

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

RETURN TO TERM 4

The staff are all looking forward to the return to on-site learning. This morning the NSW Government announced changes to the staggered return to school. K, Yr 1 are still returning on the 18th October. All other grades will be returning on October 25th. More information will be forwarded as soon as possible. Some tips and hints on children returning to school after lockdown is published on the next page.

ST PATRICK'S PARRAMATTA SPOONVILLE

On their return, in preparation for a fun well-being activity, we are hoping that each child can bring to school with them a **wooden cooking spoon**. We wish to represent all children together by creating our own St Patrick's Spoonville. *The very first Spoonville was started in Winnersh, Berkshire, England by a very creative lady Karen who came up with the idea of making Spooky characters from wooden spoons as a way of cheering up her local community during Covid-19 lockdown.* [Spoonville International](#).

It was brought to Australia several months ago by Junelle Wilson after she saw it online.

St Patrick's would like to create our own Spoonville in one of our gardens as a sign of how much we missed being together and a way of talking with each other about their experiences. If you have time it would be great if the children could decorate the spoons in their own special way over the next few weeks before their return to school. They can add to Spoonville over the course of the term so if they do not get it done they can add it when it is finished. If they cannot decorate at home, just a plain wooden or bamboo spoon will do and we will assist them to decorate at school.

This spoon can be of any shape and size but must be able to be painted. Wooden or bamboo is the best.

We are asking that you go to very little expense regarding quality and consider adding it to your shopping list from grocery stores such as Coles, Woolworths, Aldi or IGA for example. They should be no more than \$3 at the most.

We look forward to seeing the results of this imaginative exercise when the children come to school and to share Spoonville with you sometime this term.

Thank you for all your support
St Patrick's Staff.

Here is a picture of Spoonville down the road from Miss Fabri. THERE ARE MORE IDEAS ON THE INTERNET. Let your imaginations run wild!



Tips and Hints on returning to school

Be positive about returning to school

- Ask your child how they are feeling about returning to school. Your child may be feeling a mix of emotions about their return, so it is important to listen to any concerns and respond in a calm, supportive and reassuring way.
- Promote positive conversations by asking what they like about school and what they are looking forward to when they return. Let them know that school staff are looking forward to seeing them. Your child might like to make a list or drawing about things they have missed about school.
- If they feel nervous or worried, help them understand this is a normal reaction, and that you and their teachers are there to support them.
- If your child has questions about COVID-19 provide factual and age appropriate information. Let them know everyone at school is working hard so that everyone is safe.
- Consider limiting media content your child is viewing if it is contributing to worry or distress.
- Remind your child that everyone at school is working hard to make sure that everyone is safe and that anyone who is unwell will stay home.

Prepare yourself and child for changes and new school procedures







- Look at the school website, Facebook page and newsletters to learn about new procedures that may have been introduced such as changes to parents' access to the school grounds, drop off and pick up points as well as new rules such as wearing face masks or hygiene rules.
- Discuss these with your child and plan together how these changes will be managed. The more your child understands the changes, the more comfortable they are likely to feel. If you are unsure about anything, contact the school or your child's teacher.

Re-establish your routines

- Routines help provide certainty and increase feelings of security, so it will help to re-establish routines and plan for the return.
- In the week before, bring back the usual wake up, bed and breakfast routines. Set aside time to find school equipment and check uniforms and shoes still fit – your child may have grown. Give yourself enough time to organise replacements or a uniform alternative if needed.
- The day before returning, encourage your child to check their school timetable if needed, pack their school bag, and get their lunch box, drink bottle and uniform ready.
- Allow more time than usual on the first morning back to calmly get ready.
- Provide opportunities for your child to play and relax at the end of the day. Returning to school may contribute to tired and emotional reactions at the end of the day.
- Help re-establish after-school routines to review the day's learning and complete homework tasks.

Supporting your child

- Returning to school routines may take some time. Reassure your child that this is normal. Encourage them to ask for help if they need it.
- Take care of your own wellbeing while supporting your child's return to learning at school. You may have some children returning to school while others are continuing to learn from home. You can help your child by explaining that all children will be returning to school soon.
- If they are finding things difficult, remind your child of times in the past when they were able to do things that were difficult and face situations that made them nervous or scared.
- If you are concerned about your child, seek support by contacting the school.

2022	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	24/1/22	25/1/22	26/1/22	27/1/22	28/1/22
Week 1	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS				STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY Years K to 6 Individual Maths Assessments
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	31/1/22	1/2/22	2/2/22	3/2/22	4/2/22
Week 2	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY Years K to 6 Individual Maths Assessments	Kindergarten Individual Maths Assessments Years 1 to Years 6 commence the 2022 school year 	Kindergarten Individual Maths Assessments 	Kindergarten commence the 2022 school year  	 
<p>NOTE PLEASE: If On-Site Kindergarten Orientation is unable to be held this year due to restrictions, we will schedule them from Friday 28/1/22 to Wednesday 2/2/22. Children will only be required to attend one Orientation session and one Maths session.</p> <p>More information will be communicated when the situation becomes clearer next term.</p>					

New Phone App to Support Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Federal Government is today launching a new, free phone application with information, ideas and guidance for parents to help them provide additional support for their child's mental health and wellbeing. The Raising Healthy Children App was developed by the Raising Children Network as part of its program to support parents' mental health literacy by building knowledge and confidence concerning the social and emotional wellbeing of children.

The app is targeted towards parents with children aged 12 years and under and includes information on health, development and wellbeing based on the child's age.

