

St Oliver's Primary School

Newsletter

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At St Oliver's we are called to unite in service by living out our Mercy Values and striving to be quality learners who contribute positively to our community.

Term 2 Week 4

<http://www.stoliversharrisparke.catholic.edu.au/home>

21st May 2020

DATES TO REMEMBER

May

Monday 25th
Students return to school full time

90
Celebrating 90
years of Catholic
education at St
Oliver's
1930-2020



Dear parents and caregivers,

I thank parents for the wonderful way you have gone about helping your children with their at home learning over the past few weeks.

Our teachers have been working very hard to make sure children are keeping up with their learning at school and at home. It has been a challenging time for all of us, but I feel everyone has risen to the challenge with much patience and acceptance.

As our Executive Director of schools has indicated, all students will be returning to school full time as from next Monday, 25th May.

From Monday, if your child is not attending school, a phone call or skoolbag note will need to be sent to explain the absence.

At home, teacher supported online learning will conclude this Friday.

If your child is sick in the morning (cough, sneeze, runny nose, temperature), please keep them at home. Any children who are present at school with signs of sickness, will be sent home.

We're here to help! A reminder that information about fee relief is available on our school's website.

St Oliver's will continue to:

- ask parents to remain off school grounds and adhere to social distancing when dropping off and picking up children.
- encourage social distancing in the learning spaces
- continue to disinfect playground equipment after recess and lunch
- remind children to wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds
- isolate and send home children who present as unwell
- stagger play times to reduce student numbers on the playground

I have included Greg Whitby's letter to parents on the next page.

I hope you all keep safe and well

Barbara Young

Letter from Executive Director Greg Whitby

Dear Parents and Carers

On Tuesday 19 May, NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced the return to face-to-face teaching for students in all NSW public schools, effective from next Monday, 25 May. As a result, we are looking forward to welcoming students back full time from next Monday.

We understand that this news will see students return to school much sooner than many of us expected. Your school will provide you with more information in the days ahead as preparations for the full return to at-school learning continue.

I want to reassure you that the safety of our communities remains our priority. The relevant government and health authorities have provided assurances that it is safe to welcome students back. Our schools will continue to reinforce important health and hygiene messages.

Thank you for the way you have responded to challenges of COVID-19, including making the transition to at-home learning and balancing your child's learning with work arrangements. As always, if you have any concerns about your child's learning or wellbeing, please contact your school.

Yours sincerely

Gregory B Whitby

Executive Director

Catholic Education

Diocese of Parramatta

Laudato Si Week

Pope Francis' encyclical on Care for our Common Home

The theme of the week is "Everything is Connected."

This Week is Laudato Si Week. Laudato Si Week honors the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical on 'Care for our Common Home'. His encyclical focuses on the environment and the deep communion we have with all the things that surround us. The Pontiff talks about our interconnectedness with our beautiful planet and the need to remember to live in harmony with respect and love for our wonderful world.

Laudato Si' teaches us that "everything is connected." During this extraordinary time, Catholics everywhere are uniting to reflect, pray, and prepare for a better future together. We are being summoned to renew our relationships with God, one another and the created world.

This week launches a year-long journey of transformation, as we grow through the current crisis by praying, reflecting, and preparing together for a better world to come tomorrow.

Following Pope Francis' invitation to join 'Laudato Si' Week', Catholics everywhere are invited to reflect for action from 16-24 May. Everyone is invited to join in the worldwide day of prayer on 24th May.

Pope Francis has invited Catholics to pray and act for our common home.

"The Spirit of life dwells in every living creature and calls us to enter into relationship with him" (Laudato Si, 88)

To watch the 'Laudato Si Week' message from our Bishop click on this link. [click here.](#)

Celebrating
90 years
of Catholic education at St Oliver's
1930-2020

St Oliver's Primary School - 90 this year !

St Oliver's (then known as Blessed Oliver Plunkett School) proudly opened in 1930. To celebrate this milestone, we will be putting snippets of our history in the Newsletter each week.

SCHOOL FEE HELP

We are aware of the financial strain that COVID-19 is having on some families and its impact on their capacity to pay school fees.

School fee relief is being offered to families who have been adversely affected by COVID 19. Please go to our school website:

- Complete the online application
or
- Complete the Fee Relief Request (rather than providing your details online) then email it to cl@parra.catholic.edu.au
or
- Call into our school office and collect a paper copy of the form, complete and drop back to our office and we will send it in for you.

There is no deadline for completing the forms and your information will be treated in strict confidence. It will also be treated in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles and our Privacy Statement.

If you wish to reduce, suspend or cancel your current direct debit arrangements, please send an email to cl@parra.catholic.edu.au. Of course, if you would like to have a confidential conversation about any of these matters, please contact either Mrs Small or Ms Young via the school office.

