

MARYVALE COLLEGE

Independent Catholic Day School
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Pre-Primary and Primary School

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High School

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Dear Grade 7 Parents/Guardians

30th May 2020

As we prepare to welcome the Gr 7s back to school on Monday, I am certain there are many parents, staff and children who are anxious and nervous. This is understandable in such times, none of us have ever experienced a crisis like this. In the badge of Maryvale College the anchor has a special meaning. It is to anchor us and root us steadfastly in God's love. We aim to anchor the children again at school, returning them to school routine, surrounding them with support and understanding, to continue sharing the love of God with them.

Together we can be the children's **anchor**:

Awareness: Let's be aware of their moods.

Nurture: Let's surround them with love and care, ensure they are eating healthily, sleeping well.

Communicate: Let's allow them to talk, let us allow them to talk about their fears and worries.

Hear: Let's be truly present when they are talking to us.

Offer: Provide suggestions to their troubles and concerns.

Relate: Let's understand them, share our thoughts with them.

School is going to be very **different** to what they were used to. Please prepare them for all these changes:

- Ensure they know how to handle and wear a mask correctly, masks must be worn in their transport and will be worn throughout the day at school, and this will take time to get used to. Their teachers will be teaching them from a distance and wearing a mask, children will have to listen closely.
- They must be responsible in sanitising their hands, using soap and water or using hand sanitiser. Remind them to not touch their face.
- They will not be able to hug and touch their friends or teachers, this will be hard for many of us.
- We have always taught our children to share, now they are being told they can't. Children must be responsible for their property; stationery, books, lunch bags, juice bottles.
- Movement around the classroom and school is limited. Social distancing is in place all around the school. Break times will be very difficult as this is when the children are used to moving, running, and playing. Ball sports and contact sports will not be allowed.

All of these changes are going to be hard on the children, let's be gentle with them and allow them time to adjust to all these changes.

We have prepared and planned and followed all protocols and procedures to ensure the school is safe to re-open. The school has been thoroughly sanitised and the final deep cleaning was done on Friday. The classrooms are spotless and organised to welcome back the seniors of the Primary school.

As we celebrate Pentecost, may we draw on the gifts of the Holy Spirit when we meet again on Monday. May God hold us and guide us and walk with us as we begin this new journey.

Warm regards,

Mrs Kirsten Smith (Principal Pre-school & Primary)

