



# The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

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## Term 2 Week 5

Wednesday 27th May 2020



*Dear Parents/Carers,*

### PRAYER TO OUR LORD FOR THE GRACE OF HEALING AND PROTECTION

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages *"curing every disease and illness."* At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Stay with us Lord, and grant us your peace.

Amen.



*It was wonderful to welcome our students back to St John's this week.  
The children were excited to be back in their classrooms with their peers and teachers.  
It was lovely to hear their voices and see the positive interaction of the students.*

Please be aware that it is an expectation that all students need to return to school full time unless they are unwell. If students are absent from school without an explanation this will be recorded as absent (A) in the roll. If your child is absent from school due to ill health or another reason a letter of explanation must be sent into the school. If parents / carers believe that their child has a condition which means it is not safe for them to return to school, a medical certificate will need to be obtained stating the 'condition' and given to the school principal.



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This means students are either:

- at school
- at home because they are currently unwell
- at home because they have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition of their own or a family member.

**As we return to more normal school routines and learning experiences there will still be restrictions on some of the activities that will be held in schools.**

**Sport and physical programs** will initially focus on 'non-contact sports.' The resumption of unrestricted sport (sport gala days, inter school and diocesan competitions and other physical activity) will be in line with CEDP guidelines and NSW Health.

**School assemblies, school snack shack, incursions and excursions** will be on hold for the foreseeable future.

Furthermore, as the sharing of food items is considered an unsafe practice parents are unable to send birthday cakes / treats to school.

**Lunch orders** are still available on Monday and Friday.

For health reasons students are **not permitted to use the water bubblers** at school. Students must bring a water bottle each day.

Parents and Carers were advised last week (via email, SkoolBag, Facebook) of the change to **St John's drop off and pick up procedures**. We will monitor this procedure over the next two weeks and make adjustments if and when necessary. I am pleased to report that on the whole our drop off and pick up procedures was quite effective in the first few days. Thank you to those parents and carers who supported us with this change.

**I would like to remind parents and carers that the parish carpark has been designated to our families who surname falls in the A - K range and the McCulloch Street entrance is to be used by families in the L - Z range.**

***It was noted that a few parents / carers (in the L - Z range) have been using the parish car park drop off and collection point.***

***To Clarify***

## **MORNING DROP-OFF**

**ENTRY POINT 1. (A-K) Students with surname beginning with letters A-K are to be dropped off in the parish car park either using the kiss and drop facilities or by parking the car and walking the student to the gate.**

**ENTRY POINT 2. (L-Z) Students with surname beginning with letters L-Z enter the school via the front pedestrian gate on McCulloch Street. Parents are required to park on Wood Street and walk their child to the gate.**

## **AFTERNOON PICK-UP**

**PICK-UP POINT 1. (A-K) Parents with students surnames beginning with letters A-K are required to park in the parish car park and wait for the teacher on duty to bring their child out.**

**PICK-UP POINT 2. (L-Z) Parents with students surnames beginning with letters L-Z are required to park in Wood Street and wait near the front pedestrian gate on McCulloch Street for the teacher on duty to dismiss their child at the gate.**



Parents and carers will be receiving a **Semester One Report in Week 10** that will be different to previous reports. This semester we will not be providing an A to E scaled report due to the disruption to learning caused by Covid-19. In accordance with NES (NSW Education Department Authority) and CEDP directives the Semester One report will provide information on student progress in Religious Education, English and Mathematics based on student work samples during the semester and assessment tasks. At this stage we are planning to have Parent / Teacher meetings early in Term 3. The type of meeting will be dependent on the Covid-19 situation and guidelines around social distancing requirements. Further information will be given in due course.

### **Winter School Uniform**

The children who have been attending school this term on their rostered days have looked very smart in their **Winter Uniforms**. I remind parents and carers that St John's uniform is compulsory for all students. Our uniform can be purchased at Lowes. Some parents have advised the school that the girl's tab ties have not been available. Lowes has advised that the ties will be back in stock this week. Parents and Carers please be advised that we have some uniforms in stock in our second hand uniform shop. If you would like to purchase from the uniform shop please contact Mrs Cremona in the office and she will arrange the purchase. I would also appeal to parents and carers to donate any unwanted items of uniforms to our second hand uniform shop for others to purchase.

*I would like to thank our parents and carers for your wonderful support during these uncertain times. It has been pleasing to know that parents and carers have appreciated our regular communications; the ongoing support from teachers and our processes for the gradual (and safe) transition of our students back to St John's and for ensuring that we continue to maintain a safe and supportive school environment for the children in our care.*



*God Bless Patricia*



**ASSISTANT  
PRINCIPAL**

Everyone's good at something!

Supporting kids' confidence.

