



St Joseph's School

PETERBOROUGH

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Mass Times – St Anacletus Church – Sundays 5:00pm

IMPORTANT DATES

WEEK 1

FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY

9:10am Year 7/8/9 Liturgy – All Welcome

WEEK 2

TUESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY

Secondary Family Information Afternoon

WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY

Primary Family Information Afternoon

FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

9:10am Year 7/8/9 Assembly – All Welcome

WEEK 3

TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

Opening School Mass 9:30am @ St Anacletus Church.

FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

9:10am Reception/Year 1 Liturgy – All Welcome

WEEK 4

WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

School Board Meeting – 5:30pm

WEEK 5

FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

9:10am Year 2/3/4 Liturgy – All Welcome
School Photo Day

WEEK 6

TUESDAY 4TH MARCH

Shrove Tuesday

WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH

9:10am Ash Wednesday Liturgy – All Welcome

WEEK 7

MONDAY 10TH MARCH

Public Holiday

FRIDAY 14TH MARCH

9:00am – 1:00pm Sports Day
1:00pm Early Dismissal

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WELCOME

Welcome back for 2025, I trust that everyone had an enjoyable break and enjoyed the opportunity to spend quality time with their families and friends.

A very special welcome to our new staff members and new students and their families. I have no doubt that our school community will welcome them all with open arms!

The new school year always begins with such anticipation and excitement, it has been wonderful to see and hear the children exploring their learning environments and playing cheerfully in the yard this week.

I look forward to another year where each and every student is provided with opportunities to learn, grow and have fun at our school with the support of parents and the wider school community. I wish you all every blessing for the school year ahead.

NEW STAFF & STUDENTS

We warmly welcome two new staff members for 2024:

Mrs Renée Porter, Year 5/6 Teacher

Miss Grace Doran, Education Support Officer

I know that our community will make them feel very welcome and we look forward to an opportunity in the future to meet and greet and welcome them more officially.



We welcome six new Reception students, Liam, Sophie, River, Gracie, Nina and Sophia, who on Tuesday had their very first day of school. What a moment! We hope your school journey is wonderful, full of exploration, learning and fun!

Liam – “I love being in my classroom and playing”.

Sophie – “I love fishing in investigations”.

River – “I love the slides and the swings”.

Gracie – “I love playing with the fishing rod in investigations”.

Nina – “I love to fish, colour in and play with the sand box”.

Sophia – “I love making all kinds of stuff”.

We also welcome three new students in other grades and wish them and their families very well as they settle into our school community. Esme (Year 1), Effie (Year 8) and Amber (Year 9).

STAFFING

Please see below an outline of our Staffing for 2025

Role	Person(s)
Principal	<i>Taylor Meyer (I will also be the designated RE Leader)</i>
Leader of Learning & Wellbeing	<i>Kylie Wells</i>
R/1 Teacher	<i>Millie Smart</i>
2/3/4 Teacher	<i>Nicki Morgan</i>
5/6 Teacher	<i>Regina Farr (Mon, Wed & Thu) & Renée Porter (Tue & Fri)</i>
7/8/9 Teachers	<i>Jessica Robinson (Yr 7/8/9 Pastoral Care, Maths, HASS, Science, Visual Art, Wood Tech, Digital Tech)</i> <i>Kylie Wells (English, Food Tech)</i> <i>Aidan Jennings (Careers Education, HPE)</i> <i>Taylor Meyer (Religious Education)</i>
HPE R-6	<i>Aidan Jennings (Reception/Year 1)</i> <i>Regina Farr (Year 2/3/4 and Year 5/6)</i>
R-6 Visual Art and Languages (AUSLAN)	<i>Brooklyn Virgens</i>
Educational Support Officers	<i>Kelly Limburg (Admin)</i> <i>Chris Malycha (Admin)</i> <i>Helen Latham (Finance)</i> <i>Leonie Thompson (Curriculum)</i> <i>Shane Perrott (Curriculum)</i> <i>Grace Doran (Curriculum)</i> <i>Megan McMillan (Curriculum)</i> <i>Aidan Jennings (Curriculum)</i> <i>Brooklyn Virgens (Curriculum)</i> <i>Sarah Thomas (Curriculum)</i> <i>Russell Hill (Grounds & Maintenance)</i> <i>Brenda Wilkinson (Cleaning)</i>

Our Catholic Identity

GOSPEL VALUE

Faith

He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

- Matthew 17:20

JOSEPHITE VALUE

Trust

The concept of radical trust comes from Mary MacKillop's conviction that God would always provide and that if she set her heart on loyal service of the Church and the vision of Jesus, then material needs would be taken care of.

Our Mission

MISSION – why we exist

It is our mission at St Joseph's School to embrace and build on Mary MacKillop's legacy. We will ensure excellence in teaching and learning, enabling all students to be thriving and capable citizens in their community.

