



The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone
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Term 1 Week 1

Thursday 28th January 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,



Welcome back to the commencement of the new school year.

I hope that you have had a wonderful Christmas and an enjoyable holiday break. On behalf of the staff of St John's I wish everyone a happy New Year and a more peaceful year ahead.

Beginning of Year Prayer

For each of us, 2021 will hold different stories... different memories and experiences ... different joys and difficulties ... let's recognise this and honour it as we begin our journey together this year, and give some space for the silent prayers of our hearts. I invite you take some time to contemplate this short reflection...

This new year, like a new born child,

Is placed in our hands

As the old year passes away

The days and weeks and months to come a pure gift;

They carry God's blessing.

As a blessing, we welcome them.

Our hope for the year that has been is that all that was good in it, remain with us.

And all that was challenging or harmful, be left behind.

Bless us, O God, And bless the time and seasons yet to come.

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart.

And fill this new year with your kindness, that we may reflect this in our own spirit to all who pass our way.



COVID - 19 UPDATE

In preparation for the return of staff and students to school the CEDP has issued schools with an update about the current COVID-19 processes and protocols. The ongoing and unpredictable COVID-19 situation demonstrates the need for continued vigilance and adherence to COVID safe plans. NSW Chief Medical Officer Dr Kerry Chant has written to Catholic Schools NSW and provided advice about protocols for the start of the 2021 school year. The focus of this advice is that schools:

- Continue to minimise the mixing of student cohort groups (class, year group or stage) to limit close contact where practicable
- Ensure that current COVID-19 Safety plans and record keeping procedures are in place for events such as sporting events and carnivals
- Non-essential adults / carers are not permitted on school grounds or at school events
- Excursions, field trips and camps can resume under strict COVID-safe measures which include physical distancing, hygiene and cleaning measures, and record keeping requirements. As the COVID situation can change quickly, schools must pay particular attention to excluding anyone with symptoms before the event and consider arrangements for isolating and testing anyone who develops symptoms during the event. When planning school excursions, incursions and camps schools are to consider a 'best and worst case plan' should there be changes to the rules and restrictions in place to keep the community safe.
- Physical distancing (1.5m rule) still remains unchanged. Staff and adults are expected to follow these guidelines at all times including within the school, at school events and at drop off / pick up
- Students over 12 and staff must comply with the 'Wearing of Masks' health order when travelling to and from school by public / shared transport and waiting areas for public / shared transport and during school excursions by public transport or by chartered / private transport services

Parents and carers are permitted to enter the school site for the following reasons:

- Purchase or pick up of school uniforms, school bag / school hat
- Attend an essential pre-arranged meeting/appointment with school staff
- Drop off / pick up Kindergartens for first week of school (this is an interim measure only which was communicated to Kindergarten parents during the holidays)
- School Community Meeting -can occur after school hours with a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place

COVID - 19 testing

Students who present with symptoms of COVID-19 no matter how mild will continue to be excluded from school. Parents / carers are asked to have children tested immediately. Parents / carers of symptomatic children must provide evidence of a negative test result prior to child returning to school.



It is timely at the beginning of the school year to gently remind our parents and carers about some of St John's protocols, policies and procedures that have been established to maintain a safe, happy and orderly community and to promote a sense of pride in ourselves and our school. Parents and carers are reminded of the following:

- The school gates open at 8.20 when supervision commences
- Children are to be collected after school at 2.50 when they are dismissed by the teacher on duty. Parents / carers are asked to be on time.
- At this time parents and carers must adhere to COVID 19 protocols (A - K McCulloch Street entrance - front of school; L - Z Parish car park - top gate.)
- Remind children daily if they are to attend after school care
- Be extra vigilant when using the parish car park - park in car bays
- Ensure that children understand and adhere to the school uniform policy. The uniform policy which is accessible on St John's website describes the correct uniform and expectations in regards to the wearing of jewellery, sport shoes and socks and acceptable hairstyles
- Read and respond to all relevant communication (schoolbag, invitations, FaceBook, flyers etc.)

School Attendance

School attendance plays a critical role in enhancing the lives of students in schools. Every day of attendance adds to a student's academic achievement and success at school.

Schools in partnership with parents/carers are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. While parents/carers are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff as part of their duty of care play a vital role in promoting daily attendance, recording and monitoring absences and preventing the establishment of absenteeism. A shared approach to school attendance between students, parents/carers, schools, system learning and CEDP will maximise the opportunity for every learner every day.

In keeping with legislative and CEDP / school policies and procedures attendance rates for all students will continue to be closely monitored at St John's. Please refer to this week's attendance levels for K – 6 for weeks 2 - 4 for this term. The target level for all schools in the Parramatta Diocese is above 90% attendance rate.

(An invitation from the Catholic Education Office.)

