



Heartlinks Highlights Video

[Watch Video](#)

MTP - The "Learning Pit"

You may have heard the children talking about 'the Learning Pit' or 'being in the pit'. The term "the Learning Pit" was created by educator and author, James Nottingham. The Learning Pit is a theoretical framework we use to help describe learning that is both challenging and rewarding. In life, we are most proud of the things we achieved that were challenging and that we overcame independently. In the video this week our students explain what it is like 'being in the pit' and what strategies they use to help them to new learning in order to 'get out of the pit'.

Prayers for all in Lebanon

It was with deep sadness we watched the images on the news of the terrible accident in Beirut last week. I know that this accident and other ongoing turmoil in Lebanon deeply impacted many in our own Mother Teresa Primary community. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families and friends in Lebanon. We pray for healing and for peace.

I found the following prayer through the Catholic agency, Caritas, written by Sr Jo Brady RSJ. Donations for the people of Lebanon can be made through this organisation via the following [link](#).

PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE OF LEBANON

following the Beirut blast

God of Compassion,

You are strength to those who suffer and comfort to those who grieve.
We pray for the people of Lebanon in this time of disaster.
Embrace those who died so suddenly and console those
who grieve for loved ones.

United in solidarity with our Lebanese sisters and brothers we pray:
For healing and strength for those injured and suffering
That the international community will respond with generosity
and compassion
And that stability and peace will be restored in Lebanon.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

- Jo Brady RSJ Caritas Australia



*"The poor do not need our
condescending attitude or our pity.
They only need our love and our
tenderness."*

St Teresa of Kolkata

Important Dates:

- Saturday, 25th July—
Sunday, 16th August
Confirmation Information
Enrolment forms for
Confirmation can be collected
from the Parish Church while
attending Mass during the
period 25-26 July – 15-16
August 2020. Due to Covid19
the forms will be available also
on our website to download for
the same time period.
- Monday, 24th August
School Photo Day
- Thursday, 24th September
Last day Term 3



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."



Congratulations Mrs Crystal Wilkes

Last week we received the wonderful news that Mrs Crystal Wilkes (Year 6 Friday teacher 2020) gave birth to her fourth child, a happy and healthy boy, Elijah. We would like to wish Crystal and all of her beautiful family all the very best for the future.

Deepest Sympathies

Last week Mrs Maree Grainger's (Stage 1 Coordinator and Literacy Leader) Mum passed away. The funeral for Maree's Mum is today and we extend our deepest sympathies to Mrs Grainger for her loss.

This week a member of the Marist Staff, Mrs Cathy Furey passed away. She has worked at Marist for many years and her sudden passing has had a huge impact to all at Marist.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

School 10 Year Anniversary Celebration Cancelled & COVID19 Restrictions

Given the current COVID19 restrictions for school gatherings, celebrations and liturgies we have had to make the very difficult decision to cancel the 10 Year Anniversary Celebrations for Mother Teresa Primary. We are currently in discussions with Fr Walter about a way to record our liturgy and share this with the wider community. We have created a short video with key stakeholders to acknowledge the 10 year history of the school and this video will be shared with the school community on Monday the 7th September, the day we were intending to have our Celebration liturgy.

Father's Day Liturgy and Stall

COVID19 restrictions will now also have an impact on our planned Father's Day liturgy, as we cannot invite groups of parents onto our school grounds. Again, as with our 10 Year Anniversary Celebration, we will create a video to share with the community which celebrates the gift of our Fathers.

We do plan to go ahead with the Father's Day stall and this will be run with the help and support of our school staff. Again, unfortunately we cannot invite parent volunteers onto the site but we plan to run the stall with the help of our wonderful Teacher Aides. The stall will operate for students to purchase a small gift on Friday the 4th of September. All gifts will be \$5 each.

TTFM - Tell Them From Me

Students, teachers and parents are all invited to provide feedback on their experience of our school using an online survey. The surveys are an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process.

