



Term 3 - 23 July 2020

NEWSLETTER

St. Monica's Primary School 20 Robinson Street
Moonee Ponds 3039
Phone (03) 9375 1132 www.stmonicasmp.catholic.edu.au

Faith
Hope
Love



Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Anthony Feeney

Principal: Mr. Peter Moore

Parish Office: Phone 9370 5035

SHP Number 0412 616 491

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Children,

This morning all adults experienced the implementation of compulsory mask-wearing and I hope you are all adjusting well to this new part of our everyday life.

School Reports

You will remember that in Term Two we began our 'Reporting to Parents' procedures by implementing a three-way reflection on the remote learning experience. Parents were invited to participate by providing a written comment to sit alongside the comments from students and teaching staff. I thank those members of the parent community who were able to participate.

Throughout the remote learning experience, many teachers commented on the fact that some students performed well, but on occasions others did not. Some students handed in work that was below their usual standard and others submitted work that had clearly been highly supported by an adult at home. This was the reality of the home learning experience, and we all understand that it wasn't like normal school. We greatly appreciated the support of parents. The challenge for teachers, however, was how to effectively and accurately report on student progress.

We decided as a staff to use the children's return to school as a way of completing a number of assessments that we could reliably judge—mainly because they were implemented at school under the teacher's direct supervision. For the juniors, we had five weeks of learning back at school and for the seniors, we had three weeks. We had planned to continue to collect reliable and balanced assessment in the first three weeks of Term Three and then to give you the 'dots' on your child's report at the end of Week Three (Term Three). Alas this did not pan out as we expected! We are back to learning at home.

Returning to remote learning has caused us to reflect deeply on how much reliable information we currently have, to make *accurate* decisions about student progress. The easiest way for me to explain this is using an example.

Just imagine that the classroom teacher set *writing a Narrative* as an activity in term two. The child would normally go through a planning & writing process that required him/her to use knowledge of the structure of a narrative, combined with knowledge about sentences, spelling, grammar etc. There would be a teaching focus, but the child would also need to draw on lots of prior knowledge. This is a dynamic process! At school the student would receive lots of support and we know that at home, parents and even siblings provided similar support. At the end of the process, however, some of the narratives might not reflect the true ability of the student if too much (or not enough) support was given. In one case, the student might have needed a few prompts to revise their work, and at the either end of the spectrum, a child might receive so much support that even in their first draft, the spelling is 100% correct and the ideas in the story are at such a high level, it is clear that a lot of adult intervention took place. In these examples, what does the teacher allocate for the child's progress report in English? We would normally draw on a wide range of evidence, not just one story, but the challenge is that most of the work in term two was produced remotely.

It is true to that the 'dots' in this Semester One report will combine the work of Term One and Term Two, but I just wanted to highlight that at the end of next week you will receive a progress report that has been produced in less than ideal circumstances. The teachers have had to process a lot of thinking and evidence to come up with a reliable conclusion.

In considering your child's progress, I ask you to use a combination of:

- the term one Parent/Teacher interview
- teacher feedback on learning throughout the semester
- the three way comment from Term 2 (student, parent and teacher)
- the formal report indicating progress (available on Friday of next week)

as a combination when thinking about your child's progress. We are also due to have another set of Parent/Teacher Interviews at the end of this term.

Viewing Your Child's Semester One Report

We normally print and hand out the children's reports but in the current circumstances it has prompted us to implement a process that is now commonplace in many schools. Our school reports are going to be available via an online school portal, rather than placing them in an envelope and delivering them via your child/ren. We're in the process of activating the portal now. It means that from now on, you won't receive a paper copy of your child's formal report. You will be able to go into the portal and read it online, but you also have the option to print it at home. *Eventually* you will be able to go back and retrieve old reports from the portal.

The reports are due to be available by the end of the day on Friday 31st July. You will receive an email notification of how to activate the portal. If you do not receive the email by end of the day on Friday 31st, please email the office on the following Monday morning at info@stmonicasmp.catholic.edu.au to update your email address.



Rita is Retiring!

Over the school holiday period I was saddened to accept the resignation of Rita Morello, one of our Learning Support Officers. Rita has decided to put her time and energy into her family business that she co-runs with her husband Sam.

