



Term 4 Week 10
Wednesday 16th December 2020
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DIARY DATES

TERM 1	2021
Wednesday 27 th January	MAI Testing (K-6)
Thursday 28 th January	MAI Testing (K-6)
Friday 29 th January	MAI Testing (Kinder)
Friday 29 th January	Years 1-6 Commence Term 1
Friday 29 th January	Twilight Swimming Carnival
Monday 1 st February	
Tuesday 2 nd February	Kindergarten Commence Term 1
Wednesday 17 th February	Ash Wednesday

Wishing all of our families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

We look forward to seeing you back again in 2021.



PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well – what a year 2020 has been. We have had a busy few last weeks as well. In the past fortnight we have celebrated together Christmas by 'spelling it out', our Year 6 students enjoyed an End of Year Disco and Rewards Day celebrations and we held our Awards Assembly via video, and a beautiful Graduation Mass as well as our End of Year Liturgy, again via video. On Monday I shared the following with Year 6 – and much of it refers to our entire community –

“2020 has been challenging and many planned events have not gone ahead but in the words of Billy Ocean (remember him?) “When the going gets tough, the tough get going”... I would like to congratulate all members of our school community, but particularly our Year 6 Students, their families and our staff for the resilience, adaptability and perseverance shown all year and for getting going when the going was tough. 2020 will definitely be a year that the world will not forget quickly. I believe it is also one of which our community can be proud. Proud of the way we all managed disappointments, proud of the creative ways we continued to stay connected – zoom assemblies, phone calls, emails and so on. We can be proud of the way our community looked out for each other. We can be proud of all the learning that happened in spite of the changes we lived through. We can be proud of the creative thinking we used to overcome obstacles. In many respects we can be justifiably proud of our efforts and achievements in 2020.”

Thank you to the many parents who have provided such lovely positive feedback on what they see have been the successes of the year for their child/ren. We have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback, most of which has come via emails and letters over the past few weeks. We thank you most sincerely for this.

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As this is the last Newsletter of the year, I would like to express my personal thanks for the hard work and dedication of the staff of our school. I am particularly indebted to the Leadership Team who have supported the learning and spiritual life of our school – my thanks to Mrs Gosper, Mr Knight, Mrs Rheinberger, Mrs Atkinson and Mrs Jordan. The teaching staff work tirelessly for the children of this school and I continued to be amazed at their talents – a very big thank you to each teacher. Special thanks to Mrs Rheinberger for her work on the Leadership Team over the past few years. In 2021 she will be working on our Diverse Learning Needs Team, as well as working fewer days to have more time for her young family. We welcome Mrs Amanda Day to the Leadership Team in 2021. Our school is also blessed with an outstanding support team of Office Staff, Teachers' Aids, Maintenance and Cleaning Staff – my thanks to each of them. Being part of the Rydalmere Parish, we are also blessed to have Fr Peter who is always happy to work with us and make our faith community stronger.

Finally thank you to each of our families for your support and encouragement. I wish you and every member of your family a very happy and holy Christmas. May 2021 bring you much joy and many successes. For those families moving out of the area or changing schools, we wish you every success. I look forward to seeing all our other families in the New Year – refreshed and ready for learning.

Please find enclosed acknowledgement of student awards, a list of staffing for 2021 and information about starting the new school year.

Continue to stay safe.
Peace and Best Wishes.

Richard Blissenden
PRINCIPAL

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

December 16	Anthony C
December 17	Nathan D
December 19	Daniel A
	Aaron A
	Renae A
December 20	Tabitha M
	Elina S
December 22	Maya R
December 24	Sienna G
	Louis I
December 25	Misha K
	Isabella M
December 26	Natasha S
December 28	Michael K
December 29	Annabella R
December 31	Alexander T
	Gus G

We would like to wish all of these children a very happy birthday!!

LIBRARY THANK YOU!

I would like to take this opportunity to send



to our dedicated team of Coverers!

Thank you so much for covering the many hundreds of library books bought for our students to enjoy. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Happy Holidays and Happy Reading!

Lia Radocchia - Teacher Librarian

SCHOOL FEES

A reminder that all school fees for 2020 are due and payable by 18th December 2020. Please finalise any outstanding amounts by this date.

FROM MR BLISSENDEN...

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

In recent weeks, the students and staff have been collecting items to donate to St Vincent de Paul. This year the Parish volunteers made hundreds of hampers – some are pictured below – which will be delivered in the coming days. St Patricks Dundas also provided donations and together we have collected enough donations to make the **greatest number of hampers ever**. I believe this is another positive to come out of the pandemic – together we are achieving more – in this case for those less fortunate than ourselves. *Thank you for all the donations.*



FURTHER STAFFING UPDATES

Late last week our School Counsellor, Mrs Jeanette Mansour was appointed to a permanent position in our Diocese and our allocation of Counsellor time was increased – this means a change in our Counsellor for 2021 – Mrs Helen Borema will be returning to St Mary's – having been a Counsellor here on two previous occasions. She will be working Tuesdays and Thursdays in 2021.

