you will need to ask whoever is home with you to join you in dressing up and making the artwork look like the real thing. I look forward to seeing your photo of your chosen famous artwork and a photo of you dressing up to look like the famous artwork. Thank you Rowe family, Olsen Family and Helps Family for these awesome recreations!

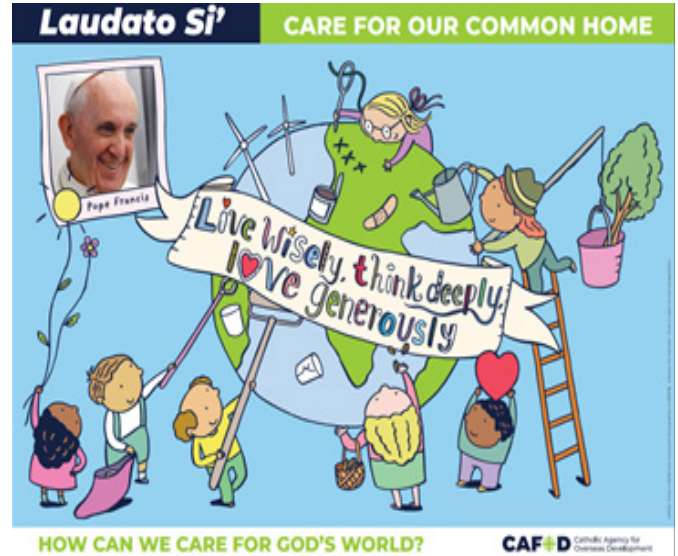


Laudato Si' Week - May 16-24

This week is Laudato Si' Week. (May 16-24). Five years ago Pope Francis wrote a letter titled – Laudato Si' to everyone on the planet asking us all to protect the earth.

Laudato Si' animation for children | CAFOD <https://youtu.be/KOgF2Kgel6k>

This animation helps explain and communicate the message of Pope Francis's encyclical Laudato Si' to children, and to inspire them to take action.



Background information about Laudato Si'. Laudato Si' is an encyclical written by Pope Francis, it was published on 18 June 2015. Encyclicals are open letters written by the pope. Laudato Si' discusses the damage being inflicted on the Earth by humans and calls on 'every person living on this planet' to make urgent changes to our lifestyles and how we consume energy in order to protect the planet. It deals with many environmental issues including pollution; climate change; water; loss of biodiversity and decline in the quality of human life. In his letter Pope Francis implores us to work together to create a better world for future generations and asks us to make the necessary changes in our lives in order to take care of, respect and value our 'common home'.

Will you play your part to protect our common home?

Here are some simple everyday tips you can take to put love for the world and love for our neighbour into action:

- Turn off lights
- Reduce water waste
- Recycle
- Live more simply
- Listen to one another
- Get involved with society and government
- Care for nature

