



The Evangelist

St. John's Primary School, Riverstone

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Term 3 Week 1

Thursday 15th July 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Term 3 – Well, it certainly wasn't the holiday break we were all looking forward to at the end of Term 2. We weren't expecting two weeks of lockdown and then to have the lockdown extended. I do hope, that during these very unpredictable times that our children and their families were able to enjoy some fun and or restful holiday activities together.



This week the NSW Government and (CEDP) released advice to schools on responding to the ongoing challenges of COVID-19. This new advice is in response to the virus spreading in a number of areas and the virulence of the 'Delta' variant. As you would now be aware the lockdown has been extended to at least 30th July.

During this week's COVID-19 press conferences, the Premier **reiterated strongly that all members of the community should only leave home for essential reasons, which are:**

- Shopping for food or other essential goods and services (one person only);
- Medical care or compassionate needs (only one visitor can enter another residence to fulfil carer's responsibilities or provide care or assistance, or for compassionate reasons);
 - Exercise with no more than 2 (unless members of the same household);
 - **Essential work**, or education, *where you cannot work or study from home.*

The health and safety of our school community (students, staff and families) **has been and will always be our top priority.** In the last 18 months we have developed and actioned a number of very effective COVID safe plans when the need arose that will assist us as we confront these new challenges.

It is important more than ever to do everything possible to keep every member of our community safe.



Below are the procedures that will continue

- Drop off and pick up procedures (refer to the latest information shared on skoolbag 'End of Term' update Thursday 14th June.)
 - QR code to be used when parents / carers / staff come on site
 - Masks to be worn when entering the administration block / school
 - Students and staff should not attend work or school if unwell, even with mild [symptoms of COVID-19](#). Any person with any COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home and can not return until they have received a negative test result and are symptom-free. In circumstances where children have other medical reasons for recurring symptoms, a letter from their GP is required to negate the requirement for a negative test.
 - Please continue to monitor the NSW Health web page for locations where there may have been exposure to COVID-19 and adhere to the advice as appropriate.
 - Physical distancing guidelines are to be maintained at all times - this includes the 4 square metre restrictions and 1.5m distancing for adults.
 - Thorough cleaning of school site
 - Good hygiene practices including regular hand washing and using hand sanitiser to be maintained
- Any changes to the above information will be communicated promptly to our community.***

Update on Building Project

The building project was started in the holidays. To date the following has been completed: staff toilets, staffroom, and IT room have been painted; the external of block E has been painted; (woodwork still to be painted); the student toilet facilities and the canteen have been gutted. The contents of the canteen have been relocated to other areas in the school. The fridge and freezer from the canteen have been moved to the undercroft. A barrier has been erected to ensure students are kept from these appliances for their safety.

Athletics Carnival

Friday 18th June St John's students participated in our annual **athletics carnival**. The whole day ran very smoothly due to the thorough preparation of Mrs Tolhurst and the cooperation and teamwork of so many. A huge thank you to our parent volunteers who gave up their time to take up special roles to assist on the day.

Both the staff and students appreciate and value your contributions. I would also like to acknowledge the parents / carers for supporting the Year 6 BBQ fundraiser. You did a fantastic job organising the lunch packs and the sausage sandwiches were delicious. Thank you!

The total raised was \$789.00, well done everyone!!!

Friday Assembly

As previously advertised Stage 3 were to showcase their learning at Friday's assembly with parents and carers invited. Unfortunately, we had to cancel this event due to the current COVID-19 situation.

We thank you for your understanding.

Cancellation / Postponement of planned events

Unfortunately, due to Health Orders and CEDP regulations a number of planned school events will either be cancelled or postponed. In the coming weeks the following has been cancelled:



Celebrating 200 years of Education, Staff Development Day, Stage 2 and Stage 3 Soccer Gala day, Incursion – World of Maths, St John's Open Day. We will advise our parents / carers of further cancellations when we are advised.

Tell Them From Me – Reports

We have received the 'Tell Them From Me' reports for St John's. The Tell Them From Me survey is a comprehensive evaluation system that includes web-based student, teacher and parent surveys. This evaluation system provides indicators of student engagement and wellness, and the aspects of classroom and school learning climate that research has shown affect student engagement and learning outcomes.

Overall St John's results are extremely pleasing. I look forward to sharing the data with you in the very near future. Again, I would like to thank all parents / carers who completed the questionnaire. Parent questionnaire data, along with student and staff data is vital when considering school improvement initiatives for the future.

Prayer for our School

Loving Father, Thank you

for all who are part of our school.

Please grant them your encouragement, wisdom and peace.

Strengthen teachers

with heavy workloads.

May they be firm, yet patient, expecting excellence but forgiving mistakes.

May they support their students, playing to strengths, helping with struggles and motivating them to do their best.

Comfort and restore

those living under shadows of unhappiness, abuse, pain or fear.

May many find faith discovering their identity in You and knowing Your amazing grace in their lives.

Please pour out Your blessings

upon our whole school community.



God Bless Patricia



School Fees Update

Due to current COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, the printing of Instalment 3 statements has been postponed until further notice.

If you have a payment arrangement with us, please continue to use the payment details provided on your agreement.

If you require any information or require assistance, please contact Natalie on 02 9854 3200



Please mark these dates on your calendar and make alternate arrangements

**Staff Development Days Coming Up
Monday 13th September**

No Students to attend school on these days



God our Father, we lift up all those who are facing illness in our community.

We ask that you would bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies.

Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.



SCHOOL DROP-OFF & PICK-UP PROCEDURES

All parents / carers are encouraged to use the 'kiss and drop' zone which is set up in the parish carpark for morning drop-off

For those parents / carers who prefer to walk their children to school or park in McCulloch Street or Wood Street and walk with their children you are required to bring the children to the front gate. From the start of Term Three this gate will be left open for children to enter. A teacher will not be stationed at this gate. **Parents are reminded children are only to enter the school site.** Should a parent require to enter to go to the office you are reminded to use the QR code before entering. This is in keeping with NSW government protocols. Parents / carers are then required to make their way directly to the administration building where you will be attended to by administration staff. In order to maintain social distancing protocols there is a limited of **one adult** in the parent foyer at any one time. Thank you for your support in this matter. Parents and carers are reminded that children and parents / visitors are never permitted to walk through the parish carpark of the morning.

Afternoon Dismissal

Afternoon dismissal protocols will not change. Students will be dismissed from two gates: the front gate (gate 1) on McCulloch Street or the top gate (gate 3) parish carpark exit point. To ensure an expedient and safe dismissal parents and carers are asked to use the family name card that was sent home to all families. If, for some reason, you have misplaced your family name card please contact the office for a replacement. ***Starting the first week of Term 3 students whose family name starts with A - K will be dismissed from the front gate (gate 1) and students whose family name starts with L - Z will be dismissed from the parish carpark gate (gate 3.)***

School

5 McCulloch St Riverstone 2765

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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

Parish Priest: Father Zakaria Gayed

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