

**NEWSLETTER No . 1 : 5th February, 2015**

Dear Parents

Welcome to the start of the school year which we hope will be rewarding for everyone in our school community. We welcome your presence at school, encourage you to be active partners in the education process and invite you to volunteer at the school wherever possible.

We also welcome many new families in prep and other grades throughout the school. We wish all of these parents and children well as they begin their time at Holy Rosary.

We have some new staff members who have joined us at Holy Rosary this year. We extend a warm welcome to Mikayla Hogan in Foundation and Nicole McDermott who has returned part time from maternity leave.

Being a parent is a hard job, a complicated job and sometimes a lonely job. Probably, it's the most important job parents will ever have, because as their child's first teacher, they will make a difference one way or another. However, parents have the opportunity to form a viable partnership with their child's teacher, because together they have a common goal: a successful school year for each child. Teachers need to know that we are all on their side and if we aren't, we need to be able to express ourselves as to why not.

It's important to remember that parents and teachers are partners in helping each child achieve a successful transition to adulthood. This combined support is essential if the transition is to be a positive developmental experience for your child. A good relationship with your child's teacher will make it easier for you to stay informed about your child's progress across all areas of schooling and to work together if problems arise during the year.

On occasion, you might find that your teacher has constructive criticism about your child; it's important to keep an open mind to the teacher's comments. Neither the child nor the teacher is perfect – nor parents for that matter – so, if a problem arises, it's important to consider both sides of the story. The outcome should be the one that helps your child succeed at school. There needs to be a sensitivity that respects the teacher as a well-trained professional and respects the parents who have special knowledge of their child.

Teachers are dedicated and caring and want to be good teachers. Jonathan Sarks, Rabbi and author of "The Politics of Hope", said about them: "Teachers open our eyes to the world. They give us curiosity and confidence. They teach us to ask questions. They connect us to our past and future. They are the guardians of our social heritage. Life without a teacher is surely not a life."

Everyone likes to be appreciated and teachers are no exception. If we go for the "We" attitude and work with our child's teacher, then our child will have a great school year and so will we, and, with a bit of luck, so will the teacher.

God, our Father, bless us, so that Your Spirit within us will give us a common bond as together we take responsibility for the well-being of Your gift of creation to us. We ask for strength and determination to create more space in our lives for You, so that by the example of our lives, our children will be inspired to follow Your ways.

Peach & Best Wishes

Noel Dillon

Principal



A family BBQ will be held on Monday, 9th February from 5.00pm – 7.00pm. A sausage sizzle will be cooked on the night. Parents are asked to bring a salad to share. This will be a great opportunity to welcome all our families to the new school year and, in particular, welcome our many new families.

Could you please indicate your attendance on the reply slip below.



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The Family will be attending the BBQ on Monday, 9th February.
No. of adults No. of children

Important dates

TERM 1 DATES FOR 2015

February

Monday 2 nd	:	School Resumes P and F meeting 9.00am
Wednesday 4 th	:	Foundation rest day
Thursday 5 th	:	Class Mass Grade 5/6 9.00am Chapel
Monday 9 th	:	Welcoming BBQ 5.00pm – 7.00pm
Tuesday 10 th	:	School Board meeting
Wednesday 11 th	:	Foundation rest day
Thursday 12 th	:	Breakfast Club 8.00am Class Mass Grade 3/4 9.00am School Chapel
Friday 13 th	:	Opening School Mass 11.00am Church
Monday 16 th	:	Parent Information Night 6.30pm – 7.30pm
Tuesday 17 th	:	Shrove Tuesday – Pancakes
Wednesday 18 th	:	Ash Wednesday Mass Church 11.00am Foundation rest day
Thursday 19 th	:	Class Mass Grade 2/3 9.00am Chapel
Wednesday 25 th	:	Foundation rest day
Thursday and Friday 26th and 27th : Northern Plains Conference School Closure Day		

March

Thursday 5 th	:	Class Mass Grade 5 1/2 9.00am Chapel
Friday 6 th	:	March First Friday School Mass 11.30am
Monday 9th	:	Labour Day Holiday
Preps Full Week		
Thursday 12 th	:	March Class Mass Grade 5/6 9.00am Chapel
Friday 13 th	:	Grade 5/6 Leadership Day Echuca
Monday 16th	:	School Closure Day – David Anderson
Tuesday 17 th – 20 th	:	Grade 4/5/6 camp Queenscliff
Thursday 19 th	:	Class mass Grade 1/2 9.00am Chapel
Thursday 26 th	:	Class Mass Grade 2/3 9.00am Chapel
Friday 27 th	:	Last Day Term 1 2.15pm

April

Friday 3 rd	:	Good Friday
Sunday 5 th	:	Easter Sunday
Tuesday 6 th	:	Easter Monday
Monday 13 th	:	Term 2 commences 8.45am
Tuesday 14 th	:	Parent Teacher Interviews.

