

7th February 2020



## Heartlinks Highlights Video

[Watch Video](#)

### MTP Heartlinks Highlights Video

This year, a new name for the old '90 seconds with the Principal'! As we use our Heartlinks newsletter for general information about life at school and the video as a focus on special aspects of learning at MTP the new name for the video is "Heartlinks Highlights 2020". In the video this week we welcome our families back to MTP for a great year of learning in 2020 and an introduction to our school goals.

### Whole School Opening School Mass - 10th February at 9.30am

Next [Monday morning 10th February at 9.30am](#) all families are invited to our 2020 Opening School Mass in the Morley Centre. The Morley Centre is located on the grounds of Marist High School and you will be directed by staff to the Morley Centre upon arrival.

### 200 Years of Catholic Education and 10 Year Anniversary of MTP

This year we celebrate 200 years of Catholic Education with the first school opened in Parramatta. 2020 also marks the 10th Anniversary of Mother Teresa Primary. Our main celebrations will take place on [Monday 7th September](#) with a liturgy for the whole school at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. More details about the 10th Anniversary celebrations will be shared throughout the year.

### 2020 MTP Staff

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the very hard working staff at MTP who have worked hard to establish routines and set up the Learning Studios and Learning Programs ready for another great year of learning. Throughout the year, if you have any issues or concerns regarding your child's learning, you are invited to make an appointment with your child's teacher by contacting the school office or emailing the school at [motherteresa@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:motherteresa@parra.catholic.edu.au). If further clarification is required, our Stage Coordinators are available to support your inquiries. In the case you would like to further discuss any issues, appointments can be made with the Assistant Principal, Mrs Katherine Stennett or myself, at a mutually convenient time. We look forward to working with all families in a mutually respectful and professional manner. The outline below indicates your child's Learning Studio teachers and also the relevant Stage Coordinators.



*"We cannot condemn, judge or speak words that might hurt... By what right, then, can we condemn anyone."*

St Teresa of Kolkata

### Important Dates:

- Monday, 10th—Friday, 14th February  
Meet & Greet with teachers
  - Monday, 10th February  
Opening School Mass  
9:30am—Morley Centre, Parramatta Marist
  - Wednesday, 19th February  
Kindergarten & New Families  
Welcome BBQ—5:00pm
  - Friday, 21st February  
Cuppa with the Principal  
8:30am
  - Tuesday, 17th March  
Parent Information Evening—  
Religious Education—7:00pm
  - Friday, 27th March  
Pupil Free Day—no students
- Save the Date:**
- Tuesday, 24th March  
Dr Justin Coulson—7:00pm

Grade	Learning Studio Teachers		Coordinator
Kindergarten	Miss Kirstie Hull	Miss Elise Sherry	Mrs Kate Stennett
Year 1	Mrs Aimee Antoun	Mrs Joanne Beamish	Mrs Maree Grainger
Year 2	Mrs Melissa Vella	Miss Natalie Wardan	
Year 3	Mrs Belinda Barnes Mrs Jodie Sultana	Miss Emma Gitz	Mr Owen Wallis
Year 4	Miss Gabriella Oliveri	Mrs Melinda Callaghan	
Year 5	Mrs Vicki Morgan	Miss Sophie Chidiac	Mrs Maria Boyd
Year 6	Mr Scott Mortimer	Mrs Maria Boyd	

<b>Mathematics Learning Support Teachers</b> (Early Years & Middle Years)	Mr Owen Wallis	Mrs Maree Grainger	
<b>Reading Recovery</b>	Mrs Kate Stennett	Mrs Maree Grainger	
<b>Leadership</b>	Mrs Liz Devlin <i>Principal</i>	Mrs Kate Stennett <i>Assistant Principal</i>	Mrs Maria Boyd <i>REC</i>
	Mrs Maree Grainger <i>Lead Literacy</i>	Mr Owen Wallis <i>Lead Numeracy</i>	Mrs Gaye Dennis <i>Assistant REC</i>
	Mrs Melissa Vella <i>PBS4L Coordinator</i>	Mr Scott Mortimer <i>LTST</i>	

<b>Learning Support &amp; Instructional Leadership</b> (including literacy support)	Mrs Gaye Dennis ( <i>leader</i> ) (Tues/Wed/Thur only)	Mrs Maree Grainger (Literacy IL)	Mr Owen Wallis (Numeracy IL)
	Mrs Kate Stennett	Miss Sarah Lo Giudice (Mon & Fri only)	Mrs Natalie Jackson (Tuesday a.m. only)
	Mrs Annmaree O'Rourke (Mon & Wed only)		

