



St Joseph's Primary Schofields Newsletter

Term 1 Week 2 2020

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2020 school year! This year will be a very exciting year for our students, families and teachers.

This Newsletter will inform you about some of the highlights of the term and the year. As many parents are getting up to speed with downloading the Skoolbag app and subscribing to the website we have made the decision to make this edition a paper one.

BUILDING NEWS

In 2020 the two buildings under construction will be completed. In the new building will be Kinder, Year 1, Year 3, Years 5 and 6. Year 2 and Year 4 will remain in the long row of demountables. This week the roof is being installed and work will progress. Our aim is to have the students move in next term.

A third building will begin construction around where the temporary staff carpark is currently positioned in the latter half of the year.

EXTRA CURRICULA

We will not be using Dance Fever in 2020, instead we will cover this area of the curriculum using an in-house dance program provided by the CEDP Captivate team. This will make our school based fees cheaper. Motiv8 sport will continue to work with us and we will work at providing more extra curricula options for after school. Suggestions are welcomed.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

School fee notices will be sent home in the next few weeks to your home address. There will payment options for you to follow including online. The canteen has a new app for ordering but will still accept cash.

CALENDAR

A paper calendar is going home today for the term. More events will shortly be added.

Our next Newsletter will be in a fortnight's time. We are always happy to answer queries at the Office.

With kind regards,
Lesley Studans
Principal

Assistant Principal's Message

WELCOME BACK! It was wonderful to catch up with so many of you and hear about your holiday family time. It has also been great to welcome so many new students and families to our growing school and am looking forward to moving into the new learning spaces.

Over the last two weeks the teachers have been very busy administering the Mathematics Assessment Interviews with the students as part of our Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) program. Thank you for making the time or specific arrangement to bring your child on the first two days. This interview is an important part of our preparation for teaching Mathematics as it gives teachers specific information about the student's development and areas of need in Mathematics so that they can deliver a tailored Mathematics program. We also use this data to determine which students in Year 1 and upper primary (Year 4,5,6) will receive specific daily intervention with an EMU specialist teacher. Miss Dennett and Mrs Ann-Maree Bamford will be the EMU specialist teachers.

Over the coming weeks, the Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 teachers administer an Early Years Literacy assessment which provides valuable data of the literacy levels and needs in the infants grades.

The data of these two assessments gives us a snapshot of the Numeracy and Literacy achievements across the school. As a staff we analyse this data to determine our next steps in professional learning in Numeracy and Literacy in order to provide a quality teaching programs. This data is continually tracked throughout the year and updated as students make progress.

BUS TRAVEL

Bus travel is a convenient way for your child to travel to and from school. If you would like to find out if there is a bus that your child can catch, check the school website for a list of bus routes in the area or contact Busways directly.

It is important that your child has an OPAL card if they are travelling on the bus. If your child does not have one, you can obtain a form from the school website to apply for a free school travel OPAL card. If you do not qualify for a free school travel OPAL card, you will need to obtain a student OPAL card and ensure that it has enough funds on the card to pay the fare.

ATTENDANCE

Each day that your child attends school is a valuable day, not only are they provided with opportunities to learn about themselves and develop relationships with their peers, teacher and community, they are deepening their knowledge and skills about the world around them.

Each and every teacher and members of staff at St Joseph's cares for all the children in the school. Over the Christmas break they have been working collaboratively in preparing a welcoming and safe classroom and school environment as well as a stimulating and engaging curriculum to help each student achieve their potential and develop themselves as a whole person - emotionally, physically, intellectually and spiritually .

Daily attendance at school is critical to ensuring that your child is provided with these opportunities.

In 2020, St Joseph's will be continuing the work of ensuring that students are at school everyday. 'Every Learner, Every Day', an initiative designed to remind students and parents why regular school attendance is so important.



If your child is away, it is important that this is communicated to your child's classroom teacher with a note explaining their absence within 7 days. If you wish to take extended leave of more than 5 days, please complete the appropriate form, available on the school website, as this leave needs to be approved by the principal.

Vicki Bourke and myself will be monitoring attendance, encouraging and supporting students and families.

MEET THE TEACHER

An opportunity has been set up on the 18th February between 2.50 and 7.30pm for you to meet with your child's teacher. This is a time for you to talk to your teacher about your child. A note will be coming home with further details and online booking instructions this week.

PARENT HELPERS

Parent helpers are a valuable resource in our school and all parents or carers are welcome to volunteer their time. There are so many opportunities and different ways that you can help us at school such as excursions, special events, classroom, sports days and working bees. In order for you to be able to help out it is important that you attend a Parent Helper information session. We adhere to the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and support the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. A range of checks and undertakings are required for people who work for or provide services to CEDP. These checks reduce potential risk and forms part of our strategy to build child safe communities. Therefore during this session we go through protocols about working with children and ensure that you complete the CEDP Building Child Safe Communities - Undertaking For Volunteers' Form and the online training module. These sessions are being held on 21st February at 8.45 and 25th February at 2.45pm.

MEDICATION

The dispensing of medication to students is governed by clear guidelines from the NSW Catholic Education Commission that ensure the safety of the child. If your child is required to take medication in any form such as tablets, asthma puffers, vitamins, tonics and creams, the office is to be notified and a form is to be completed for the office staff to safely administer the medication. This form can be obtained at the school office when required. Under no circumstances do teachers administer medication. Please note the following;

1. All medication sent to school should be in its **original bottle or box** with an accompanying measuring cup if required and handed to the school office upon arrival.
2. Medication must be accompanied by a **signed request** from the parent or carer, clearly stating the **name of the medication, dosage and time of administration**.
3. All medication is kept in the school office and administered by one of the school's office staff, who maintains the school's medication register.
4. Where medication is long term, a **letter from the prescribing doctor** will be requested.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Welcome back to our new school year of 2020. In my Religious Education Coordinator role this year, I am looking forward to working alongside our students and teachers during their Religious Education lessons. Throughout the year, I will be informing the parent community of the upcoming Masses, Liturgies and Parish Sacramental Programs. Information about our Parish Sacramental Program will be coming soon. Our Parish is Mary Immaculate Parish, Quakers Hill, if your child will be celebrating a Sacrament at a different Parish, please let me know via the School Office, so we can keep your child in our prayers while preparing for the Sacrament.

Upcoming Masses and Liturgies.

Beginning of the Year Mass.

Our theme of our Mass is "We are One Family."



- To begin our school year, we will be celebrating our **Beginning of the Year Mass** with our Parish Priest Fr Oliver, **Tuesday February 11th at 12noon**. During the Mass, our School Leaders will be receiving their Leader Badges. All parents and friends are welcome to join us to celebrate the start of the school year.



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday Liturgy 26th February @ 12 noon.

Let us keep in mind the words of Bishop Vincent:

"God's love is inclusive, is far reaching and it breaks down barriers.

*Catholic Education is about transformation and turning us into a symbol of
God's presence in the world.*

*As we go through different stages of our lives we pray we become
the best person we can be in the image of Jesus.*

Let's have a positive impact on the world around us!" – Bishop Vincent