FOUNDATION TIMETABLE

The Foundation students will come to school each week in February and the first week of March on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday : Wednesdays will be a rest day for them. From Tuesday, March 10th they will attend school everyday.

INFORMATION EVENING : February 16th

An information evening for parents will be held on Monday, 16th February at 7.00pm in the O'Dee.

On this night teachers will provide information on classroom organisation and ways to assist your child at home. It is very important that parents attend this meeting. Parents are first and foremost the major educators of their children. The partnership between school and home is a vital part of children's success at school.

The night will be held in the O'Dee and will run from 6.30pm – 7.30pm.

6.30pm – 7.00pm for parents of children in grades

Foundation, 1 and 2 and

7.00pm- 7.30pm for Grades 3 - 6

SCHOOL BOARD

The next School Board meeting will be held at 5.30pm on Tuesday, 10th February.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Details will be sent out shortly with information relating to this year's Sacramental program.



The Breakfast club will start again on Thursday 12th February. This will run from 8.00am – 8.30am and will be held in the O'Dee.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Due to a short first term, we will hold our parent teacher interviews on Tuesday, 14th April (Week 1 Term 2). Students will attend school as normal on this day. Information will be sent out closer to the day with details of online booking of interview times.

Teachers are also available to meet with you this term if you would like to discuss your child's progress. It is important that you make a time to speak to the teacher rather than during class time.

CAMP : GRS. 4/5/6

The Grade 4/5/6 Camp will be held at the Cottage by the Sea in Queenscliff from Tuesday ,17th to Friday, 20th March. Further details will be given to the students shortly.

CAR PARK PICK UP AND DROP OFF

Please make sure that you park in the designated areas when you drop off or collect your children each day. The back car park is used for all drop offs and pick ups. Please reverse park into the designated areas to ensure that you have a good view of all students when you drive out. We all need to work together to ensure the children's safety at all times.



PLEASE, DO NOT DROP OFF / COLLECT YOUR CHILD/CHILDREN FROM THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL.

To ensure that all children are safe, it is important that parents collect and drop off their children from the shade area near the playground. A number of parents are waiting in the cars and calling their children across the car park. This causes a dangerous situation for the children.

Please ensure that children are dropped off and collected from the pick up area near the tennis court.

PARKING AND SAFETY AROUND SCHOOLS

Parking and Animal Services from the City of Greater Bendigo have contacted our school and requested that the following information be conveyed to our school community.

The illegal parking of vehicles adjacent to our school poses a safety concern to children, pedestrians and other road users. Parents are reminded that it is essential to comply with parking restrictions when dropping off and collecting children from school. They must not park too close to school crossings, park over driveways or double park.

*With regard to children's crossings, the law requires that a driver approaching a children's crossing must drive at a speed at which the driver can, if necessary, stop safely before the crossing. **Please slow down and take extra care when driving in school zones.** City of Greater Bendigo Parking Officers and Bendigo Police do conduct random patrols throughout the school year at various locations to ensure that motorists are adhering to the Road Rules.*

PLAYGROUND AFTER SCHOOL

The playground is not available for children after school.

RIDING TO SCHOOL

Storage of bikes and scooters is near the sports shed.

This area is not locked during the day, so you may wish to bring your own bike lock along to secure your bike.

Bikes and scooters are not allowed to be ridden in the school yard.

Active after school Program : Term one

Due to the change of Government, the Active After School Program is no longer available. A new program is being developed, but will not roll out until Term 3. We will keep you informed with developments

The Bluearth health and PE program will run for all students on a Wednesday every second week on the odd school weeks, beginning week two Wednesday, 4th February for all grades. The Foundation children will participate in the program when they resume full weeks.

Our tennis program will run Term 2.



Greetings from Bluearth

Your child/children may have mentioned Bluearth or you may have seen the Bluearth Coach out in the playground over the past few weeks and wondered what it was all about.

Bluearth is a movement and activity based program that uses the joy of movement to help children better understand themselves, peers, teachers and the important relationships that exist between them. In an inclusive and fun environment students experience a range of individual, partner and group activities to improve posture, function, self awareness and mindfulness. This helps build lifelong habits in physical activity and movement that is so important for children's development, health and wellbeing. With skilful guidance and reflection, amazing results have been achieved.

Bluearth provides on the job training for teachers so that the program can be sustained long term within the school. The Bluearth Coach will be working with teachers and their classes on a regular basis – please feel free to speak with them if you would like to know more about the program – or join in.

