

4th February 2022



## Heartlinks Highlights Video

[Watch Video](#)

### MTP Heartlinks Highlights Video - Welcome back!

In the video this week we welcome our families back to MTP for a great year of learning in 2022 and our REC Mrs. Gaye Dennis briefly explains our Religious Education goal for 2022 and our Lead Numeracy teacher, Mr. Owen Wallis explains our learning goal for 2022, which is focussed on numeracy.

### Welcome to Mother Teresa Primary 2022

It was great to welcome back all of our students to school in 2022 this week. The children were very excited to connect back with their friends and meet their new teachers. I appreciate that there are some families still in isolation for this week but congratulations on joining in with the learning from home during this isolation period - we look forward to seeing you all soon.

Thank you parents for the way you have prepared and presented your children for school this year. We know that children achieve the best learning outcomes when home and school work together - thank you for your support. You are your child's first teacher and the way your child interacts and responds to you is the same as they interact and respond to their friends and teachers.

We have been reinforcing our three school rules: I care for myself, I care for others and I care for the environment. Thank you for reinforcing this at home. Mother Teresa Primary students have their positive behaviour acknowledged with verbal affirmations from their teachers and with our "Heart Tokens". The children collect tokens that contribute towards class and school 'celebrations' like movie afternoons or extra playtime. If your child is excited to tell you about a heart token they may have received please congratulate them on their positive behaviour. We look forward to working with all families again this year, on their learning journey at Mother Teresa Primary.



We use heart tokens at Mother Teresa because we are a part of the Westmead Catholic Community and Sacred Heart is our Parish at Westmead.

Mother Teresa also reminds us that:  
*"The heart of Jesus is an open heart".*

### Opening School Liturgy - Thursday 10th February - Livestream - 9am

Next week we will be celebrating our 2022 Opening School Liturgy with Fr Walter Fogarty. After consideration of the current COVID19 restrictions, we will be gathering with the students only and live-streaming the liturgy for parents who wish to join us in prayer. We will be taking only Kindergarten and Year 6 students (separated) to the Morley Centre for this liturgy. Children from Year 1 to Year 5 will participate in the liturgy in their individual Learning Studios. Thank you for your understanding and we hope that as the year progresses and COVID19 restrictions ease, we can again open our invitation to all parents, grandparents, and carers to join us face to face for these important liturgical celebrations.



"We fear the future  
because we are wasting  
today."

St Teresa of Kolkata

### Important Dates:

- **Thursday, 10th February**  
Opening School Liturgy  
Livestream—Online
- **Wednesday, 16th February**  
Online Kindergarten Information  
Evening - 6:00pm
- **Monday, 14th February—  
Friday, 18th February**  
Online Meet and Greet's Term 1,  
Week 4  
Details next week
- **Monday, 7th March**  
'Cuppa with the Principal' Parent  
Forum online - Monday 7th March  
9am
- **Friday, 8th April**  
Last day of Term 1 - Friday 8th  
April

## COVID smart return to school - 2022

Thank you for your cooperation with the current COVID restrictions which have been outlined in several communications in the past week. All staff and any workers on-site are required to be vaccinated and wear a mask.

We use air purifiers in the Learning Studios and keep windows, doors, and walls open where possible. Masks and vaccinations are not mandatory for Primary age students, but they are highly encouraged. Rapid Antigen Tests were provided for families to test each child twice a week for the first two weeks (Mondays and Wednesdays) and further information about the next RATs will be provided, once they have been delivered to the school. Cohorting of students is a Government and System requirement, which we follow where possible. When a COVID positive community member notifies the school, information about the relevant grade will be shared with the community, in order for those in contact to test and monitor for symptoms. Even if your child tests negative but they are still displaying COVID-like symptoms (fever, headache, sore throat) do not send them to school. Information for families about COVID is located on the NSW Government website available [here](#).

### Important notice for boys in Year 6 enrolling to Parramatta Marist High next year:

#### 2023 Enrolment at Parramatta Marist High School

Parramatta Marist High School are currently accepting applications for year 7, 2023. Application packs are available for download from the Parramatta Marist website (<https://www.parramarist.catholic.edu.au/>) or can be collected from the school office. Completed application forms can be lodged at the school office between 9:30 am - 2:30 pm on school days, **applications close at 2:00 pm on Friday 25 March 2022.**

## Year 6 Leadership

Parents who have been a part of the Mother Teresa community for several years will be aware that all of our Year 6 students wear identifying sports shirts as leaders of the school. Another way we acknowledge our Year 6 leaders is with their Leadership Crosses. Every Year 6 student will be presented with their leadership cross at the liturgy next Thursday. These leadership crosses identify our Year 6 students as we attempt to follow in the footsteps of Christ and be models of servant leadership. This year we introduced seven different teams, which the students nominated themselves they would like to join. The teams are Religious Education/Social Justice, Environment, Sport, Communication, Early Childhood, Technology, and Hospitality. These teams will be working with members of the staff Leadership Team in a variety of ways throughout the year.

