

Monday 19 January 2026

Dear Parents and Caregivers

A warm welcome back to you all for the 2026 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 take this opportunity to formally welcome back Mrs Deb Gundry and Mrs Zoe Ramsay, who are returning to us after extended leave. We are absolutely delighted to have them back as part of our team. Their experience, dedication and care for our students have been greatly missed and we look forward to the positive impact they will continue to make in our school community.

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.

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

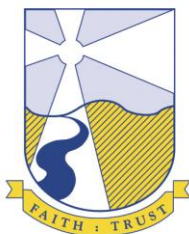
- In the morning, students are to be dropped at the Camp Road 'Kiss and Go' carpark or George Street gates. Students in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Pre-primary move immediately to the Early Years playground. Please note, older siblings are not permitted in the Early Years area. Students in Years 1, 2 and 3 will take their bags to the verandah in front of the staff room, then move immediately to the oval. Students in Years 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 8:25am, students are directed to classrooms. Students in Years 1, 2 and 3 will line up on the verandah in front of the staff room and Years 4, 5 and 6 in front of their classrooms.
- Gates will be unlocked at 8:15 am and locked at 8:40 am. If you arrive after 8:40 am, please sign in the front office.
- In the afternoon, Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will be dismissed at 2:50pm and students from Years 1-6 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 area. Students in Years 1, 2 and 3 can be collected by parents/caregivers in front of the new build and Years 4, 5 and 6 from their classrooms.
- 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 Go section of the carpark...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 early buses will be dismissed from class at 2:50pm.

iPad set-up

We encourage new students (Years 3-6) and students commencing Year 3 in 2026 to bring their iPads to the office on Tuesday 27 January to Friday 30 January, from 9:30 am to 12:30pm, 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 off the iPad. Please sign out of your Apple ID as we will be unable to 'set up' your child's iPad. If you have set a screen lock code, please let us know what it is when you drop the iPad off, as we will not be able to access the iPad without it.

Uniform Shop

Uniform orders need to be placed through CDF pay using the app (see below).

Uniforms can be picked up from the front office from Tuesday 27 January to Friday 30 January, between 10am and 2pm.



Welcome Morning Tea

You are warmly invited to join us for a Welcoming Morning Tea on Monday 2 February at 8:45am in the Assembly Hall.

Parent Information Sessions

Parent Information sessions for Pre-primary to Year 6 will be held at school, Wednesday, 18 February at 3:30pm. Teachers will address you in their classrooms from 3:30pm to 4:00pm and repeat the session from 4:00pm to 4:30pm. This is to cater for families with more than one child. 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 15 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 regarding Sacramental Programs will be given at the Parent Information Sessions.

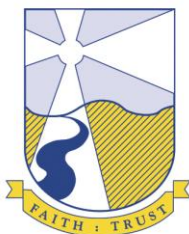
Swimming

Please note, the school Faction Swimming Carnival is early this year, Friday 27 February (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) at The Murray Aquatic and Leisure Centre. Please keep an eye out for further details from Mr Henry. Swimming lessons (Pre-primary to Year 6) for 2026 have been scheduled for Term Two, Tuesday 21 April to Friday 24 April and Tuesday 28 April to Friday 1 May.

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 and jewellery policy) is available on the school website as well as in the St Joseph's Parent Handbook. 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 will result in a uniform infringement. Uniform infringement notes will be issued from Week 5. Parents who do not remedy uniform infringements will be required to meet with either Mrs O'Dwyer or myself.

Please note, the formal summer uniform (blue check summer dress/grey shorts and blue shirt) is to be worn by students in Year 3-6. Students in Pre-primary, Year 1 and Year 2 wear their sport uniform only. Students in Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten do not have a compulsory uniform, however, are encouraged to wear the St Joseph's coloured polo shirts.



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 and selected Year 2 students) and the Mathematics Assessment Interview (Year 1 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 this year, from 11-23 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 'bottle fillers' for the students to fill their water bottles. I also ask that each student please bring 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 them to be 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.

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, then he/she may choose one day during Week 2 (9-13 February) to wear their free dress.

General Information

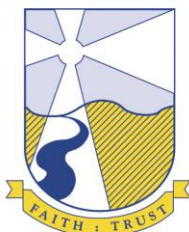
As in previous years, we will not be asking for parent permission for educationally based incursions and/or excursions, including Athletics carnivals or Swimming carnivals. As per Section 23 of the School Education Act, "students must participate in an educational program of the school either at the 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.

Canteen

Please note, the canteen will be open for your convenience MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY, first day back for students. Please place your orders using the CDF app.

General

Fortnightly 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	Monday	Monday

Teachers will let you know when students wear their blue polo shirt. Students in Year 6 wear their Leavers polo shirts on a Friday.

Pupil Free Days (PFDs) 2026

I have included the PFDs and Public holidays for 2026 in case you missed my last communication.

Term	Week	Day/date	First and last days of Term for students
One	5 9	Monday 2 March Labour Day (Public holiday) Thursday 2 April (Whole school parent/teacher interviews)	Monday 2 February to Wednesday 1 April
Two	2 7 7 11	Monday 27 April ANZAC Day (Public holiday) Monday 1 June Western Australia Day (Public holiday) Tuesday 2 June (PFD) Friday 3 July (PFD)	Monday 20 April to Thursday 2 July
Three	1	Monday 20 July (PFD)	Tuesday 21 July to Friday 25 September
Four	1	Monday 12 October (PFD)	Tuesday 13 October to Friday 11 December

Important Sport Dates

Term One: School Faction Swimming Carnival...Friday 27 February
Interschool Swimming Carnival...Thursday 26 March

Term Two: School Faction Cross Country...Friday 12 June

Term Three: Interschool Cross Country...Wednesday 29 July (Please note, Year Three students may be included for 2026)
School Faction Athletics Carnival...Friday 21 August
Interschool Athletics Carnival...Wednesday 16 September (back up day Friday 18 September)

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.

I look forward to a wonderfully positive 2026 with you and your children. Wishing you a fantastic start to the new year!

God bless,

Ms Vanessa Gangell

Principal