



Term 1 Week 4

St. Mary's Primary School Newsletter

website: www.smswanhill.catholic.edu.au



15th February, 2021

Welcome to Week 4

Dear Parents and Families,

I'm sure there is some anxiety amongst some families about the thought of returning to any form of remote learning. My key advice is to focus on what matters the most, do your best and have a go at the learning tasks provided by our teachers. Our staff have worked very hard today to ensure that families will feel connected and that tasks to be completed at home over the next few days will be as user friendly as possible. This afternoon you will all receive a letter via email, from your child's classroom teacher explaining the learning schedule for Tuesday and Wednesday and advising families all classroom teachers will ring to check in and offer support.

This letter also invites you to watch a short video from each year level located on our school website that details how the next two days will unfold.

Attendance Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th

This week if your child is unwell and unable to participate in remote learning or attend on-site learning as arranged, please contact the school for attendance purposes. The easiest way is to use PAM.

PAM - Log onto your PAM account, directly under your student's name is a box "Parent Notified Absence" click here to enter or alternatively use the three line (hamburger) in the top right hand corner to go to "Parent Notified Absence".

Alternatively:

Message: 0409968162 Email: office@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au Phone: 50332541 from 8.30am

School Office Hours

Until Thursday, a number of our office staff are working remotely with a small onsite team and working on a rotating basis in the office due to the lockdown restrictions. For this reason the school can be contacted via phone during the modified hours of **8:30 am - 3:45pm** each day. We encourage families to phone during school hours or direct emails to office@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au. Emails will then be directed to an appropriate staff member to respond to. If parents wish to contact me directly please email principal@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au

Seesaw - Important to sign up

All Foundation families and any new families have been sent an invitation to join their child's online Seesaw class. In the event of schools being required to provide an extended online learning platform during 2021, it is very important those families that have not yet completed the login process for Seesaw do so as quickly as possible.



Onsite Information

This information is relevant for the small number of families who are both essential workers who require onsite supervision.

Country buses will run as normal. Please be aware that with very few students using them, they may arrive at your stop earlier than normal. There will be no town buses running on Tuesday or Wednesday. We will only be operating one parent carpark on Tuesday and Wednesday. Staff will be on duty from 8:30am. No parents are able to come onsite during this lockdown period and masks must be worn at all times. Children attending onsite supervision must wear their school uniform, bring a clearly labelled refillable drink bottle and recess/lunch.

Opening School Mass

It was fantastic to have Fr James onsite and to be able to gather together on Thursday 11th February at our Opening School Mass. At this Mass we gave thanks for the many blessings provided for us in the world of education and learning and to ask God for guidance and energy and guidance for the year ahead. Our school Mass theme was To Learn and Grow, with each class receiving a plant to care for. Each class was presented with a plant for their prayer table which they are responsible to care for. We also presented our new School Captains and Vice Captains with their badges as they begin this important leadership role.



PALS

Our Foundation and Year 6 students got together last week for their first PAL session and had an absolute blast! Check out these special friendship moments.



Parent Teacher Conversations

We have scheduled our first Parent Teacher Conversations on Tuesday, 23rd and Wednesday 24th, February. These have been set early in the term to provide an opportunity for all parents to touch base with staff in person, share information about your child and together to set educational goals for the term ahead. It is a great opportunity for all parents to book a time to spend with your child's teacher. We will return to Student Led and 3 Way conferences in following interviews, so you are not required to bring your child this time.

Parent – Teacher
Learning
Conversations



In light of the current situation we will hold opening the bookings until Wednesday. School interviews will be booked through PAM and will open at 9am - Wednesday February 17th for you to book a time for your child's Parent/Teacher Conversation.

Please continue to look out for updates from the school via your email and on our Facebook page throughout the week as these tools are our key ways to stay in touch. We are absolutely committed to working with our families as we move through these challenging times. Both Jason and I are onsite all week, so please don't hesitate to email or call the school if you have any concerns,

Kate



Part 1: Introducing The Resilience Project – Parent and Carer video series.

Last week we were excited to introduce The Resilience Project's online wellbeing curriculum in our classrooms.