After finishing work at St. Monica's, on many days Rita headed straight to her family business and worked until dinner time. Burning the candle at both ends wasn't sustainable and she had reluctantly decided that one job had to go.

Rita has given her heart and soul to this school over the last decade and her commitment to our school community is to be commended. I will greatly miss her presence on staff and I sincerely thank Rita for her dedication to St Monica's.

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/face-coverings-1159pm-wednesday-22-july>

Do students at schools need to wear a face covering?

Students under the age of 12 do not have to wear face coverings. Students aged 12 and over in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire will need to wear face coverings from 11:59pm on Wednesday 22 July.

However, children who are aged 12 and over and are attending primary school do not need to wear a face covering at school. The Victorian Chief Health Officer has advised that it is not practical to require some primary school students to wear face coverings while others are not required to.

OSH Club Upgrade

Over the past two years, I have been working with the Members of our Parish Education Board to upgrade the facilities for 'out of school hours care'. The photos below will give you an idea of the transformation that took place over the school holiday period. The Managers at OSH Club have worked proactively with us to ensure that our facilities match the ones available to students in classrooms. I think it is an excellent outcome and I want to shout THANK YOU from the rooftops to the parents on the PEB who have supported me throughout this drawn-out process: Ange MacNamara, Andrew McCleave, Gerard Carew, Mark Blackmore, David Garvey, Daryl La Fontaine, Joe Pane, Frank Cerra, Michelle Christian, Paul Sharkey, Joanne Drummond, Alma Kennedy and Jacqueline Le Grand-Condello.

The above-listed parents have done a power of work, individually and collectively to keep this project on track; it hasn't been easy. I could not have achieved this outcome without their hard work and support.

I also thank the Management Team at OSH Club for their financial commitment to this refurbishment.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Moore

Principal

The refurbishment included:

- Painting
- Carpets
- New joinery and furniture
- Heating/Cooling

Thankyou to Jess and her OSH Team for being so dedicated to our program.









How to make a cloth mask

Instructions for making a cloth face mask

You will need

Section	Quantity ¹	Material type	Example materials
Outer layer	1 piece (25 cm x 25 cm)	Water-resistant fabric (polyester / polypropylene)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clothing• Reusable 'green' shopping bags• Exercise clothing 
Middle layer	1 piece (25 cm x 25 cm)	Fabric blends (cotton polyester blend / polypropylene)	<p>A repeat layer of either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clothing• Reusable 'green' shopping bags 
Inner layer	1 piece (25 cm x 25 cm)	Water-absorbing fabric (cotton)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clothing 
Ear loops	2 pieces (20 cm each)	Elastic or string or cloth strips	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• T-shirt• Shoelaces 

Important:

Make sure that all materials are intact and have not worn too thin or have holes in them.

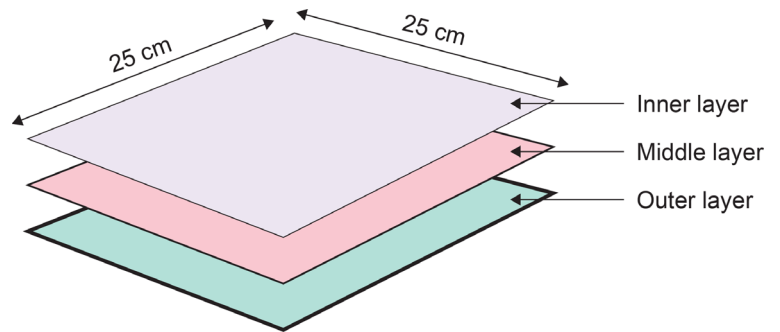
Check the item's label or tag to confirm the type of material.

¹ Material dimensions are the right size for an average adult.

