



The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

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Term 2 Week 1

Wednesday 29th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we move into Term 2 St John's will continue to respond to the emerging challenges that has been presented by the current health situation. The staff of the Catholic Education Office continues to support the work of all Catholic schools, including the coordination of the CEDP response to COVID - 19, providing resources and professional advice to school leaders.

Please be assured as we work together to respond to COVID - 19, the health and safety of our school community is the priority. Planning is underway for the gradual return of students to the classroom during Term 2.

As recommended by the Premier, St John's will have two days at the beginning of Term 2 (Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 April) to plan for the gradual return of students in Week 3. Of course, supervision will be provided at school for students who need to attend school on these days. Learning and teaching, both remote and onsite for students of essential workers, will resume on Wednesday 29 April. I would like to take this opportunity to say teachers were impressed with how our students responded to the change in the mode of delivery of learning in the last weeks of term one. We commend our families for doing an incredible job of supporting their children under really challenging conditions.

A part of our work in the first week of term (Monday 27 and Tuesday 28) is to carefully plan for transition back to school. I will share with you as soon as possible further information about the practical arrangements commencing in Week 3 Term 2. These arrangements will include protocols for drop off and pick up from school, social distancing, reporting, facilitating parent interviews and kindergarten enrolments for 2021.

I know that you still have many questions at this time but we will keep you updated as careful planning continues. Be assured our teachers are highly skilled, generous and committed to providing great learning for their students while doing everything possible to keep them safe and happy. Parents and carers will continue to be informed at a school and system level as to when the determination has been made that students should return to face-to-face learning in a fulltime capacity.

I am very proud of how our entire community has supported each other during this time of uncertainty. Throughout these difficult times the staff of St John's have demonstrated they are collaborative, adaptable and able to respond to emerging challenges with creativity and always with the best interest of their students in mind.



Tips for families supporting student learning at home

Parents and carers have a valued role in their children's learning, but they are not expected to replace the teacher. Some helpful tips for parents and carers include:

- ***Assist your child to establish routines and expectations***
 - ***Define a space for your child to work in***
 - ***Monitor communications from teachers***
 - ***Begin and end each day with a check-in***
- ***Take an active role in helping your children process their learning***
 - ***Encourage physical activity and/or exercise***
 - ***Check in with your child regularly to help them manage stress***
 - ***Monitor how much time your child is spending online***
- ***Keep your children social, but set rules around their social media interactions***

Schools continue to implement good hygiene practices.

Advice to students includes:

- ***Wash hands frequently with soap and water before and after eating and after going to the toilet***
 - ***Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze***
 - ***Avoid touching your face***
 - ***Limit physical contact when greeting people***
 - ***Limit physical contact in the playground***

Supporting Vulnerable (at risk) People in our Schools and Workforce

Protecting vulnerable people within school workforces is critical to making schools a safe environment. People aged 70 years and over, people aged 65 years and over with chronic medical conditions, all people with compromised immune systems, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the age of 50 with chronic medical conditions, are at greater risk of more serious illness if they are infected with COVID – 19. Parents and carers of children and young people with complex medical needs, as well as those people who are vulnerable, are encouraged to seek medical advice from their health practitioner to support informed decision-making regarding the suitability of on-site teaching and learning.



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Attendance and Roll Marking

Our education ministers recognise that learning from home is a variation in attendance rather than an absence. The attendance code "flexible" is being used for students continuing their learning at home. This approach will not negatively affect student attendance records and will continue during Term 2. If your child is absent from their studies due to ill health or another reason, please let us know just like you usually do.

Building Project Update

The renovated administration building is near completion and should be ready for occupation at the end of week 3. We are extremely pleased with the extra room afforded by the renovation and are looking forward to furnishing our office space and adding the final touches. The carpark, fencing and landscaping is expected to be completed in week 5.

Words of Remembrance

At the going down of the sun...



I crouched in a shallow trench on that hell of exposed beaches... steeply rising foothills bare of cover... a landscape pockmarked with war's inevitable litter... piles of stores... equipment... ammunition... and the weird contortions of death sculptured in Australian flesh... I saw the going down of the sun on that first ANZAC Day... the chaotic maelstrom of Australia's bleeding.

