

Newsletter

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St John the Apostle
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, TARNEIT WEST

54-76 Kingbird Avenue
Tarneit VIC 3029

PH: 8754 4300

IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

Tuesday 13th October 2020

Principal's Message

With the return to onsite learning this week what clearly stood out to me as students arrived, is the important part schools play in the wellbeing and development of our young people. As students exited cars and entered the school gates, it was fantastic to see them so eager to see their school friends and teachers. On entering the building, students quickly remembered their morning routines and proudly set themselves up in their new spaces. Adding to the excitement was the fact that our new building is now available for use. The Year Prep and One classes are now located in this area, which in turn means, our Year Two's and Year 5/6s have now also moved learning spaces.

The coming term now has a positive flavour with the reopening of schools. We do however have some quite restrictive constraints which will present some challenges for our school. School gatherings and excursions are not yet permitted and unfortunately, parents cannot come onsite. These restraints have the potential to create a level of disconnect within our community.

I would like to congratulate and acknowledge the wonderful work parents have done in supporting the school and their children during the prolonged period of remote learning. The emails and messages of encouragement by parents have been a crucial part of teachers being able to sustain the hard work required over the lockdown period.

Over the coming weeks the school will focus heavily on assessing students so we can then adjust our Term 4 curriculum to address areas which need attention. We will build student stamina to make it through a full day of learning and also implement activities which engage students so they look forward to coming to school each day. Let's now hope and pray that we continue to recover from this pandemic.



**Welcome Back Free Sausage
Sizzle Luch**

Friday 16th October

Footy Colours Day

Thursday 22nd October

Grand Final Public Holiday

Friday 23rd October – no students at school

Report Writing Day

Monday 2nd November – no students at school

Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Tuesday 3rd November – no students at school

Community Masses

Community Masses will be replaced by the Parish Masses which are streamed live at 11am each Sunday morning. For more information, please go to <https://www.standrewswerribee.org.au/>

School Masses

Details to be advised

Sacramental Celebrations

First Eucharist – Cancelled (New date to be confirmed)

Parish

Information

Parish Mass Times

Saturday Evening—6pm

Sunday Morning—8am, 9:30am, 11am.

Sunday Evening—5pm

St Andrew's Parish Church

105 Greave St Nth

Werribee, 3029

Ph: 9741 4144

Priests:

Fr. Albert Yogarajah (Parish Priest)

Fr. Anil Mascarenhas

Fr. Anton Aseervathampillai



Drop Off & Pick Up Procedures

Our drop off and pick up procedures have been developed in accordance with Government Restrictions and our school's COVID Safe Plan.

Drop Off 8:30-8:50 am

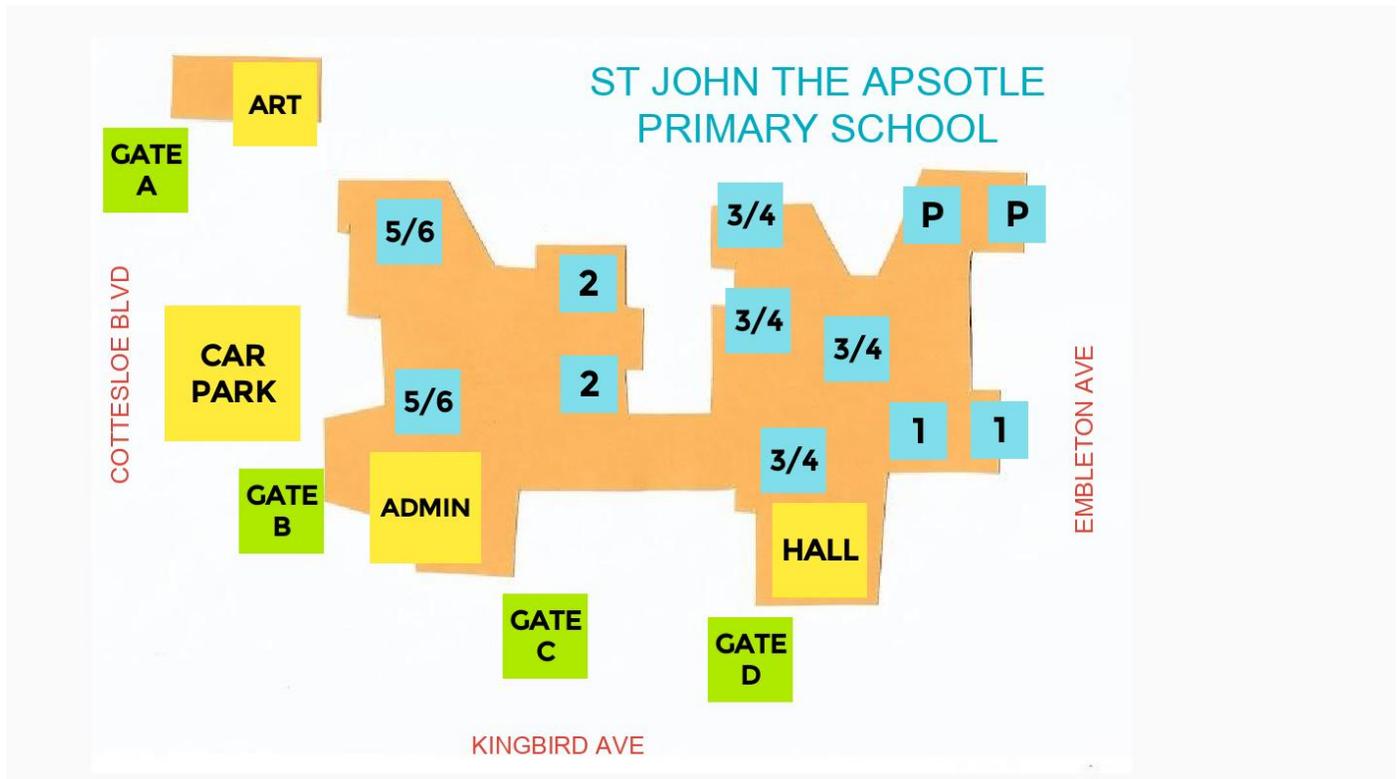
- Children walking to school enter via GATE A & B (see Map)
- Cars dropping students off enter the carpark and proceed to drop off zone
- Parents are NOT permitted to leave their car or go beyond the school gates.