The Resilience Project delivers emotionally engaging programs and provides evidence-based, practical strategies to build resilience.

The Digital Program consists of online presentations and lessons for students, professional development for staff, and a video series for our parent and carer community.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be sharing the Parent and Carer Program with you. The videos are 5-10 minutes long and will walk through the key pillars of resilience: Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness. You'll hear stories and be introduced to activities to show how these strategies can support our kids learning and development, and also support you as parents and carers.

This program is an important part of our school's effort to look after the mental health of our community.

View the first presentation of the series here: Part 1: Meet Martin and learn about The Resilience Project: <https://theresilienceproject.com.au/parent-and-carer-hub/>

We will be in touch weekly through our newsletter to share the remainder of the program, including research and wellbeing activities to integrate into day to day life.

For mental health resources and support information, visit The Resilience Project's Support Page.





Supporting Reading At Home

Reading a book at home

When listening to your child read at home, here are a few points to consider:

- If possible let your child choose the place for reading. Successful reading can happen on the floor, out the back, and in the cubby house!
- Encourage your child to hold the book so he or she becomes familiar with handling it (turning the pages, etc)
- The books being read at home can/should be read more than once as the repetition helps support the child's fluency and comprehension of his/her reading.
- The books can have a different focus for each reading - ie: Rereading for accuracy, fluency, comprehension, understanding of the storyline as well as for appreciation and enjoyment

Keeping children engaged

Because *some reading practice is better than no reading practice* - you may like to use one of the following strategies:

- Use a timer so that your child understands the reading practice will be for a short time.
- Read the book aloud to your child.
- Read the book aloud to your child but have your child read words that you know he/she can already read.
- Have your child point to the words while you read the words aloud.
- Read the book aloud together.
- Read half the book each.
- Put a sticky note a few pages ahead and tell your child they just need to read to the sticky note.
- Say, "I'll read it to you and then you can read it to me."
- Take it in turns to each read a page.
- When reading a story book, try changing the names of characters to your family's names!

Book Orientation: Talking about the book before reading

- Before reading a new book, talk about the title, and 'walk' through the book looking at the pictures and then predict what the story might be about.
- Discuss how to pronounce the names of characters and places in the book.
- If your child has already read the book, you may like to just ask what happened in the story? How did the story end?

The 3Ps: Pause, Prompt, Praise

Pause— Always allow time for your child to work out an unfamiliar/tricky word themselves, or at least give it a go (about 10 sec).

Prompt— Give a helpful prompt, for example:

"What would make sense here?"

"Have another go."

"Can the picture help you?"

"Can you see how the word starts?"

"Does that sound right?"

"Read to the end of the sentence. Any idea what the word might be?"

.....after two prompts **JUST TELL THEM THE WORD**

Praise— Always focus on what the child does well.

If your child makes a mistake, corrects it and keeps going...

- Praise **AT THE END OF THE READING**. Eg. "You went back and read that part again, that was great!"

If your child comes to a tricky word and pauses...

- Wait, Wait, Wait.... Ask some prompting questions suggested above.

If your child makes a mistake that makes sense...

- Let it go, then come back to it at the end and, repeat what they said and ask them to have another go.

If your child makes a mistake that does not make sense....

- Say the error back to them, does that make sense?

Talking about the book after reading.

- Can you remember the title?
- Were your predictions about the story correct?
- If there was a problem in the story, was it solved?
- What was your favourite part of the story?
- If you could change one thing in the story, what would it be?
- Can you retell the story in order?
- Which character would you like to be? Why?

Sunshine Online/Classic, Reading Eggs and Phonics Hero

At St. Mary's we are very fortunate to have many subscriptions to support our students in the area of Literacy and Numeracy which are great engaging resources to utilize out of school hours.

