



Monday, 22 January 2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers

A warm welcome back to you all for the 2024 school year! I trust everyone had a relaxing Christmas break and enjoyed time with family and friends. As the principal of St Joseph's, I am excited to begin what promises to be a wonderfully successful year.

Firstly, I would like to advise you of several staff changes that have occurred in the school holidays. Mrs Mary Miller has accepted a teaching position at Bunbury Catholic College, which is closer to her home. I am pleased to announce that Mrs Dianne Partridge will be taking on the Year Five classroom teacher role for Term One, 2024. After a year of long service leave, Ms Charmaine Heys will not be returning to St Joseph's as she has decided to explore other career options. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mrs Miller and Ms Heys for their dedicated service to the students and families of St Joseph's over many years. I also warmly welcome Mrs Samantha Joudo to St Joseph's who will be a wonderful addition to our staff.

Outlined below are some procedures and routines I would like to draw to your attention to ensure a smooth start to the school year.

Morning and afternoon student pick up and drop off

As COVID (at least for the time being) is not impacting pick up and drop off procedures, they will revert to pre-covid conditions.

Morning and afternoon student pick up and drop off as follows...

- In the morning, students are to be dropped at the Camp Road 'Kiss and Go' carpark or George Street gates. Students in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Pre-primary move immediately to the Early Years playground. Students in Year 1 and 2 can (for Term One), put their bags on the aluminum benches outside the staffroom/new toilets then move immediately to the oval. Students in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 hang their bags in front of their classrooms then move immediately to the oval. Once the first bell is rung at 8:30am, students are directed to classrooms. Please note, for Term One, students in Years 1 and 2 will line up in front of the double doors going into the new build.
- Gates will be **unlocked at 8:15am** and **locked at 8:40am**. If you arrive after 8:40am, please use the front office.
- In the afternoon, **Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students** will be dismissed at **2:50pm**. **Pre-primary to Year 6 students** will be dismissed at **3:00pm**. We ask parents of Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Pre-primary students to park and physically collect your child from the Early Years gate.
- For the safety of your children, please **DO NOT** get out of your vehicle in the Kiss and Go section of the carpark. If you need to buckle your child/ren in, please parallel park. There is no parking in the Kiss and

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Go section of the carpark, including the footpath. Do not be offended if I ask you to parallel park or 'do a loop'. To ease traffic congestion, we invite parents of older students to make use of alternate parking.

- Please remember to sign in at the front office if you are entering the school unless you are simply picking up/dropping off your child/ren.
- Students catching the early bus will be dismissed from class at **2:50pm**.

iPad set-up

We encourage new students (Years 3-6) and students commencing Year 3 in 2024 to bring their iPads to the school office on Monday 29 January, 9:00am to 12:00pm to have them 'set up' by our staff in preparation for the start of the academic year. Please note, your child's iPad will be wiped as part of the 'set up', so please ensure all photos/data is backed up BEFORE you drop the iPad off. If you have already set a password, please let us know what it is as we will not be able to set up the iPad without it.

Uniform Shop

Uniform orders need to be placed through CDF pay over the January break on the school website

<https://www.stjoespinjarra.wa.edu.au/>

Uniforms can be picked up from the front office Thursday 25 January, 10:00am to 2:00pm and Tuesday 30 January, 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Welcome Morning Tea

You are warmly invited to join us for a Welcoming Morning Tea on Wednesday 31 February at 8:45am in the Assembly Hall.

Parent Information Sessions

Parent Information sessions will be held at school, Wednesday, 14 February at 3:30pm in the Assembly Hall. There will be two components to the session. I will address you all as a group in the Hall from 3:30pm to 4:00pm then teachers will address you in their classrooms from 4:00pm to 4:30pm. Students will be supervised from 3:30pm to 4:30pm in the Kindergarten classroom. I encourage you to attend, however, handouts will be available via the Parent Portal on SEQTA Engage. Please note, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten families have already had their Parent Information sessions last year.

Sacramental Enrolment Mass

The combined School Staff/School Advisory Council/P&F Commissioning and student Sacramental Enrolment Mass will be held at St Augustine's Parish, Sunday 18 February at 10:00am. If your child is making their Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or Confirmation this year, then you will need to attend. More information will be given at the Parent Information Sessions.

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Swimming

Please note, the school Faction Swimming Carnival is early this year, Friday, 16 February (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) at the Murray Aquatic and Leisure Centre. Please keep an eye out for further details. Swimming lessons (Pre-primary to Year 6) for 2024 has been scheduled for Weeks 2 and 3 of Term Two, due to NAPLAN being moved to Term One.

