



Heartlinks Highlights Video

[Watch Video](#)

We are currently experiencing difficulty uploading the video to Facebook, so the Heartlinks Highlights Video will be shared via Skoolbag and SeeSaw today.

MTP Heartlinks Highlights Video

In the video this week we discuss our approach to teaching reading and examine methods we use to support our readers at MTP. We also look at the ways we assess reading growth for our MTP students from beginning and developing readers through to independent readers.

Full return to school from Week 5 - Monday 25th May

As parents are aware from Skoolbag notifications, next week, Week 5, we welcome back all students for face to face learning full time from Monday, 25th May. As Week 5 marks the return to full face to face teaching, any parents of students with health issues who are concerned about their child's return to school are invited to contact me through the school email motherteresa@parra.catholic.edu.au or call me via the school office phone on 8841 2600.

Thank you

I want to take this opportunity to thank the parent community for your ongoing support and understanding through this time. As a staff, we have very much appreciated the acknowledgement that parents have communicated to us that this has been a time of rapid change but our goal at all times is to maintain our focus on learning. The thank you notes have been gratefully appreciated by all staff. I also want to acknowledge that communicating decisions to parents, often made beyond the school level and then filtered to schools, was not always consistent, however we have tried our absolute best to provide a calm and consistent approach to learning during this time.

I also want to thank the amazing staff of MTP. They have gone to great lengths to communicate regularly with students and families during this time. They have also gone to great lengths to support each other and I appreciate working with such a professional team.

Half-yearly reports

The Federal and State Governments recently announced changes to the half-yearly reports for Primary Schools in NSW. Your child will receive a half-yearly report which will again indicate areas of growth in terms of your child's Learner Qualities, as has always been the practice at Mother Teresa Primary. These Learner Qualities include your child's demonstration of Passion, Compassion, Collaboration, Reflection or Creativity. Normally our reports include a 5 point scale for Key Learning Areas, or subjects like English, Mathematics and Religious Education. As a result of disruption to the regular teaching and learning program and the limited opportunities to collect valid and reliable formative and summative assessment data in recent weeks, each child will receive comments on achievements and next steps for Religious Education, English (including reading and writing) and Mathematics (including whole numbers and working mathematically strands). In our Heartlinks Highlights video in Week 2, Mr Wallis explained the procedures we are using to collect student data in Mathematics. In today's Heartlinks Highlights video, we explain how we teach reading for all students Kindergarten to Year 6 and how we assess reading growth. These comments on the half-yearly report will take the place of the normal 5 point scales in subject areas. The 5 point scale will be included in the end of year reports for Semester 2 learning.

22nd May 2020



"As far as I am concerned, the greatest suffering is to feel alone, unwanted, unloved.

The greatest suffering is also having no one, forgetting what an intimate, truly human relationship is, not knowing what it means to be loved, not having a family or friends.."

St Teresa of Kolkata

Important Dates:

- Monday, 25th May
Students return to School
Full winter uniform
- Monday, 1st June
Online canteen starts



Welcomeasy

"In purchasing your child's tuckshop order online through Welcomeasy, you are contracting directly with the supplier. You are responsible for checking that the ingredients of what you order are not incompatible with your child's sensitivities or health issues. Please ensure you check the disclaimers in the supplier's website. If in doubt you should contact the supplier."

3 Way Conferences - Alternatives

Whilst school returns to normal for the children from Week 5, we are still following guidelines for practices like social distancing for adults this term. As a result, we will be providing alternatives to our usual practice of families being invited in for the 3 way, parent-student-teacher face to face conferences which usually take place at the end of the term. We plan for these meetings to be conducted via zoom meetings in the last few weeks of this term. We will inform the parent community of the process of booking in these 3 way conferences in the near future.

The return to school - Procedures and Protocols

As you would understand from media reports, our job as a school is to ensure the safety of all community members, students, parents, teachers and additional staff. The following protocols are being continued in the next couple of weeks following NSW Government Health and CEDP recommendations.

