

Newsletter

3rd February, 2022 Term 1 Week 2

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the new school year for 2022. I hope all families were able to enjoy some extended time with the family as well as manage any challenges that may have arisen.

The teachers are delighted to see the children and are so happy to see that they are happy to return to school also.

This morning we welcomed our new Kindergarten children for 2022 and I must say, what an impressive group! For little ones to be able to walk with their teachers from the COLA to their classroom as the adults watched on was wonderful and from all accounts they are so settled already.

For new kindergarten parents; just a reminder that children this age have no experience of school and they may have some assumptions such as; You go to school only on one day and then go back to preschool or stay at home, that you learn to read after a day at school without understanding that it is a process and takes time. They may also get very tired as they are spending all day concentrating and they may come home and say they have no friends. This process also takes time and some children do not realise that making friends takes effort on their part also. From my experience it all works out in the end with careful guidance, patience and nurturing from the adults around them. I am confident that they will meet at least one friend if not many over the term.

A special welcome is also extended to the many new families we have across the grades and hopefully we will be able to acknowledge you at our welcoming ceremony later in the term.

In this newsletter you will find a summary of some of our COVID practices and guidelines. I am sorry that we are still talking about COVID as I know many of us have COVID fatigue however the health and well being of our community overrides our wishes.

I hope you find them helpful.

As always please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or concern.

God bless you and your family

Bernadette Fabri

Principal

Introducing Our 2022 Student Leadership Team:

School Captains

Mia Wehbe Christian Kalouche

Vice Captains/Religious Education

Alicia Remaili Isaiah Johnston

Arts Leaders

Sophia Semaan Lauchlan Moore

PDHPE Leaders

Gabrielle Vella Zavier Moujalli

STEM Leaders

Marie Rahme Gabriel Kalouche

Guidelines	Implication for students and parents NB The school procedures may be adjusted as restrictions for schools are amended.
<p>ATTENDANCE All students are expected to return to school on the dates already communicated ie</p> <p>Years 1 to 6 Tuesday 1st February 2022 (8.50am)</p> <p>Kindergarten Thursday 3rd January, 2022. (9.30am)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have concerns about your child returning to school due to a complex health condition please contact the school.
<p>If your child is sick, they must not come to school. You must keep them at home and away from others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a student is unwell or suffering any COVID-19 like symptoms, they should remain at home until they are symptom-free. Please use a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) to test if they are COVID positive. Children will be sent home if unwell at school.
<p>Q. What are the regulations if my child has had COVID-19 during the holiday break?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that students and staff who return to school after recovering from COVID-19 do not participate in rapid antigen test surveillance for 28 days (four weeks after recovery) following release from self-isolation. This is due to NSW Health advice that people who have recovered from COVID-19 have a low risk of contracting it again in the following 28 days. After 28 days (from week five after recovery) students and staff may resume participation in RAT surveillance.
<p>Rapid Antigen Testing/ PCR TEST</p> <p>POSITIVE</p>	<p>If your child receives a positive RAT result, you need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> record the positive RAT result through the Service NSW website or Service NSW app notify the school of the positive RAT (or a PCR test) result as soon as possible follow NSW Health advice to isolate for 7 days.
<p>Rapid Antigen Testing/ PCR TEST</p> <p>NEGATIVE</p>	<p>If your child receives a negative RAT result, you need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to monitor for symptoms Families do not need to inform the school. It will be interpreted that if the student is at school that they have had regular negative test results and that they are free from symptoms.

<p>PICK UP AND DROP OFF</p> <p>All staff and visitors attending a school site must comply with school protocols and check in using the applicable Service NSW QR code.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pick up and drop off will be at the usual times for families with no Kindergarten students. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Morning supervision</u> commences at 8.20am for a 8.50am start <u>Afternoons:</u> 3.00pm Parents are encouraged to drop off and pick up by car, if possible, to limit interaction. Parents must remain outside school grounds and follow the physical distancing advice for our local area. Please avoid crowding closely outside school gates All parents must wear a mask when on the school site.
<p>Kindergarten Pick Up 2.40pm</p> <p>From Thursday 4th February to Monday 15th February.</p> <p>Procedure will be assessed after this date.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>WITH SIBLINGS:</u> To assist with possible congestion families who have a Kindergarten student can pick them up at 2.40pm with their siblings. The siblings will assist the Kindies to meet you at the Car Drive Thru or by walk from the Villiers Street Gate. <u>WITHOUT SIBLINGS:</u> Parents of Kindy students who do not have other siblings at the school can walk into the school on Kindies first week; (Thursday/Friday 4th/5th January) to pick up from the COLA. Please follow the same advice as per Drop Off eg QR coding and wearing masks.
<p>Cohorting</p> <p>Keeping children in Stage groups ie (K, 1 and 2), (3/4) and (5/6) minimises opportunities for COVID-19 transmission and the potential for widespread infection across the school and wider community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At this stage children will be seated in grade groups in the mornings Mixing between grades will be minimised Children will work across the grade group only Minimal mixing of staff across grades unless necessary for the delivery of the curriculum Students will play only with those in their cohort, wherever possible. There will be 3 recess and lunch times to allow for above. <p>COHORT 1 - K/1/2 Recess - 11:00, Lunch 1:30</p> <p>COHORT 2 - 3/4 Recess - 10:00 Lunch 12:30</p> <p>COHORT 3 - 5/6 Recess - 10:30 Lunch 1:00</p> <p>NB These guidelines may change over the year.</p>

