



Term 1 Week 2  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022  
Website: [www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmarysrydalmere.catholic.edu.au)

1 Myrtle Street, Rydalmere  
Ph: 8844 5700  
Email: [stmarysrydal@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmarysrydal@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## DIARY DATES

TERM 1	2022
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Kindergarten commences
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Twilight swimming
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Information Sessions Year 4 @ 6pm Year 2 @ 7pm
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Information Sessions Year 6 @ 6pm Year 3 @ 7pm
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Information Sessions Year 1 @ 6pm Kindergarten @ 7pm
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Parent Information Session Year 5 @ 6pm

— WELCOME —  
BACK TO SCHOOL

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first edition of our fortnightly Newsletters. The Newsletter is one form of communication from the school to our families – messages, updates, photos, notices and reminders are all included in the Newsletter and we hope you find it a valuable source of information over the course of this year.

A special welcome to the many new families joining our community this year. We have over 40 new families, many starting with their eldest in Kindergarten. There are other families joining us in almost every other grade – we trust that you feel very welcome and enjoy your time at St Mary's.

Joining our team this year are Ms Jakelic, Mrs Laso, Mr Mangunay, Miss Roseman, Miss Hartley and Miss Sheridan. You are joining a vibrant and exciting community in Rydalmere and we hope you find your journey both professionally and personally rewarding.

I'd like to, again, thank all our families for being so prepared for the school year. The past two days have been so smooth it feels like we have been back for weeks (not just two days). Thank you for your support of your child/children and of the school. We look forward to welcoming the Kindergarten families and students to school, tomorrow.

In today's Newsletter you will find information on important dates, suggestions for starting the year on a positive note and many reminders. Details are repeated in the Newsletter of the Parent Information Evenings to be held next week and I look forward to speaking at each of these.

Cont..

Please don't hesitate to contact me over the course of the year if I can be of any assistance to you or your family.

*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.*

Take care

Richard Blissenden  
Principal

### **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 3	Charis S
January 4	Ella F Benjamin Y
January 5	Oscar N
January 6	Eliza S Neel K Mia L
January 7	Alyssa M
January 8	Hope E
January 10	Matilda H Harrison H Riley W
January 11	Zara N
January 12	Sara S
January 13	Benjamin L
January 14	Ethan C
January 15	Emma B
January 17	Lucas N
January 19	Zoe C 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 28	Jessica B
January 30	Oscar G Priscilla M
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 Eva P
February 7	Patrick D James F
February 9	Cordelia C Scarlett S
February 12	Siyun K

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

## **PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS**

Information nights will take place in week 3 (next week). They will be conducted via zoom with log in details to be shared shortly. I look forward to speaking on each zoom meeting. The teachers of each grade will present to parents at the following times:

MONDAY 7 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY			
Year 4	6pm	Year 2	7pm
TUESDAY 8 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY			
Year 6	6pm	Year 3	7pm
WEDNESDAY 9 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY			
Year 1	6pm	Kindergarten	7pm
THURSDAY 10 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY			
Year 5	6pm		

## **STAFF LIST FOR 2022**

<b>TEACHERS</b>		
KINDERGARTEN	Nicole Dallas / Samantha Jakelic	
YEAR 1	Corena Laso / Stephanie Speranza / Clark Manguay	
YEAR 2	Fiona Mead / Rachael Menday	
YEAR 3	Maree Jordan / Troy Loudon / Adele Violaris	
YEAR 4	Amanda Day / Talise Rosman	
YEAR 5	Vincent Knight / Ida Orlandi / Taylor Chandler	
YEAR 6	Belinda Kirkness / Danielle Hartley	
<b>SPECIALIST TEAM</b>	Michelle Dennis—Music / Stephanie Speranza - Sport	
<b>DIVERSITY TEAM</b>	Erica Rheinberger Jana Clarkson Helen Lupis Dianne Woods	Trish Waterhouse Lia Radocchia Dianne Sabat Louise Hampton
<b>LIBRARY TEAM</b>	Lia Radocchia	Angela Karam
<b>OFFICE TEAM</b>	Susan Albertini	Kristine Muir
<b>LEADERSHIP TEAM</b>	Richard Blissenden - Principal Deb Sheridan – Acting Assistant Principal Vincent Knight - Religious Education Coordinator Amanda Day - Leader of Learning Corena Laso – Leader of Learning Maree Jordan - Learning Technologies Coordinator	

## 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 them 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 Compass 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 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 to take care of themselves. Empower your children to think for themselves and be more responsible for themselves.

## BOOK CLUB

Scholastic Book Club is a long established book seller who distributes catalogues to schools allowing students and their parents to purchase books. The catalogues are sent home twice per term. The start of the year is a good opportunity to support your child in their reading through Book Club.

You can order and pay online for your child's Book Club purchases using a credit card via LOOP (the Scholastic online order platform). The order will be electronically linked to our school. No orders will be taken or cash collected by the school. Please order and pay via the website.

### HOW TO ORDER USING LOOP

1. Sign on or register an account at: [scholastic.com.au/loop](http://scholastic.com.au/loop) or by using the LOOP app, which can be downloaded from the App store or Google Play.
2. Click on ORDER and select school and child's class.
3. Add child's first name and last initial (so we know who the book is for).
4. Enter the product item number from the Book Club catalogue.
5. Make payment via credit card.
6. All orders will be delivered to St Mary's and distributed to the children.

Book Club benefits our school as every Book Club order placed results in the school receiving 20% of the order spend in reward points which are used to purchase educational resources for the school.

Any questions please contact Kristine Muir – Book Club Organiser on 8844 5700 or by email [kmuir2@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:kmuir2@parra.catholic.edu.au)



