



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI NEWSLETTER

Term 1

Week 2

3rd February 2023

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we educate our students.

WELCOME TO 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to an exciting new year of faith, fun and learning. Together with the students, parents, teachers, parish and wider community we look forward to working as a team in partnership towards developing all our students spiritually, emotionally, socially and physically. I hope that you all had the opportunity to rest and spend some precious time with family away from the normal routines of life.

Congratulations on a great start to the school year by all the children. I have been very proud to see the children quickly settling into their learning and enjoying their time playing with their friends. A very special welcome to new families along with our Kindergarten children who started this week. The children all looked so smart in their school uniform and we thank you all very much for paying particular attention to making sure that your children had their correct uniform on. We would like to wish the children a year of wonderful learning and success.

You should be extremely proud of your school, St Francis, it's welcoming atmosphere and the way that over 400 children gather together each day to grow, learn and develop in their own unique way. We are sure parents would be excited to be back on the school site and amazed by how the playground is being refurbished. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful facilities at St Francis.

A rewarding journey into 2023 awaits as we aim to develop the whole child and foster their lifelong relationship with Christ. We thank you as parents for your trust as we work in partnership to provide a place of faith and learning that strives to nurture your child. As parents and partners in your child's education I encourage you to work alongside the talented, dedicated and professional staff here at St Francis of Assisi as they provide and facilitate opportunities for your child to grow to their full potential. Your support is appreciated and is an integral part of the success of St Francis.

We look forward to working with you as the first educators of your children to make 2023 a most rewarding year.

We also extend a welcome to the following staff who are new to our school community: -

Mr Jason Fisher - Assistant Principal

Mrs Rose Keane - Diversity Leader

Mrs Ana Dedovic - Year 2 teacher

Mrs Andrea Santos - Year 1 teacher

Miss Emily Galdes - Year 1 teacher

Mrs Melinda Parker - RFF Teacher

Mrs Sally Standen – School Counsellor Wednesday / Thursday to support our current counsellor Mrs Veronica Morrison

I would like to welcome back our school staff who have already been working hard in preparation for the arrival of the children. The administration staff have been busily organising classroom resources, class lists and ordering whilst settling into their new office. The teachers have returned to work with their usual enthusiasm setting up their learning spaces and have organized some very exciting learning experiences to commence the term.

We look forward to working with you as first educators of your children to make 2023 a most rewarding year.

Thank you for your continued support. It is in partnership we can achieve great things for the children in our care.

Jenny Bellenger

Principal

FROM OUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - MR JASON FISHER

Thank you to everyone in the St Francis community for the warm reception. It is a privilege and honour to be part of such a thriving community.

In 32 years of working in Catholic Education (10 years as an Assistant Principal) across 8 schools, it has allowed me to work in partnership with a range of communities to ensure all our children come to know God and flourish in all they do.

As a husband, father and teacher, I appreciate the importance of developing strong relationships, hard work and the ability to laugh. As a Parramatta fan I have developed the ability to deal with things that do not go your way and I am looking forward to everyone's support in their wins and definitely commiserations when they lose.

I also highly value open communication, as it is the key to any successful community, as it creates an environment where issues get dealt with when they are small rather than leaving them to grow.

Even though I have only been part of the community for a week, I can already see that St Francis is a special community and I am really looking forward to getting to know everyone.

Jason Fisher
Assistant Principal

Did you know

Your child's best learning time is the start of the school day
just a little bit late doesn't seem much but

| He/she just missing, | That equals .. | Which is ... | and over 13 years of schooling that's ... |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 10 minutes per day | 50 minutes per week | Nearly 1.5 weeks per year | Nearly half a year |
| 20 minutes per day | 1 hour 40mins per week | Over 2.5 weeks per year | Nearly 1 year |
| Half an hour per day | Half a day per week | 4 weeks per year | Nearly 1 and a half years |
| 1 hour per day | 1 day per week | 8 weeks per year | Over 2 and a half years |

every learner
every day 


Catholic Education
Diocese of Parramatta

A MESSAGE FROM OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

*At the beginning of this new school year, we ask for your mercy:
bless the students, teachers, and staff of St Francis of Assisi,
that together we may grow in faith, hope, and love
as we learn from you and each other
how to follow your Son Jesus.
Expand the horizons of our minds,
that we may grow in wisdom,
understanding, and knowledge;
deepen our commitment to seek the truth of your ways;
and enliven our faith to reach out to those in need.*

Amen

Opening School Mass

Please join us as we celebrate the beginning of a new school year.

