



Term 1 Week 2  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021  
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## DIARY DATES

TERM 1	2021
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Information Session via Zoom Year 2 – 6:15pm Year 5 – 7:15pm
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Information Session via Zoom Year 4 – 6:15pm
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Opening School Liturgy (Pre-recorded)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Information Session via Zoom Kinder – 6:15pm Year 1 – 7:15pm
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Information Session via Zoom Year 3 – 6:15pm Year 6 – 7:15pm
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	ASH WEDNESDAY
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival Mt Druitt

### **KINDERGARTEN START TIME**

**As per the Skoolbag sent out yesterday, for the rest of this week Kindergarten children are to arrive from 8:40am. They will be greeted on the Main ramp and taken into the classroom by teachers.**

**We will advise Week 3 procedures on Friday.**

## PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2021! As you know our fortnightly Newsletter is a major form of communication between school and home and families are invited to read and share the information in the Newsletter.

The first few days of 2021 have been busy and from our perspective very successful. Congratulations to everyone on such a successful start to the year – especially to our amazing staff who were ready for our first arrivals and our fabulous parents who had their children ready for school. Thank you for such a smooth start to the school year.

A special welcome to our new families – you are joining a vibrant community and we trust your time with us will be rewarding.

We have many exciting plans for learning this year and I am looking forward to working with you, your child/ren and the staff this year. A focus for us is our theme “Resilience and Fun in 2021” which will continue to develop the skill of resilience while at the same time emphasising fun in our learning!

It was certainly a fun start for our Kindergarten students who stated Big School yesterday. We were treated to a visit by the Executive Director, ABC News and our own media team. More details inside this Newsletter.

If you have any questions or I can assist you in anyway, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing you at the various Parent Information Sessions over the coming week.

*Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends. Jesus, Inspire us to do our best this year! Amen.*

Wishing you all lots of fun in 2021.

Richard Blissenden  
Principal

### **SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

On Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of January, St Mary's held our twilight swimming carnival at Merrylands Pools. It was a fantastic event, despite the rain and the wind. All 45 participating students displayed excellent sportsmanship, resilience and perseverance. It was wonderful to hear students encouraging and congratulating one another. I would also like to thank all the parents for transporting the students to the event even in back-to-school traffic. It feels great to have sport back on the calendar for 2021.

Antony W (5K) broke a long-held record in the boys 50m backstroke. The record which was held since 2013 was 44.34 seconds and Antony swam the distance at 47.22 seconds. Congratulations Antony on being a St Mary's record holder.

Age Champions are students who had the fastest time in their age group. 2021 Age champions are:

- 8 years girls- Priscilla M
- 8 years boys- Marcus R
- 9 years girls- Amy
- 9 years boys- James F
- 10 years girls- Molly L
- 10 years boys-Antony W
- 11 years girls- Esther L
- 11 years boys- Michael K

### **LIBRARY NEWS**

As you know, every year we purchase new and exciting books for the children to borrow from the Library. We are now looking for parents to help cover these new books with contact. If you are able to volunteer your time to help out, please see Lia in the Library on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday. Your help with this is much appreciated.

### **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

January 1	Luca A
January 2	Oscar L
January 4	Benjamin Y
January 5	Oscar N
January 6	Eliza S
	Neel K
	Mia L
January 7	Alyssa M
January 8	Nevaeah B
	Xavier B
	Alyssa T
	Hope E
January 10	Riley W
January 11	Cecilia H
	Zara N
January 12	Mya C
	Sara S
January 13	Benjamin L
January 14	Ethan C
January 15	Emma B
January 16	William S
January 17	Lucas N
January 19	Heidi W
January 20	Enya L
January 21	Anson Y
January 22	Louie H
	Zachary C
January 23	Chloe G
	Hayon K
January 24	Portia T
	Jenny L
January 27	Ryder A
January 28	Jessica B
January 29	Olivia-Rose B
January 30	Arsh K
	Priscilla M
	Oscar G
	Hyun S
February 1	Anahita W
February 2	Catherine K
February 3	Oliver T
	Romeo D
February 4	Jahzara F
	Justin H
February 6	Jordan H
	Ailish M

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

## FROM MR BLISSENDEN...

### **SPECIAL VISITORS FOR OUR KINDERGARTEN'S FIRST DAY**

Mr Greg Whitby, the Executive Director of Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta was on hand yesterday to meet and greet some of our Kinder students and their families as they dropped their child / children off for their first day. Some of our students were featured on ABC's news bulletin last night after they were interviewed about starting school. It was certainly a fun experience for everyone!