You might also like to visit the Bluearth website www.bluearth.org and look at our parents section for more information and activities for the whole family. We also encourage you to read some latest research in how mindfulness improved children's learning: <http://time.com/3682311/mindfulness-math/>

School Masses : Class Masses

Each Thursday a class mass will be celebrated in the School Chapel. Each class will have an opportunity to attend a class mass per term. These masses will be held from 9.00am – 9.30am each Thursday. Parents are most welcome to attend. The timetable is as follows:

Thursday, 5th February : Gr. 5/6
Thursday, 12th February : Gr. 3/4
Thursday, 19th February : Gr. 2/3
Thursday, 5th March : Gr. 1/2
Thursday, 12th March : Gr. 5/6
Thursday, 19th March : Gr. 1/2
Thursday, 26th March : Gr. 2/3

Our opening school mass will be held on Friday, 13th February at the Church. The mass will be at 11.00am. and we would love parents and families to join in our celebration.

AWARDS

Each week at assembly several children will receive awards. The names of the children receiving the awards will be in the newsletter so parents are able to attend. This week's awards will be presented to:

Respect for Self

Michael Eickert

Respect for Others

Taya Lunn

Respect for Environment

Ryan Foster Annabel Johnson

Making Jesus Real (for excellent manners)

Zavia Roberts Imogen Nixon
Jack Conway Alexis Jorgenson-Neave
Elley-May Featonby
All Foundation students



Staffing 2015

Principal -Noel Dillon
Deputy Principal Religious Education Coordinator
Bernie O'Keeffe
Reading Recovery - Liz Tobin
School Support Officer - Joan Short
Student Support Officer - Genene Fisher
Jessica Dawson - Chaplain
ICT Support - James Graco
Classroom Teachers
Foundation - Mikayla Hogan
Grade 1/2 - Tania Malavisi
Grade 2/3 - Brooke Andrew
Grade 3/4 - Brent Anstee
Grade 5/6 - Bernie O'Keefe
(Nicole McDermott Fridays)

Specialist subjects

Indonesian - Mikayla Hogan
Health and PE - Brent Anstee
Sustainability/ Environmental - Bernie O'Keefe
Library - Brooke Andrew
ICT - Nicole McDermott
Creative Arts - Tania Malavisi
Visual Arts - Pru Harris

STUDENT ABSENCES

Please contact the school by 10.00am if your child is not attending school for the day. On returning to school, students must bring a signed, written note explaining their absence and give it to their classroom teacher.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

School Assemblies will be held on Monday mornings at 8.45am in the O'Dee.

SCHOOL TIMES

8.45am-10.45am - Class time
10.45am-11.30am - Recess
11.30am-1.30pm - Class time
1.30pm - 2.15pm - Lunch
2.15pm - 3.15pm - Class time

NORTHERN PLAINS CLUSTER CONFERENCE

All staff will attend the Northern Plains Education Conference on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th March. **THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL ON THESE DAYS.**

SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is important that all children are in correct uniform. Sports gear may only be worn on selected sports days. All items are available from the uniform shop, which is open on **Mondays after Assembly until 10.00am.**

Please ensure that uniform items are purchased and children have the correct uniform. This includes school hats. Holy rosary has a **NO HAT NO PLAY** policy in force. It is important that all students are correctly protected during the hot weather.

BOYS

Summer

School polo shirt
School windcheater
Grey shorts (**NO CARGO**)

Black shoes or sandals
Grey ankle socks
School hat

Winter

School windcheater
School polo shirt
Long grey trousers (**NO CARGO**)

Black shoes
Grey socks

GIRLS

Summer

School windcheater
Blue and white check dress
Black shoes or sandals

White ankle socks
School hat

Winter

School windcheater
School polo shirt
Grey pinafore/trousers (**NO CARGO**)
Black shoes
Grey ankle socks or grey tights

GRADE 6 T-SHIRTS

These have arrived and can be collected from the front office. Payment of \$26.50ea on collection.

TUCKSHOP

Canteen will be on Mondays this year and will commence on Monday, 16th February. Helpers are needed. Please contact Michelle Scoble if you can assist.

HEATHCOTE JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

Training has commenced - Tuesdays 5.00pm
at the oval for

U12 & U14 Football and U12, U14 & U16 Netball

REGISTRATION DAY 2015

When: 10th February

Time: 5.00pm - 6.00pm

Where: Barrack Reserve Oval

\$50.00 minimum deposit for fees required on the day
Followed by a free sausage sizzle.

CHILDREN'S CHATTER MATTERS

Why is it important that children are given opportunities for a longer turn to talk and listen?



Research suggests that the lengthy “chats” we have with our children 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 confidence with extended discourse gradually, beginning with simple oral tasks.

We encourage you to set some time aside 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.

If your child is reading a particular book at home or in class, try to incorporate words or ideas from that text into your activity. For example; if you are building your child's use of describing words, select a character from your child's reader to describe. Encourage increasingly expensive words such as the beautiful, gorgeous, stunning, breath-taking princess.

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.