WHEN

Friday 17 February 2023

10 am start

WHERE

School Hall



A MESSAGE FROM OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

It is exciting to finally be able to invite you all back to celebrate Mass again with our school community. We have been eagerly awaiting for this special day.

Our Opening School Mass is an opportunity to gather as a school community to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. A new school year is a time to be reminded of all the blessings our school community has to offer. And there are many!

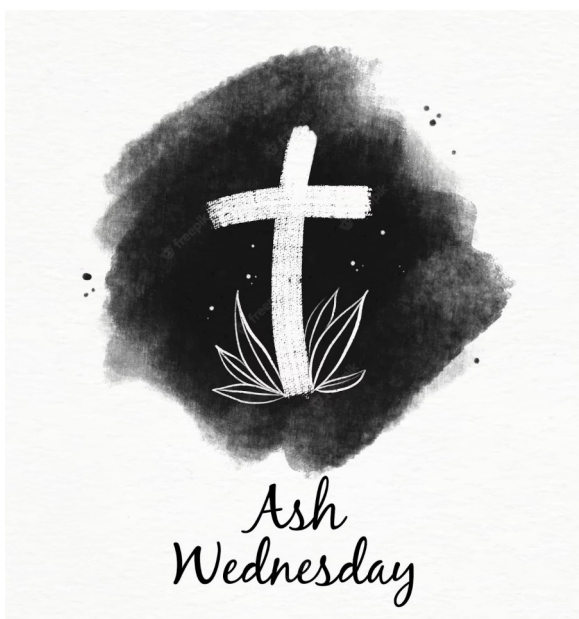
It is an opportunity to pray for each other and for the whole school family.

It is a time to warmly welcome and pray for all new families, students, and staff members to our St Francis community. In particular, we excitedly welcome our new Kindergarten students. Finally, we acknowledge, bless and pray for our new school leaders for 2023, the Year 6 students.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

The season of Lent is upon us. Lent and Easter are times of renewal and commitment to new life.

Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) that commences on Ash Wednesday and goes to the Saturday before Easter, which is the holiest and most special day of the year for all Christians. Lent is often described as a time of preparation and provides us with a wonderful opportunity to deepen our relationship with God through a dedication to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is a time for personal reflection that prepares people's hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter.



Please join us as we celebrate Ash Wednesday with a whole school Mass on;

Wednesday 22nd February at 10 am in the school hall.

This Mass will be led by our Stage 3 students.

COMMUNICATION POINT OF CONTACT - WHO CAN HELP?

Schools are very complex places with thousands of interactions occurring weekly! It is important for everyone in our community to be aware of the structures in place at St Francis that enables effective communication.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Classroom Teachers</p> | <p>Any classroom-based matters relating to your child's wellbeing and learning (including outside of school that may affect your child while they are at school)</p> |
| <p>Diversity Leader Rose Keane</p> | <p>Any concerns about your child's learning including medical issues - generally after you have spoken to your child's class teacher. Copies of reports from outside agencies i.e., Learning/behaviour/medical. Personalised Plans</p> |
| <p>Administrations Officers Mrs Brenda Jackson Mrs Christina Williams</p> | <p>General enquiries, school communication, enrolments, appointments, medication, first aid, late arrivals.</p> |
| <p>Finance Officer Ms Lee-Ann Falconer</p> | <p>School fees, purchasing and payments, assets, first aid, medication, late arrivals.</p> |
| <p>Library Mrs Patreece Griffiths-Smith</p> | <p>Any issue pertaining to the library, including borrowing and book covering.</p> |
| <p>Leadership Team Mrs Jenny Bellenger Mr Jason Fisher Mrs Cristina Cignarella Mr Chris Boyer Ms Lisa Walsh Mr Frank Daglis Mrs Sandra El - Hakim Mrs Rose Keane</p> | <p>Support for any social, emotional and/or behavioural concerns. Please contact the relevant member of the Leadership Team only after you have worked through support options with your child's classroom teacher.</p> |
| <p>Grade Leaders</p> | <p>Early Stage 1: Ms Lisa Walsh Stage 1: Mrs Cristina Cignarella Stage 2: Mr Chris Boyer Stage 3: Mr Jason Fisher</p> |

COMPASS PARENT PORTAL

As we begin the new school year it is timely to take a few minutes to check that your communication channels are all up to date and working as they should be.