I fought in the frozen mud of the Somme... in a blazing destroyer exploding on the North Sea... I fought on the perimeter at Tobruk... crashed in the flaming wreckage of a fighter in New Guinea... lived with the damned in the place cursed with the name Changi.

I was your mate... the kid across the street... the med. student at graduation... the mechanic in the corner garage... the baker who brought you bread... the gardener who cut your lawn... the clerk who sent your phone bill.

I was an Army private... a Naval commander... an Air Force bombardier. no man knows me... no name marks my tomb, for I am every Australian serviceman... I am the Unknown Soldier.

I died for a cause I held just in the service of my land... that you and yours may say in freedom... I am proud to be an Australian.



God Bless Patricia



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**ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL**



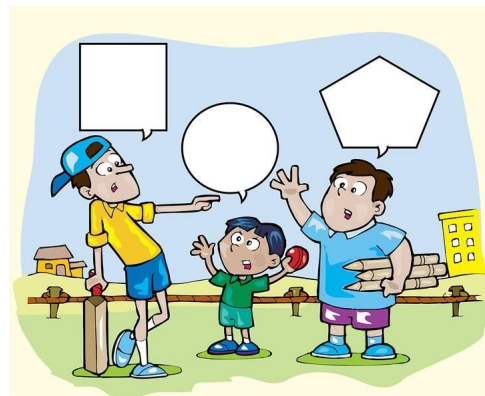
Helping your child feel good about maths

Maths expert and parent, Associate Professor Janette Bobis from the University of Sydney, gives her top tips on how young kids can become confident in maths.

At a glance

- Talk positively about maths so your child also values it.
- Play games with your child, which involve adding dice or numbers, to show them that maths matters.
- Ask your child how they work out maths problems; it helps build their knowledge and boosts their confidence.
- Help your child to group objects by asking them to set the table or put the cutlery away correctly.

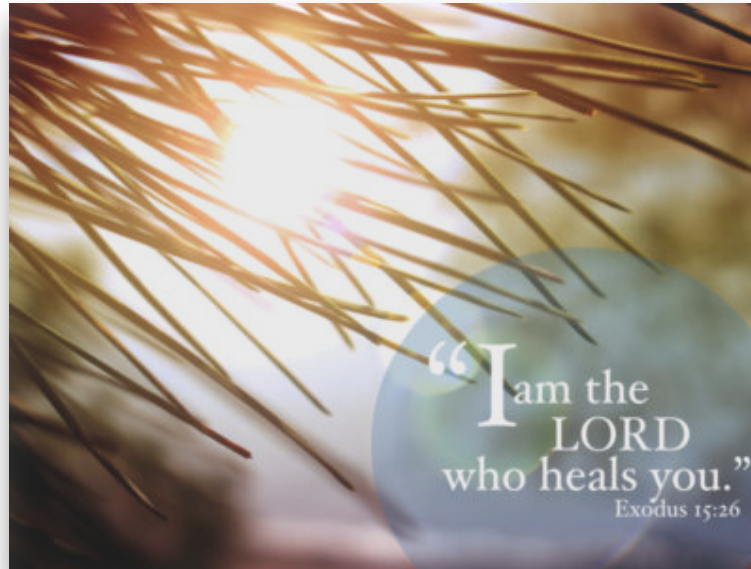
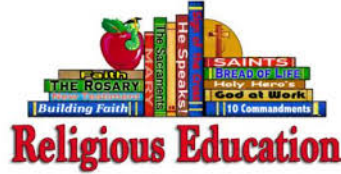
Point out maths in everyday life with your child whenever you can.



Judith Murphy Assistant Principal



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Sacramental Program

Due to the current situation with Covid-19 and restrictions with group gatherings the 'Reconciliation' Sacramental Program will not commence on the 4th May as previously advised.

St John's Parish will keep us updated and we will advise Parents and Carers of the new date asap.

Thank you for your understanding during these uncertain times.



