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# St Joseph's Primary School

## Message From Mrs Reilly...

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

What an exciting start to the new school year. Such positive energy and joyful anticipation for a great 2021.

Parents and children alike loved and laughed at the antics of Steve (Mr Tim) as he greeted them with a MINDCRAFT license to build their brain. The teachers were all wearing their MINDCRAFT t-shirts and immediately began to reinforce our goal of owning and building our skills and knowledge.

Kindy were given an extra greeting as they arrived at their classroom. A photobooth was available for family photos that will be treasured for many years to come. A goodbye kiss and hug and the Kindies walked confidently into the learning space. They've settled in well and have quickly learnt routines and expectations.

The morning was even more exciting as we had a photographer from CEDP who took pictures to share with other CEDP schools. We also feature in this weekend's Western Weekend.

### LOCAL NEWS

## Fun start to new year of school

ERIN CHRISTIE

Both new kindy kids and returned students were thrilled to see the themed celebrations put on by Kingswood's St Joseph's Primary School for their very first day back last Friday.

The chosen theme, 'Minecraft', is a play on the popular video game 'Minecraft', which teachers are using as a basis to encourage the students to dedicate themselves to learning throughout the year.

"That's the in thing at the moment, 'Minecraft'. They were playing in the holidays and some of them were just excited out of their brains," said Principal Trish Reilly of the students arriving for their first day.

"Within the 'Minecraft' game, they build worlds and create opportunities," explained Assistant Principal Rochelle Borg.

"With that understanding, that in 'Minecraft' you need to build your world and create whatever you want, we tap that into our learning and say to the kids, 'well, you have it within you to basically build on your learning and build your brain'."

The school also had a visit from Steve,

the main character from 'Minecraft', who handed them a license to 'build your brain'.

"Steve gave them a Minecraft license, so they were excited for that, but also the parents ... I think the parents sometimes get more excited than the students," Mrs Reilly said.

Mrs Borg said it was important to make the first day of school memorable for the kindergarten kids and parents.

"Certainly, with our new kindergarten parents, we wanted to make it a more exciting day," Mrs Borg said.

"There was a photobooth set up for the kinders, so they were super excited to be able to have a photo on their very first day at school."

Both returning parents and those with kindy starters were excited to participate in the celebrations.

"St Joseph's does a theme every year and it's really, really great for the children. It's such an exciting way to start the school year and puts them on the right foot from day one," said Narelle Messina, whose daughter Zoe was beginning kindergarten, joining her older sisters who were starting year four and year six.

"This is such a wonderful school."



The 'Minecraft' inspiration on display at St Joseph's Primary School last week.

We are all looking forward to a positive and predictable 2021. My hope is that we will soon all be able to gather as a school community - students, teachers and parents all celebrating together. Until then, we'll continue to share pictures and stories about what is happening here at St. Joseph's.

Take care,  
Trish

# Message from the Assistant Principal

## Welcome to 2021

Welcome to the 2021 school year, a year of learning and fun. I hope that you had a safe and relaxing holiday enjoying special times with family and friends. It has been wonderful to welcome back the children and staff. We particularly welcome our new families and teachers who have joined St Joseph's.

The students have commenced the school year with enthusiasm and energy and are to be congratulated on transitioning so smoothly into their learning and routines in the classrooms and across the playgrounds.

COVID-19 still influences our daily lives and we respond to directions provided by NSW Health and the Catholic Education Department Parramatta (CEDP). As you know, at this time there is limited access to the school for parents. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding of the procedures and sometimes changes that we need to put in place to ensure the health and safety of all in the St Joseph's community. Rest assured that our aim is always to collaborate with our parents as you are the primary educators of your children and it is only in partnership with you that we can achieve great outcomes for your children.

We look forward to working with you and sharing the wonderful learning that happens everyday at SJK.

## 2021 School Routines

It has been wonderful to see just how well all of our students have settled into the new school year. We ask parents to drop off their children at the school gate, where they will be welcomed by our lovely school staff and directed to the playground. Our school gates are open at 8:20am as school begins promptly at 8:50am.

All students will be dismissed at 3:00pm. Please ensure your child knows how they are getting home in the afternoon. We have many different arrangements for how students are going home as this includes parents picking up their children from the school gate, bus, Joey's (after school care) and Kiss 'n' Ride. If your child's going home arrangements change, please notify the school office.