Safer Internet Day - 9 February 2021 eSafety Webinars for Parents/Carers

At Catholic Education Diocese Parramatta (CEDP) we see parents and carers as partners in your child's learning journey. In partnership with the eSafety Commissioner, CEDP would like to invite you to join the following free webinar for parents and carers:

1. eSafety's parent guide to cyberbullying and online drama

- Tuesday 9 February 7.30 to 8.30 pm
- Wednesday 10 February 12.30 to 1.30 pm
- Wednesday 10 February 7.30 to 8.30 pm
- Monday 15 February 12.30 to 1.30 pm
- Monday 22 March 12.30 to 1.30 pm



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This live webinar will include case studies, research and targeted advice so you can support the young people in your life to have safe, enjoyable online experiences. All sessions are delivered by the eSafety Commission's expert educators.

About the webinar

The session will cover topics including:

- Starting conversations with your child about their online friendships and positive ways to deal with changing relationships
- Understanding the rights, laws and community expectations that govern social media use
- Where to seek help if your child is involved in a cyberbullying incident.

What you need to do

Please register for the course via the eSafety Commissions website via the following link:

February 2020 - March 2020 sessions - [link to register](#) or via <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars>

If you have any further enquiries please email safeguarding@parra.catholic.edu.au.

School Community Group

In past years students and staff have received fantastic support from St John's Community Group. Unfortunately, the work of our School Community Group was suspended in 2020 due to (COVID 19) restrictions placed on schools from both government health agencies and the CEDP.

The SCG is a vital part of our community. Through the generosity of our parent volunteers we have been able to enjoy a number of community / school events and celebrations, for example Mother's Day stall, Grandparents morning tea, and a range of fundraising activities. These events would not be possible without the support and ongoing commitment of our SCG. In the last few years, due to the busyness of life, there has been a decline in the number of parents / carers who have committed to the School Community Group. I ask that our parents / carers in our community consider volunteering some time to commit to being part of the wonderful group who organise community and special activities that benefit all our students. I would love to have some extra 'helping hands' this year. In the coming weeks a SCG survey will be sent home for parents / carers to indicate their availability to attend a SCG meeting this term. I encourage you to give this some consideration and come along to the next SCG to share your ideas and thoughts.



Again, this year I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Mrs Belinda Murray for coordinating the roster for parent / carers volunteers for the operation of our **snack shack** which is open for our students each Monday and Friday. Mrs Murray also does a fabulous job as the coordinator of St John's second-hand uniform shop. I ask if you have some time to spare please consider volunteering in the snack shack; you will be put on a roster. You are invited to contact the school and register your interest in supporting the snack shack or alternatively we can put you in contact with Mrs Murray who is happy to provide you with any information you may need.

God Bless Patricia



KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dear Parents and Carers,

To keep up to date with the latest news and important announcements we strongly advise that you install the SkoolBag app on your mobile devices.

It is imperative that you are able to receive the latest most up to date information straight to your mobile phone anytime/anywhere.

Please see the instructions on how to install the app and if you have any questions or concerns please contact the school on

Telephone: 02 9854 3200

Or

Email: riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au

Subscribe to our fortnightly newsletter at:

www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

Don't forget to follow us on FACEBOOK





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





Part-Time Work

1x Permanent part time position –St John’s Primary School – Riverstone - 7139

Help protect our vibrant school communities

Become a School Crossing Supervisor!

- Keep our kids, parents and teachers safe on the road
 - Be a second pair of eyes for our local motorists
- Earn an income and still have time to live your life to the fullest

School crossings require 20 hours of supervising per fortnight.

Shifts fall between 8.20am – 9.20am and 2.30pm – 3.30pm, Monday to Friday during the school term.

Does this sound like you?

- Reliable in good or bad weather
- Good communication skills
 - Community spirit
 - Positive energy

If it does, visit

jobs.transport.nsw.gov.au to apply today!

Applications close Sunday 13th December 2020



SCHOOL DROP OFF AND PICK UP TERM 1

MORNING SUPERVISION COMMENCES AT 8.20 AM and AFTERNOON PICK-UP IS AT 2.50 PM

PARENTS AND CARERS ARE ASKED TO PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR AFTERNOON PICK-UP

PARENTS / CARERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PARK OR WALK THROUGH THE STAFF CAR PARK

Drop off and pick up areas (A - K) - (L - Z) maintained

A - K students are to be dropped off and picked up at the Front Gate (McCulloch Street) and L - Z Back Gate (Parish Carpark)

Any students that arrive late will need to be dropped off at the pedestrian gate on McCulloch Street and signed in by their parent/carer (A partial absence will be recorded)

STRICTLY NO ACCESS THROUGH THE TOP GATE (PARISH CAR PARK) BETWEEN 8.50am and 2.50pm

THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS IS PARAMOUNT AND WE APPRECIATE YOUR CO OPERATION REGARDING THIS MATTER

School

5 McCulloch St Riverstone 2765

Tel: 9854 3200 Email: riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au

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