**How confidence develops**

As most students return to the classroom full time this week after many weeks of completing school work on line we need to work together to support their return to school. This means spending more time on learning, communicating with peers and teachers. It also means more expectations are placed on them by parents, carers, teachers and also from themselves.

As children progress through Primary school they see how well they do things compared to others and their view of their own abilities often changes. They learn that they are good at some things and not so good at others. They begin to notice how other children and teachers respond to what they do.

These things influence children's confidence in their abilities. They also influence how willing they are to have a go in situations where they feel unsure.

**Confident thinking**

Self-esteem is an important part of confidence. Having good self-esteem means accepting and feeling positive about yourself. Confidence is not just *feeling* good but also knowing you are *good at something*.

Helpful ways of thinking include:

- believing that, if you try, you can succeed
- finding positive ways to cope with failure that encourage having another go
- enjoying learning for its own sake by competing with your own performance rather than that of others.

**Optimistic thinking**

Optimistic thinking recognises what has been achieved instead of what has not. It looks at the glass as half full rather than half empty.

Parents and carers can help children focus on their own effort and on achieving personal goals as the best way to measure success.





## **Dealing with disappointment**

Everybody fails to achieve their goals sometimes and it is important for children to understand and be able to deal with these disappointments. Parents, carers and teachers can help by:

- Responding sympathetically and with encouragement, e.g. "That was disappointing, but at least you had a go."
- Helping kids focus on what they can change to make things better, rather than thinking that the situation is unchangeable or that there is something wrong with them, e.g., "What can you try that might make that work better next time?"
- Challenging 'I can't' thinking by showing, and saying, you believe in them and reminding them of what they have achieved.

## **How parents and carers can help**

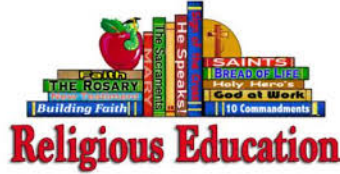
Confidence improves through building on small successes. Parents, carers and teachers can help by:

- explaining to children that skills develop with practice
- encouraging children to persist when they don't succeed straight away
  - praising effort, persistence and improvement
- making sure that goals are achievable by breaking down large tasks or responsibilities into small steps
- being ready to help when necessary, without taking over.

Have a good week.



*Judith Murphy Assistant Principal*



## Month of May - Mary

The Month of May is dedicated to Mary, In May, we commemorate the Blessed Virgin Mary's extraordinary role as a mother to both Jesus Christ and the whole Catholic Church. Despite the hardships she faced in her life, she always stayed committed to her faith and her role of bringing to life God's promised son.

In our Catholic Faith, we are taught the three core values of Mary. These were embodied by the Holy Mother in the way she lived her life. These values are humility, simplicity and Charity. Let us take some time out of our day this week to pray to Mary either by saying the rosary or by saying an extra Hail Mary and let us aspire to live these values out in our everyday lives.





## STAGE TWO

Stage two students have thoroughly impressed us with their online learning skills this term! Thank you parents for supporting your children with their learning at home during this time.

Stage two welcomed a new student, Jyugaad, to our class last week. Our friendly students have made him feel very welcome to St John's.

We have had a very busy start to the term. In Geography we have been researching the geographical features of Australia and China. We have been learning about Properties of Matter in Science. We have been deepening our understanding of the Risen Jesus in Religious Education and in Mathematics we have been working to improve our skills in Two-Dimensional Space, Addition and Subtraction, Data and Fractions and Decimals. In English we have been reading and writing informative factual texts.

Here is a small selection of some of the fantastic work that has been submitted by students over the last few weeks.

### **English Information Report**

**By Shritik**

**Title Great Barrier Reef**

#### **What is the Great Barrier Reef?**

The great barrier reef is the largest coral reef in the world and it's also Australia's largest structure. It has 2900 reefs and 900 islands and it is bigger than Tasmania and Victoria combined together. It stretches for 2013 km long. It's on the East coast of Australia Queensland. ....







## **Why is the Great Barrier Reef important?**

The Great Barrier reef is important because it has a lot of sea creatures living there. The Great Barrier reef is a home to a lot of animals such as coral sharks, sea turtles, water snakes, 16000 fish, octopus, stingrays, giant clams, coral and even seagulls. We don't want them to die out because they are beautiful and lovely creatures. Every animal plays an important role in the environment and in the life cycle.



## **What are some threats to the Great Barrier Reef?**

The Great Barrier Reef is under danger because of pollution, changing climate and fishing.

There are many more threats and one of them is coral bleaching. When water gets hot it creates coral bleaching and when coral bleaching happens coral will die. Ocean acidification is another one of the threats because oceans suck carbon dioxide and makes animals die or make them move from there. Anchors are also a threat because coral is delicate and when anchors grip to the coral they die. Even humans are a threat to the Great Barrier Reef when they touch or walk on them the coral will die. Pesticides are a big threat because the dugongs can become extinct, pesticides poison seagrass and dugongs feed on seagrass.