It is important to check that you are receiving notifications from the Compass Parent App. This is the most common reason why people do not see the messages when sent out.

SCHOOL FEES

Statements for school fees will be posted out by Monday 13th February 2023. Payments are due by Wednesday 15th March. If your arrangement was stopped or cancelled for 2022 you will receive Flexible Payment Plans (FPP) documents with your first 2023 school fees statement. Billing periods for 2023 are as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Invoiced 15th February | 27/01/23 - 15/05/23 |
| Invoiced 1st May | 16/05/23 - 01/09/23 |
| Invoiced 24th July | 02/09/23 - 19/12/23 |

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to maximise their potential. It is a legislative requirement that students attend school every day unless of course they are unwell, or it is imperative that they attend an important event.

If your child is absent from school, the office does need to be notified by 9.30am. This can be done via the Compass Parent App, email or phone.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As a school, we work with families to ensure that our students wear their uniforms correctly and are suitably presented at all times. We believe that by encouraging students to take pride in themselves and their appearance, we are establishing important life skills, promoting self-esteem and a sense of belonging to our school community. Students at St Francis are required to wear the correct school uniform every day and this includes their school hat. The sport uniform is only to be worn on designated sports days. The uniform policy can be found in this newsletter.

MATHEMATICAL ASSESSMENT INTERVIEWS (MAI)

Last Monday our teachers all appreciated the opportunity to meet with each child to conduct their MAI. It was the perfect opportunity for the teachers to make a personal connection with each child before everyone meets together as a class. I know that a number of children were prevented from attending the MAI for a number of reasons. The teachers will endeavour to complete the MAI with these students over the next few weeks.

SPORTS DAYS

Each grade will wear their sports uniforms on the following days during Term 1:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kindy - Wednesday & Friday | Year 4 - Tuesday & Friday |
| Year 1 - Thursday & Friday | Year 5 - Wednesday & Friday |
| Year 2 - Monday & Tuesday | Year 6 - Thursday & Friday |
| Year 3 - Tuesday & Friday | |

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

We are most mindful of the need to get to know our students. Therefore, in order for teachers to gain valuable insights about your child and their needs, we ask you to complete a questionnaire which was sent home today with your child on a pink paper. We ask that once completed you return it to the class teacher in a sealed envelope by Friday 10th February. Further communication from classroom teachers will occur in the coming weeks.

DIOCESAN SCHOOL FEES

Annual Diocesan Tuition Fee can be paid upfront at the start of the year or as three equal instalment payments in Terms 1, 2 and 3. The fee is only charged for the first three (3) children currently enrolled in the diocese (in other words there is no additional Diocesan Tuition Fee for the fourth child attending a systemic school in the diocese or other participating Catholic schools - see **'Sibling Discounts'** below). To work out how much the fee is for each child, check the table below.

Per Year:

| Per Year | 1st Child | 2nd Child | 3rd Child | 4th Child |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Kindy | \$1272 | \$954 | \$636 | Nil |
| Years 1 to 6 | \$1644 | \$1233 | \$822 | Nil |

Per Term:

| Per Term | 1st Child | 2nd Child | 3rd Child | 4th Child |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Kindy | \$424 | \$318 | \$212 | Nil |
| Years 1 to 6 | \$548 | \$411 | \$274 | Nil |

Diocesan School Building Levy For 2023

\$ 855 - per family per year

| | |
|--------|-------|
| Term 1 | \$285 |
| Term 2 | \$285 |
| Term 3 | \$285 |

School based fees will be:

Resource Fee: \$234 per child

Activity Fee: \$273 per child

Year 6 Camp: \$207 per child

KINDERGARTEN 2023

There was great excitement on Thursday morning as our new Kindergarten students commenced their first week at St Francis. It was wonderful to watch the children arrive at school so smartly dressed in their new uniforms and so enthusiastic for their next part of their life's journey. They have all settled in well to school life. We look forward to welcoming our new Kindies at our Opening School Mass.