<p>Break Times</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break times will follow the above cohort arrangements. • The times are: <p>COHORT 1 - K/1/2</p> <p>Morning Block 8:50 (9.30) for K 4th/5th January - 11:00</p> <p>Recess 11:00 - 11:30</p> <p>Middle Block 11:30 - 1:30</p> <p>Lunch 1:30 - 2:00</p> <p>Afternoon Block 2:00 - 3:00</p> <p>COHORT 2 - 3/4</p> <p>Morning Block 8:50 - 10:00</p> <p>Recess 10:00 - 10:30</p> <p>Middle Block 10:30 - 12:30</p> <p>Lunch 12:30 - 1:00</p> <p>Afternoon Block 1:00 - 3:00</p> <p>COHORT 3 - 5/6</p> <p>Morning Block 8:50 - 10:30</p> <p>Recess 10:30 - 11:00</p> <p>Middle Block 11:00 - 1:00</p> <p>Lunch 1:00 - 1:30</p> <p>Afternoon Block 1:30 - 3:00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PE equipment will be limited and will be wiped down between use wherever practicable. • Children will need to bring a drink bottle daily. Communal bubblers will be unavailable except to fill drink bottles.
<p>Communication</p> <p>The school is currently operating with restricted activities and limited interactions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At this stage, if the school can assist you by phone or email please use this as the preferred communication rather than coming into the school office.
<p>VACCINATIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff (including volunteers and providers) on school sites must be fully vaccinated. • NSW Health encourages all students and their families to consider vaccination when eligible.

<p>Masks</p> <p>Well fitted masks are strongly recommended for primary students.</p> <p>Required for all staff in all indoor school settings and outdoors where physical distancing is not possible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks are strongly recommended for primary students but the school understands how for young ones wearing masks can be very extremely difficult. This is totally up to the parent. • Masks must be provided by the parent. • Some support for children wearing masks will be given e.g. monitoring of comfort level and guidance when eating or drinking. • If a child wears a mask to school, as directed by the parent, the school will encourage them to continue wearing them indoors except for eating and exercising. (If you wish your child to wear a mask at school it is recommended that you practise this with your child at home so that they become familiar with wearing them.)
<p>Visitors</p> <p>Non-essential visitors are not permitted on school sites.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Non essential’ visitors are not allowed to visit school sites for the first 4 weeks of Term 1. An exception has been made for a parent or carer accompanying their child for the first day of Kindergarten. (Maximum of 2 adults) and for pick up on Thursday and Friday of the first week. • All visitors are required to follow NSW Health guidelines regarding staying home and getting tested if showing COVID 19 symptoms • All visitors must wear a mask when on school grounds at this stage • Essential visitors must sign in using the school’s QR code if entering the school as well as the school’s registration system. • Special requirements are in place for authorised visitors.
<p>Cleaning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current cleaning regimes will continue at the school. • Targeted areas include: high-touch areas and other hard surfaces, door handles, lockers, light switches and
<p>Ventilation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows and doors will be left open to increase ventilation. Fans and Air Conditioning will also be used. • Air Filters have now been installed in all class spaces and
<p>Hygiene</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No child should bring their mobile phone to school unless absolutely necessary. These will need to be kept in school bags for the day.
<p>Excursions and Camps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More information to be communicated in due course

THANK YOU - 2021

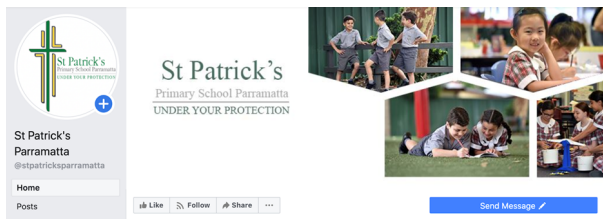
On behalf of the Staff of St Patrick's Parramatta, I would like to sincerely thank all the children and parents for your expressions of gratitude and appreciation at the end of 2021

The words of encouragement, expressed in many of the cards, after such a challenging year, were touching and we appreciated the time that many of you took to write them and give them to us.

Thank you also for the many emails sent with sentiments of gratitude. They were so precious to us.

We look forward to working with all families in 2022 and look forward to working with your children in their learning journey. As always we have so much to be thankful for.

Bernadette Fabri



Facebook @stpatricksparramatta.

St Patrick's Primary School enjoys sharing the great things that happen at our school via our official School FACEBOOK page. A copy of the User Policy relating to our page, can be found

through this [link](#).

Our Facebook page is for promoting a sense of community and is used to provide families with information about past events and activities and positive achievements within our school. The page doesn't replace regular communication modes, rather, it will communicate through social media many of the interesting, exciting, fun and terrific learning of our students, giving you the chance to interact with "likes" and comments.