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## Information Report

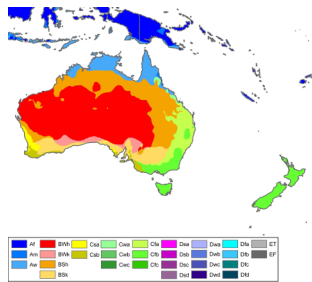
By Sienna.Maggio-

All about Australia.

## Classifying Statement

Australia is a country. The current population of people in 2020 is 25, 499, 884. The Australian language is English, however several other languages are spoken from different cultures.

Aboriginals are Special to Australia because they were the first people on the land.



## AUSTRALIA'S CLIMATE

Australia has many states in it because Australia is a big country. Every state has many climate zones within it. The types of climate zone are Tropical, subtropical, desert and grasslands.

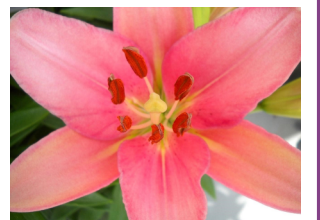
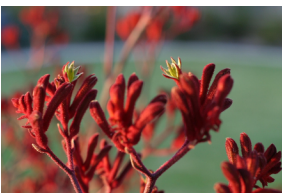
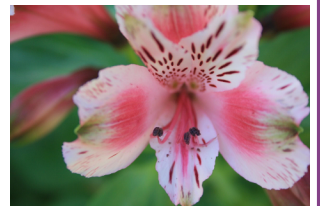
## Australia's Natural Formations

Australia is home to many different land forms like Ularu (Ayers rock), The Three Sisters and the 12 Apostles. There are many more, that are all famous. And people go and see them every year.



## Australia's Flora

Australia has many native flora such as Desert flame, Kangaroo paw, Canberra bells, Pink rock lily, Aussie box, Lilly pink and Bottle brush.





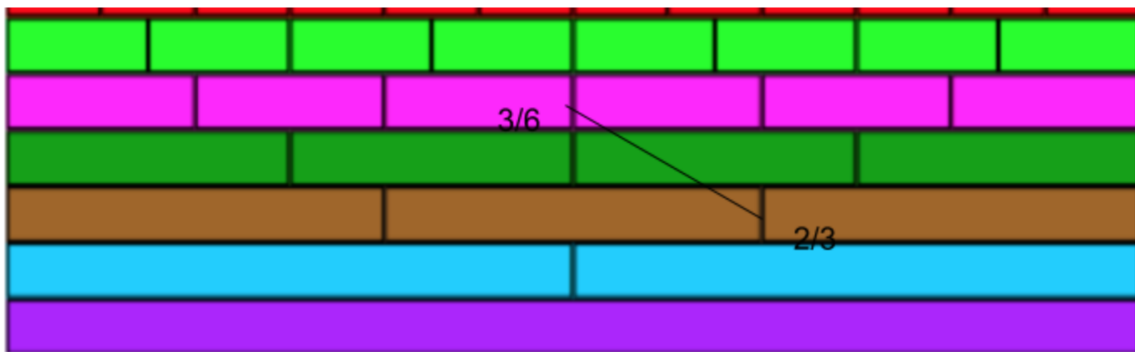
## Maths

Pippa was able to prove her solution to the problem using this fractions wall.

Which is larger:  $\frac{2}{3}$  or  $\frac{3}{6}$  ?

$\frac{2}{3}$  is bigger

Can you prove your answer?



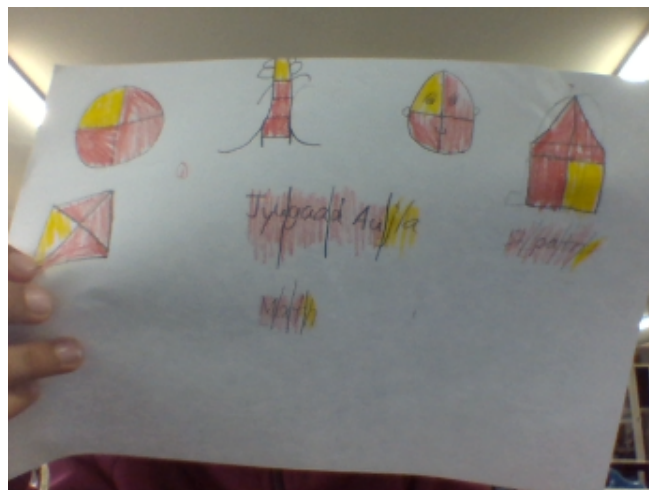
The distance of  $\frac{2}{3}$  is greater than  $\frac{3}{6}$

Jyugaad thought of some great responses to this task.