In Joseph Street a place has been designated for Kiss 'n' Ride - an area where children may be dropped off before school or picked up after school. Kiss 'n' Ride is a **"No Parking"** and **"No Standing"** Area. To assist with traffic flow, drivers must remain in the car whilst children get in and out. Children should travel with bags in the car (not in the boot). Children using Kiss 'n' Ride need to be able to independently open and close the car door, as well being able to put on their own seatbelt. Please ensure you have a sign in your windscreen with your child(ren)'s name written in large, black writing to assist teachers with identifying your vehicle. Contact the school office if you would like one made for you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Rochelle Borg

## Religious Education News

Dates for the diary . . .

8th February - Opening School Liturgy

10th February - Youth Group commences in the afternoon from 3:30 parish hall (Yr 6)

14th February - Enrolments for 1st Reconciliation sacrament (after 10am Sunday mass)

17th February - Ash Wednesday

Welcome back to the new year. I hope all our families had a relaxing and blessed Christmas and new Year and were able to spend time with family and friends.

This year is a special year for us at St Joseph's as Pope Francis has proclaimed the year of St Joseph. The Pope writes about the past year's challenges and says *'it has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence, who nonetheless played an incomparable role in the history of salvation."* Many of our frontline workers over the past 12 months have done extraordinary things to assist our communities and we offer up this prayer:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.  
Amen.



## Counsellor's Corner

### Helping your child have success at school

Have a quick hug and kiss goodbye and think about the following to plan for success:

1. Ask your child about 3 good things that happened at school
2. Let your child know where you will pick them up
3. Plan something nice together (it could be reading a book or having a snack)
4. Make sure your child has a good sleep routine

Remember your child is the best gauge of how things are going and if there is any confusion then the class teacher is your first port of call to clarify any worries.

The school routine will become clear and it is always positive. Share our safe and respectful language to help them have success on Joeys Journey at school.

# 2021 Staff

## LEADERSHIP

Parish Priest	Fr Andrew Fornal OP
Principal	Mrs Trish Reilly
Assistant Principal	Mrs Rochelle Borg
Religious Education Coordinator	Mrs Deborah Kemp
Instructional Leader	Mrs Alison Busuttil
Leaders of Learning	Mrs Rose Keane
Diversity Leader/EMU	Mrs Kathleen McNally
Counsellor	Ms Vennessa Goode

## EARLY STAGE 1

Kindergarten Team	Ms Celeste Collimore, Mrs Rose Keane, Mrs Alison Busuttil
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## STAGE 1

Year 1 Team	Mrs Angela Furfaro, Miss Skye Meadows
Year 2 Team	Miss Megan Conolly, Mrs Rosemary Smith, Mrs Gabrielle Whitney

## STAGE 2

Year 3	Mrs Terrie Berg, Mr Ian Martin
Year 4	Miss Amy Green, Mrs Cheryl McGannon

## STAGE 3

Year 5	Mrs Catriona Pennay, Mrs Deb Kemp
Year 6	Miss Jennifer Saaib, Miss Hannah Bailey

RFF	Mr Moreno Faccin, Mrs Jeanette Serrao, Mrs Amy Hoppitt
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Reading Recovery	Mrs Bernadette Purtell
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## SUPPORT STAFF

Office Manager/ Finance	Ms Jenny Pendleton
Administration/ SSO	Mrs Karen Sprycha
Classroom Aides	Mrs Marie Brogan, Mrs Marianne Wilson, Mrs Julie Fehon, Mrs Pauline Gatt, Ms Thiona Vale
ICT Support	Mr Marko Siric
Library Technician	Miss Jennifer Peto
Maintenance	Mr Stephen Crye, Mr Andrew Busuttil

## Attendance



Just a reminder that we have supervision from 8.20am every day. It's important children arrive at school before the bell.

**School starts at 8:50am.** Arriving 10 mins late to class everyday means they miss out on the outline of the day. That's 50 mins each week... more than one day each term of lost learning.

**If your child is late to school, please bring them to the office and sign them in. This is to ensure our class rolls, which are a legal document, are kept up to date.**

## Skoolbag Reminders



As we begin a new 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.

At St Joseph's our channel of communication with parents is through our St Joseph's Skoolbag app. All school notes, newsletters and events are sent to parents electronically via Skoolbag. Please ensure you have signed up to Skoolbag today.

It is important to check that notifications for the SkoolBag app are switched on in the notification settings of your phone. This is the most common reason why people do not see messages when sent out.

It is also important to check that the grade or grades that you have selected to follow match your child's 2021 grade. This is important as from time to time we send notifications only to parents of a particular grade if it only concerns their children. You can do this by opening your SkoolBag app, clicking on the St Joseph's symbol at the top of your page, then clicking the groups tab. Here you will be able to add or remove the grades you would like to follow.

