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A high five for Yorks

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If you're feeling a little stressed about getting the kids back to school next week, spare a thought for Mandy York who has nine children to get organised.

Five of the children - Augustine (year 6), Tamara (year 3), Claudia (year 2), Olivia (year 1) and Angelica (Kindergarten) - will be at the Wahroonga Adventist Primary School where there hasn't been that many siblings enrolled at the same time for at least 15 years.

The eldest child, 17-year-old Montana, is in year 12 at Brigidine College at Katoomba with 13-year-old Joshua (year 10), Christian, 15, is in year 10 at St Joseph's at Hunters Hill. The youngest, three-year-old Raphael, just greets you.

Mrs York, of Wahroonga, is amazingly very calm about getting back into the school routine.

"It's not as crazy as people would think," she said.

"We work as a team - one older child is in charge of a younger child, we have a buddy system." Shoes and bags are organised the night before, and Mrs York makes the lunches each morning.

The older children make their own way to school, while the young ones catch a lift with mum.

"They are independent with their homework, I help the little ones with their reading but everyone else works on their own," Mrs York said.

"I think it's big family you just teach your kids to be self-sufficient.""