LABELLING OF ITEMS

After the expense of purchasing uniform items, there is nothing worse than the loss or misplacement of them. More often than not, it has just been left in the school playground or been picked up by another child. Avoid undue stress and ensure **ALL BELONGINGS** are clearly labelled with your child's name. If items are labelled they are put into our lost property box, and these items will be returned to the appropriate children.

IMPORTANT ALLERGY INFORMATION

At St Francis, we have a number of children who have severe allergies to nuts. While allergic reactions are common and most are not serious, for some people the reaction can be life threatening. This is called anaphylaxis and can occur in minutes of an exposure to a trigger, in these children's case, nuts.

We see prevention as a major part of providing a safe environment for these children. So as to support our community's effort in this regard, parents are requested not to send nuts or foods containing nuts to school with their children.

The following list gives examples of such foods.

- Peanuts, hazelnuts, almonds, cashews, macadamia nuts
- Peanut butter
- Nutella
- Biscuits and cakes containing nuts
- Snack packs containing nuts
- Chocolate bars containing nuts e.g. Picnics, Mars Bars (almond), Nut Breaks and Fruit and Nut chocolates.
- Marzipan and nougat
- Breakfast cereals containing nuts e.g. Crunchy Nut/Honey Nut Cornflakes, Muesli, Nutrigrain
- Muesli Bars and snack bars containing nuts
- Yoghurt and nut mixer packs
- Confectionary items such as Lolly Gobble Bliss Bombs and Rocky Road
- Uncle Toby's yoghurt muesli bars.

We realise that there may be trace elements of nuts in a variety of other foods. However, if you use the above list as a guide you will be doing your part. Parents can also reinforce with their children that sharing food is not allowed at St Francis. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the school. Thank you for your support and understanding in helping us cater to the health needs of all of our children.

BIRTHDAY TREATS

Celebrating a birthday is something all children look forward to!

If your child wishes to bring a treat to school to share with their friends (purely optional), we kindly ask that you send in cupcakes or donuts. Cupcakes or donuts are preferred as they are easy to hand out and are a treat that all children enjoy. Due to a multitude of allergies present, we ask that you do not send lollies, chocolates or other treats. Similarly, at Easter or Christmas, we ask that you do not send in lollies, chocolates or candy canes.

If your child has allergies, you are welcome to send some cakes in a labelled container for your child, which will be kept in the freezer in the staffroom and given out as necessary. Thank you for supporting us as we endeavour to keep all children safe.

HOW CAN YOU RECEIVE A NEWSLETTER?

The newsletter will be sent out to families through the Compass Parent App or you can subscribe to the newsletter through our website. This year the newsletter will be sent out three times a term, the beginning, middle and end.

PARKING IN THE STAFF CAR PARK

Just a friendly reminder to our families that no parents are permitted to park in the staff car park. The car park is for staff only. Please use the drop off or car pick up bay if you do not want to leave your vehicle. This is a much safer option as the car park gets quite busy and is unsafe for children. Please also remember to wait your turn in the car pick up queue whether it be in the morning for drop off or in the afternoon for pick up. We have been advised that some parents have been 'jumping the queue'. Not only is this unfair for those who have been waiting their turn but also very unsafe.

AFTERNOON DISMISSAL

You will now be able to come onto the school grounds to collect your children at the end of the school day. We do ask if you can stand on the playground, away from the learning streets when collecting your children. If your children are in Years 3 to 6 you will also need to remain downstairs on the playground.

Kindergarten children and their siblings will be dismissed at 2.50pm for the next couple of weeks.

Please have a chat with your children so you can arrange a meeting place. Car pick up and COSHC will remain the same.

Thank you for your cooperation.

WHY IS MY CHILD'S TEACHER OUT OF CLASS?

Like professionals in other fields, all teachers are required to keep up to date with current thinking on best practices and new developments in areas such as technology. From time to time teachers are required to attend professional development opportunities to learn about changes to curriculum, new methods of teaching and learning, and other ways of integrating technology. These sessions sometimes occur during the day, after school or in the school holidays. Teachers also have entitlements such as long service leave, maternity leave, family leave, sick leave, bereavement leave, jury duty etc. Consequently, there will be times when your child's teacher is absent from the classroom. On these days the teacher's program and day book is followed. Teachers on a grade work closely together allowing the grade partner to liaise with the relief teacher so that good teaching and learning continues, and routines are kept. We thank you for your support in this matter.