In each team, students and staff elected two students who will undertake the new roles of School Captains for their team. At the liturgy on Thursday, Fr Walter will bless the Year 6 Leadership cross and Captain's badges, which will be presented to the students. We congratulate the following students who have been elected Captains for 2022:

Early Childhood	Saide A Eunice K	Sport	Cooper S Dean S
Hospitality	Carmen N Alessia M	Technology	Jasmine K Rafael P
Communication	Kayla C Arnav P	RE/Social Justice	Celina K John A
Environment	Jane J Charbel H		

## Welcome Kindergarten 2022



While the weather wasn't very cooperative for Kindergarten's first day of school this year, the children did settle very well into life at big school. For new families, it is always a lot of information to take in at the start of the year, as well as lots of new procedures and protocols to follow. Congratulations on a job well done Kindergarten 2022 parents!! Our Kindergarten 2022 Parent Information Evening will be online on the 16th February at 6 pm - a link will be shared with Kindergarten parents shortly.



## 2022 MTP Staff

Thanks to the hard-working school staff who spent time in the holidays preparing programs and inviting learning environments for our students. Throughout the year, if you have any questions regarding your child's learning or development, you are invited to make an appointment for a Zoom meeting or organise a phone call 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.

Grade	Teacher	Stage Co-ordinator
Kindergarten	KLS1—Miss Elise Sherry KLS2—Mrs Gabriella Patanè	Mrs Gaye Dennis
Year One	JLS1—Miss Stephanie Cassar JLS2—Mrs Aimee Antoun	Mrs Maree Grainger
Year Two	JLS3—Mr Scott Mortimer JLS3—Mrs Kim Burton (Tue) JLS4—Miss Sarah Lo Giudice	
Year Three	MLS1—Miss Louise Barrow MLS2—Mrs Emma Marongiu	Mrs Katherine Stennett
Year Four	MLS3—Mrs Jody Sultana MLS4—Ms Melinda Callaghan	
Year Five	SLS1—Mrs Rachael Thompson (Mon & Fri) SLS1—Miss Jacinta Dagher (Tue/ Wed/Thu) SLS2—Miss Sophie Chidiac	Mr Owen Wallis
Year Six	SLS3—Miss Violet Elkhoury SLS4—Mrs Vicki Morgan	
Teaching Aides	Mrs Violet Rawlings Mrs Siham Sande-Hashim Mrs Louise Bucholtz Mrs Jennifer Fletcher	Mrs Karen Mardini Miss Victoria Devine Mrs Joelle Tannous
Office Administration	Mrs Judy Attard Mrs Leslie Halligan	Mrs Jennifer Fletcher
Creative Arts Team	Mrs Natalie Sassine	Mrs Natalie Jackson
PE / Sport Coordinator	Mrs Rachael Thompson	
Diversity Team	Mrs Gaye Dennis Mrs Maree Grainger Mr Owen Wallis	Mrs Joanne Beamish Mrs Katherine Stennett
LTST (Learning Technologies Support Teacher)	Mr Scott Mortimer	
Lead Numeracy Teacher—Numeracy Coach	Mr Owen Wallis	
Lead Literacy Teacher—Literacy Coach	Mrs Maree Grainger	
Religious Education Coordinator Diversity Leader	Mrs Gaye Dennis	
School Counsellor	Mrs Julie Poli	
Assistant Principal	Mrs Katherine Stennett	
Principal	Mrs Elizabeth Devlin	
Parish Priest—Sacred Heart Parish Westmead and Westmead Catholic Community	Fr Walter Fogarty	

## Online 'Meet and Greet' - Grade Videos on Facebook - Grade Parent Information Letters

At the beginning of every year, parents are invited to make a booking to participate in an interview for our online 'Meet and Greet' with your child's teacher. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher online and share any important information you would like to share about your child. These online meetings will be held in Week 4 - parents will be shared information about how to book in for a meeting shortly.

