

St. Mary's Primary School is committed to the safety and welfare of all children, within a secure environment. All children have a right to be treated with respect and to be protected from abuse and harm. This school supports the Child Safe Standards (Ministerial Order 870) and actively seeks to ensure that all students are kept safe from all forms of harm at all times.



St. Mary's School Newsletter

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Term 1 - February 4th 2021 No.1

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents, Families and Friends,

Welcome to the first school newsletter for 2021! We're off to a great start for Term 1 and I would personally like to say thank you to the whole St. Mary's community for their words of support and warm welcome.

Romans 15:4 states, "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope". It is thought that this passage was written by St. Paul in order to insist that older Scriptures were written to teach modern Christians. Similarly, I will be drawing upon Scripture, the rich history of St. Mary's, our charism, and the wisdom and work of community members (past and present) in order to inform my own journey of hope as Principal at St. Mary's Primary School, Inglewood.

An enormous thank you to the McEwan family for looking after our chickens during the holidays. Further on in the newsletter you will see our new Chook Duty Roster. I'm hoping that as many families as possible can help out.

Thank you also to Shane Maxwell, Tony Smith and Corie Birthisel for their work on the grounds and buildings. Our oval would certainly be the envy of many schools!

CALENDAR

February

Wed 3rd	Foundation Rest Day
Mon 8th	Board Meeting - 7pm
Wed 10th	Foundation Rest Day Gr 3-6 Swimming / Gym
Tues 16th	Shrove Tuesday
Wed 17th	Ash Wednesday Foundation Rest Day Gr 3-6 Swimming / Gym
Wed 24th	Foundation Rest Day Gr 3-6 Swimming / Gym

March

Wed 3rd	Foundation Rest Day
Fri 5th	Pupil Free Day - Staff PD Day
Mon 8th	Labour Day Holiday

During the course of the year, it is my hope that we will work together to provide the students the best opportunities in preparing for the world, ready to master challenges placed in their path. I'm certainly hoping for a COVID-normal year.

As Principal, my door is always open and I welcome your input. Please feel free to stop in or call to make an appointment to discuss your concerns, suggestions, or ideas to help make this year the best it can be!

Kim Carter
Principal



CATHOLIC IDENTITY

MASS TIMES

St Peter's, Bridgewater
1st Sunday of the Month, 8:00am

St Mary's, Inglewood
Each other Sunday of the Month, 8:00am



As we begin this new school year let us pray that all the members of our community will be happy, safe and enjoy good health.

Dear Lord,
As we begin this new school year,
we gather once again as your community of believers.
We thank you for the energy and the spirit
that you renewed in us through the summer months.
We thank you for the time to enjoy our family and friends
and to reflect on what is important in our lives.
Let this year be marked by enthusiasm and love so that, with the
inspiration of your Spirit, we may continue to grow in our faith.
Help us to fulfil Your hope for us with honest intentions and works
of faith.
Let us be gentle with ourselves and bring laughter, joy and love to
others.
We ask this in Your name.
Amen

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is an important day in our Church calendar as it marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is marked by fasting, prayer, and doing for others. On this day we will hold a liturgy with the children where we will share the symbol of the ashes. The **ashes** symbolize both repentance and forgiveness, and remind us of how Christ died for us.



Opening School Mass - Date to be confirmed

SCHOOL NEWS

WELCOME:

Welcome everyone to the 2021 school year at St Mary's and a special welcome to our new students and their families:

Foundation/Prep: Emmett Hodge

Grade 2: Jordan Pickering

Grade 4: Cruze Morley

Grade 5: Addison Keats

Grade 6: Tia Keats

Staff: Mrs Carter



2021 SCHOOL TERM DATES:

- Term 1: Thursday 28th January - Thursday 1st April
- Term 2: Monday 17th April - Friday 25th June
- Term 3: Monday 12th July - Friday 17th September
- Term 4: Monday 4th October - Wednesday 15th December

SPECIALIST DAYS:

	Sport 	Library 	Visual Arts 	Performance Arts 	Indonesian 	Health 
Prep - Grade 2	Tuesday & Friday	Thursday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Thursday
Grades 3 - 6	Monday & Friday	Thursday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Thursday

Please note that students should only wear their sports uniform on the days that they have Sport. We are currently in the process of appointing a new Specialist Teacher. Once an appointment has been made, the above timetable may change slightly.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES:

This year, school assemblies will be held at 3pm on Fridays in Weeks 5 and 9. Mindful of COVID guidelines, at this stage, all parents and community members are welcome to attend. Notices to students will be given, awards presented, and the students will have the opportunity to showcase their learning. Please adhere to physical distancing requirements during assemblies.

GRADES 3-6 SWIMMING AND GYM PROGRAM:

A correction to the excursion permission form for Grades 3-6 Swimming and Gymnastics. Students are returning to school at approximately 2:30pm, following swimming from 10am-11am and gymnastics from 12:30pm-1:30pm.