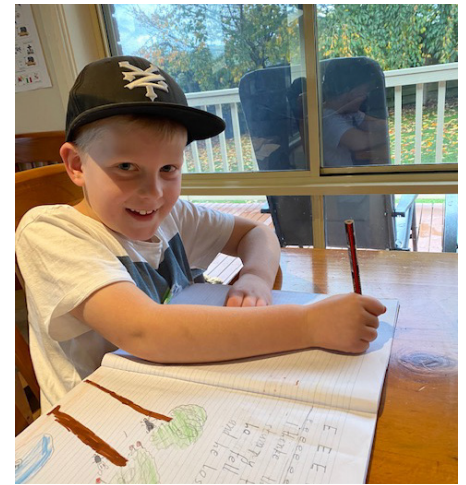
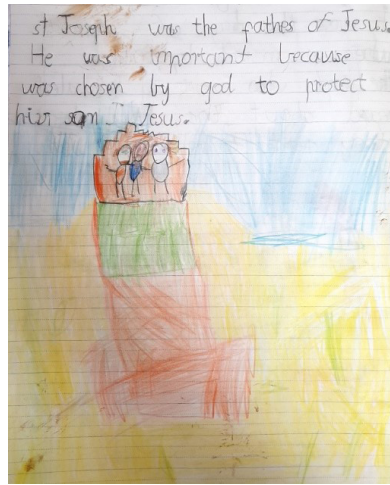
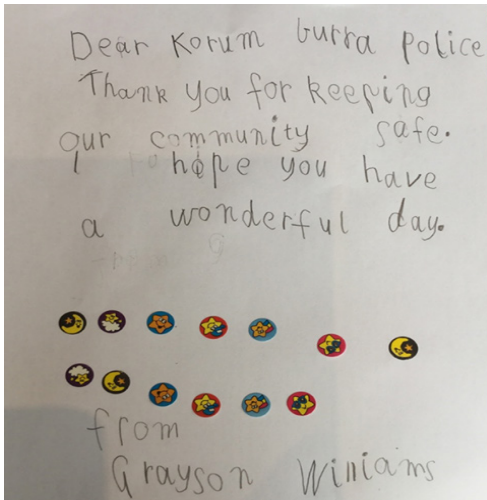
Grade 1/2

This fortnight we are featuring our Grade 1/2 students. Our students have written letters to essential workers thanking them for their help and dedication in these difficult times.

Emma and Max have been working hard at home.

Next fortnight we will be featuring our Grade 3/4 students remember to email photos or pieces of work to office@sjkorumburra.catholic.edu.au





2021 Enrolments now open!

St Joseph's are now taking 2021 enrolments.

Our office is still open daily between 9am-3:30pm, all enrolment forms and information can be downloaded from our website: sjkorumburra.catholic.edu.au

For more information contact us via email: office@sjkorumburra.catholic.edu.au.



SOUTH GIPPSLAND
Central enrolment for three-year old
and four-year old kindergarten

CLOSES 30 JUNE

Is your child ready for kindergarten in 2021?

To enrol your child in funded three-year-old OR four-year-old kindergarten for next year, you will need to **register now**. Kindergarten enrolment is centralised through South Gippsland Shire Council. Simply complete a single enrolment form and nominate your kindergarten preferences. Enrolments must be lodged by 30 June.

You can enrol at:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/centralenrolment

For more information, please phone 5662 9200 or text your contact details to 0459 079 442 and we will call you back.

2021 Enrolment

Enrolments for 2021 are now open. All information and paperwork can be found on our website sjkorumburra.catholic.edu.au. We have also created a virtual tour which is available on our website or by going to <https://youtu.be/Xtan-Q2gJ6E> If you have any questions or would like to speak to someone about enrolment please do not hesitate to call 5655 2040 or email office@sjkorumburra.catholic.edu.au

School Closure Dates

During Remote Schooling our school closure days will still apply. Staff will use these days for planning, report writing and professional development. No formal class work will be assigned for students on these days. There will be no onsite supervision available on these days.

The following days school closure days and public holidays

Monday 25th May: School Closure (Friday 29th May closure has been postponed)

Monday 8th June: Queen's Birthday

Monday 13th July: School Closure

Monday 2nd November: Report writing day

Tuesday 3rd November: Melbourne Cup Day

Office hours

From Monday 25th May our office will be staffed daily from 8:30-4pm. To adhere with social distancing practices please call the school on 56552040 or email office@sjkorumburra.catholic.edu.au wherever possible.

Mary MacKillop and Korumburra Secondary College Year 7 2021 information

Usually at this time of year our local secondary schools would be holding information evenings, Grade 5 and 6 activity days and visiting our school. Due to the COVID 19 restrictions this is unable to happen at the moment. Both Korumburra Secondary and Mary MacKillop have passed on information to assist parents with enrolment for their current Grade 6 student. We have sent this out via CareMonkey but if you would like more information or assistance please contact the schools directly.