Care Monkey
Thank you to all those families who have set up CareMonkey profiles for their children. Those who have yet to do so, will be getting daily email reminders to do so.

These MUST be completed so that we have up-to-date information and so that your child/ren can attend excursions. Please note we will no longer be sending home excursion forms/permission notes on paper.

Athletics Carnival
Don’t forget our School Athletics Carnival will be held on Thursday 14th April (which is the first Thursday of Term 2) at Moonee Ponds Athletics Track (Aberfeldie Park).

All children (Year Prep – Year 6) will be transported by bus to the track for a 9:30 am start and will return around 1:30pm.

You have all received an e-Form (Permissions Form) via CareMonkey and this NEEDS to be ‘signed off’ so your children can attend.

All children will be involved in the sprint events. In addition, Years 3-6 will participate in the field events while our Years Prep – 2 children will participate in a tabloid sport arrangement.

The children will eat lunch (which they will need to bring) upon their return to school. Children will need to:

- Wear sports uniform (Children may wear a T-shirt of their team’s colour)
- Bring a refillable water bottle
- Bring ‘playlunch’ in a plastic disposable bag (please pack an extra ‘something’ as the children will not be having lunch until their return to school)
- Have an extra-large breakfast!

In order for such an event to run smoothly, we will need several parent volunteers to assist. On the the CareMonkey notification you will notice that there is also an area which calls for volunteers.

A Prayer for Holy Week
This week is the final week of Lent – Holy Week. It is a time for entering into the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, a time for new life and growth. During this week let us unite in prayer as we pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, in this sacred and solemn week when we see again the depth and mystery of your redeeming love, help us to follow where you go, to stop where you stumble, to listen when you cry, to hurt as you suffer, to bow our heads in sorrow as you die, so that, when you are raised to life again, we may share in your endless joy. Amen.

("Celebrating God’s Presence“ UCPH 2000)
Learning Conferences and Student Portfolios
We trust that you find today’s Learning Conferences informative and beneficial. At the Learning Conference your child will present their Student Portfolio (Year Prep children will bring it home today). The Portfolio is a snapshot of the work completed in Term 1 and will provide the opportunity to celebrate with your children their achievements so far.

I had the opportunity to look at samples from each class today and was amazed at some of the work produced by our children. So please take the time to view and discuss the pieces of work with your child. Let them do the talking of what was involved with each piece and how they addressed the success criteria of the learning. You may need to pull pieces out of the plastic pockets to see the complete work and teacher feedback.

Once you have taken some time over the holidays to ‘show-off’ your portfolio please return it to school (with the Parent Comment section complete) so that we can continue to compile many more wonderful work samples. Please return the Portfolio by the first week back next term.

Holy Week Celebrations
Tomorrow we will celebrate Holy Week. Our Year 5/6 students will act out the significant events of Holy Week and each class will visit the scenes. Families are welcome to join us. If you wish to follow the Holy Week story with your child’s class the approximate commencement times are:

11:00: Preps 11:05: Year 1/2D
11:10: Year 1/2G 11:15: Year 1/2K
11:20: Year 3/4C 11:25: Year 3/4S
11:30: Year 3/4Z

The first scene, Palm Sunday, will take place near the statue in the Ormond Road playground.

School Closure: Staff Professional Development Day
Our first School Closure: Staff Professional Development Day has been scheduled for Tuesday 26th April. Students do not attend school on this day. Please mark this date in your diary.

PFA
Our Annual General Meeting for our Parents and Friends Committee (PFA) will be held on Wednesday 20th April at 6:00pm. For details will be provided in the next Newsletter but if you are interested in joining, or just want more information, keep this date free.

National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence
Last Friday marked, “The National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence”. The students and staff at Corpus Christi School along with thousands of others around Australia, pledged to make good choices, stand up for others and keep the members of our school community safe. The day was held to develop awareness and celebrate our positive relationships that live out our values.

Our Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum, including the Friendly Schools Plus Program, is educating us about what bullying is, what bullying isn’t, how to develop our skills to engage in positive relationships. We will continue to develop and explore these areas throughout the year.

Some great tips and information can be found for both parents and students at http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/

Have a wonder Easter
God Bless
Anthony Hyde
Do you know what happened in our Prep community on Wednesday night?

Our Prep families came together on Wednesday evening 9th March to meet and decorate a piece of cloth.

We wrote our family name and drew pictures and symbols about our families.

We are going to join the pieces altogether to make a prep community prayer cloth. We all had a great time together and made new friends. It was a special time for us all.
Teasing V Bullying

When speaking with parents when I present at schools, or engaging with them via our social media, bullying is always a hot topic. A recent Facebook post had one of our biggest engagement rates ever. It begged the question: “What is bullying? Do we mix it up with teasing and other forms of mean behaviour?”

It’s an important topic that needs clarification.

Bullying is a term that’s wrapped in emotion. For many people it’s associated with bad childhood memories. It’s been estimated that around 40 per cent of people have experienced bullying in the past. It’s something that we don’t want to happen to our kids.

But I fear it’s being overused at the moment and confused with teasing and rudeness.

Rudeness refers to thoughtless behaviours and thoughtless words. Kids often do rude things to each other without thinking their actions through. Examples include breaking wind in a child’s direction; joking about the colour of a child’s hair in front of others; failing to share possessions and neglecting to acknowledge someone. Rudeness is usually about selfishness and thoughtlessness. Taken on their own many rude behaviours can be seen as an element of bullying but when looked at in context they are more about thoughtlessness, lack of consideration and poor manners rather than a deliberate attempt to hurt someone.

Teasing refers to annoying, hurtful behaviour that is used to get a reaction from someone else. Teasing can be persistent in nature, but not always. It’s generally an attempt to get under a person’s skin. It can involve name-calling; it can be personal and hurtful in nature. It can also infringe on another person’s rights. But generally teasing doesn’t have the key ingredients that make up bullying.

Bullying is the selective, uninvited, repetitive oppression of one person or group by another. It involves three elements – intent to hurt or harm; power imbalance; and repetition over time. It takes many forms and guises including physical aggression; verbal abuse; emotional aggression (or blackmail); intimidation; harassment and exclusion.

The new cyber-dimension to bullying has moved the goalpost for many kids. In the past children and young people could escape bullying behaviours by being at home. Cyber-bullying means that children can’t escape bullies like they once could.

Why the distinction? I hear the term bullying misused a great deal in the media and when talking with parents. We run the risk of “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” Syndrome where we become so desensitised to the term that we (or teachers) ignore it when children really are the victims of bullying. We also run the risk of failing to skill our kids up to manage rudeness and teasing if we categorise every awful behaviour that kids experience as bullying.

Our ability to be discerning about bullying is as important as the action we take when we are sure that our child is on the receiving end of bullying behaviour. These actions include: dealing with feelings; providing emotional coping skills, getting others involved; building up a child’s support networks; and building self-confidence that can take a battering.

Bullying needs to be taken seriously. But we also need to be discerning about bullying behaviours.