



2nd December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Online Bookings for 2020 (Years 1 to 6) Maths Assessment Interviews (MAI)

As part of a Diocesan initiative, starting days for students at the commencement of the 2020 academic year for St Joseph's Primary School will be staggered for Years 1 to 6 to allow staff to conduct individual assessment interviews for all children in Mathematics.

These assessments allow our teachers to gain a comprehensive insight into your child's capabilities and learning needs in the Number Strand of Mathematics before full time classes begin. We also track your child's progress from year to year as we have been undertaking this assessment annually now for 4 years. We are committed to giving your child the best possible start to their school year.

Years 1 to 6 will commence classes on Friday 31st January 2020, while our **Kindergarten cohort will commence classes on Wednesday 5th February 2020**. All primary schools in the Diocese are incorporating MAI. Primary schools in Port Macquarie – St Peter's, St Agnes' and St Joseph's Primary will implement the recommended staggered start for 2020.

The MAI's will take the form of a half hour one-on-one interview with your child and a teacher on either Wednesday 29th or Thursday 30th January, inclusive. **We require parents and carers to book their 2020 Years 1 to 6 children's interview online**. These are student only appointments and parents are not required to attend. However, seating will be available for you to relax while you wait. Tea, coffee and cold drinks will be available to purchase from the Canteen.

Please arrive at the school office 10 minutes before the appointment time, where you will be directed to the location of your child's interview. You will exit via the school office when the interview is completed. The teacher conducting your child's assessment may not necessarily be your child's class teacher for 2020.

Please note this is not a full school day, students attending interviews are not required to wear their school uniform, and students are only required to attend school for the duration of their assessment.

Interview bookings will be open from today and will close at 5:00pm on Wednesday 18th December 2019.

To arrange your interview, please log on to www.schoolinterviews.com.au then follow the simple instructions below. Please note when you make your online booking you will be asked to **'Select your child's 2020 Year Grade'** (ie. **Year 1 if your child is currently in Kindergarten**). You will then have the option to select a day and time for your appointment with any available teacher listed.



The local Catholic primary schools will be offering limited child-minding facilities from 8:30am to 3:30pm on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th January for those families unable to organise alternative arrangements for this period.

If you require child minding you must book in your child for any periods which you may require care so we can organise staffing. It is important for everyone's care and safety that you **book your child into care if you intend to send them to school over this period**. To book child minding please return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and enter the event code **hvqg7**. Bookings will close at 5:00pm on Wednesday 18th December 2019.

Child minding information - The students that attend child minding here at St Joseph's Primary during this period can be out of uniform, however they will need a hat and sensible shoes. Busways have confirmed that normal school buses will operate on these days. On arrival at school the children are to go to the Primary COLA to sit and wait for the supervising teacher who will direct them to the playground at the appropriate time. They will need to bring with them their Crunch'n'Sip (fresh fruit or vegetable) Lunch 1 and Lunch 2, a drink and a pencil case in their school bag. Canteen facilities will also be available if needed however no lunch orders will be able to be taken. If the children arrive after 8:55am or leave prior to 3:10pm normal school sign in/out procedures will apply (ie. they will need to be signed in/out through the school office by their parent or carer).

For your convenience our 2020 Information Handbook is now available online via the link below or go to our school website and click on 'Parent Handbook' on our front page.

2020 Information Handbook link -

<https://sjpport.schoolzineplus.com/st-joseph-s-primary-information-handbook>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if any part of this arrangement is unclear. We appreciate your support and look forward to great things in 2020.

Yours sincerely

Tess Koning
Principal