EVERY DAY COUNTS:

As we start the year, parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school every day. Being at school every day counts, with one day absent each week quickly adding up to two months of missed lessons in a year.



Unless your child is ill, it is expected that your child will be at school learning every day of the school year. If your child is absent from school, please notify the school Office on 54383075. It is a legal requirement that all unexplained absences be followed up. This will be done via an SMS sent from our SIMON administration system.

WHEN IS LUNCH?:

St Mary's is currently trialling new bell times. At 11am students go straight outside for a 40 minute play, before having a 10 minute supervised break to eat their lunch before heading back to class. At 1:50pm, students have a 30 minute break to eat their snack foods and have a play before heading back to class at 2:20pm.

There are several reasons that led to this change: students eating their more nutrient dense foods earlier on in the day ready for more learning, having a larger break during a cooler/more sunsmart part of the day, responding to parent feedback stating that students weren't eating their lunch in fear that they would miss out on 'play' time and to help curb any potential yard issues by allowing students to play for longer when they are fresher in the morning.

If you have any questions relating to the new Lunch structure, please see Mrs Carter. This 2017 article discusses a Sydney school who had also made the lunch break switch: <https://www.mamamia.com.au/lunch-before-noon/>

COVID GUIDELINES UPDATE:

Similar to 2020, St Mary's will be guided by the government, CECV and Catholic Education Sandhurst guidelines. Everyone is advised to stay at home if unwell. New CECV COVID Guidelines have come out with some clarifications regarding parent access on school grounds. Parents are now allowed on site for periods of 15min or less. At this stage, however, parents are not permitted in classrooms in order to fulfil density requirements. **As per the most recent government update, face masks must again be worn indoors and outdoors when physical distancing cannot be maintained.**



NO HAT, NO PLAY:

It's summertime and the weather is hot and the sun intense. Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. With this in mind and with the aim to create responsible students, the teachers will be enforcing the NO HAT, NO PLAY rule. Students without their own hat at school will need to remain in the undercover area near the bag boxes. All students are required to bring, and wear, a school hat each day. We thank you for your assistance with this request.

INFORMATION PACKS FOR 2021

Each family received an information pack late last year. It contained a number of forms and information sheets that need to be completed and returned as soon as possible. We legally require this information in order for students to participate in events, to ensure our details are up to date and to fulfill our child safe standards. Please return them as soon as possible if you have not yet done so.



CHICKEN ROSTER:

Our chickens are a great asset to the St Mary’s community, though they do require some care over the weekends. We are now putting the call out to families to put their name down for a weekend Chook Duty. Chook Duty involves letting the chickens out in the morning and putting them away in the afternoon on Saturdays and Sundays and checking their food and water. Many hands make light work. If all families put down a weekend, then you would only have a Chook Duty weekend twice a year! You might even want to buddy up with another family and share your weekends with them. Below is the roster. Please contact the Office if you’re able to help out and with your preferred weekend.

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM 4
30/31 Jan - Coffey	24/25 Apr -	17/18 July -	9/10 Oct -
6/7 Feb - Carter	1/2 May -	24/25 July -	16/17 Oct -
13/14 Feb -	8/9 May -	31/1 Aug -	23/24 Oct -
20/21 Feb -	15/16 May -	7/8 Aug -	30/31 Oct - Carter
27/28 Feb -	22/23 May -	14/15 Aug -	6/7 Nov -
6/7 Mar -	29/30 May -	21/22 Aug -	13/14 Nov -
13/14 Mar -	5/6 June -	28/29 Aug -	20/21 Nov -
20/21 Mar -	12/13 June -	4/5 Sept -	27/28 Nov -
27/28 Mar -	19/20 June -	11/12 Sept -	4/5 Dec -
Holidays - McEwan	Holidays - McEwan	Holidays - McEwan	11/12 Dec -
			Holidays - McEwan

STUDENT NEWS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January

16th ~ Ryder Smith
 22nd - Lucy Rollinson
 27th ~ Mack Dempster
 30th ~ Randolph Crabbe



CHILDREN'S CHATTER MATTERS

In order to prepare for the language & learning demands of the school environment, children need ample time and opportunity to engage in meaningful interactions with their family.



Research suggests that the types of questions we ask and the quality of discussions we have with our children, from a very young age, are linked to school success. As children progress through the grades they must learn to use extended discourse in telling stories, giving explanations, reporting, expressing an opinion or writing an essay. Asking children "if, why and how" type questions allows them to deepen their thinking and prepare longer and more complex responses. It makes sense to build their confidence with extended discourse gradually, beginning with simple oral tasks.

In each fortnightly newsletter this year, our school's Speech Pathologist will provide some "family friendly", fun activities aimed to enhance all students' learning and literacy skills.