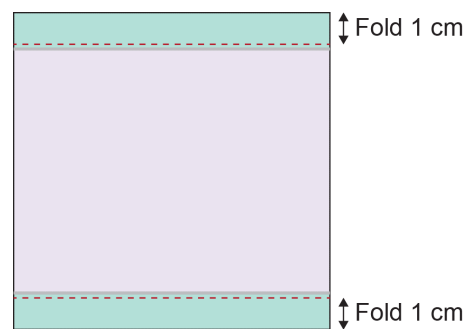
Steps

1. Cut out the outer layer, middle layer and inner layer pieces (see above for dimensions and material to use).

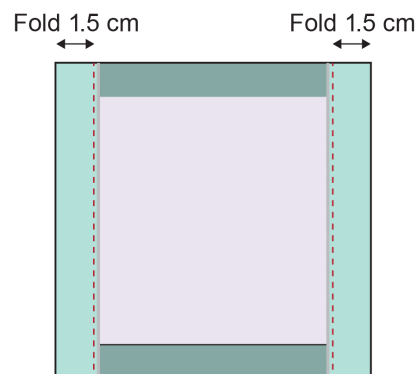
Place the outer layer on the bottom, the middle layer in the middle, and the inner layer on top.



2. With the inner layer facing up, fold over 1 cm of the three pieces of material for the top and bottom edges and stitch at the borders (see red dotted lines).

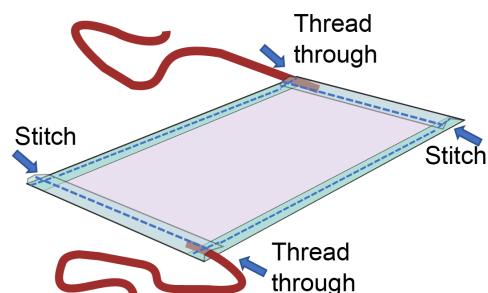


3. With the inner layer facing up, fold over 1.5 cm of material for the side edges and stitch (see red dotted lines).

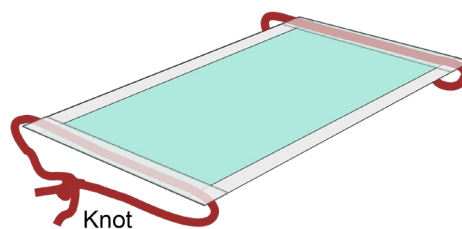


4. Thread a 20 cm piece of elastic, string or cloth strip through the wider edge on each side.

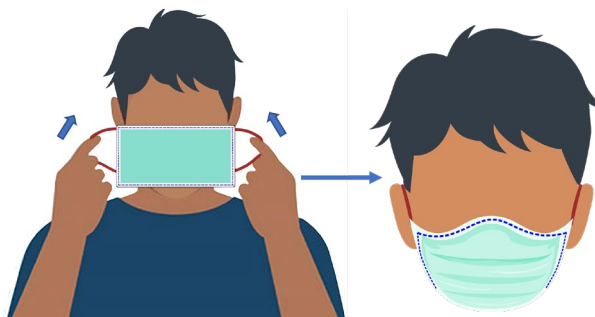
Use a safety pin or large needle to thread it through.



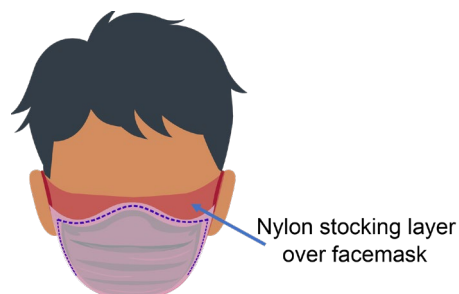
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5. Knot the ends tightly or stitch them together.



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6. Put on the mask with the outer layer facing away from your face.
Adjust the mask to make sure it fits tightly over your nose and mouth.
While wearing and removing the mask, do not touch the outer layer.
Wash your hands before putting your mask on and after taking it off.



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7. If you want to improve the fit of your mask you can add a nylon stocking over the mask and tie at the back of the head.



To find out more information about coronavirus (COVID-19) and how to stay safe visit [the Department of Health and Human Services \(DHHS\) website](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)
<<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>>

If you need an interpreter, call TIS National on 131 450

For information in other languages, scan the QR code or visit
[DHHS – Translated resources - coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/translated-resources-coronavirus-disease-covid-19)

<<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/translated-resources-coronavirus-disease-covid-19>>



For any questions

Coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398 (24 hours)

Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only

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<public.health@dhhs.vic.gov.au>.

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