



Dear Parents and Carers,

Today at school we commemorated *Remembrance Day* with a special service that was beautifully and prayerfully led by the senior students from 5/6 Larkin. We remember that this year marks the 102nd anniversary of the Armistice, which ended the First World War on 11th November, 1918.



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Left We Forget

A Prayer for Remembrance

Ever-loving God,

We remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence;
may the same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony in our world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

School Governance – A New Model



As part of the changing dynamics of Catholic parishes and government requirements, governance of Catholic schools in the Ballarat Diocese will change from January 1st, 2021. Currently Fr Justin Driscoll is the Governing Authority of St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School, and as such he is responsible for all elements of governance; a large proportion of this he delegates to the principal.

In 2021, all Catholic schools in Victoria must be governed by an incorporated body. To meet this requirement, the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat has created a company called Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL). This company will provide governance for many of the Diocese's primary, and some secondary, schools.

An excellent presentation has been developed by DOBCEL which outlines its role, the Board of Directors and how it operates in partnership with school communities and the Catholic Education Office. This presentation can be viewed on the DOBCEL website www.dobcel.org.au or via https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdK79h1-oNY&feature=emb_logo

Yesterday there was a special ceremony held at St Patrick's Cathedral to mark our school, along with the two other parish primary schools, signing the paperwork transferring governance to Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCEL). The ceremony was celebrated in the presence of Father Justin Driscoll (our Parish Priest), Mr. Tom Sexton (the Executive Director of Catholic Education), Tracey O'Neill (chair of the DOBCEL board), Mrs. Trish Caldow (our Deputy Principal), Finn Curran and Claire Mathison (two of our Year 6 leaders) and myself.



School Closed - Important Date to Note:

The school will be closed to students on **Monday 16th November** as it is a Report Writing Day for teachers.

Mission Day

Thank you to the students, staff and parents for your time, generosity and enthusiasm, in making our **Mission Day activities** a lot of fun, as well as being a very successful fund-raising event for Catholic Missions. The total raised was \$2954; a wonderful effort and a great opportunity for us to give unto others.



Handling of Concerns, Problems or Issues.

I would like to remind parents that if your child is experiencing a problem at school, it is really important that you communicate your concerns with your child's teacher, myself or a member of the leadership team as soon as possible. Dealing with the problem promptly and in a positive way makes a huge difference to your child's resilience, self-esteem and future relationships with teachers and peers. Please be assured that staff at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School will always deal with your concerns confidentially and sensitively to ensure problems are resolved in a timely manner. Please refer to our Complaints and Grievances Policy, available on our school website, for further information outlining the procedures to be followed should a concern require further attention or investigation.

Foundation 2021

Next week we welcome the newest members of our school community when our 2021 Foundations students attend their first orientation sessions. The students will attend school, in groups of ten, twice over two weeks. These orientation sessions provide a fantastic opportunity for the students to experience a little of what next year will be like for them as they commence their formal education journey. We look forward to welcoming the new students and families to our school.

Class Groupings and structure for 2021

Teachers are currently completing class groupings for 2021. In doing this, academic, social and emotional considerations are considered to inform where each child is best placed. School is a place where children learn how to relate to other children. It is important that children learn to mix with lots of children rather than spend time with just a few favourite friends or children of like ability. It is important at this young age that they have opportunities to experience many varied friendships and children of different learning abilities to their own.

We will have the following class structure in 2021.

Year level	Number of classes
Foundation	3
Year 1/2 classes	5
Year 3/4 classes	5
Year 5/6 classes	5

Desks and Chairs for Sale.

In an effort to refurbish our senior classrooms we have purchased new desks and chairs for their learning spaces. This has resulted in the need to find new homes for the previously used furniture. We have 45 double desks and 50 chairs available to be 're-homed' thus we are making these available to the school community and they can be 'purchased' for the cost of a small donation. If you are interested in obtaining any desks or chairs please contact the school office.



God bless you all and keep you safe,

Mr Simon Duffy,
Principal

Term 4 Calendar, 2020

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6 Nov	9	10	11 Remembrance Day Assembly -presented by F/1 Keighrey	12 Whole School Prayer -led by 5/6 Larkin	13
7 Nov	16 REPORT WRITING DAY Student free day	17 Foundation 2021 Transition Sessions	18 Foundation 2021 Transition Sessions	19 Whole School Prayer led by 4/5Hoffmann	20
8 Nov	23	24 Foundation 2021 Transition Sessions	25 Foundation 2021 Transition Sessions Assembly presented by F/1Cudia	26 Whole School Prayer led by 2Gittings Foundation 2021 Parent Information Session online at 6pm.	27
9 Nov/ Dec	30 Year 3/4 Camp	1 Year 3/4 Camp	2 Assembly presented by 1/2Nykoluk/Baker	3 Whole School Prayer led by F/1Mitchell	4
10 Dec	7	8 Going up day REPORTS GO HOME	9 Year 6 Graduation 9.30am live streamed to parents Assembly presented by 3/4 Turkenburg/Wheelahan	10	11
11 Dec	14 Student's last day of classes	15 Student Assessment Day	16 Student Assessment Day	17 Staff Planning Day	18 Staff Day

COMMUNITY NOTICES

St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School

- Push Notifications
- Event Calendar
- Newsletter
- Parent Access Module
- One Touch Contact
- Absentee Reporting
- Canteen Menu
- and much more ...

* Be sure to enable Push Notifications to receive Instant Messaging from the school




Available on the
App Store




Available on the
Google Play



Now Available on Apple App Store and Google Play

ALFREDTON BMX TRACK

HAVE YOUR SAY

PROJECT MILESTONES

Stage 1
BMX track location consultation
26 Oct - 20 Nov 2020

Stage 2
Design and layout consultation
23 Nov - 18 Dec 2020

Stage 3
Concept design developed
Feb 2021

Stage 4
Construction of BMX track
Mar - Jun 2021

GET ALL THE INFO AND VOTE FOR
YOUR PREFERRED BMX TRACK
LOCATION



<https://bit.ly/2Hnwtja>

Please note: When making the final decision about the best location for the BMX track Council will place highest priority on the feedback from community but must also consider soil, drainage, safety and ability to provide appropriate amenities at the site.

For queries call 0428 926 499
or DM @ballaratyouthservices



YOUTH SERVICES CITY OF BALLARAT