School uniform

All students need to return to school in full winter uniform.

Updated morning and afternoon procedures

Morning procedure

Parents will need to drop their children off at the front gate on Wigram Street or the Allen Street gate. A teacher will be present at each gate from 8.30am to greet the children and let them into the school.

If parents need to access the school office the teacher will chaperone them, ensuring that there is minimal social contact.

Afternoon procedure

Kiss and Go

Parents are recommended to use Kiss and Go. Kiss and Go will now operate as normal with parents reminded to not pull out to the road until the car in front has left. Please remember to display your child's name.

Pick Up

If parents choose to pick up their child, they are to *wait near the Wigram Street gate and adhere to social distancing*. A teacher will bring your child to the gate.

These procedures have changed due to the increased number of parents at pick up and the need for adults to still social distance.

NUT FREE ENVIRONMENT

Due to many of our children suffering from severe allergies we are a **nut free school**. Please refrain from sending any food containing nuts to school with your child. This includes peanut butter, nutella, muesli bars with nuts and any food containing nuts or traces of nuts. Please read packaging carefully. Thank you for your understanding.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our school uniform is available at Lowes, Parramatta Westfield and is also available at **Merrylands West School and Workwear Centre, 455-457 Merrylands Road MERRYLANDS**.

We also have some second hand uniforms available in the office. **Our school bag, hat and library bag are available for purchase from the school office.**

TERM 2 SPORT DAYS

Students are to wear their sport uniform on **Mondays** and **Fridays**.

CRUNCH and SIP

Crunch and Sip is held between 9-11am each morning in class time. Please make sure you pack some fresh fruit or vegetables each day. Small pieces make it easier for the children to eat. Please do not pack anything that requires a spoon. Please pack these separately to morning tea and lunch so the children know which is their Crunch and Sip.

InfoZone

Welcome to the Library and Technology section of the St Oliver's Newsletter!

NSW PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

The Challenge continues with some **NEW** rules!

Key changes include:

- All students will be able to include 10 choice books on their 2020 Student Reading Records.
- All students will be able to include books read as part of collaborative reading with teachers or parents/ carers, either in person or online.
- Students who do not complete the Challenge in 2020 will not be disadvantaged from achieving cumulative PRC awards in the future.

Further details are available at

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading and to enable students to experience quality literature.

Please take advantage of the wonderful eBooks available via St Oliver's eLibrary! And it's now even easier!

1. Access via **Classm8.parra.catholic.edu.au**
2. Select **Library**

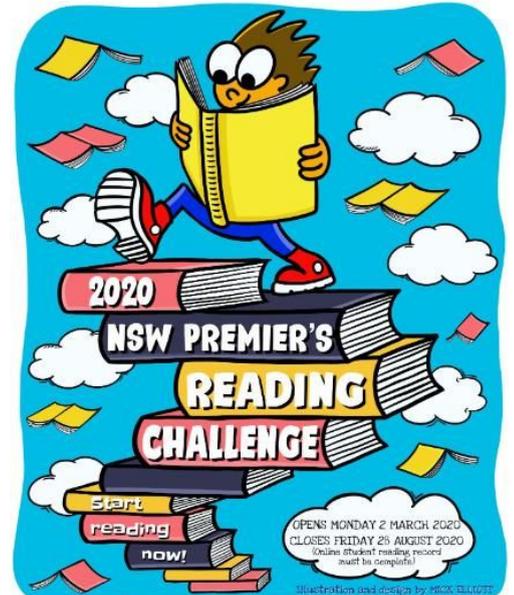
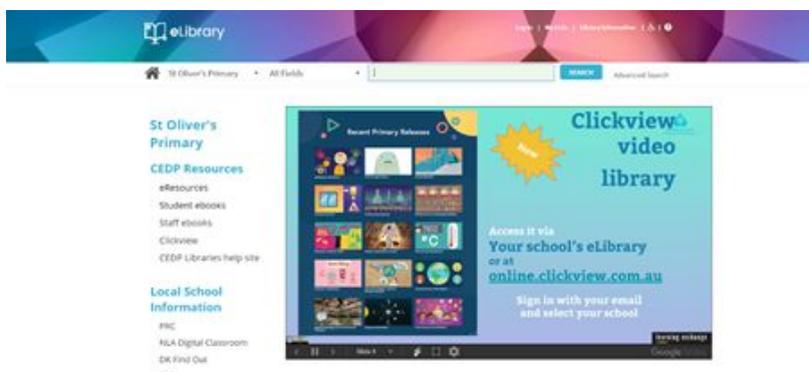
You will now see:



3. Select **St Oliver's** Primary School from the drop down menu

4. You are there! Please look at all the options on the left.

The CEDP Libraries help site is for **Students, Teachers and Parents too.**



www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au