<b>Counsellor</b>	Ms Mary Joy Basilio (Mon & Tue 2020)
<b>Office Team</b>	Mrs Judy Attard, Mrs Leslie Halligan, Mrs Jennifer Fletcher
<b>Teachers' Aides</b>	Mrs Violet Rawlings, Mrs Siham Sande-Hashim, Mrs Louise Bucholtz, Miss Victoria Devine, Mrs Jennifer Fletcher
<b>Groundsperson</b>	Mr Roman (Part of the WCC)
<b>Traffic Marshall</b>	Mr Ron Howarth (as part of WCC)



### WHY? - Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for justice.

This summer has had so many challenges; Bush fires, air quality, drought, destruction of life and property, homes and livelihoods. Human tragedy and human folly. The ongoing challenge of poverty, inequality, and injustice: refugees, asylum seekers, the homeless, the unwanted, we can become overwhelmed. Asking why is a good start to finding solutions, but if we get stuck in the cycle of why, it can freeze us and stop us doing what we can. This new year is a new opportunity to show the world the face of compassion and justice. It is a chance to teach our children there is a better way, and that is, to live for others. In week four we will have a fundraiser for all who have served and suffered in the fires. We will continue

our commitment to supporting families in need through the JRS Centre, with our **"And One For You"** campaign. This is where we ask you to add ONE extra grocery item every week to your shopping to help desperate families. **Project Compassion** will provide another opportunity for generosity of heart and spirit. Let's turn our 'Why is this happening?' to "How can we help?" Mother Teresa tells us: "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

Maria Boyd REC

## A Great Start!

We had a great start for our Years 1 to 6 students last Thursday. On Friday our new Kindergarten students began life at Mother Teresa Primary and we had a very smooth transition thanks to the help of our Year 6 Buddies who are guiding them into life at 'big school'. In addition to our Kindergarten students, we also had other new family members join Mother Teresa in other years; we would like to welcome you and we are very happy we have the opportunity to work, learn and play together in the coming years.



## Coronavirus, Implications for our community and the Beatitudes

As we are all aware, there have been notifications on the guidelines for dealing with the spread of coronavirus in the past two weeks provided by both NSW Health and the CEDP (Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta). We relay these advice notices as soon as possible to the community through our skoolbag app. *I thank all of our families for your compliance with these guidelines. Bishop Vincent published guidelines affecting the participation in Eucharistic Celebrations, which impacts on aspects of the way we celebrate, like the Sign of Peace. These guidelines will be followed at school liturgies.*

I reminded all of our students this week that racism, in any form is unacceptable. No person should be vilified for their ancestral heritage and race. Even mocking or attempting humour based on the race of another person can be hurtful and damaging. As you know from our Anti-Racism Policy available on our school website, in relation to the Anti-discrimination act, we always encourage acceptance and tolerance in our school community. I request all families support this policy by speaking to their children about respect for all races. As a Catholic School, we follow in the footsteps of Mother Teresa in showing respect and dignity for all. Looking to the Gospels and one of my favourite passages, the Beatitudes provides all of us with messages to live by:

**“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God” Matt 5:7-9.**

## Dr Justin Coulson - Visit to MTP Tuesday 24th March - Parent only Workshop 7pm



On Tuesday 24th March Dr Justin Coulson will be working with the students in Years 5-6 during the day and the parents and carers of our community at 7pm. These workshops aim to provide insights and strategies on positive ways to help your child behave. This is a fantastic opportunity for all parents and carers K-6 from Mother Teresa Primary to be a part of this informative and interactive workshop. Please feel free to invite along interested family and friends.

*“Dr Justin Coulson is one of very few people in Australia with a PhD in Positive Psychology - and the ONLY person in the country (and almost the world) whose PhD includes a careful look at the intersection of Positive Psychology and relationships, particularly in family life. One of Australia’s most respected and popular corporate and education keynote speakers, facilitators, authors, and researchers, he has spoken to and worked with tens of thousands of people aiming to improve relationships, meaning, and wellbeing in leadership, education and especially in family life. Addressing the issues that matter most, Justin uses his analytical and practical approach to address challenges facing today’s workplaces and educational institutes. “*

### Important Dates:

- 'Meet and Greets' Term 1, Week 3
- Kindergarten and New Families Welcome BBQ and Information Evening - Wednesday 19th February 5:00pm
- 'Cuppa with the Principal' morning tea - Friday 21st February 8.35am
- Parent Information Evening - Religious Education - Tuesday 17th March 7pm
- Parent Workshop with Dr Justin Coulson - Tuesday 24th March 7pm (all parents and friends welcome)
- Staff Development Day (Student Free Day) Friday 27th March

### WHS

- **The Red Zone** - thanks to the vast majority of parents/carers who have been really helpful in not stopping on the red zone, just in front of the pedestrian crossing approaching the Kiss and Drop area. This is for safety as young children crossing the road can be clearly seen on both driving lanes. We ask that you follow the speed limit and are aware there are many pedestrians using this shared space, including toddlers and younger siblings of our Mother Teresa students.
- Please do not send glass containers, like glass bottles, with your child to school.