Parent Drop off and pick up

- Morning - Parents can continue to drop off children in the Kiss and Drop zone in the morning as per usual. If you want to walk your child to the school gate, please park your car in the visitor parking and walk your child to the gate. Please do not enter the school. As you would also have seen in the media, the NSW Premier recommended not using public transport, there are many more parents dropping off their High School students in the 'Kiss and Go' zone, so your patience during this time is appreciated. Please do not line up across the red zone leading up to the pedestrian crossing and we appreciate you moving to the top of the Kiss and Drop zone when dropping off your child in the morning.
- Afternoon - as the High Schools, McAuley and Marist will have all students attending from Monday, we are trying to dismiss as many students as possible from the site before the afternoon rush. **The school gate will be opened from 2.30pm for you to come and pick up your child.** Children going to COSHC (Catholic Out of School Hours Care) will be taken to the COSHC rooms at 2.45pm. Any remaining students will be taken to the normal afternoon Kiss and Drop zone from 2.45pm. Please **DO NOT** park in the bus bays as the buses to collect Marist and McAuley students will be using the bus bay.
- Parents are asked to please NOT congregate together at the school gate or in the car park.

Health & Safety

- The students will continue to wash their hands carefully with soap throughout the day. We have some hand sanitizers at school, however parents may wish the children to bring their own small bottle of hand sanitiser and keep it in their bags.
- The NSW Government guidelines remain that social distancing is still required and as you know we encourage social distancing as much as possible in the learning studios. On the playground we are currently restricting games where students come into very close contact with each other. Students are asked to wash their hands after playing.
- We would encourage all students to bring their own pencil case with any required equipment, e.g. coloured pencils, a small glue stick, to limit the amount of equipment students share. Please send a water bottle labelled with your child's name.
- Students are encouraged to avoid touching their faces.
- Students who are sick **MUST NOT** be sent to school. This includes students who have a fever or who have recently had a fever. If your child has a sore throat, runny nose or cough do not send them to school. If your child becomes sick at school, they will be sent to the sick bay and you will be contacted to collect your child.
- CEDP schools were provided with no touch thermometers and the guidelines are that these will be used if students become sick during the day and are sent to the sick bay.
- If parents wish to contact teachers, you are very welcome to do so by our usual channels of emailing the school at motherteresa@parra.catholic.edu.au or by phoning the school office on 8841 2600 to make an appointment. Your child's teacher may return contact with you via phone or email.
- Please **do not enter the Learning Studios** without a prior appointment - we appreciate your cooperation in keeping all members of our community safe.

Cleaning

- The school has engaged some cleaning in addition to our regular cleaning contract. Door handles and student desks will be cleaned daily.

School uniform & canteen

- As we return to our normal school activity, we now ask that students begin to wear their winter uniform on Mondays and Fridays and their sports uniform on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This will begin from Monday, 25th May.
- The online canteen service, Welcomeasy, have informed us they will recommence their service from Monday, 1st June.

Winter School Uniform

A reminder that students are required to wear full winter uniform in Term 2. All students must wear full winter uniform from **Monday, 25th May**. If families require uniforms, you need to purchase them directly from **OZ Fashions, 115-127 Parramatta Road, Granville**. Uniforms are available 6 days per week during the following hours: **Monday to Friday 9:00am-5:30pm and Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm**



Occupational Therapy Consultant at MTP

As some of you may know, we have engaged a consultant Occupational Therapist, Mrs Sharon Duff, who works with our staff and students periodically to observe and advise on student learning needs. Sharon has previously run parent information workshops on ideas for parents to assist with everything from pencil grip, to manipulating small objects to organising ideas and thinking ready for writing. Recently, whilst restrictions due to COVID19 meant we couldn't work face to face with Sharon, she compiled some short videos which have been shared with the children via their Seesaw account. Once the restrictions for visitors to the school are lifted, Sharon will be working with us again but in the meantime it is worth looking at the videos on Seesaw for ideas on ways to assist your child. As explained previously, Sharon does not work with private clients whilst at school but rather provides advice and tips for teachers who are working closely with the students daily.

Defibrillator available in the MTP School Office

Last year, our staff received training in the use of a defibrillator. Our school has a defibrillator and in the event that one is required, it is kept in our school administration office. All CEDP (Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta) schools now have a defibrillator.