We encourage you to set some time aside each week so that you can get the most out of your interactions with your child. In a busy household, sometimes the car is the best place for these focused activities. The key ingredients for a creative interaction are a time, a place, a willing talking partner or audience and an engaging topic or activity.

Positive communication experiences at home help children feel accepted and valued. Growth in spoken language skills will build children's self-confidence and help them learn to negotiate social interactions at school. This often transfers to other aspects of their learning and life.

You will also note that there are many links to recommended websites, apps and other technology resources. Whilst we suggest these technology- based activities, they are not essential to language and literacy learning. So much learning can come from the quality interactions you have with your child around a book, a movie or a simple board game.

Ten activities will be provided each term focusing on key areas of oral language supporting literacy, learning and socialising. Feel free to adjust these activities according to your child's grade level.

The following link is to the most comprehensive website available that provides parents with activities that are free, easily accessible and enjoyable. Each activity has been carefully selected to reflect the highest quality, up-to-date research evidence on early literacy development. There is also advice for parents who are concerned about their child's reading and language development.

<http://www.fivefromfive.org.au/parent-resources/>

If you have any questions you can contact Sheryn Long, Speech Pathologist through the School's Learner Diversity Coordinator, Kim Carter.

Good luck and most importantly, enjoy this very special time with your child.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Start the chat about online safety to celebrate Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 9 February 2021.

Safer Internet Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about the safe and positive use of digital technology. It's also a good time to explore the role we can all play in creating a better online community.

This global campaign is celebrated by millions of people in 170 countries across the world.

Help us make every day a Safer Internet Day!

- Join our parent webinar [eSafety's guide to cyberbullying and online drama](#).
- Visit [esafety.gov.au/SID](#) for tips to start the chat at school, at home and in your community.



 eSafety Commissioner



[esafety.gov.au](#)

Helping Kids with Big Emotions

Online Zoom Sessions



Big emotions such as Anger and Worry can be challenging emotions for children and parents alike; this workshop will explore children's experience of these emotions, as well as presenting practical tools to assist children in managing strong emotions

Term 1, 2021

When: Day Session: Wednesday 10th March 2021
Time: 12.30pm - 2.00pm
When: Evening Session: Wednesday 10th March 2021
Time: 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Where: Online Zoom Session
Cost: Free
Facilitators: CCS Family and Relationship Services



For bookings and enquiries contact Reception on Ph: 5438 1300

Groups are subject to maximum and minimum numbers determined seven working days prior to the commencement date. Early registration is encouraged

In primary school, some students **miss** on average **3 weeks** of school **per year**. That's **half a year** of school by the end of **year 6**.



EVERY DAY COUNTS

Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

"Day off" – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx

Department of Education and Training



Education and Training

50 Questions To Ask Your Kids Instead Of Asking “How Was Your Day”

1. What made you smile today?
2. Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/showed?
3. Was there an example of unkindness? How did you respond?
4. Does everyone have a friend at recess?
5. What was the book about that your teacher read?
6. What's the word of the week?
7. Did anyone do anything silly to make you laugh?
8. Did anyone cry?
9. What did you do that was creative?
10. What is the most popular game at recess?
11. What was the best thing that happened today?
12. Did you help anyone today?
13. Did you tell anyone “thank you?”
14. Who did you sit with at lunch?
15. What made you laugh?
16. Did you learn something you didn't understand?
17. Who inspired you today?
18. What was the peak and the pit?
19. What was your least favourite part of the day?
20. Was anyone in your class gone today?
21. Did you ever feel unsafe?
22. What is something you heard that surprised you?
23. What is something you saw that made you think?
24. Who did you play with today?
25. Tell me something you know today that you didn't know yesterday.
26. What is something that challenged you?
27. How did someone fill your bucket today? Whose bucket did you fill?
28. Did you like your lunch?
29. Rate your day on a scale from 1-10.
30. Did anyone get in trouble today?
31. How were you brave today?
32. What questions did you ask at school today?
33. Tell us your top two things from the day (before you can be excused from the dinner table!).
34. What are you looking forward to tomorrow?
35. What are you reading?
36. What was the hardest rule to follow today?
37. Teach me something I don't know.
38. If you could change one thing about your day, what would it be?
39. (For older kids): Do you feel prepared for your history test?” or, “Is there anything on your mind that you'd like to talk about?” (In my opinion, the key is not only the way a question is phrased, but responding in a supportive way.)
40. Who did you share your snacks with at lunch?
41. What made your teacher smile? What made her frown?
42. What kind of person were you today?
43. What made you feel happy?
44. What made you feel proud?
45. What made you feel loved?
46. Did you learn any new words today?
47. What do you hope to do before school is out for the year?
48. If you could switch seats with anyone in class, who would it be? And why?
49. What is your least favourite part of the school building? And favourite?
50. If you switched places with your teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?

By [Leslie Means](#)