## Safe Internet Day - Friday 9th February

On **Safer Internet Day** the world comes together with a shared vision of making online experiences better for everyone.

We live in a digital age, where using technology is part of our daily lives. So how do we ensure our use of technology is safe for everyone. On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February, students and teachers at St Joseph's will begin to chat about how to use technology safely whilst learning at school. This will involve how to log on to the Chromebook or iPad, keeping usernames and passwords secure and private, how to use the internet safely and using google suite to collaborate and learn together. These procedures are part of our ICT Agreement at St Josephs. Over the next few weeks, students will bring this note home to be signed and acknowledged by a parent/guardian.



Our students not only learn using technology, they use technology everyday when they are watching YouTube videos, playing Xbox and PlayStation games, chatting to friends on apps, using the internet to watch their favourite show or cartoons or playing games via apps on parent devices. To assist parents in starting the conversation with their children around using technology safely, the eSafety commission has a number of parent resources that are extremely helpful.

Check out eSafety Commission website for more information <https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/events/safer-internet-day-2021>

Together we can promote a safer internet for all!



## School Fees

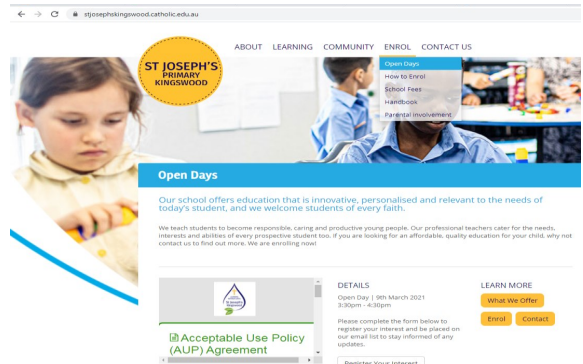


School Fees statements will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. Payment arrangement options will be included in this mailout. Any queries please contact Jenny on 4726 4200.

## 2022 Enrolments

If you or you know of someone looking to enrol a child at St Joseph's for 2022 please go to our website and fill in the Expression of Interest Form.

- [www.stjosephskingswood.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stjosephskingswood.catholic.edu.au)
- Enrol tab
- Open Days tab
- Register your Interest



## Sport Uniform Days

Please find below the days on which your child can wear their sports uniform.

Kinder - Wednesday and Thursday

Year 1 - Wednesday and Friday

Year 2 - Wednesday and Friday

Year 3 - Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 4 - Wednesday and Friday

Year 5 - Wednesday and Thursday

Year 6 - Wednesday and Thursday



# General Information

## Allergies

As you may or may not be aware there are a number of children attending our school who have severe allergies to many different foods. This means that if these children come in contact with any food products they will have a severe allergic reaction. Foods such as peanut butter and nutella are particularly dangerous to many of these children.

We ask that you remind your child/ren to not share their lunch or any other food with another child.

## Mobile Phone Policy

Students bringing mobile phones to school is not encouraged, however, if a student has to bring a phone to school they MUST keep it on silent and in their school bags at all times. The school takes no responsibility for mobile phones being lost, stolen or damaged. If a student needs to use their phone during school time they need to seek permission from their teacher.

## Morning Drop Off and Afternoon Pick Up

This is a friendly reminder to NOT park across our neighbours driveways, this includes NO PARKING in the unit block next door.

If you are lining up for Kiss n Ride and the line is across the school administration driveway please drive around the block and rejoin the line when it is shorter.

These are legal requirements. Police regularly patrol the area.

## Photo Permission

From time to time photos and / or video footage of your child will be taken at school and school events. These photos and video footage may be used in the school newsletter, diocesan newsletter, in newspapers, brochures, advertising, websites or in publications. If you do not wish for photos or videos of your child to be published or shown on the website please notify the school office in writing by Friday, 12th February, 2021.

## Student Medical Information

If your child/ren suffer from asthma or have a medical condition and you have not informed the school office, could you please do so as soon as possible. For example, if your child suffers for asthma, please supply an updated Asthma Action Plan from your child's doctor. All medication must be brought to the school office by a parent and a medication form needs to be completed by the parent.

## Wet Weather Dismissal procedure

If it is raining around normal dismissal time, SJK will notify parents via Facebook and Skoolbag of our wet weather dismissal procedure.

All children will be dismissed at 3pm and are to be collected by 3:30pm.