Sunshine Online which is a wonderful website containing hundreds of levelled texts. Children can log in and read along to stories and then complete associated interactive games and activities. Students enjoy using this website and it is a fun and motivational way to keep the "reading miles". **Username : smswanhill Password : smswanhill**

We also have a subscription to **Sunshine Classics** which is another digital literacy program with over 300 E- books and 1000 interactive language activities to enjoy

Username : murlong

Password : murlong

Our Year 1 children have individualised log in codes for **Reading Eggs**. Designed by literacy experts, Reading Eggs makes learning essential literacy skills easy and fun for younger children. Foundations are supported by the **Phonics Hero** subscription with the focus on phonics, reading and spelling online interactive games.

Mathletics and Mathseeds

In the area of Mathematics, the Year 2-6 students have individualised logs in for **Mathletics**. Mathletics provides learners with the chance to put their mathematics skills to use through activities and challenges that are relevant and. Students have access to relevant content set by their teachers that will reinforce their learning and challenge them to go to the next level.

Yr 1's have access to **Mathseeds**. Mathseeds teaches kids aged 3-9 core math and problem solving skills with fun online math games and activities.

RE News - Mrs Davies

Shrove Tuesday & Ash Wednesday

On Tuesday 16th February we celebrate a very special event in Shrove Tuesday. The long journey to Easter is called Lent. The day before Lent begins is called Shrove Tuesday. 'Shrove' means being forgiven for wrong-doings. It happens on a different date each year depending on when Easter is. Another name for Shrove Tuesday is Pancake Day. Long ago this was a day for feasting and having a good time. People went to church to confess the bad things they had done and would be 'shriven' or forgiven before the start of Lent. Even though we will be in remote learning on this day this is a great opportunity to celebrate this occasion by making pancakes and discussing the reasons why pancakes are eaten on this day. I'm sure the children will enjoy earring them as well! Once we are all back at school again we will look forward to still holding our own 'Pancake Day' at school to celebrate as we know this is very popular amongst the whole school community!

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, blessed ashes are put on your forehead in the shape of a cross. These ashes are made by burning palm leaves which have been saved from last year's Palm Sunday. Ash Wednesday is also when we begin to do penance for Lent. Penance is a time when we look within ourselves to improve on being the best people we can be. We seek to be forgiven for the things we have done wrong in our lives and look ahead at things we can do to help others during this time.

Physical Education - Miss Clark

Swimming Trials

On Wednesday 10th of Feb, 66 St Mary's students participated in the swimming trials at the Swan Hill Outdoor Pool. All students competed in a great spirit and should be proud of their efforts. I would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to help with the running of the trials, it was greatly appreciated. Without your support, days like this aren't able to go ahead. Students will find out early this week if they are competing in the Division Swimming held on Monday 22nd February.

Year 5/6 Summer Sports

Students in Year 5 and 6 will have their first practice session coached by St Mary MacKillop College students for their chosen summer sport on 19th of February held during their Friday afternoon sport time. Practice sessions will be held at school for Basketball, Cricket and Softball. Students that have nominated Tennis will have their practice session at the Ken Harrison Tennis Courts. Please keep an eye out on PAM for the consent form for your child. They will have four more sessions including; 26th Feb, 5th, 12th and 19th of March. This program allows students to practice and enjoy their nominated sport for the upcoming District Summer Sports competition held on March 26th.

Key Dates

Monday February 15th

Pupil Free Day

Tuesday February 16th

Remote Learning

Wednesday February 17th

Remote Learning

Monday Feb 22nd

Division Swimming Carnival
Swan Hill

Information will be sent
via PAM

Tuesday February 23rd

&

Wednesday February 24th

Parent Teacher Interviews
Information will be sent via
PAM

Tuesday February 23rd -

Tuesday March 2nd

Book Fair

Monday March 8th

Labour Day
Public Holiday

Tuesday March 9th

Pupil free day
Staff PD

Administration News

News from the Canteen

NEW PRODUCT ALERT!!! - Chicken Tenders available everyday \$1.50 each

Everyone's favourite - **Pizza's are back on the menu**

Our 2021 Canteen Menu had been emailed to families via PAM

Mon Feb 15	Tue Feb 16	Wed Feb 17	Thur Feb 18	Fri Feb 19
Pupil Free Day	Remote Learning No Canteen	Remote Learning No Canteen	Megan Bye	Erin Decker
Mon Feb 22	Tue Feb 23	Wed Feb 24	Thur Feb 25	Fri Feb 26
Need someone	Karen Thamm	Need someone	Leah Merritt	Melissa Robertson
Mon March 1	Tue March 2	Wed March 3	Thur March 4	Fri March 5
Need someone	Moriah Ierace	Need someone	Anne-Maree Hazlett	Brigette Nunez

