

# WELCOME to Kindergarten



Dear Kinder Parents and Carers

We welcome you to Kindergarten, 2021! Thank you for trusting us with the care and education of your treasured child in their first year of school. We are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning, fun and new experiences!

Our Kinder Teaching Teams for 2021 are:

Kindergarten Class Teachers - Mrs Laura Stapleton, Mrs Naomi Currall and Mrs Magda Buckley



Kindergarten RFF Teachers - Mrs Veronica Hawkins and Mr Damian Lawrence



Educational Assistants - Briony Butt and Tracey Bancroft



We look forward to getting to know you better over the coming weeks.

Here are a few things as we begin the new year....

### Morning Routine

parents of Kindergarten children will be able to walk into the school each morning with their children during the coming weeks. Due to COVID-19 restrictions Kindergarten parents will not be able to stay for a length of time within the school due to the numbers of adults at any one time, and staff will assist in supporting students to allow you to leave. Last year our students from Kindergarten to Year 6, became very independent in the mornings and we know with staff support at the gate in the mornings they will start the year wonderfully. From 8:30am the children will go out to the playground with the teacher on duty. Children are not allowed to remain on the cement playground.



### Afternoon Routine

The children will walk to homelines with their class and then sit down together outside the hall to wait for parents. If it is wet weather we will sit inside the hall. Please enter through the side gate and walk through to the next gate next to the hall. This system should be a continuous flow of parents maintaining 1.5 metre social distancing. We ask that parents do not stop during this process and continue to walk and exit through the Hall gate. If you have not collected them by 3:30pm, they will be redirected to the front office and the Office Aunties will give you a call. Kinder students will be asked to receive a stamp on their hand from the teacher as they say goodbye once you arrive. The bus children will be taken to the bus lines by our Educational Assistants and shown where to sit. When you are ready for your child to catch the bus please send in a note with the days and bus number. If your afternoon plans change or someone different is picking up your child please send in a note.

### Crunch & Sip

At St Joseph's we encourage the children to bring in each day a small container of fresh fruit or vegetables that they can enjoy at a time we call 'Crunch & Sip' (no fruit cups please). Please cut the fruit up so that it is manageable and if needed put in a separate container. Children are also encouraged to bring a water bottle into the classroom each day.



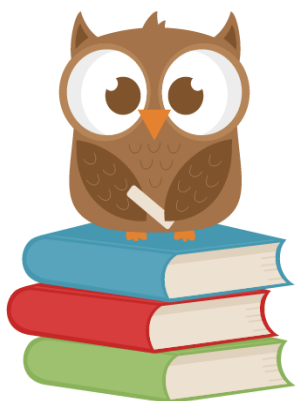
### School Routines

- 8:55am start of school day
- 11:00am-11:40am Lunch 1 ("big lunch")
- 1:40pm-2:10pm Lunch 2 ("afternoon tea")
- 3:10pm end of school day

Please help children to know what is in their lunch box for Lunch 1 (big lunch) and Lunch 2 (afternoon tea). The canteen is open only at Lunch 1. Lunch can be ordered online by 8:30am or in labelled paper bags or envelopes. Please put lunch orders in the basket outside the canteen in the mornings prior to class starting.

The children will be required to wash their hands regularly throughout the day. This practice reduces the spread of germs for all children but is vital in keeping our anaphylactic students safe.

Their allergies include peanuts, tree nuts, dairy products, eggs and sesame seeds.



### Home Learning

Your child will be bringing their folders home each day to share with you. We ask that you check these daily, as this is where you will find notes and some work samples your children have created. Starting Week 4 15th February, we will start to send home individualised sight word sheets. Each week the children are asked to practise the sight words regularly at home. Students will receive a new set of sight words once they have mastered the list they are on. Two library picture books will be sent home soon as a home learning task in their library bag on Friday 12th February. We encourage you

to read these stories often throughout the week with your child and discuss what happened in the texts. Please empty the folder each night and return the next day. You can also place notes for the teacher in the folder as it is checked first thing in the morning each day.

### Kindergarten Buddies

Each Kinder child is partnered with a Year 5 student. The Year 5's will assist the children during lunch breaks and have come and visited our classrooms during the first week to do some activities together. A wonderful relationship is formed between the children and we have several get togethers during the year.