### **SAFER INTERNET DAY**

On Safer Internet Day (Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February) the world comes together with a shared vision of making online experiences better for everyone. The theme is "start the chat" and our students will engage in a number of different activities to promote being safe while on the Internet. A number of parent events have also been organised by the e-Safety Commissioner.



### **PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS**

Due to current restrictions our 'Meet the Teacher' / 'Parent Information Nights' will be held virtually.

A Skoolbag notification with the Zoom link will be shared shortly. The dates and times of each grade session is shown below:

<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	6.15pm = Year 2 7.15pm = Year 5
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	6.15pm = Year 4
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	6.15pm = Kinder 7.15pm = Year 1
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	6.15pm = Year 3 7.15pm = Year 6

### **ST MARY'S MOTHERS GROUP & PLAYGROUP**

Calling all mums of children 0-5 years old! Come and join us for our playgroup session starts on **Tuesday, 9 February at 9.30am** in the Parish Hall (access from Myrtle Street).

Playgroup will run weekly during the school term. Pop in for a chat, a coffee and make new friends. We hope to see you there! For further information contact Natalie at [nhochbaum@hotmail.com](mailto:nhochbaum@hotmail.com) or 0418 600 358 who will ensure to adhere to COVID protocols.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION...

GRADE	SPORT DAYS	LIBRARY DAYS
Kindergarten	Thursday and Friday	Wednesday
Year 1	Wednesday and Thursday	Tuesday
Year 2	Wednesday and Friday	Thursday
Year 3	Thursday	Thursday
Year 4	Tuesday and Thursday	Thursday
Year 5	Tuesday and Friday	Thursday
Year 6	Friday	Wednesday (6K) Tuesday (6L)

### **STAFF LIST FOR 2021**

KINDERGARTEN	Samantha Brimfield / Katrina Beggs / Katarina Tomasic	
YEAR 1	Emma Atkinson / Nicole Dallas / Christine Morgan	
YEAR 2	Fiona Mead / Rachael Menday	
YEAR 3	Maree Jordan / Adele Violaris / Erica Rheinberger	
YEAR 4	Amanda Day / Taylor Chandler / Michelle Dennis	
YEAR 5	Amanda Gierak / Vincent Knight / Christine Morgan	
YEAR 6	Belinda Kirkness / Troy Loudon / Jana Clarkson	
RFF TEAM	Michelle Dennis—Music / Stephanie Speranza - Sport	
DIVERSITY TEAM	Trish Waterhouse Dianne Woods Dianne Sabat Lia Radocchia Pauline Davison	Rosemarie Gosper Helen Lupis Helen Boerma Maree Elias Katarina Tomasic
LIBRARY TEAM	Lia Radocchia / Angela Karam	
OFFICE TEAM	Susan Albertini Angela Karam	Stacey Crismale 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	

## TOP TIPS FOR STARTING THE YEAR...

I shared the following 'top tips' last year – but they are very relevant as we start a new school year – I hope you are able to use them in the coming days and weeks.

1. **Ask about your child's day.** Stay involved in your child's education, beyond helping with homework. Even small things, like asking a child what happened at school, can be the difference between a child who unplugs at the end of the day and one who continues thinking about what they learned. Give them the kind of feedback that acknowledges and respects their feelings, so they know you are really hearing them.
2. **Let your child see you making mistakes.** Parents are their child's first teacher and their lifetime teacher. Part of being a teacher is teaching your child how to deal with making mistakes. Let them see that you can make mistakes and deal with it so they will understand it's not a big deal and they can cope when they trip up.
3. **Keep up to date with what is happening at school.** Check for the Newsletter each fortnight and read through all the information, note important dates on your family calendar or in your electronic calendar. You can also follow what is happening on our website and by using the SkoolBag app. Show your child you value education and they will too.
4. **Don't tell your child that you weren't good at school** ("I was never a good speller" or "I was couldn't do maths"). Some parents might feel intimidated by the thought of talking with their children about maths, especially in the upper grades, but maths is here to serve you, not to trip you up. Maths should make life easier, and mastery can start at home with parents showing that they're not frightened by numbers. Make learning fun!
5. **Get organised with a colour-coded system and a checklist.** Older students are expected to be more independent and manage their assignments themselves, but as they transition from primary school to high school, they might find it hard to keep track of everything. Try using colour-coordinated folders and notebooks to help children keep their material for different subjects organised. Keep a written checklist by their school bags so they can make sure they have packed everything they need.
6. **Don't compare your child with others.** Don't put pressure on children to be just like others. There's no such thing as the child that's like every other child. They are all different. They all have strengths and weaknesses, they all have talents and challenges.
7. **Help your child make connections to literature.** To help your child get the most out of books, focus on problem-solving, social skills and life experience. Take your child to the zoo (life experience). Teach them to ask an adult for help if they lose something (problem-solving) or to hold the door for others (social skills). With skills like these, children will be able to relate their own life experiences to those of book characters, improving their comprehension. If they don't have these life experiences, when they are asked to make deeper connections to reading material, it's hard for them.
8. **Don't do everything for your child.** Sometimes it's faster to do things yourself than wait for your children to complete a task. But having everything done for them means they don't learn take care of themselves. Empower your children to think for themselves and be more responsible for themselves.