Parents are able to pick their children up from the following areas:

\* Students with the surname beginning with the letters A-O will be collected from the gate next to the office. Parents will enter via the single gate and once you have collected your child can depart through the sliding double gate.

\* Students with the surname beginning with the letters P-Z will be collected through the staff carpark gate, which is near Kiss n Ride gate. Parents are to enter and leave via the staff carpark gate, whilst maintaining social distancing requirements. Students will wait for parents in the Stage 2 building.

## High School Open Night



Xavier College Open Night

Tuesday 2nd March 2021

4pm - 6pm

Prospective 2022 students and families are welcome to attend

Tours and application forms available on the night

## Change of Details Form

Have you moved house or changed your phone number? Have your emergency contact details changed? If so, please fill in the slip below and return it to the school office.

It is vital we have up to date contact details.

### Change of details form 2021

SURNAME:

CHILD/CHILDREN'S NAMES:

CLASS:

New Address Details:

New Home Phone Number:

New Mother's Mobile:

New Mother's Work Number:

New Mother's Email:

New Father's Mobile:

New Father's Work Number:

New Father's Email:

**New Emergency Contact Details**

Name:

Relationship to Child:

Phone Number:

Signature:

Date:



## Community News

### Positive Partnerships Autism Workshops

Positive Partnerships will be holding online parent/carer autism workshops from 2-24 February. The first is a 4 week series of 2 hour sessions and the second is a full day workshop. Please see the attached flyers for full details. These workshops are not region specific and will cater for any NSW parents, grandparents or full time carers. You can register via the information in the flyers or on the Positive Partnerships homepage:

<https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/>



**ST JOSEPH'S PARISH KINGSWOOD**  
**YOUTH GROUP – S.K.Y.**  
**INVITES ALL YEAR 6 TO 18 YEAR OLDS**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 3-5PM**  
**(During School Term)**  
**Parish Hall, 12 Richmond Rd, Kingswood**  
**Socialise in a safe Christian environment**  
**U-Turn Youth Ministry (Servants of Jesus)**

**JOIN US FOR A FUN  
AFTERNOON OF  
GAMES, TALKS,  
REFLECTIONS,  
SOCIALS &  
AFTERNOON TEA.**

Parish Office: 4721 4080

### Nutrition Snippet

DRINK WATER.



Water is the best choice  
for kids.

Try it fresh or frozen  
or with added slices  
of cucumber.

[healthylunchbox.com.au](http://healthylunchbox.com.au)



### Foodbank Contacts

2020 has been a difficult year for a lot of people, as we are heading towards the Christmas season you may be needing some extra support. Below are some numbers from Foodbank organisations that can assist with groceries. Please feel free to call them to see what they can offer you.

Transformation Edge - Jamisontown 4731 2419

Christian Mission - Penrith 4704 8809

Westcare - Penrith 4731 3455

## Dates for your Diary

<b><u>Week 3</u></b>	Thursday 11th February	Year 3 Ranger Jamie Incursion
<b><u>Week 4</u></b>	Monday 15th February	Zone Swimming
	Wednesday 17th February	Ash Wednesday
	Friday 19th February	Census Day
<b><u>Week 5</u></b>	Tuesday 23rd February	Stage 3 Mr Pate - Xavier College Visit

## St Joseph's Birthdays

Happy Birthday to...

**January:** Samanyu, Lachlan, Andrew, Bonnie, Michelle, Ruby, Jesraj, Jasper, Xavier, Ayen, Narden, Xavier, Nate, Gabriel, Charlie, Aneuhok

**February:** Daniel, Celine, Jackson, Arshpreet, Zoe, Ayieda, Xara, Phoenix, Lucas, Liam, Ruby, Havish, Maddison, Enoch, Achou, Kora, Alariyah, Caden, Joey, Lincoln, Sebastian, Layla, Manyang, Derrick, Porch, Yohan, Zayn, Aviahana, Noah

## St Joseph's Social Media

Did you know St Joseph's have many social media platforms to keep yourself updated with school events, photos, newsletters, notes, etc



**Facebook** - St Joseph's Primary School, Kingswood. NSW

**School Website** - <http://www.stjosephskingswood.catholic.edu.au/>



**Twitter** - @stjosephskwood



**Skoolbag** - St Joseph's Primary Sydney



**YouTube** - St Joseph's Primary Kingswood

If you would like to opt out on your child's photo, work and name being published please put your request in writing and send it to the school office.

If at any time you change your mind regarding publishing please put your request in writing and send it to the school office.