Our teachers have prepared a short, introductory video for each grade which is available on our school Facebook page. Today Parents will also receive a hard copy of an information letter for each grade, outlining the topics and subjects your child will learn about this term, as well as some other general information.

## Kindergarten and new families Welcome BBQ - cancelled

As all families are aware, with the current restrictions and guidelines about adults mixing socially in large numbers, it is not possible to hold our normal beginning of the year Welcome BBQ at this time. We hope when restrictions are eased we can open up invitations to all families to join us for celebrations, such as our Welcome BBQ, at school. As outlined above, our Kindergarten 2022 Parent Information session will be conducted online and a link will be shared with Kindergarten parents soon.

## Online "Cuppa with the Principal" - Parent Forum - 9 am Monday 7th March

At Mother Teresa Primary each term we hold a 'Cuppa with the Principal' informal parent forum where Mrs. Stennett and myself host a morning tea where parents are invited to share ideas, ask questions and also get to know each other. Last year we had some face-to-face sessions and some online sessions. This term we will be running another 'Cuppa with the Principal' session online during the day on Monday the 7th March at 9 am - a zoom link will be shared shortly. All parents are invited to join!

## Uniforms

It has been great to see all of our boys and girls return to school in 2022 wearing their school uniforms 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
- All students need to have their hair tied back if long enough to cover their eyes (boys and girls), no extreme haircuts or styles for all students including lines, mullets, dyed hair or excessive gel.

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.

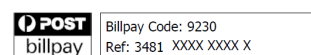
## Mother Teresa Primary is going 'cashless'

### Finance Transformation

CEDP (Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta) is going through a transformation journey, looking at areas of our organisation to improve the way we work collectively. **Cashless/Contactless Journey**

As Mother Teresa transitions with this transformation, payments in cash at the office will no longer be possible, and prefer that payments over the counter be made by Debit or Credit Card. Card payments are also accepted over the phone.

School fees cash payments may be paid via Post BillPay at the Post Office as long as you have your school fee statement with you. Here you will find your unique details on the bottom corner of Page 1 of the statement.



Pay in person at any Post Office,  
by Phone by calling 13 18 16,  
or go to [postbillpay.com.au](http://postbillpay.com.au)



\*71 230 3481XXXXXX XX

**TOTAL**  
**\$1,000.00**

*Coming soon!*



Mother Teresa will be offering an online payment service through **Qkr!** by Mastercard. *Qkr! (pronounced 'quicker') is designed for busy parents and carers, this easy-to-use mobile phone application is suitable for both iPhone and Android Smartphones. This service will be available for all **non-school fee** payments. When this system is up and running, communications will be distributed as new events and products become available for purchase.*

More information will be distributed in the weeks to come -  
Mrs. Judy Attard, Senior Finance Officer, MTP Westmead



## Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge - entries close 25th February

I know we have great readers at MTP and many children have already submitted entries for the Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge - a great way to encourage reading over the holidays. The Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge is sponsored by the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. It is not too late to enter - keep up the great reading MTP!

*Who can enter? The competition is open to students in Catholic Systemic Schools in the Diocese of Parramatta. No payment is required.*

*When? All entries must be received by 5.00 pm 25th February 2022.*

*How to Enter: Read at least one age-appropriate book, e-book, animated novel, comic play or piece of poetry. Fill out the entry form [here](#). Tell them in 50 words or less why you loved what you read. After submitting your entry you will receive one entry for the prize draw. You can enter as many times as you like but you must describe why you liked a different book, e-book, animated novel, comic play, or piece of poetry for each entry.*

*Prize: The main prize for primary school students is a \$500 JB Hi-Fi voucher. There are also thirty, \$30 vouchers to be won. For any further information regarding the competition, you can contact the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta at [promotions@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:promotions@parra.catholic.edu.au)*

Welcome back to another year of working and praying together.

This term the RE Cycles will focus on these main concepts:

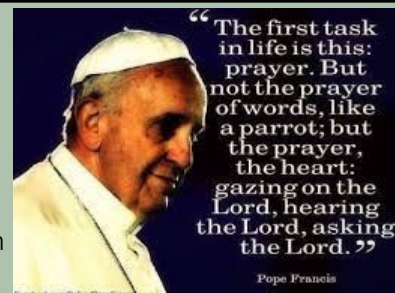
- Kindergarten: **Knowing Jesus**
- Year 1 and 2: **Prayer strengthens our relationship with God.**
- Year 3 and 4: **God is present in my life through the Holy Spirit.**
- Year 5 and 6: **Sacraments are special signs and celebrations of God's love.**

In further Heartlinks Newsletters we will shine a spotlight on what is being discussed in each stage and how this learning is bringing us closer to Jesus.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like further clarification on what your child is learning in Religious Education.