We would like to invite you to complete the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at Mother Teresa Primary. As parents from previous years would appreciate, this tool is generic in nature and not specific to Primary Schools. This year the form includes some additional questions on COVID19 and the impact on students as well as some added questions on Religious Education, which appear towards the end of the survey.

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. **The survey is open for parents and carers from the 10th to the 28th August.** You are able to access the parent survey on your computer or mobile device by using the URL below:

<http://tellthemfromme.com/wj5yp>

School Photos

A friendly reminder that we will be having our 2020 school photos on **Monday 24th August** (this was postponed from Term 1 this year). The students are asked to wear their full winter school uniform on this day. Sibling photo order forms are available for collection from the school office.

eSafety Commissioner - Parent Webinars - Helping Children Thrive Online

A one hour webinar suitable for parents and carers of young people aged 5-12 years old is available from the Office of the eSafety Commissioner, a link to register for the webinar is available [here](#). Attached to the newsletter this week is also a guide about helping children thrive online.

This webinar will cover:

- ideas to start the chat about harmful content, contact with strangers and online bullying
- strategies for addressing common digital parenting challenges
- skills that young people need to protect themselves online
- how to get help if things go wrong.

Changed Procedures and Protocols due to COVID19 continue in Term 3

Whilst the number of cases, including those in schools in our vicinity, we will continue to follow the following guidelines:

- We will continue the practice of the school gate opening at 2.30pm for early collection and to ease the concentration of children gathering together at the Kiss and Drop zone. We will continue this practice until further notice.
- If you would like your child to continue to bring in their own pencil case they may do so however we will have school equipment available in each learning studio.
- We continue to encourage social distancing, particularly between adults, wherever possible - PLEASE remember to remain 1.5 metres apart from adults, including our staff, when dropping off and picking up your child.
- We will continue to strongly encourage all students to wash their hands with soap and water before eating and after playing.
- We encourage the children to cover their face with their elbow if they cough or sneeze and to avoid touching their faces.
- If your child is sick, particularly if they have a fever, sore throat or cough, please do not send them to school.
- We will continue to ask students to bring their own water bottle each day with their name clearly labelled.
- We will continue to engage in additional cleaning of student desks each day.
- It is the responsibility of all of us to strictly follow Government directives about who needs to be tested and who needs to self-isolate.
- NSW Health have established a website to inform the community of actions they should take if they have been in a location where there has been confirmed cases of COVID-19 within NSW. It is important that parents, staff and students comply with public health advice which includes the requirement to self-isolate for the required period if they have been at any of the locations published on this website on the specified dates and times.

Staff Development Day - Friday 25th September - Pupil Free Day

This term, our last day for students will be Thursday, 24th September. On Friday the 25th of September our staff will be working with Fr Walter on developing a deep knowledge of the Sacraments and also be spending time on our own spiritual formation.

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.



Tomorrow is the Feast of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary inspires us to want to carry our cross patiently as she carried hers. She inspires us to want to serve others generously and joyfully, as she served them. Finally, she inspires us to pray regularly as she did. Who can be a better Advocate than Mary our Mother?

However dark the shadows that sometimes gather on the horizon and however incomprehensible certain events may appear to be in human history, we must never lose trust and peace. Tomorrow's feast invites us to entrust ourselves to Mary assumed into heaven who, like a shining star from heaven, directs our daily journey on earth.

Lord, fill me with your Holy Spirit and give me joy in seeking you more closely. Increase my faith in all your promises, my hope in the joys of heaven, and my love for You as my All." Amen.

Important Dates:

- School Photos—Monday, 24th August
- Last day of term 3—Thursday, 24th September

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.
- Please drive to the speed limit at all times, especially when on the school site to ensure the safety of all members of the Westmead Catholic Community
- Please do not stop on top of the pedestrian crossing and let your children out - please wait until you have moved to a bay in the Kiss and Drop zone.
- Please do not stop on the **red zone** as you approach Kiss and Drop area.