UPDATE: Refurbishment of Kindergarten to Year 4 Classrooms

Refurbishment of the Kindergarten to Year 4 classrooms has commenced. This will include the covering of all walls with felt board panels, the relocation of TVs and installation of new whiteboards, the replacement of concertina walls with glass walls and doors, the installation of joinery and painting of some surfaces.

The works have been completely isolated from the students and staff so that there is no interaction or cross over of workers or personnel. The builders engaged follow a strict COVID 19 Safety plan.

The staff are really looking forward to the brightening up of these learning spaces and the changes to be made which assist children to be more active in their own assessment of their learning and the 'next steps' required for improvement.

We look forward to sharing these spaces with the school community in the future.

Thank you to Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta for their financial contribution to this project.

STARTING SOON!

Executive Directors Summer Reading Challenge 2021/2022

The competition starts on **1 November 2021** and ends on **25 February 2022**.

For the telecast of Weekend mass follow this link:

[**St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta - Facebook**](#)

"We received this world as an inheritance from past generations, but also as a loan from future generations, to whom we will have to return it!"

Pope Francis



Compass Parent Portal

Early in Term 4 will be transitioning to Compass Parent Portal.

Compass will be our primary communication tool that will facilitate effective communication between home and school. A letter will soon be sent via email to all enrolled families with your login details for Compass. It is most important to keep your Username and Password secure, just like your bank account details, they should not be shared with anyone, including your children.

Using the Compass Parent Portal you will be able to:

- Be informed of important updates, events and reminders
- View your child's timetable
- Review your child's attendance
- Provide explanations for periods of absence
- Update your contact details
- Book Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- Download Semester Reports



Happy Birthday to all the children who will celebrate their birthday's over the next week:

Meagan Erive, Molly Moses, Genevieve Tannous, Irene Tony,
Emma Barrientos Salazar, Fidelle Youssef, Maddy Cruz,
Luke Lahoud, Leon Sampaio, Christian Jreij,
Christian Kalouche, Sam Abu-Ali, Sienna Khattar,
Natasha Khoury

INFORMATION WEBINAR ON CONSTRUCTION RELATED JOBS IN WESTERN SYDNEY AND PATHWAYS FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A webinar for parents and students about the construction related jobs in Western Sydney and pathways for job opportunities. Listen to a diverse range of panelists from the industry, including CPB Contractors, speak about their experiences and opportunities with exciting infrastructure projects.

This webinar is free on **Wednesday 13 October at 5:30pm** hosted by CathWest and the Department of Education.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YwPrq-K3eqYJD9d2Pfg3lELCg5HSbac6/view?usp=sharing>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AClalt8WZY0jck9lcliOoltVCC39mGxi/view?usp=sharing>

eSafetyparents



eSafetyCommissioner

NOTES FROM THE E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

Engaging in quality content with your child can be a positive experience for them and can promote learning and development.

Be actively engaged

Decide which activities will be 'explore together', 'supervised' and 'independent'. The level of supervision required will depend on the nature of the activity and the readiness of your child.

FEEDBACK and COMPLAINTS

St Patrick's Parramatta staff always welcome feedback and ideas from the parent community. If you have any feedback, concerns or complaints please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher, Mrs Standing (behaviour) or Miss Fabri through the school office (8832 4600), school email address stpatsricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au, or through Skoolbag App. The school follows the CEDP Complaints Handling Policy.

<https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/About-Us/Policy-Central>

SCHOOL WELL-BEING COUNSELLING SERVICE

The wellbeing of children and young people in Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta schools is of paramount importance. A sense of well-being and connectedness in schools promotes optimal development of the person and contributes to academic success.

Access to counselling services can be made by contacting your child's classroom teacher or Ms Fabri, who will then put forward a referral. Mrs Ricketts will then contact you for further information. Further details can be found in previous newsletters.

NEW TESTING CLINIC



Health
Western Sydney
Local Health District

COVID-19 Drive-through Testing Clinic at

Bankwest Stadium

🕒 **Time: 8am - 6pm daily (9am start on 11 August)**

📅 **When: 7 days a week until further notice**

📍 **Where: Northern carpark, Enter at Gate 2
O'Connell Street, Parramatta, NSW, 2150**

**Testing is FREE. All ages welcome.
No booking or GP referral required.**

**Check when you're eligible for COVID-19 vaccination using the
Australian Government Vaccine Eligibility Checker**



sub tunc
proesidium

Our **VISION** is to be a child centred faith community
within an innovative, interactive learning
environment.

Our **MISSION** is to –

Live out the Gospel Values in a visibly Catholic
tradition

Nurture students for Christian Leadership

Create a range of learning experiences which allow
children to progress at their own level

Assist our students to develop into independent
thinkers with a deep sense of responsibility and justice

Lead each individual towards reaching his/her potential

Generate a sense of community and compassion in which all

Experience belonging.

Opportunity for all

MASS TIMETABLE FOR ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL PARRAMATTA

Weekend Masses

Saturday 8.00am, 6.00pm (Vigil)

Sunday 8.00am, 9.30am (Family), 11.00am (Solemn), 6.00pm,
7.15pm (Arabic)

Weekday Masses

Mon to Fri 6.30am, 12.30pm Public Hol 8.00am

Pastoral Team

Dean & Administrator:

Very Rev Fr Robert Riedling

Assistant Priests:

Rev Chris del Rosario, Rev Chadi Ibrahim SDB

Parish Secretary:

Pat Preca

Sacramental Coordinator:

Meg Gale