Pick Up 3:15 pm

To comply with social distancing, we are staggering student dismissal using four exit points (see Map). Students will exit from the gate allocated to the class of the YOUNGEST SIBLING of each family.

- GATE A - Year 5/6s
- GATE B - Year 2s
- GATE C - Year 3/4s
- GATE D - Year Preps & 1s

To reduce congestion, parents may like to consider meeting children at a designated spot, in a nearby street. This will mean students can leave school independently and fewer adults need to congregate near the school gates.



Sports Uniform Days

Sports uniform are to be worn on the following days:

Tuesday – Year 3/4, Year 1 and Year 2

Wednesday – Prep & Year 1 and Year 2

Thursday – Year 3/4 & Year 5/6

Friday – Year 5/6 & Prep



Families Wishing To Continue Self Isolation

The Department of Health and Human Services have now deemed it safe for schools to return to onsite learning. Parents who choose to continue to isolate their children should be aware of the following:

- You must contact the principal and discuss your reasoning behind your decision.
- The school is not in a position to provide resources and guidance on your child's home learning program.
- The end of year report on your child will omit key areas due to the school being unable to implement reliable assessments to determine their progress.

School Hats for Sale

With such a long break from school many children do not have school hats. If you require a hat the school has purchased some in bulk and has them for sale for \$15 from the front office.

Important School Closure Dates

- **Grand Final Public Holiday**
Friday 23rd October – no students at school
- **Report Writing Day**
Monday 2nd November – no students at school
- **Melbourne Cup Public Holiday**
Tuesday 3rd November – no students at school



Uniforms

School Uniforms can be purchased from Rushfords Schoolwear @ 13 Barnes Pl, Werribee. Rushfords continue to operate for contactless click and collect, email, phone and postal delivery orders only. Once an order has been processed, you will be advised via phone or text message and it can then be collected from the store. Unfortunately, Australia Post is taking a long time to deliver – sometimes up to 10 days.

While the store is 'manned' during these times to facilitate orders, there is no face to face contact or normal store transactions. Rushfords are not permitted under retail restriction laws, to open the doors and admit customers for normal retail operations. This restriction has not always been understood by families and has caused some frustration for families from many schools.

The store is manned at the following times to answer any telephone or email queries and to process online orders only:

- Monday – Friday 9 am to 5 pm
- Saturday – 9 am to 12 noon

School Devices

A reminder that all St John's devices including Chromebooks, Laptops and iPads (and chargers) should now be returned to school. Thank you to all the families who promptly returned theirs yesterday, enabling us to begin cleaning, repairing and updating all devices.



Good Luck Mrs Arabajieva!

We thank Emily for her dedication and hard work throughout the year and we wish her all the best as she begins Maternity Leave next week. Mrs Arabajieva will be working with Mrs D'Souza over this week, ensuring all relevant information has been passed on regarding student progress.

Prep 2021 Orientation

Under current restrictions, schools in Metropolitan Melbourne are not yet permitted to implement Prep 2021 transition sessions. We are hopeful when Metro Melbourne moves to the next stage of restrictions, we will be able to hold our anticipated session on Wednesday 28th October.

We will confirm whether or not this session will go ahead on Monday 26th October via email to all our Prep 2021 families. This information will also be posted on the website and on our school app. We apologise for the short confirmation timeline and we appreciate this may cause difficulties for some families. Please don't hesitate to contact the office should you need any further clarification.

Year 5/6 Camp

Throughout the lockdown, we have remained in close contact with staff from PGL Adventure Camps. Due to Government Restrictions we will be unable to hold a camp this year. We have however made a tentative booking for Term 4 2021, in the hope that by then restrictions will be lifted and metropolitan students will be able to participate in school camps. Our staff have begun investigating some alternative ways to celebrate with our Senior Students, particularly our Year 6s.

Footy Colours Day

In line with AFL Grand Final celebrations, we will be holding a Footy Colours Day on Thursday 22nd October. Students are invited to wear the colours or jumper of their favourite team from the AFL or other footy codes. If you are unsure what to wear Mrs Baldwin thinks you should start barracking for Collingwood because you can't go wrong in Black and White!



Baby Chicks Update

Over the holidays the Werner family looked after the baby chicks who hatched in the last week of Term 3. As you can see from the picture, all three are doing very well and now have a good covering of feathers. Over the weekend the chicks were moved from the 'Brooder' (a heated box located inside the building), to the chook pen. They will be separated from the older chooks for some time until they all grow accustomed to one another. Many students have asked if they are male or female and this still remains a mystery. Identifying the gender of young chicks is a very specialised skill. We will need to wait until the chickens are about 3 months old to know if any of them are roosters.



Praying The Rosary

October is dedicated as the Month of the Rosary as we celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary each year on October 7th. This feast celebrates a time in history when the Pope had asked all Christians to pray the rosary, requesting the intercession of Mary to keep Europe safe. Like then, now would seem a great time for all Christians to pray the rosary. As a family you may wish to start by saying a daily decade of the rosary. Imagine the divine power behind the simple act of each family saying one Our Father and ten Hail Mary's.