GOD of the MESS

Australian composer Peter Kearney wrote this song which speaks so powerfully of the love of our God. A God who lives with us, beside us, close enough to smell our fear. There are those in our community who have lost their employment, are struggling to make ends meet, to put food on the table and hold it all together. In times of confusion and stress, we don't need to look any further for understanding than to turn inward to the God who loves us.



*"God of the mess that we're in,
You still bless us and feel every bump when we fall;
You see the good in our hearts and you know how we struggle
You fathered and mothered us all."*

We are also reminded that we are God's hands, and whatever we can do to support others at this time, with a smile or a meal or a donation to help, all add to the fabric of humanity and the family of God. So loved and cared for by our God, let us reach out and listen, reach out and serve, reach out and help one another. And together we are one.

Maria Boyd REC



The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is available for all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 9, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools.

The 2020 Challenge kicked off **Monday, 2nd March** and closes **Friday, 28th August** (midnight) for MTP students.

How can my child get involved? Just click on the link at [NSW PRC](https://www.nsw.gov.au/reading-challenge) and log on to begin (Kindergarten and new families) should have recently received their log in details. There is also a new student portal which allows students to look for books that are on the challenge list and add them directly to their reading log once read. If you have any questions, please see either Mrs Rawlings or Mrs Halligan.

Message from NSW Gov. re: Westmead to The Bays and Sydney CBD - Sydney Metro Environmental Impact Statement

Now on exhibition: Sydney Metro West Environmental Impact Statement, Westmead to The Bays and Sydney CBD

The Westmead to The Bays and Sydney CBD Environmental Impact Statement is now on exhibition until 26 June 2020.

During this eight week period the community is invited to have their say on this once-in-a-lifetime infrastructure project

Sydney Metro is making the Environmental Impact Statement and supporting materials as accessible as possible. Visit the interactive portal at sydneymetro.info/metrowest to find out more about the project and how you can have your say.

Important Dates:

- Full school attendance from Monday, 25th May 2020.

WHS - Safety for all at Mother Teresa Primary

- Please maintain social distancing at all times and do not congregate around the school gate or in the parent foyer at school.
- **Please do** hold your child's hand when walking across the road and until they enter the vehicle when your car is parked safely in the visitor car park.

Keeping families and children well

COVID-19 Bulletin

Information for schools, child care services and family day care services in western Sydney.

Provided by Western Sydney Local Health District's Munch & Move and Live Life Well @ School teams

Welcome to our third COVID-19 Bulletin, containing helpful information and resources on current COVID-19 topics, as well as practical ideas for childcare services, schools and families to keep everyone healthy and active during this time.

Staying active at home

Looking for resources to help your whole family stay active and develop your child's Fundamental Movement Skills? Fundamental Movement Skills like throwing, catching, and jumping (to name a few) will help children participate more confidently in a range of sports and physical activities in the future. These skills do not come naturally to children, so it is important that we teach them how to perform each skill correctly.

Resources for 2 – 5 years

[Videos of the Fundamental Movement Skills in action](#)

Resources for 6 – 12 years

[Interactive skill-based videos for K - 6](#)
[Family ACTIVation Booklet](#)



What activities has your family participated in to keep fit and healthy?

This week we received an email from Bethan, a childcare centre director in western Sydney...

"My children Scarlett (3) and Remi (1) have still been attending day-care 3 days a week. On the days off spent at home we have been enjoying bike and scooter rides, nature walks and going down to the local oval to practice ball skills. Dad has been home a lot more, so it's been nice to have him around to spend some quality time with the children!"

Email us with a photo and story about how your family is staying active: WSLHD-MunchandMove@health.nsw.gov.au

We will have some fantastic books to give away to the most creative ideas.



Choose water as a drink



Water is the best drink for everyone and helps keep you healthy! Fruit juice, soft drink, sports drinks and cordials have a lot of sugar and it is recommended they fluoride which helps kids to grow strong teeth.

[Choose water as a drink](#) - Learn how much water children should drink every day, practical tips to encourage children to drink more water and how much sugar is in different drinks.

Read along with [Potter the Otter: Amination story about drinking water](#) to help encourage children to drink more water.