Task: How many different designs can you make that are  $\frac{3}{4}$  red and  $\frac{1}{4}$  yellow.

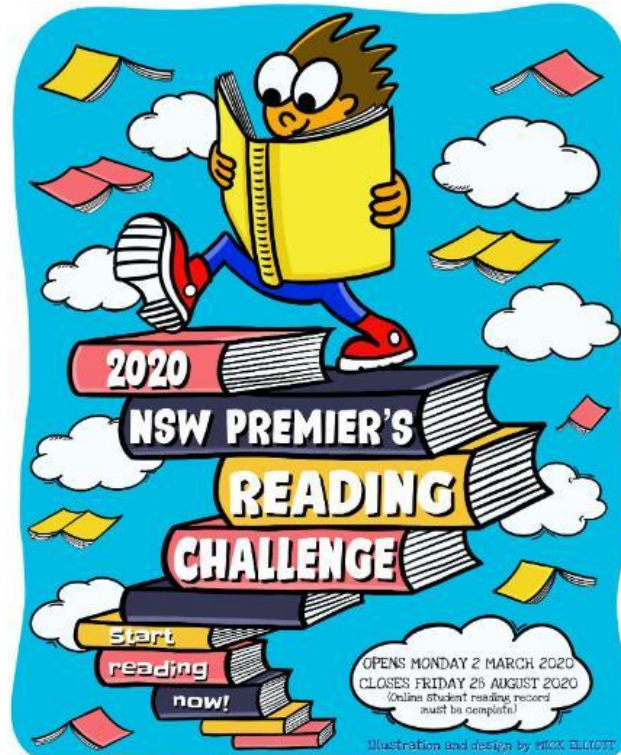
How creative can you be?

Insert a picture here of your designs.





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[www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au](http://www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au)



**OVERDUE  
BOOKS NEED TO  
BE RETURNED  
ASAP**



*Mrs Abbott*









## ***REQUEST TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION AT SCHOOL***

If your child needs to be administered medication at school (this includes any over the counter medications/creams), Parents/Carers are required to complete a '**Request to Administer Medication at School**' form completed and signed by the prescribing doctor (or a separate letter from the doctor can be submitted to the school office. The letter must state the child's name, class, type of medication, dose and the time it needs to be administered and be signed and dated by the doctor.

**All medication must be in it's original labelled container.**

'Request to Administer Medication at School' forms can be collected from the school office.

**WE STILL HAVE A NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED THEIR UPDATED ASTHMA ACTION PLANS FOR 2020. THIS INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE SENT INTO THE OFFICE AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.**

**PARENTS/CARERS ARE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT ALL MEDICATION IS KEPT IN DATE AND THE OFFICE HAS A READY SUPPLY AT ALL TIMES**

Thank you for your continued support

# ***ST JOHN'S***

the  of the **COMMUNITY**



## SCHOOL OPAL CARDS FOR BUS TRAVEL

**ALL STUDENTS TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL BY BUS  
ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A VALID OPAL CARD**



**(either a School or Child/Youth Opal Card)**

**Please remind your child/children to**

# **TAP ON and TAP OFF**



**every time they get on and off the bus**

For more information and to apply for a School Opal Card call 131 500 or apply online at [www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students/](http://www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students/)



**REMINDER THAT PARENTS/CARERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO  
PARK IN THE STAFF CAR PARK OR WALK THROUGH THE STAFF  
CAR PARK WHEN THEY DROP OFF OF PICK UP THEIR  
CHILD/CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL.**

*THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS IS PARAMOUNT AND WE APPRECIATE  
YOUR CO OPERATION REGARDING THIS VERY IMPORTANT MATTER.*



## How to install the SkoolBag app

instructions for parents and community

1. Get your favourite mobile device
2. Open the App Store/Play Store
3. Search for "SkoolBag"
4. Download the free app
5. Open the app and add your school(s)

for Apple users



Download on the  
**App Store**

for Android users



GET IT ON  
**Google Play**

for more info visit [skoolbag.com.au](https://skoolbag.com.au)

**SkoolBag**



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newsletter, event reminders and news  
[www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au)

## School

5 McCulloch St Riverstone 2765

Tel: 9854 3200 Email: [riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au)

[www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au)

**Principal: Patricia Charlton**

Office Hours 8.30am - 3.30pm

## Parish

Cnr Garfield Rd & McCulloch St

Riverstone 2765 Tel: 9627 2276

Email: [stjohns10@bigpond](mailto:stjohns10@bigpond)

**Parish Priest: Father Zakaria Gayed**

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 6pm, Sunday 7am & 9am