To find our page search for @stpatricksparramatta.

We look forward to sharing the great learning of our students this year.

Term Dates

Term 1 - Friday 28th January to Friday 8th April

Term 2 - Tuesday 26th April - Friday 1st July

Term 3 - Monday 18th July - Friday 23rd September

Term 4 - Monday 10th October - Tuesday 20th December

** Please note: Every year the NSW Government allocates 6 days to each school to be used for Staff Professional Development. These can be used for the gathering of essential data on students

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY DATES will be communicated to you as soon as possible when confirmed

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the Saliba Family (Angelique 5T) on the passing of her Grandfather.



We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the Romanos Family (Antonia 5C) on the passing of her Grandfather.

Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

CONVERSATION STARTERS ABOUT CYBER SAFETY

These questions are designed to be used in a family to start everyday conversations about online safety. The questions cover topics such as identifying online risks, using technology safely and reporting unsafe behaviour. Use them together with the information at eSafety kids, and empower kids to take control of their online experiences.

Have you ever seen something online that made you feel worried? Ask an Adult!

Not all online messages are nice

Messages that make you feel uncomfortable, unsafe, scared or a bit weird are not right for you.

Be a 'bad message' detective

Learn what to watch out for, such as someone you don't know contacting you online. Being able to spot messages that are not right for you is the first step to being safe online.

eSafety Day

Parent Webinar - <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars>

2022 dates (Australian Eastern Daylight Time)

Tuesday 8 February 12.30 to 1.30 pm

Thursday 10 February 12.30 to 1.30 pm

Wednesday 23 February 7.30 to 8.30 pm

Follow the link register for the upcoming parent webinars. This term the webinar will offer tips about how to support children 5-12 while they socialise, learn and have fun on line.

NOTES FROM THE E-SAFETY COMMISSIONER.

ST PATRICK'S IS A NUT AWARE SCHOOL

St Patrick's Parramatta regards student safety to be of utmost importance. As our school has a number of students with severe food allergies, which can be life-threatening, we have adopted a 'Nut Aware School' approach.



Some strategies we adopt include:

- Student Action Plans displayed in the First Aid room and in the classrooms for easy identification if needed.
- Yearly training for all staff in the management of allergies and anaphylaxis
- Regular communication with staff regarding students at risk.
- EpiPens are readily accessible from the classroom/s and playground and excursions that staff know where they are located.
- Awareness raising of students about signs of allergic reactions and anaphylaxis and the importance of always telling a teacher if students notice that a classmate is unwell.
- Risk Assessment completed for all excursions and significant school activities
- Students are encouraged
 - to wash their hands before and after they eat or handle food
 - Not to share food
 - Not to bring nut products to school especially if they have a class member with a serious allergy.

Parents, you can support our endeavours by please avoiding sending foods that contain nuts to school. This includes peanut paste, nut spreads such as Nutella and fruit and nut bars. Some children are also allergic to sesame seeds.

We acknowledge that due to food processing practices it is impractical to eliminate nuts or nut products entirely from an environment where there is food. Many food packaging labels include the phrase 'may contain traces of nuts'. These foods are acceptable.

If you are interested in discussing this topic with your child(ren) follow the [link](#) to a set of simple slides explaining Allergies and Anaphylaxis

Thank you for your understanding and support of our school policies and procedures.

Medical Updates

As the children return to school it is very important that students with medical conditions such as Asthma and Anaphylaxis return with their medication.

Please check the expiry dates on your child's medication and ensure it is within the date. If your child requires Claratyne or Zyrtec as part of their anaphylaxis plan be aware the school does not stock this and you are responsible for including it in their bag.

It may be a timely reminder to also ensure their Asthma Plans and Anaphylaxis Plans have been updated in the previous 12 months.

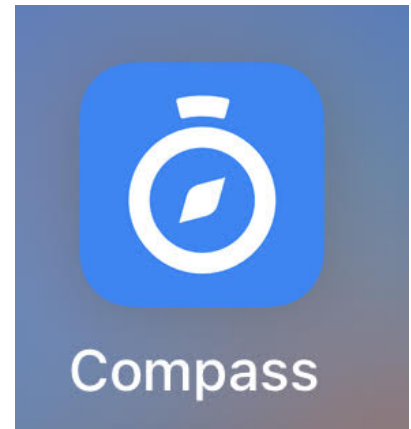
Regards

Mrs Jones

Compass Parent Portal

Have you had a chance to download our new Compass Parent Portal App?

Thank you to the many parents who have logged onto our new Compass Parent Portal. If you require your password to be resent or you need your username please email the school at stpatsricksparra@parra.catholic.edu.au.



Compass will be our primary communication tool that will facilitate effective communication between home and school. 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

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.

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>

'Prayer is what keeps the lamp of the heart lit. This is especially true when we feel that our enthusiasm has cooled down. Prayer re-lights it, because it brings us back to God, to the center of things. Prayer reawakens the soul from sleep and focuses it on what matters, on the purpose of existence.'

Pope Francis



For the telecast of Weekend mass follow this link:
[St. Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta - Facebook](#)



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