## Welcome BBQ - Kindergarten and New Families to Mother Teresa Primary AND Kindergarten/New Families Parent Information Session

On Wednesday 19th of February at 5:00pm we will hold our Welcome BBQ. All Kindergarten families and families in other years new to the school, are invited to join us and get to know each other as we work together in years to come. Following the BBQ at 6:00pm there will be another Kindergarten Parent Information Session and an additional session for new families. We kindly request you return the slip indicating the numbers attending to help us with catering on the night.

## Catholic Schools Week and Open School session for prospective families 2021

The 1st to the 7th of March marks Catholic Schools Week. Our school is currently accepting enrolments for Kindergarten 2021. If you know of family or friends who may be interested in visiting the school for the information sessions, they will be held on **Thursday 5th March at 9am** and a repeat evening session at **6pm**. If you could please contact the school office to help us with an indication of numbers (names not required) that would be greatly appreciated.

## Parent and Carers Volunteers Forms

This week you would have received a letter informing you about opportunities throughout the year to volunteer in supporting the Mother Teresa community. It is always great to have parents and carers working with us to achieve our goals of creating a Christ centred, nurturing learning community. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

## PBS4L Positive Behaviour Support for Learning at Mother Teresa Primary

Last year we shared with you the work our staff had been doing across the year on developing and implementing the PBS4L initiative. Later this term we will have the official 'launch' of the PBS4L program - look out for further details. This term your child/ren have been participating in explicit lessons about the school behaviour expectations 'I care for myself', 'I care for others' and 'I care for the environment'. The students have been exploring different ways we can show these on the playground and in the learning studio. A copy of our school matrix can be found below. Each of the dot points in blue is taught explicitly in a lesson and reinforced throughout the year. Last week we focussed on wearing our school uniform with pride. This week our focus was on making safe choices.



2020- MOTHER TERESA PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPECTATION MATRIX



Myself	Others	Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the right place at the right time</li> <li>Solve problems using calm words</li> <li>Take pride in my uniform</li> <li>Listen to peers and teachers</li> <li>Make safe choices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep my body to myself- safe hands and feet</li> <li>Work as a team</li> <li>Use kind words</li> <li>Use good manners</li> <li>Help others in need</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean and tidy after myself and others</li> <li>Tell a teacher if I see anything unsafe</li> <li>Look after school property and resources</li> <li>Take my rubbish home</li> </ul>

At Mother Teresa Primary I care for...	Myself	Others	The Environment
<b>Learning Studios</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take care of my belongings</li> <li>Participate in my learning</li> <li>Walk safely</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share and take turns</li> <li>Help others in learning</li> <li>Be friendly and kind</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put rubbish in the appropriate bin</li> <li>Use equipment properly</li> </ul>
<b>Playground</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Move around the school quietly with a peer</li> <li>Walk in walking zones</li> <li>Respond appropriately to bells and music</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share and take turns</li> <li>Include others</li> <li>Help others in play</li> <li>Maintain personal space</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take my rubbish home</li> <li>Pack up play equipment</li> <li>Take care of my belongings</li> <li>Use equipment properly</li> </ul>
<b>Church/ Prayer/ Meditation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be still and reverent</li> <li>Join in prayers and singing</li> <li>Pray and respond</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pray for others</li> <li>Listen to the priest and others</li> <li>Mindful of others during prayer and meditation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep still</li> <li>Respect sacred place</li> </ul>
<b>Toilets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We leave food and drink outside</li> <li>Flush the toilet</li> <li>Wash my hands</li> <li>Return to class promptly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Showing privacy for others</li> <li>Wait patiently until a cubicle is free</li> <li>Go with a peer and use quiet voices</li> <li>Ask teacher permission to go to the toilet during learning time</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep the toilets clean</li> <li>Flush toilet paper only</li> <li>Turn taps off after use</li> </ul>
<b>Cyber Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use websites/ apps that are safe for my age</li> <li>Gain teacher permission to use technology</li> <li>Report any concerns to a teacher immediately</li> <li>Keep personal information private</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report any unkind behaviour to a teacher immediately</li> <li>Keep personal information of others private</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold devices safely</li> <li>Report any damages to school devices or equipment to a teacher</li> </ul>

## Child Protection and the Mother Teresa Community

A reminder that if your child is having an issue with another child at school, it is very important that you speak to staff at school, including Learning Studio teachers and Stage Coordinators, and please do not directly approach other children.

## Cuppa with the Principal - Parent Forum

On Friday, 21st February at 8.35am parents and carers are warmly invited to join myself and Mrs Stennett for a 'cuppa with the Principal'. This is a great opportunity to get to know other parents in our community and to discuss some of the big and little ideas which help to make our school a great place to learn.