### Sport

Please note that our sport days are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - this is when children wear their Sport Uniform. This Term the children are learning Gymnastics, Soccer and Cricket skills. We also have PE (Physical Education) lessons during the week.

**Normal uniform-** Monday and Tuesday.

**Sports uniform-** Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



## Library

Each week the children will visit the library and borrow a book to bring home. Our **Library day is Friday**. This will start Week 3. Please ensure you have a library bag for your child. Students without a library bag will be unable to borrow a book. This can be as simple as a shopping bag or pillowcase. Please return any library books you have at home in their library bag.

This is an overview of your child's learning this Term.

In Religious Education, we begin by learning how we can establish simple prayer routines with a focus on the Sign of the Cross. Key symbols and religious objects in the school and parish environment are explored. Lent and Holy Week will follow as we move towards the Easter season. Students are introduced to Jesus as the one who loves us, who seeks out the lost, who humbly serves others and who provides nourishment.

In English students will read and respond to a variety of stories in different modes. The concept for our English unit is ***retelling stories and rhyme***. The unit has a focus on speaking and listening, group interaction skills and responding to texts. Students will focus on using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces consistently.

In Mathematics our lessons will be varied across all strands, however there will be a strong focus on counting and recognising numbers. We will be using a variety of materials such as counters, dice, pop sticks and blocks to assist with developing an understanding of quantity. We will also be learning about interpreting data, creating and continuing patterns, solving addition and subtraction problems and measuring volume and capacity.

In Science and Technology, our unit of work is called 'How does your garden grow?' where we will learn that all living things have needs to survive and that we can use living things to help us survive. It will certainly spark the interest of these inquisitive little minds! Through working scientifically the children will explore the needs of animals and plants and compare them to their own needs.

Our little Historians will be provided with the opportunity to learn about their own history and that of their family. Students will learn how the stories of families and the past can be communicated. We will also explore different structures of families and lastly, how families and friends commemorate past events.

In Creative Arts, the children will enjoy developing their skills in Drama, Music and Visual Arts. Drama lessons will focus on exploring role-play, improvisation, story telling, mime and movement. In Visual Arts, students will experiment with colour, texture, line and shape, with a focus on self-portraiture and ceramics. In Music students will participate in a whole school Music Viva program.

In Physical Education students will practise using their Fundamental Movement Skills. In Health children will explore what makes them special and learn how to develop good relationships with their family, friends and others.



Communication between home and school – Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have concerns. It is often best to make an appointment by calling the front office. Urgent messages **MUST** be communicated to the front office via a note or phone call to ensure they reach the appropriate person.

The school has a Facebook page which we regularly post whole school information, photos and share the children's learning on. Log in to your Facebook account and search 'St Joseph's Primary Port Macquarie' to like our school page.



**IMPORTANT:** Please note that whilst we post on Facebook from time to time, our main source of information will be in **Joey's Jottings** and the **School App**. Please ring the office if you have any questions about this.

We ask that you read our school newsletter every week which will be emailed to you. **Joey's Jottings** has all the information you will need with links to different online forms. You can find all the newsletters, including past issues, on the school's web page <https://www.pmacjism.catholic.edu.au>. You can also access information through the School App. Please make these your primary source of information regarding your child's schooling.

### PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents & Friends Association (P&F) - The P&F is a great way to meet other parents and become involved. All the info you need can be found on our website. You are very welcome to join us.

School Counsellor and Wellbeing Support - If you feel your child is experiencing difficulty and you would like information on accessing our school counsellor, please see your child's teacher for a referral form and this request will be passed on to our Principal, Mrs Koning. We are also fortunate to have the support of Mrs Hearle in her wellbeing role two mornings a week.

We look forward to working in partnership with you this year!

Kind Regards

Your Kindergarten Teaching Team

Afternoon travel arrangements

To ensure your child’s safety and reduce any potential anxiety, we like to be clear on the afternoon travel arrangements for your child. Please take a moment to complete the details below and return it to your class teacher at your earliest convenience.

..... Please tear off and return ASAP .....

My child ..... in class .....will travel home as follows:

Please tick	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Bus</b> Please include which bus					
<b>Home Lines</b> Please collect from the Hall not the classroom or the class line on the way to the Hall					

Other information (if necessary)