# TERM 1 PLANNER AT A GLANCE...

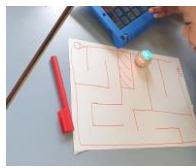
WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
<b>Week 1</b> Jan 25 - Jan 31	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup> <b>Australia Day Holiday</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> Teachers Commence MAIs	28 <sup>th</sup> MAIs	29 <sup>th</sup> Yr 1 to 6 Commence  Swimming Carnival 5-7	30 <sup>th</sup> /31 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Week 2</b> Feb 1 – Feb 7	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> All Kinders Commence	3 <sup>rd</sup> Band resumes	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Week 3</b> Feb 8 – Feb 14	8 <sup>th</sup> Parent Information sessions 6:15pm-Year 2 7:15pm-Year 5	9 <sup>th</sup> Parent Information sessions 6:15pm-Year 4	10 <sup>th</sup> Opening School Liturgy (pre-recorded)  Parent Information sessions 6:15pm-Kinder 7:15pm-Year 1	11 <sup>th</sup> Parent Information sessions 6:15pm-Year 3 7:15pm-Year 6	12 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Week 4</b> Feb 15 – Feb 21	15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup> <b>Ash Wednesday</b>  Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival Mt Druitt Pool	18 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Week 5</b> Feb 22 – Feb 28	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup> /28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Week 6</b> Mar 1 – Mar 7	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Staff Prayer 8:30am	6 <sup>th</sup> /7 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Week 7</b> Mar 8 – Mar 14	8 <sup>th</sup> Catholic Schools Week	9 <sup>th</sup> Diocesan Swimming Blacktown	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup> OPEN DAY for new families	13 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Week 8</b> Mar 15 – Mar 21	15 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup> Year 6 Canberra Excursion	18 <sup>th</sup> Year 6 Canberra Excursion	19 <sup>th</sup> Year 6 Canberra Excursion	20 <sup>th</sup> /21 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Week 9</b> Mar 22 – Mar 28	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup> NAPLAN online practice test	24 <sup>th</sup> NAPLAN Online Practice Test	25 <sup>th</sup> NAPLAN Coordinated Practice Test 11:30 (Writing)	26 <sup>th</sup> NAPLAN Online Practice Test	27 <sup>th</sup> /28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Week 10</b> Mar 29 – Apr 1	29 <sup>th</sup> 3WIs	30 <sup>th</sup> 3WIs	31 <sup>st</sup> 3WIs	1 <sup>st</sup> Term 1 Concludes  <b>HOLY THURSDAY</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>





Real Robotics/Coding, Life-long Inspiration, Serious Fun!

Creative Coding / Robotics (Pre-school, Kindy, Year 1)



Give your child the ability to think critically and learn to solve problems in a safe, collaborative, and fun environment



Age Appropriate Programs

Curriculum aligned activities



Screen-Free Coding / Robotics

Coding  
(Years 2, 3, 4)



Learn Scratch Coding using world-class Google Computer Science (CS) First curriculum

Robotics  
(Years 3+ & High School)



Learn to Code motors and sensors and progress through stages to learn advanced coding and robotics

Tinker Lab  
(Years 2+ & High School)



Build, code & tinker with LEGO® Robotics, Wearable devices, Micro: Controllers, Virtual Reality & more..

STEM Programs  
/ Competitions



Participate in global STEM programs such as FIRST® LEGO® League (FLL) and solve real-world problems

Online and face to face school holiday programs