Our school goal focuses on prayer and encourages us to build a connection with God. Pope Francis asks us to *feel prayer in our hearts and listen for the Lord. May our school and homes be filled with a renewed relationship with God, through His son, Jesus, empowered by the Spirit.*

God Bless.



## Important Dates:

- Opening School Liturgy - Thursday 10th February - Livestream - 9am
- Online Kindergarten Information Evening - Wednesday 16th February 6 pm
- 'Meet and Greet' Term 1, Week 4
- Cuppa with the Principal' Parent Forum online - Monday 7th March 9am
- Last day of Term 1 - Friday 8th April

## WHS - Site safety

- Thank you for holding your child's hand when walking across the road and when walking with your child in the car parks on site.
- Please DO NOT ask children or staff to step onto the road between cars to access the boot to pack or retrieve bags. This is VERY dangerous and could result in tragedy - we all need to take responsibility for the safety of others on our site.

## After School Sports Activities (External Provider—JPKeeping Active)

# NEW TERM 1 ACTIVITIES

<b>CRICKET PROGRAM (Parramatta)</b> MONDAY 4:30PM – 5:30PM <b>LOCATION: Robin Thomas Reserve, Parramatta</b>	February 14 <sup>th</sup> February 21 <sup>st</sup> February 28 <sup>th</sup> March 7 <sup>th</sup>
<b>CRICKET PROGRAM (Glenwood)</b> TUESDAY 4:00PM – 5:00PM <b>LOCATION: Alwyn Lindfield Reserve, Glenwood</b>	February 15 <sup>th</sup> February 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 1 <sup>st</sup> March 8 <sup>th</sup>
<b>SOCCER PROGRAM (Oran Park)</b> TUESDAY 4:00PM – 5:00PM <b>LOCATION: Wayne Gardner Reserve, Oran Park</b>	February 15 <sup>th</sup> February 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 1 <sup>st</sup> March 8 <sup>th</sup>
<b>SOCCER PROGRAM (Glenwood)</b> WEDNESDAY 4:00PM – 5:00PM <b>LOCATION: Alwyn Lindfield Reserve, Glenwood</b>	February 16 <sup>th</sup> February 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>SOCCER PROGRAM (Camden)</b> WEDNESDAY 4:00PM – 5:00PM <b>LOCATION: Kirkham Park, Camden</b>	February 16 <sup>th</sup> February 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 9 <sup>th</sup>
<b>SOCCER PROGRAM (Parramatta)</b> THURSDAY 4:30PM – 5:30PM <b>LOCATION: Robin Thomas Reserve, Parramatta</b>	February 17 <sup>th</sup> February 24 <sup>th</sup> March 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 10 <sup>th</sup>
<b>CRICKET PROGRAM (Oran Park)</b> THURSDAY 4:00PM – 5:00PM <b>LOCATION: Wayne Gardner Reserve, Oran Park</b>	February 17 <sup>th</sup> February 24 <sup>th</sup> March 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 10 <sup>th</sup>
<b>SOCCER PROGRAM (Blacktown)</b> FRIDAY 4:30PM – 5:30PM <b>LOCATION: Duncan Park, Seven Hills</b>	February 18 <sup>th</sup> February 25 <sup>th</sup> March 4 <sup>th</sup> March 11 <sup>th</sup>
<b>CRICKET PROGRAM (Parramatta)</b> SUNDAY 1:00PM – 2:00PM <b>LOCATION: Robin Thomas Reserve, Parramatta</b>	February 20 <sup>th</sup> February 27 <sup>th</sup> March 6 <sup>th</sup> March 13 <sup>th</sup>
<b>SOCCER PROGRAM (Parramatta)</b> SUNDAY 2:30PM – 3:30PM <b>LOCATION: Robin Thomas Reserve, Parramatta</b>	February 20 <sup>th</sup> February 27 <sup>th</sup> March 6 <sup>th</sup> March 13 <sup>th</sup>



**ALL PROGRAMS ARE \$40 AND RUN FOR 4 WEEKS**

**ALL PROGRAMS 4-13 YEARS OLD**

**TO BOOK PLEASE TEXT JORDAN ON 0431 749 059**

**OR EMAIL [JPKeepingactive@gmail.com](mailto:JPKeepingactive@gmail.com)**

**(Please note programs must be paid by the first session)**