Thank-you to those who have volunteered to help in our canteen this year. If you would like to be added to the roster, please contact the office on 50332541 or office@smswanhill.catholic.edu.au

Book Club - Issue 1

Scholastic Book Club Issue 1 is now available. We will not be accepting cash payments for orders. Please order online following the instructions below.

Issue 1 orders are due by Wednesday 17th February 2021.

This is the link for LOOP, which will allow you to make an online order and payment

<https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/Parent/Login.aspx>

Book Fair

The Book Fair will be open from Tuesday 23rd February until Tuesday 2nd March.

The school receives 30% of money raised in book stock for our library. We will have a large range of books displayed in the library, which the children will view during their library class time. The children will make a "Wish List" which will then be sent home with an order form, if you wish to order something. This can be completed and sent back to the office no later than Friday 5th March.

Health Reminder

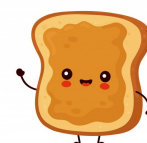
It is important that we all continue to monitor our own and the health of our children daily during this time. If you or your child develops any symptoms such as a fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath:

- Stay at home and do not attend school
- Seek medical advice
- Call the school to let us know of any important outcomes
- If you or your child has a health condition or complex health needs, please discuss this with your medical specialist.
- Information about coronavirus (COVID-19) is available on the [DHHS](#) and [CEM](#) websites.

Our school is continuing to promote and implement on a daily basis both Covid-safe behaviours and practices across our school community.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is up and running for 2021! We kindly ask for donations of vegemite, milo, honey and jam.



CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student is \$125 for primary school students.

HOW TO APPLY:

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from

www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/programs/health/CSEF-Application-Form-2020.pdf.

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2020, you do not need to complete an application form in 2021 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- new student enrolments; your child has started or changed schools in 2020 or you did not apply in 2020
- changed family circumstances; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2021.

If you are unsure please contact the school office on 50332541.

If you are eligible for CSEF you are also eligible for the Family Fee Assistance Scheme. The FFAS amount for 2021 is \$850.00. This amount is credited against your school fee account once your CSEF application has been validated.

Student of the Week - Term 1 Week 3

6O	Scarlet G	Charlie G
6P	Sebastian M	Anna H
6Q	Milli L	Tyler B
6R	Louis S	Scarlett B
5S	Upkeerat S	Bayden B
5T	Harry H	Zoe B
5U	Lowan G	Lenny R
5F	Lana B	Cal M
4G	Ella C	Zara T
4H	Emily L	Evie K
4I	Gurjot S	Madison B
4J	Martin N	Larni O'B
3A	Henry O'B	Isla B
3B	Scarlett F	Evie S
3W	Belle L	Sony H
3Y	Jagger M	Kathleen K
2K	Archer T Hugo B	Gracie Z
2L	Caleb M	Margie T
2M	Maggie O'C	Oliver K
2N	Mattaeus C	Deacon R
1C	All of 1C	
1D	All of 1D	
1E	Kaylynn F	Harrison B
F Blue	Darcy McL	Dillon B
F Green	Zac D	Alira C
F Yellow	Chase S	Sailor S
F Orange	Billy L	Ava H
Art	All of 4I, Ellie W, All of 4H, All of 3Y	
Music	Paige R, Thomas K, Xavier M, Tyler M	
Italian	All of 2N, Sarah L, Willow C, Lizzie T	
PE	Lily N, Sean C, Crystal M, All of 1C	



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEB 15 - TAJ K

FEB 16 - SUKHLEEN K

FEB 17 - JACK B, RUBY T, FLORENCE T

FEB 18 - MATTAEUS C, DANEAKA N,
MADDISON S, KEVIN V

FEB 19 - INGRID C, MACKENZIE H

FEB 20 - CHERRY N, INDIGO P, OLIVER S

FEB 21 - WILLOW C

HAVE A GREAT DAY!