CLOTHING POOL DONATIONS

Our office is open tomorrow (Thursday) and we would welcome donations of good quality uniforms and school bags. Simply drop your donation off to the ladies in the office. Thank you in advance for your support.

PLATINUM AWARD WINNERS

Our 2020 Platinum Award winners enjoyed a Pizza Lunch yesterday with Mr Blissenden. Congratulations to Louis 1A, Alex 2RM, Gus 4D, Ben 4D, Ellie 4R on receiving a platinum award this year.

DID YOU KNOW... THAT THE CHRISTMAS WREATH HAS SOME A SPECIAL MEANING?

Firstly, the wreath is a **Circle** which has no beginning or end and represents God's life which is everlasting – his love for us has no end.

It is **Evergreen**: their ever-greenness reminds us of life, growth and hope.

The **Candles**: Waiting for Jesus to come.

Purple is for a time of preparation, time to recognise our need for Jesus.

Pink is a sign of joy because we know that God loved us so much that he sent Jesus into the world.

Purple Ribbon: Ribbon is a decoration on gifts. We should give other people some of the love of Jesus through our good deeds and kind words.

FROM MR BLISSENDEN... cont

TEACHERS ARE LEARNERS TOO

Over the past few weeks the staff have completed training in CPR. Each year the staff complete mandatory training in a number of health and safety areas. Our recent external audit noted our training was always complete and up to date!

OSHC MOVES TO COSHC IN 2021

As previously advised our OSHC will cease operations tomorrow and reopen as a COSHC on the 4th January 2021. Through a huge amount of planning and preparation the transition has been very smooth. CDPSL noted that our OSHC has a beautiful community feel and they intend to build on this moving forward. The current committee of President - Gavin Marsh, Vice President - Cassandra Collier, Secretary - Kyha Waddell, Treasurer - Tarisai Makanda and Committee Members - Vanessa Craze, Anthony Ellard and Scott Dowdell – have all continued the long tradition established many years ago by former parents of the school. Our thanks to these and all other parents who have contributed to our OSHC over many years.

KEEPING HOLIDAY BODIES AND BRAINS ACTIVE – Tips and tricks for the holidays...

Encourage every writing opportunity, from shopping lists to journals.

To get younger children to practise their writing skills you could ask them to write down your shopping list. Or you could suggest they make up their own board game or garden assault course — and ask them to write down the rules. Teenagers enjoy experimenting with blog writing or what they post on social media but they have to feel motivated.

Watch films with subtitles (even the ones in English).

Children often read much faster on the screen than they would normally. Watching subtitled foreign programmes is also an effective method of surreptitiously brushing up on language skills. It's an excellent way to be exposed to the language spoken by a native speaker in a conversational way.

How to help your fidgety five-year-old.

One of the best ways parents can get young children — four and five-year-olds — ready for school, is to keep them physically active and busy over summer. Activities that focus on motor development are really useful. Fiddly stuff, like bead threading, pasta on a necklace, Lego, Meccano, glueing twigs together, are good for writing because they improve the fine motor skills. Developing balance is a key skill for young children and is achieved by working on gross motor skills and muscle strength. Walking along a skipping rope as an imaginary tight rope, or walking along a wall, climbing, standing on one leg, learning how to bounce on a space hopper — that's great for balance and core stability.

Do some engineering projects with your 12-year-old.

Lots of children are bursting to get outside and do some practical learning. They throw themselves into design and engineering projects where they can get out in the garden and be more active.

Try the 44 ingenious science challenges from engineers at Dyson, such as working out how to make an egg fit into a bottle without breaking it (jamesdysonfoundation.co.uk). You can also plan and design projects around the home like a new garden or gate.

Acknowledgement: Anna Maxted, The Times, July 11 2020

LIBRARY NEWS...

Congratulations to all our students who completed the Premier's Reading Challenge this year. Well done to the students who have completed the challenge every year since Kindergarten. They will be receiving their Platinum Awards.