For information:

Western Sydney Local Health District – Centre for Population Health

E: WSLHD-LLWats@health.nsw.gov.au, WSLHD-munchandmove@health.nsw.gov.au

www.healthykidswesternsydney.com.au



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Dinner with Isla



Fussy eating is a challenge many childcare centres, family day care services and parents of toddlers and pre-schoolers face. Sydney Local Health District has created a book 'Dinner with Isla' and video to help services and families with strategies for fuss-free mealtimes. The book shows how a positive and safe food environment helps Isla to explore and try new food. To view the video visit <https://www.slhd.nsw.gov.au/sydneyconnect/videos.html>

e-Safety

While many people are living, working, studying, and playing at home, we are also using our screens and technology more. It is important to make sure you and your children are safely using screens. Children can accidentally come across content that is not appropriate, be contacted by someone you don't know or trust, or experience bullying online. It is important for everyone to know how to be safe online. For more information and tips visit <https://www.esafety.gov.au/kids/i-want-help-with>



Screen free ideas for toddlers and pre-schoolers

Struggling to come up with ideas to get your toddlers and pre-schoolers off screens for a while? [ABC Kids Early Education](#) have some great ideas you can use.

Grandparents

Grandparents are an important part of the community and family life. However, COVID-19 presents a more serious risk to those over 65 with chronic health conditions or people over 75 generally. It is important to take steps to protect yourself and your family against COVID-19:

- Only visit grandparents if you are well and always ask permission before visiting
- Maintain a physical distance of 1.5metres and try to spend time outdoors
- Remember to wash hands frequently and sneeze into your elbow
- If grandparents live in an aged care facility, you should minimise visits.
- If you are visiting grandparents in an aged care facility to provide care, be aware that from 1 May 2020 you must have an up-to-date vaccination against influenza (flu), if the vaccination is available to you.



Looking after your mental health

Looking after your own mental health, and that of your family and friends, is very important. We know that it can be particularly important during a crisis period, such as the COVID19 pandemic. If you would like to check on your own mental health, or are concerned about someone else, you can use the [Beyond Blue Mental Health Checklists](#) to see if you may need additional support and where to get help.

Public Health Orders: What I can and can't do under the rules.

For the latest guidance, including update restrictions in place from 15th May 2020, visit: www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules

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Helping others during the pandemic

If you would like to offer your support to vulnerable members of the community, now is a great time to register as a volunteer. The Emergency Support Volunteering website connects registered volunteers with local organisations. For more information visit <https://emergency.volunteer.org.au/>

COVID-19 - need more information or help?

Find all relevant COVID-19 phone numbers on the [Who To Call Poster](#).

You may like to print it out and hang it somewhere accessible to all.

- Call 1800 020 080 (24/7) for health questions or to check symptoms
- Call 13 77 88 (24/7) for non-health related questions
- Call 1800 512 348 (24/7) for mental wellbeing support
- Visit www.healthdirect.gov.au to check symptoms
- Visit www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19 for all other COVID-19 related information
- Call 13 14 50 for FREE help in your language.

Other health news: Flu vaccinations

The flu vaccination won't stop you and your family getting COVID-19, but it will help to keep your family healthy this winter by preventing the seasonal flu. Flu shots are free for all NSW children aged 6 months to 5 years, pregnant women, Aboriginal people and people who are medically at risk.

Vaccinations are available from your general practitioner, some local pharmacies or Aboriginal Medical Service.

We recommend you call ahead to make sure your practice is vaccinating on the day you want to visit.

For more information about the flu shot, [click here](#) and for helpful resources, [click here](#).

Free health service for adults

The FREE [NSW Get Healthy service](#) can help provide you with the support and motivation you need to reach your own healthy lifestyle goals. The one-on-one coaching service provides expert advice on:

- Healthy eating
- Getting active
- Reaching a healthy weight
- Reducing alcohol consumption
- Staying healthy during pregnancy.

get healthy®
Information & Coaching Service

Have your say

We would appreciate any feedback or suggestions you have on our 'Keeping families and children safe – COVID-19' bulletin. Please click [here](#) to complete our short bulletin survey. Thank you!



For information:

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