Collection of Student Background Information

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

PURPOSE OF DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF PARENTAL OCCUPATION

In recent years the Australian and State Governments have asked all schools to collect and report on information regarding each student's background.

This information is being used to inform the government and public, especially the education community and parents, about progress towards achieving the two National educational goals for young Australians:

- » Australian schooling promotes equity and excellence; and
- » that all young Australians become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens.

The national collection of data is necessary to monitor the effect that student background characteristics have on student outcomes and helps to direct resources to where they are most needed.

When enrolling a child in school all parents are asked which of the following options best describes their occupation, and the school education and non-school education levels they achieved.

PARENTAL OCCUPATION

A component of this information is Parental Occupation. Occupations are classified according to five categories:

GROUP A: Senior Management in large business organisations, government administration and defence, and qualified professionals.

GROUP B: Other business managers, arts/media/sportspersons and associate professionals

GROUP C: Tradesmen/women, clerks and skilled office, sales and service staff

GROUP D: Machine operators, hospitality staff, assistants, labourers and related workers

GROUP N: Not been in paid work in the past 12 months

This classification affects how schools are funded, so it is important that the information provided is accurate.

When this information is not provided, the parent occupation is deemed as Group A (which attract a lesser amount of funding). Information provided is confidential and is used and stored according to Privacy Regulations.

FUNDING IMPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOLS

Student Family Occupation derived from parental occupation data is an increasingly important component of funding. Schools receive a portion of their federal and state government funding based on this information.

IMPORTANT POINTS FOR PARENTS TO NOTE

No individual student or school will be identifiable through published information.

All information which could identify, or would reasonably identify, students to whom particular background characteristics belong, is removed from national reports so that no personal information is reported publicly.

Data will be collected, stored and reported in accordance with privacy legislation requirements.






















FURTHER INFORMATION

Queries regarding the information in this brochure should be directed to the Administrative Office of your child's school. For further information on parental occupation coding, please refer to the State Government Department of Education website.



What 4J are looking forward to in 2021...

As 2020 was spent missing out on a lot of our favourite activities we like to do at St Mary's, 4J are going to share with you what they are looking forward to most in 2021.

	<p>Charlize This year I am looking forward to getting my pen licence.</p>		<p>Rueben This year I am mostly looking forward to camp and History Box.</p>		<p>Vicky I am looking forward to making new friends, learning more English, being my best at school and camp.</p>
	<p>Molly This year I am looking forward to camp.</p>		<p>Henry In Year 4 I am looking forward to doing PE and Sport.</p>		<p>Jett In Year 4 I am looking forward to doing Science.</p>
	<p>Sonic This year I am looking forward to hanging out with Martin.</p>		<p>Ananya This year I am looking forward to getting my pen licence.</p>		<p>William In Year 4 I am looking forward to doing the Great Race and camp.</p>
	<p>Addison This year I am looking forward to going on camp.</p>		<p>Morrissey This year, the thing I am looking forward to most is going on camp to Halls Gap.</p>		<p>Asha This year I am looking forward to the Great Race and going on school camp.</p>
	<p>Martin In Year 4 I am looking forward to making lots of new friends.</p>		<p>Larni This year I am looking forward to camp at Halls Gap.</p>		<p>Reve This year I am looking forward to meeting new people and doing new things.</p>
	<p>Tyler This year I am looking forward to the Great Race, Cross Country, Athletics and camp.</p>		<p>Charli This year I am looking forward to the Great Race.</p>		<p>Kaitlyn This year I am excited about going on school camp, meeting new people and getting my pen licence.</p>
	<p>Brody This year I am looking forward to making new friends and going to Halls Gap for camp.</p>		<p>Hugh This year I am looking forward to Prime Sci where we get to control robots.</p>		<p>Sophie In Year 4 I am looking forward to the Great Race.</p>