*God Bless
Kim Roffman REC*



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Now is a great time to start the 2020 challenge if you haven't already

What is happening with the Challenge in 2020?

The Challenge is well equipped to support student participation from home. The Challenge will continue with the same closing dates for validation of entries, and the same number of books to be read for all challenge levels. We have introduced some adjustments to support students who may be learning from home, and have reduced access to suitable reading material to complete the Challenge.

What changes have been made to the PRC rules for 2020?

The main changes to the [Challenge rules](#) are as follows:






- Students on all Challenge levels are able to read 10 choice books - an increase from five. Please see the support article about adding these additional choice books to a student reading record.
- Students on all Challenge levels will be able to include books on their reading records that they read collaboratively as a class, in person or online with their teacher or at home with their parents/carers.
- Students who complete the Challenge in 2020 will be able to count this towards cumulative awards.
- Students who do not participate in the Challenge in 2020 will not be disadvantaged in the receipt of cumulative awards.
- The Challenge will include Year 10 students in 2021 to allow all students the opportunity to meet the gold and platinum certificate and Challenge medal requirements.



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How do students add these bonus choice books to their reading records?

	<p>685957 : 2020 Bonus choice book 1 by PRC Team This entry can be added as a bonus choice book for 2020 so that students are able to count an additional 5 choice books for their reading records. 5-6 booklist</p>	2020 BONUS CHOICE BOOKS!
	<p>685958 : 2020 Bonus choice book 2 by PRC Team This entry can be added as a bonus choice book for 2020 so that students are able to count an additional 5 choice books for their reading records. 5-6 booklist</p>	
	<p>685959 : 2020 Bonus choice book 3 by PRC Team This entry can be added as a bonus choice book for 2020 so that students are able to count an additional 5 choice books for their reading records. 5-6 booklist</p>	
	<p>685960 : 2020 Bonus choice book 4 by PRC Team This entry can be added as a bonus choice book for 2020 so that students are able to count an additional 5 choice books for their reading records. 5-6 booklist</p>	
	<p>685961 : 2020 Bonus choice book 5 by PRC Team This entry can be added as a bonus choice book for 2020 so that students are able to count an additional 5 choice books for their reading records. 5-6 booklist</p>	

Students will need to add their first 5 choice books the same way they always have for the Challenge. Their bonus choice books will need to be entered using the following PRCID's:

PRCID 68597 2020 Bonus Choice Book 1 [PRCID 68598 2020 Bonus Choice Book 2](#) [PRCID 68599 2020 Bonus Choice Book 3](#)

[PRCID 68560 2020 Bonus Choice Book 4](#) [PRCID 68561 2020 Bonus Choice Book 5](#)

To add these choice books on the Student Site, students can simply enter "2020 bonus" either on the search screen or under "add choice books", and the Bonus Choice Book records will be the first ones to appear.

If you have any further queries please speak with Mrs Abbott

Karen Abbott



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Aarav Singh
2nd April

Austyn Murray
24th April

Aliyah Kimes
10th April

Harnidh Murba
5th April

Indyah
Flanagan-Irwin
20th April

Sia Tahiliani
16th April

Luka Hartz
16th April

Caelum Bennett
26th April

Sienna Maggio
19th April

Mirko Filipovic
20th April

Mai Orlando
17th April

Jacob Bennett
27th April





All Parents and Carers are asked to download the SkoolBag App to receive the most up to date information

How to install the SkoolBag app

instructions for parents and community

1. Get your favourite mobile device
2. Open the App Store/Play Store
3. Search for "SkoolBag"
4. Download the free app
5. Open the app and add your school(s)

for Apple users



for Android users



for more info visit skoolbag.com.au

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Take a look at our website and you can subscribe to receive our fortnightly newsletter, event reminders and news
www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

School

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www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Patricia Charlton

Office Hours 8.30am - 3.30pm

Parish

Cnr Garfield Rd & McCulloch St

Riverstone 2765 Tel: 9627 2276

Email: stjohns10@bigpond

Parish Priest: Father Zakaria Gayed

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 6pm, Sunday 7am & 9am