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRIMARY SCHOOL



ENROLING NOW KINDER TO YEAR 6 FOR 2024

CONTACT THE SCHOOL ON 8886 9600

OR EMAIL stfrancis@parra.catholic.edu.au





St Francis of Assisi Primary School Uniform and Grooming Policy

We take pride in our school uniform and encourage the children to do so too. It is important that the children wear the appropriate uniform on the correct day to suit the activities planned. Parents are asked to ensure their children wear the correct uniform and not deviate from the items mentioned in the list.

School Bag

- St Francis of Assisi school bag is compulsory for all students.

Jewellery

- Students with pierced ears are to wear only one set of plain gold or silver sleepers or studs.
- Nail polish and / or make up is not to be worn.
- Only signet rings may be worn to school, no other rings may be worn by students.
- Only medical bracelets may be worn. Ornamental bangles, bracelets, charity bands or anklets are not to be worn.
- A single necklace of religious nature may be worn underneath the student's school uniform.

Hair

- Hairstyles are to be neat and simple and devoid of any cosmetic colouring or bleaching.
- Boy's haircuts are not to be multilayered (such as pronounced undercuts, designs or steps), or below the collar in length (including rats tails) unless there are religious or cultural reasons.
- Girls or boys with shoulder-length hair or longer are to have it tied back away from the face and eyes. This is for hygiene reasons and to allow clear vision.
- All hair accessories worn by girls are to be in plain school colours of green and yellow or students may wear white or black hair accessories.

Shoes

- School shoes are to be black and polishable.
- Sports shoes should be appropriate runners or joggers and does not include high-tops, mid-cut shoes, slippers or trend shoes. This is to provide appropriate adequate support during physical activity.
- Sports shoes are to be predominantly white or predominantly black and devoid of bright colours, patterns or slogans.

School hats

- Students are to wear the correct school hat every day, regardless of weather. If students do not have a hat, they will be directed to remain in the designated shaded areas.
- Hats are to be worn correctly, with the flap down and the peak of the cap pointing forward.
- Hats should be in good condition and should not be drawn on or have stickers placed on them.
- Old or torn hats should be replaced as quickly as possible.

Basis of discretion

- Families who cannot purchase the correct uniform due to financial reasons are encouraged to use the uniform pool or speak to the principal.
- On fitness days, students are to bring their sports shoes to school in a bag. They must change back into school shoes after fitness.
- Year 6 students are allowed to wear their souvenir graduation polo shirt on sports days.
- Parents should submit an explanatory letter informing the school about an incorrect clothing item being worn.
- Classroom teachers are responsible for maintaining and checking that the correct uniform is being worn. If there is no parent explanation supplied about a student's incorrect uniform, a uniform note, from the class administration folders, will be sent home to parents.

All items of clothing must be clearly marked with the child's full name. Shoes should be marked on the inside. The school accepts no responsibility for items which have been lost.

If for any reason, including religious reasons, a child is unable to wear correct uniform parents are required to supply a letter of explanation.

Pack your child a **HEALTHY LUNCH BOX**

Choose a variety of foods from each food group



Fruit



Vegetables



Dairy



Wholegrains



Lean meat & alternatives



A Healthy Lunch Box



MAKE WATER YOUR DRINK



PACK ICE BRICKS TO KEEP FOOD COOL



USE A THERMOS TO KEEP FOOD WARM



Health
Western Sydney
Local Health District

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

every learner every day

ABSENCES ADD UP!



=



=

MISSING MORE
THAN**1**YEAR OF
LEARNING IN**12**

YEARS

DID YOU KNOW

**1 IN 6**

PRIMARY STUDENTS ARE NOT
ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY!

EACH DAY MISSED:

- ▶ Puts your child behind and makes it harder for them to catch up
- ▶ Can lead to lower achievement in reading, writing and numeracy
- ▶ Can lead to gaps in learning and social connections

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO



GOOD HABITS BEGIN EARLY



Good attendance starts in Kindergarten and sets students up for success in their school life

SCHOOLS ARE THERE TO HELP



If you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address it.

every learner
every day 