Uniforms

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of our uniform requirements. The School Uniform and Dress Standards Policy (including the school hair policy) will be forwarded to you in a separate communication. Wearing our school uniform correctly and with pride promotes a sense of belonging, helps students to connect with our school and fosters the notion of respect. Failure to wear the correct uniform (including footwear) or failure to adhere to the school hair policy (no mullets, rat tails and unnatural hair colours) will result in parents being called to come and pick up their child from school and rectify the situation.

Please note, the formal blue check summer dress is to be worn by students in Year 3-6. Students in Pre-primary, Year 1 and Year 2 wear their sport uniform only.

Mandatory System Academic Testing

During Term 1, your child/children will be participating in the *On-entry Assessment Program* (Pre-primary students), the *Observation Survey of Early Literacy Achievement* (Year 1, 2 and 3 students) and the *Mathematics Assessment Interview* (Year 1 to Year 6 students).

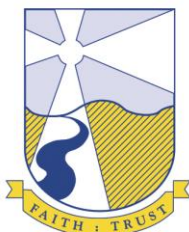
While some assessment tasks can be included in the daily teaching program, some will be carried out one-to-one, away from the classroom. This will provide your child and their teacher with valuable time together, as well as giving the teacher the opportunity to observe the behaviours and processes your child uses in responding to questions.

There will be a need for a relief teacher to cover classes while the classroom teacher is working with individual students. We will endeavour to make this situation as routine as possible to avoid disruption and would very much appreciate your support in this matter. If you would like any further information, or to discuss your child's participation, please contact your child's teacher.

Please note, students in Years 3 and 5 will sit the NAPLAN test earlier this year, from 13-25 March. Please keep an eye out for further information.

Drink Bottles, Tissues and Headphones

Please ensure your child/ren bring their water bottles each day. We have installed new 'bottle fillers' for the students to fill their water bottles. I also ask that each student please brings along two boxes of tissues for their



classrooms. Students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are required to supply headphones for their iPads. This is absolutely essential for NAPLAN years.

Mobile Phones

I understand that mobile phones are brought to school by students in order to contact parents at the end of the day, even though I would prefer they are left at home. If a student does bring a mobile phone to school, it needs to be handed into the front office at the beginning of the day and collected at the end of the day.

Pupil Free Days (PFDs) 2024

I have included the PFDs for 2024 in case you missed my last communication.

Term	Week	Day/date	First and last days of Term for students
One	1	Monday 29 January (PFD)	Wednesday 31 January Thursday 28 March
	1	Tuesday 30 January (PFD)	
	6	Monday 4 March (Labour Day)	
	9	Friday 29 March (Good Friday)	
Two	1	Monday 15 April (PFD)	Tuesday 16 April Wednesday 26 June
	2	Thursday 25 April (ANZAC Day)	
	8	Monday 3 June (WA Day)	
	11	Thursday 27 June (PFD)	
	11	Friday 28 June (PFD)	
Three	1	Monday 15 July (PFD)	Tuesday 16 July Thursday 19 September
	10	Friday 20 September (PFD)	
Four	1	Monday 7 October (PFD)	Tuesday 8 October Friday 6 December

Birthday Free Dress

A note for our new families...here at St Joseph's we LOVE birthdays! So much so, students may wear FREE DRESS on their birthday! If your child's birthday is on a weekend or falls during the school holidays, they may wear free dress on the day closest to their actual birthday. If your child has already had their birthday, i.e., 1 January to 31 January, then he/she may choose one day during the next week (5-9 February) to wear their free dress.

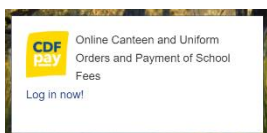
**Canteen**

The canteen will be open for your convenience WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY, first day back for students. See icon below.

General Information

As in previous years, we will not be asking for parent permission for educationally based incursions and/or excursions, including Athletics carnivals or Swimming carnivals. As per Section 23 of the School Education Act, “students must participate in an educational program of the school either at the school ‘or elsewhere’ as required by the Principal.” Of course, you will be informed of any events in which your child is involved, but, as long as the experience is educationally sound, parental consent is not required. If the excursion is not connected to the educational program, then parental consent is required. Please ensure your contact details are current.

Please make use of our CDF Pay option on our Webpage for canteen and uniform payments. We will not be accepting cash. Look for this icon <https://www.stjoespinjarra.wa.edu.au/>



School Newsletters, updates and reminders will be available via the Parent Portal on SEQTA Engage or SMS messages.

Students will be required to wear their coloured faction polo shirts on the following days...

Pre-primary	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Monday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday

Teachers will let you know when students wear their blue polo.

As always, if you have any concerns, please see your child’s classroom teacher first. However, if you have any queries regarding the systemic nature of what is outlined in this correspondence, please see Mrs O’Dwyer or myself.

We look forward to a wonderfully positive 2024 with you and your children. Wishing you a fantastic start to the new year!

God bless,

Ms Vanessa Gangell
Principal

Mrs Tracy O’Dwyer
Assistant Principal