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

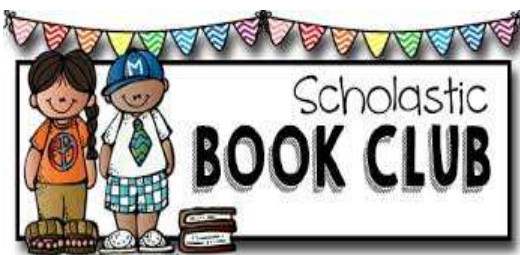
If you have any questions you can contact the Speech Pathologist through the school's special education coordinator Liz Tobin.

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

Children's Chatter Matters!

Language Learning activities to have a go at home.

1. Get your child to explain the steps for an everyday activity e.g. making breakfast, tying shoelaces, brushing your teeth. Follow these steps exactly. For example, if your child says, “Pour the milk”, then actually begin to pour the milk on the bench. Hopefully your child can repair the sentence and say “Pour the some milk into the bowl”. Try this activity again the next day and see if your child can be more specific. Encourage your child to use linking words e.g. initially, first, next, then, afterwards, finally.



Issue 1 – 2015

Order forms have been sent home today.

Money and orders to be returned to school by
Friday, 13th February



Skoolbag

Smartphone school to parent communication

Skoolbag is a mobile app that communicates directly to parent smartphones. It provides access to key school information via one single Communication Centre for both parents and students. Ideal for:

- > School, free push notification alerts
- > School events
- > School newsletters
- > School documents
- > School RSS feeds
- > School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parent smartphones



How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

iPhone Users

Simply search for your school name in the App Store on your phone, PC or Mac, and install.



Android Users

Simply search for your school name in the Google Play Store on your phone, PC or Mac, and install.



Don't forget to like us on Facebook!  Like
Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parent smartphones



SCHOOL FEES: **\$945.00 per family/year**
(these may be paid by term/month/year or by arrangement)

Direct Debit is available : enquire at the office

COMPREHENSIVE FEE / EXCURSION / IN-CURSION FEE :

It would be appreciated if these fees were paid before the end of February, 2015

Gr. P/1/2/3/4 = **\$460.00 per pupil / year**
Gr. 5 & 6 = **\$560.00 per pupil / year**

SCHOOL CAMP : GRS 4/5/6
\$150.00 per student
TO BE PAID BEFORE CAMP

Accounts have been sent out today, together with Direct Debit authorisations forms as some families have indicated they wish to use this method of payment

SUN SMART – REMEMBER YOUR HATS

This Sun Smart Policy is to be read as part of our Student Dress Code.



Children will be required to wear school hats during Terms 1 and 4 whenever they are outside.

Children without hats will be restricted to play in designated shaded areas – ‘**NO HAT, NO PLAY**’ policy to be enforced.

Children will be actively encouraged to wear a broad-spectrum water resistant sunscreen (SPF30+). Sunscreen will be provided in each classroom, and on excursions. Sunscreen will be applied by students according to the manufacturer's directions, under the supervision of teachers.

Sunsmart activities and sun protection will form part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum at all year levels.

Parents will be encouraged to model Sunsmart behaviour when participating in school functions that are held outdoors.



Education Maintenance Allowance

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance from 2015

The final payment for the 2014 EMA was made in August 2014. From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria's neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents.

Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015

The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools' core operational funding mechanism, with the neediest schools receiving the most funding. Not all schools will be receiving funding in 2015.

This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with Commonwealth government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and, in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage. The majority of parents who received the EMA payment already elected to provide the money directly to their school.

If you have any questions about this change, please speak to your school principal.

What support is still being provided directly to parents?

The end of the EMA direct payments to parents will not affect any other payment you may be receiving such as the Schoolkids Bonus, which is provided directly to eligible parents to assist with education costs. For more information, see: [SchoolKids Bonus](#). **If you are experiencing financial hardship, you can also speak to your principal about how you can access assistance from the State Schools Relief Committee for clothing and uniforms.**

Why is the EMA changing?

The reason for the change stems from the 2013 School Funding Reform Agreement, signed between Victoria and the Commonwealth. The Victorian Government committed an additional \$5.4 billion school funding, which included a change to the way it helps low-income families with education expenses.

In order to secure Commonwealth funding, Victoria was obliged to shift as much education funding as possible into direct payments to schools. If the Victorian Government failed to adhere to this condition, the entire additional funding agreed to by the Commonwealth would have been at risk for Victoria.

By redirecting EMA payments from parents direct to schools, Victoria was able to secure this increase in education funding which will benefit all students and, in particular, those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

How will the school use the money they receive in place of the EMA?

Funding will be used by schools to support students for school based expenses previously covered by the EMA. School principals and councils will be responsible for ensuring that students, who previously attracted the EMA, are supported to participate fully at school.

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) helps to cover the costs related to your child's schooling. The EMA provides families on a low income with financial assistance to support their child's education up to the age of 16.