## Parent University - Term 1 - Religious Education- Tuesday 17th March 7pm



Each term at MTP, we run parent workshops or 'Parent University' which is an opportunity for our teachers to share the learning goals and information about our approach to teaching and learning. This term on [Tuesday 17th March at 7pm](#), we are very excited to be working with the other schools in the Westmead Catholic Community for a parent workshop with a Religious Education focus on the new RE curriculum in the Parramatta Diocese. The workshop will be run by theologian Dr Anthony Maher. More details about this event will be provided closer to the date.

### Meet and Greet

In the week you will have an opportunity to book in a time to come up and meet your child's new Learning Studio teacher for 2020. This is a great opportunity to tell your child's teacher all about their areas of strength and challenge. As always, if you would like an extended interview with your child's teacher please feel free to contact the school office and arrange a mutually convenient time to meet.

### School Times and Procedures

Just a friendly reminder to all families that school begins at 8.35am and that playground supervision begins at 8.05am. There is no supervision before 8.05am so we request that other arrangements be made if you need to drop your child at school before this time. We do have COSHC (Catholic out of School Hours Care) available on our site and you can contact the Mother Teresa COSHC manager on 0418 153 894. The start and finish times remain the same this year, however, our lunchtime break has been moved back 10 minutes to allow for the continuing practice of meditation in the middle of the day and a shorter afternoon block for the students.

### MTP Staff Development Day - Friday 27th March - Pupil Free Day

Each year, schools in NSW are allocated 6 Professional Development Days across the year. Most schools use some of their days at the beginning and end of each year as we did with our Mathematical Assessment Interviews last week. On [Friday 27th of March](#) our teaching staff will be attending the MANSW (Mathematical Association of NSW) Conference as this aligns with one of our major goals in Mathematics this year at MTP. A Staff Development Day (SDD) is a pupil free day, this means students do not attend school on this day. COSHC (Catholic Out of School Hours Care) will operate on this day and more information will be available soon from the COSHC manager for parents about this optional service.

### Uniforms

It has been great to see all of our boys and girls return to school in 2020 wearing their school uniform with pride. Now that the holidays have ended and we return to normal school routines we ask for your support in adhering to our school uniform dress code. A few extra reminders include:

- Boys white shirts need to be tucked in
- Girls can wear ribbons that are the school colours
- Girls need to have their hair tied back every day and no extreme haircuts for our boys.

If you have any questions regarding our school uniform please contact the school. Please remember to label uniforms with your child's name, especially their hat and if you are interested in getting the school sunglasses for your child these are available for purchase at the school office. Finally, there have been some queries around what colour socks students need to wear on sports days. All girls wear white sports socks and all boys can also wear white sports socks (though navy socks are still acceptable). Please note all socks must sit above the ankle bone, girls and boys.

Dr JUSTIN  
COULSON *presents*



**POSITIVE WAYS**

**TO HELP CHILDREN BEHAVE**



Mother Teresa Primary  
*creative minds - gentle hearts*

**TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020**

**7.00—9.00pm**

**Mother Teresa Primary School,  
2A Darcy Road Westmead**

✉ [info@justincoulson.com](mailto:info@justincoulson.com) [f /happyfamilies.au](https://www.facebook.com/happyfamilies.au) [t @JustinCoulson](https://twitter.com/JustinCoulson) [i @DrJustinCoulson](https://www.instagram.com/DrJustinCoulson)

## Fact Sheet for Parents and Caregivers - Explanation of Absences

CEDP promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education.

If your child is sick or absent you are required to notify their school on the first day of absence if at all possible. All explanations to the school must be provided within **7 days** from the first day of any period of absence.

Absences can be explained using **one** of the following methods:

1. Online: log the absence directly using *the SkoolBag App*
2. Email: the school at [motherteresa@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:motherteresa@parra.catholic.edu.au)
3. Telephone: the school office on 8841 2600 during office hours 8am - 3.30pm
4. Note sent back to school with your child

Where an explanation has not been received within the 7 day timeframe or the explanation has not been accepted, the school will record the absence as unexplained or unjustified on the student's record. The school will not be able to accept explanations which are not received within the 7 day timeframe.

Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstances e.g. attending a funeral

### Why do I need to notify the school if my child is absent?

Parents of children aged 6 to 17 years are legally required to ensure their children attend school every day or provide an explanation if they are absent. Notifying the school and providing an explanation for your child's absence will fulfil this legal responsibility.

The safety and wellbeing of students are the highest priorities for schools. Parents need to know if their child isn't at school, and schools need to know when and why a child is absent. Notifying the school of your child's absence helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children in school.

### What is your responsibility?

- Ensure your child attends school every day
- Notify the school immediately if your child is absent
- Provide an explanation for any absences within 7 days
- Make sure the school has your correct contact details so that you can receive attendance information about your child

every learner every day 