Congratulations to those students who have completed the Premier's Reading Challenge. For those students who are yet to finish, you have until midnight on **Friday, 28th August 2020**

If you have any questions, please contact either Mrs Rawlings or Mrs Halligan.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS WILL BE TAKEN ON:

Monday 24 August 2020

**ORDER NOW go to www.advancedlife.com.au and enter the code
XLN XJ6 XX2**

Dear Parents,

School photographs are scheduled to be taken by **advancedlife**. Whilst an envelope and flyer will be distributed shortly, if possible it is our preference that ordering be completed online to reduce administration and potential security issues related to the return of cash and envelopes on photo day.

Orders for packages and sibling photographs can be placed securely online at www.advancedlife.com.au using our school's unique **9 digit advancedorder code**. Portrait and group package orders are due by photography day.

Should you wish to purchase a sibling photograph online, the order must be placed no later than the day before photography day. Sibling photographs will only be taken if an order has been placed.

Should you have any queries concerning school photographs or online ordering, please contact us at www.advancedlife.com.au/contact

Helping kids thrive online

Webinar information sheet for parents of primary school students

General tips for supporting your child online:

- Support your child's friendships online and off by talking with them about their friends and activities.
- Ask your child to demonstrate the games and apps they use to better understand what they play, why it's fun and possible pitfalls they may encounter.
- Help build confidence by encouraging children to share their knowledge of the online world.
- Encourage routines that promote health and balance. For example, create device-free times and places in your home.
- Model your own behaviour, by demonstrating that you can put your phone down and concentrate on spending time with your child, without the distractions of being online.
- Talk to your child about who could be their 'askable adult', and when they would speak with them.

Harmful content

[Harmful or inappropriate content](#) is content that a child might find upsetting, disturbing or offensive.

Ways to start the chat:

- Use eSafety's information on how to approach the [hard-to-have conversations](#).
- Use the [eSafety guide](#) to learn more about popular apps, games and social networking sites.
- Explore [eSafety kids](#) pages with your child to discuss topics such as [I saw something online I didn't like](#).
- Learn how to [report illegal content](#).

Contact with strangers

[Unwanted contact](#) is any type of online communication that your child finds unpleasant or confronting, or that leads them into a situation where they might be harmed. At worst, it can involve 'grooming' a child — building a relationship with a child in order to sexually abuse them. To help your child:

- Learn and discuss what children can do in [situations where they might feel unsafe](#).
- Explore [eSafety kids](#) pages so you can more easily discuss topics like [someone is contacting me and I don't want them to](#).
- Learn about the features of apps that can expose children to contact with strangers by exploring the [eSafety guide](#).

Cyberbullying

[Cyberbullying](#) is using technology to bully a person, hurt or scare them. eSafety can help with the removal of serious cyberbullying content. To help:

- Use the [eSafety guide](#) to show your child how to block and report users that make them feel uncomfortable.
- Explore [eSafety kids](#) to discuss topics such as [someone is being mean to me online](#) and [people are being mean to others online](#).
- Teach your child [how and when to report cyberbullying to eSafety](#).

Resources

- Download the [online safety guide for parents and carers](#) — available in 5 languages.
- Use [online safety basics](#) to explore technology issues with your child, negotiate rules and get to know the technology.
- Refer to eSafety's [taming the technology](#) to set screen time tools and parental controls.
- Read eSafety's [privacy and your child](#) to help manage privacy and safety settings. It also offers advice about how to check [location settings](#).
- Explore [the big issues](#) and find out more about cyberbullying, online pornography, time online, gaming, unwanted contact and grooming.
- Check eSafety's [skills and advice](#) resources—establishing good habits, hard to have conversations and using parental controls.
- Show your child how to contact [Kids Helpline](#) and learn the details of [Parentline](#) in your state or territory.
- Be smart and secure when choosing tech gifts for children by reviewing the [eSafety gift guide](#).
- If you have children under five, read [eSafety Early Years](#) for more information and resources.
- For parents of teens, visit [eSafety young people](#).
- Look at [eSafety parents](#) for advice, resources and links specifically tailored for parents' needs.
- For parents of primary school aged children, visit [eSafety kids](#).

References

[eSafety Research](#)