Premier's Reading Challenge Awards 2020			
Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Cristian	Aaron	Mitchell	Renae
Ho Yin	Shane	Matilda	Zi Kei
Anthony	George	Isabella	Noah
Romeo	Amandi	Antony	Jacob
Keira	Oscar	Ned	Mia
Chantelle	Riley	Caitlyn	Ewan
Enya	Amarah	Harry	Molly
Olivia	Jemma	Amy	Tabitha
Emme	Alice	Kira	Alexander
Chase	Beau	Luca	Lucas
Oscar	Marcus	Amelia	Gabriele
Isabella	Michael	Gabriel	Heidi
Marion		Aurelia	
Annabelle		Matilda	
Harriet		Nivaan	
Ariya		Jayden	
Zara		Tahlia	
		Isabella	
		Archer	
		Anahita	

Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Special Awards
Joshua	Ashley	Amber	Platinum (7th year of completion)
Gus	Luca	Sanderson	Y6: Sanderson, Gabriel, Lochlainn
Paige	Lucinda	Gabriel	Elise, Alexander
Benjamin	Rachel	Lochlainn	
Antonious	Hayden	Samuel	Gold (4th year of completion)
Alyssa	Misha	Elise	Yr 3: Molly, Alexander, Lucas,
Isla	Jacob	Alexander	Tabitha, Mia, Heidi, Zi Kei, Jacob
Charlotte	William		
Giulia	Alyssa		Yr 4: Daashan, Joshua, Charlotte
Matthias			
Hannah			
Sebastien			
Olivia			
Mitchell			
Daashan			

STAFFING FOR 2021...

KINDERGARTEN	Samantha Brimfield Katrina Beggs / Katarina Tomasic
YEAR 1	Emma Atkinson / Christine Morgan (every Tues) Nicole Dallas
YEAR 2	Fiona Mead Rachael Menday
YEAR 3	Maree Jordan Adele Violaris / Erica Rheinberger
YEAR 4	Amanda Day Taylor Chandler
YEAR 5	Amanda Gierek Vincent Knight / Christine Morgan (Wed, even Thurs)
YEAR 6	Belinda Kirkness Troy Loudon / Jana Clarkson (every Wed)
RFF TEAM	Michelle Dennis—Music Stephanie Speranza - Sport
DIVERSITY TEAM	Trish Waterhouse Rosemarie Gosper Dianne Woods Helen Lupis Dianne Sabat Helen Boerma Lia Radocchia Maree Elias
LIBRARY TEAM	Lia Radocchia Angela Karam
OFFICE TEAM	Susan Albertini Stacey Crismale Angela Karam Kristine Muir
MAINTENANCE TEAM	Barry Lincoln
LEADERSHIP TEAM	Richard Blissenden—Principal Rosemarie Gosper—Assistant Principal Vincent Knight—Religious Education Coordinator Emma Atkinson—Leader of Learning—Mathematics Amanda Day—Leader of Learning—Literacy Maree Jordan—Learning Technologies Support

END OF YEAR AWARDS...

CLASS	ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD	CONSISTENT EFFORT AWARD	CARE AWARD
KB	Harriet S Reanne Keira D	Salvatore C Jacob K	Angela L Taliya A
KGT	Catherine K Olivia M	Ariya S Nicholas S	Emmeline M Tristan T
1A	Christian G Amelia P	Jemma L Alisa S	Louis I Dominic H
1D	Hope Elias Olivia W	Hayon K Adeline T	Riley I Sophia M
2FM	Anahita W Matilda C Isabella W	Sienna A Amelia N	Nivaan S Amy L
2RM	Alexander J Matilda S	Alexia J Eva C	Jackson N Harry G
3G	Imogen S Ava A	Jacob H Giorgia T	Lara K Lucas N
3J	Josephine L Joseph S	Minnie E Jasmin S	James F Amelia M
4D	Michael K Chimamanda I	Sara S Gus G	Sienna C Japreet K
4R	Thomas L Daashan W	Isabella R Torie S	Giulia N Scarlett S
5E	Eddie A Jake B	Ela T Hayden G	Audrey L Paige B
5K	Charlotte L Rachel G	Sean Tang Kristina A	Kiara Z Ryder A
6K	Alexander T Kaisei D	Keira D Brian L	Stella N Monique G
6LV	Tadhg O Sanderson K	Sienna T Rosalea B	Isla B Samuel N

END OF YEAR AWARDS... cont

YEAR 6 END OF YEAR AWARDS	
Academic Achievement	Alexander T
Jo Skinner Care Award	Anthony S
Barbara Curran Award for Excellence in Literature	Elise S
Reg Kline Lions Club Leadership Award	Kaisei D
St Mary's Award for Writing	Elizabeth S & Keira D
St Mary's Award for Oral Expression	Ruby N & Sanderson K
St Mary's Award for Drama	Dominic J & Cooper K
St Mary's Award for Maths	Tadhg O & Alexander T
St Mary's Award for Citizenship	Samuel N
St Mary's Award for Application	Maiya H
Sharon Collette Band Member of the Year	Alexander T
OTHER AWARD	
Helen Turner Award for Community Service	Aurelia R & Cecilia H

