



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

KEMPSEY

(ESTABLISHED 1884)

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3rd February, 2017

Welcome to the 2017 School Year

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Welcome to the 2017 School Year. A special welcome to all of our new students and to the 18 new families who have joined our community this year. We also welcome back Mrs Alli O'Donnell and Mrs Nicole Edwards who are returning from leave.

As the staff and I welcome you to the new year, we would like to provide you with a few updates and general reminders to ensure that we continue to flourish and grow as a Catholic school community; working in partnership to ensure that our students have the best opportunity to be the best young people they can be.

2017 School Vision and Goals

As we enter the year we wish to advise you of our school goals for 2017. Last year was a wonderful year to consider the future of our school through the 5 Year Strategic Planning Process. We have attached a Parent's Guide for your reference and below is an outline of five of the central goals our staff has set for our learning community this year:

- To foster and nourish a "Culture of Expectation" for all learners.
- A focus on Positive Behaviour for Learning
- High quality Mathematics instruction
- Christian Meditation and Prayer
- Consistency and clear expectations with regard to all aspects of our school life.

Attendance

It is a legal requirement that all children from six years of age attend school. Children are expected to attend all school activities. Regular attendance at school helps your child develop the skills they need to access the world. It also enhances their ability to learn the importance of punctuality and routine and make friendships. Parents are asked to limit the amount of times their child arrives late to school or departs early.

School commences at 8.55am and concludes at 3.10pm daily. We understand that children get sick, families have commitments and sometimes life can intervene with our regular plans, however, where possible please encourage full attendance at school because "every day counts".

Uniform

Thank you for your efforts in preparing children with the correct uniform to commence the school year. Attached is information regarding our expectations:

- As a duty of care it is our responsibility to ensure that our students wear a hat when they are outside. At St Joseph's we have a **"no hat, no play"** policy. This is non-negotiable as we must ensure the safety of our children when exposed to the sun. Only the school approved hat can be worn to school.
- Students are required to wear black leather joggers or black polishable shoes. Canvas shoes present a safety risk and are not a part of our school uniform.
- Decorative earrings, additional piercings, anklets and bracelets are not to be worn to school as they are not considered part of our uniform. Our policy states the following "One (1) silver or gold stud/sleeper only is permitted in each ear, no bracelets except for the Medi Alert types, one silver or gold necklace/chain with Christian symbol and watches are the only acceptable jewellery". Please ensure you discuss this with your child.
- Dyed hair, hairstyles such as spikes, patterning, mohawks and rats tails are not permitted at school.

Thank you for your support with this matter. The way we present ourselves is a reflection of our school, our family and ourselves. Our co-commitment to this will ensure we shine in the community.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

In 2017 we will be working towards a school wide approach to managing student behaviour. This will be done through nurturing a culture of learning through "Positive Behaviour for Learning" (PBL). Our staff have already engaged in professional learning regarding this framework and we will keep you informed as we progress forward this year. As always, we believe in promoting the wonderful achievements of our students.

We have an expectation that all students have the right to learn in a safe, respectful and supportive Catholic school environment and that all teachers have a right to teach and be respected. We expect that children are at school for learning and we are committed to ensuring that we educate our children to make positive choices both in and outside the classroom. Our shared commitment to this is ongoing.

Communication

We encourage ongoing communication with our families. Please refer to our weekly newsletter, letters, flyers and emails. Information can also be accessed via our school website, Skoolbag or by phoning the school. Attached is a copy of our School Calendar for Term 1.

I wish to draw your attention to the following upcoming events:

- Next Wednesday we will host our **Parent Information Evening**. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your child's teacher and to gain valuable information about the year to come. We encourage all parents/caregivers to attend. Please refer to the accompanying flyer for further information.
- Thursday 9th February at 9.30am we will gather as a community for our **Opening School Mass**.
- Tuesday 21st February at 5.30pm is the **P&F AGM**. The P&F is a vital group in the life of our school and we would encourage all new and interested members to attend.
- **Learning Conversations**: This year we will host our Learning Conversations at the end of Term 1. These will take place Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd March.

We believe that this will be a prime opportunity to provide parents with information regarding their child's progress early in the year so that collectively we can set goals to support your child as the year continues. Academic reports will be distributed at the end of Semester 1 and 2 as usual and additional interviews with staff can be booked upon request.

Please note the Term Dates for the 2017 School Year and Pupil Free Days. The inclusion of one additional Staff Professional Learning Day has been made by the Catholic School's Office. On Tuesday 23rd May Staff will attend *Proclaim*. All staff across the Diocese will attend this experience throughout the month of May.

2017 Term Dates:

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| Term 1 | Tuesday 31st January to Friday 7th April (10 Weeks) NB: Easter Break Good Friday 14th April to Easter Monday, 17th April |
| Term 2 | Wednesday 26th April to Friday 30th June (10 Weeks) |
| Term 3 | Monday 17th July to Friday 22nd September (10 Weeks) |
| Term 4 | Monday 9th October to Friday 15th December (10 Weeks) |

2017 Staff Professional Learning Days:

The following days are Pupil Free Days;

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| Term 1 | Friday 27th January Monday 30th January |
| Term 2 | Monday 24th April Tuesday 23rd May |
| Term 3 | Friday 22nd September |
| Term 4 | Monday 9th October Monday 18th December Tuesday 19th December |

Medical Updates & Contact Details

Please be mindful of informing the school of any diagnosis or change in medical conditions for your child so that the school plans and records are current and accurate. This is especially important for those students with Asthma, Anaphylaxis, diabetes and other medical illnesses. Also if there are any changes to family contact details.

School Photos

These will be held on **Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th June**. Children will need to wear their full academic winter uniform with polishable black shoes and school ties.

Commitment to Learning

As a staff we are committed to all of the children in our care. We will always do our very best to ensure that we meet the needs of each learner educationally, emotionally and spiritually. Please promote to your children the importance of education and learning to ensure that we continue to be mutually committed to your child's learning. A positive school/parent partnership is an important relationship and we look forward to working with you and your children in the year ahead.

Many blessings,

Melissa Turner

PRINCIPAL