



# The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

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## Term 3 Week 3

### Thursday 29th July 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

**STAY SAFE**  
together we will get through this

At the NSW Government's press conference yesterday Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced significant new measures in response to the escalating COVID-19 outbreak. The current lockdown has been extended. **The lockdown in Greater Sydney, the Blue Mountains, the Central Coast, Wollongong and Shellharbour will be extended for a further 4 weeks until 28 August 2021.** I know this wasn't the news we wanted to hear but we appreciate that this is a national emergency and the government needs to contain this strain as quickly as possible.

I ask our parents and carers **to** please note:

**NSW Health has reinforced that parents and carers in Greater Sydney must keep children – of all ages, across primary and secondary school – at home unless they are vulnerable or a child of an essential worker. Supervision can only be provided for these families.**

You should also be aware that there are now strict restrictions on the number of staff that are permitted onsite. This week all schools were instructed to further reduce the number of staff onsite.

**The majority of staff at St John's are now working remotely.**

I would like to thank parents / carers for the way you have responded to the continuing challenges of COVID-19, including making the transition (again this term) to remote learning and balancing your child's learning with work commitments. Unfortunately, we find ourselves in the same position as last year where a significant number of school, community and diocesan events have had to be cancelled.

The decision to cancel events are made on the advice of NSW Health and the Catholic Education Department of Parramatta. These decisions are not made lightly; they are made to ensure the safety of our entire community – students, staff and families. We know the impact that these cancellations have on our students; particularly their wellbeing. That is why we continue to investigate and initiate other creative ways / platforms to deliver activities. Our teachers were very successful in doing this before. Our students engaged with and participated virtually in many events including virtual excursions: A visit to the Farm, Virtual tour of Canberra etc and incursions – Mr Huff productions.



Our teachers and teacher aides have been working very hard this week to develop learning programs, activities and online learning tasks which they will be sharing with students and families. They have planned a range of learning, social and interactive virtual / zoom sessions. Stage teachers will directly invite their students to participate in stage zoom / virtual interactive sessions and parents and carers are able to access other activities on the newly created St John's Fun website as they are uploaded. Miss Jefferey and Mrs Galati created this website where families can send us pictures and videos of the fun things your children are doing in their learning and playing at home.

If you would like to share anything on this website, please email your submission to [riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au) or to you're the relevant Stage Gmail addresses.

*You can find the website at <https://sites.google.com/parra.catholic.edu.au/st-johns-lockdown-fun/home>*

## **Stage Email Addresses**

ES1 SJPES12020@gmail.com

S1 SJPS12020@gmail.com

S2 SJPS22020@gmail.com

S3 SJPS32020@gmail.com

## **Supporting Young People Impacted by COVID-19**

In response to the current lockdowns, *HeadSpace* is running additional parent/carers mental health education sessions, over the next 6 weeks. The sessions are titled Supporting young people impacted by COVID19, and provide parents/carers with information and strategies to support their young people during these uncertain times.

The following sessions are available via zoom and scheduled over the next few weeks.

- 4 August 2021, 6:30pm – 7:45pm, South Western Sydney
  - 5 August 2021, 6:30pm – 7:45pm, Cumberland
- 9 August 2021, 6:30pm – 7:45pm, Northern Sydney
  - 10 August 2021, 6:30pm – 7:45pm, Georges River
- 11 August 2021, 6:30pm – 7:45pm, South Eastern Sydney
  - 17 August 2021, 6:30 – 7:45pm, Western Sydney
  - 19 August 2021, 6:30pm – 7:45pm, Randwick

Here is the [link](#) to register for these sessions.



As the governments current restrictions on social interactions and the strict lockdowns continue ; particularly for us that are in the Blacktown LGA we can expect that there will be more of an impact on the wellbeing of our students. Our teachers are cognizant of this and are incorporating wellbeing activities into their programs and are using a variety of monitoring strategies to check-in with their students. Teachers are also providing students with opportunities to socialise in fun ways with their classmates via zoom.

As always, if you have any concerns about your child's learning or wellbeing, please contact me to discuss your concerns.

### **Pope Francis prayer to Our Lady,**

*Health of the Sick, to implore her protection during the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic*

*O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.*

*You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.*

*Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin*



*God Bless, Patricia*



## Premier's Reading Challenge

*Congratulations to the following students who have completed the Premier's Reading Challenge so far!*

### Stage 2

Reva Borawake  
Matilda Keating  
Ainah Lazatin  
Marlee Syme  
Gillean Eisma  
Giovanni Galati  
Mersadiez Syme

### Early Stage 1

Amerie Lazatin  
Manav Sapkota

### Stage 3

Jacob Beazley  
Lucas Beazley  
Pippa Wood  
Emilia Keating  
Cooper Stone



### Premier's Reading Challenge Extended

For those students who haven't completed the challenge you now have until the 3rd September. Please note that even though you can't borrow books at the moment there are many online resources.

You can access books online in eLibrary through Classm8. We have access to books via Wheelers and Sora. You can also download the SORA app to your Ipad

Some other online sites you can access books from home include:

- **Sydney Opera House** has developed the [Footlights and Booklists](#) series, which provides videos of a range of picture books read by authors and celebrities in the beautiful Opera House setting.
- **Publishers** have made available a range of read-aloud stories on their social media platforms. Many of these are hosted on YouTube, for example the [Penguin Read Aloud Stories](#) playlist. Please check individual publisher websites for information about books and read-aloud that they they may have made available online. *Happy Reading!*

### School

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[www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au)

**Principal: Patricia Charlton**

Office Hours 8.30am - 3.30pm

### Parish

Cnr Garfield Rd & McCulloch St

Riverstone 2765 Tel: 9627 2276

Email: [stjohns10@bigpond](mailto:stjohns10@bigpond)

**Parish Priest: Father Zakaria Gayed**

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 6pm, Sunday 7am & 9am