2024 END OF YEAR AWARDS

Congratulations to all the students who received an award at last year's Graduation and Awards Liturgy:

SCHOOL BASED AWARDS

EXCEPTIONAL ATTITUDE TO LEARNING – Ava-Maria Sorensen, Nathaniel Marsh, Zola Schuld, Lilly Gale, Samantha Mitchell, Jessica Lange, Madison Poltorasky

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT - Ava-Maria Sorensen, Tyler Anderson, Bella Philp, Max Lock, Jasmine Crack, Samantha Mitchell, Seraphina Edge, Jacob Limburg

FR CRESP AWARD (R-3) – Ellyse Richards

FR LONERGAN (4-6) – Karlee Smith-Ortolan

TENISON WOODS AWARD (7-9) – Jessica Lange

MARY MACKILLOP AWARD – Seraphina Edge

COMMUNITY BASED AWARDS

ROTARY COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD – Toby Lock

GEOFF BROCK PARLIAMENTARY AWARD – Milla Arrow and Madison Poltorasky

PARENT/FAMILY INFORMATION AFTERNOON

All parents and families are invited to attend our Parent/Family Information Afternoons on Tuesday, 4 February (Secondary) and Wednesday, 5 February (Primary). Each afternoon will start at 4:00pm with a free sausage sizzle available from 3:30pm each day. Each teacher will run an information session at 4:00pm and then the same session at 4:30pm to allow families to attend multiple sessions if they have children in different classes. All parents/caregivers are encouraged to attend as we lay the strong foundation to a successful 2025 where we walk in partnership to promote excellence and strong outcomes for all students. Yard supervision will be available for children during all primary sessions on Wednesday afternoon to support all families to be able to attend.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Our School Newsletter will be available each Thursday of Weeks 1, 4, 7 and 10 each term. The newsletter will be emailed to our mailing list, uploaded to our school website with the link posted to Facebook and uploaded to Seesaw. If you would like to be

www.stjopet.catholic.edu.au

added to our mailing list, please let Kelly in the front office know. Hard copies of the newsletter will be made available in the front office.

SCHOOL FEES

You will receive an invoice for school fees in the next couple of weeks. The School Board, through advice from CESA, has kept our fees at the 2024 prices. Families will be invoiced the whole amount at the beginning of the year and you will be able to work towards paying off the full amount in whatever way works best for you. Helen is able to assist in setting up payment plans. We are proud of the discounts offered for siblings and school card families. Our aim, in alignment with Mary MacKillop's legacy, is to make our school a welcoming and affordable place for all. At the same time we need to ensure that the school operates in a financially sustainable manner that provides the best learning opportunities for all students. If you have any questions or are experiencing financial hardship, please do not hesitate to contact Helen Latham or Taylor Meyer.

SCHOOL CARD

School Card Applications for 2025 are available at the front office or online. If you think you might be eligible, please see Helen or Kelly as soon as possible.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Attached to this newsletter is a copy of our school's Uniform Policy. It is expected that **all** students will be in the correct school uniform each day, any short-term variances must be communicated in your child's diary or a phone call to the office to inform us of this. Thank you for your assistance in ensuring that the pride of our school is demonstrated through the adherence to the uniform policy. A reminder that all items are to be purchased from the School, with the exception of white socks and sneakers.

MOBILE PHONES

A reminder that mobile phones are not permitted at St Joseph's School. If your child needs their phone whilst travelling to and from school that is absolutely fine, however, upon arrival at school it must be switched off and given to the front office to keep safe during the day. If a parent needs to contact a student during the day, they are required to phone the front office on 86518100. Please ensure that you read the Mobile Phone & Digital Devices Policy attached to today's newsletter.

LUNCH ORDERS & CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS

Lunch orders will continue to be available **Monday, Wednesday** and **Friday** from the Kid's Café. In order to provide your child/ren with the opportunity to order lunches, we rely on Parent volunteers to run the canteen. You will find a reply slip in today's newsletter asking you to volunteer some time to work in the canteen. **We are seeking volunteers for Mondays.** If you are new to working in the canteen, we have parents and staff that are willing to show you what is involved and will happily help any new volunteers. Monday and Wednesday we offer a variety of lunch order items and on Friday we offer sausage in bread and a fruit box. The price list for the canteen is available at the front office and on our school website at any time and is also included in today's newsletter. *Please note – volunteers must have a Working With Children Check.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CLEARANCES

As with all Catholic schools we are a mandated child-safe environment with legal, policy and procedural requirements for staff and volunteers. In order to be a volunteer or be involved in school-based activities a working with children check is required. This includes, canteen workers, board members and other volunteers. Creating and maintaining a safe and supportive school environment is a priority. If you require a Working with Children Check Form, simply see the front office staff and we can organise it for you. You will need to do a 100 point check so please bring appropriate ID along with you. There is no cost for volunteers. Volunteers will also need to complete a free online RRHAN course and site induction. Please see Kelly in the front office for more information.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

We will have our first official school event on Tuesday, 11 February. Our Opening School Mass will be held in St Anacletus Church at 9:30am. All parents/caregivers, families and friends are warmly invited to join us on this special occasion. Our 2025 School leaders and SRC Representatives will be presented to the community, blessed and commissioned at the Mass.

CLASS LITURGIES & ASSEMBLIES

Each term, each class will host a Liturgy and an Assembly. An Assembly will include prayer and then will showcase student learning. It will be student led and we look forward to sharing classroom learning with Parents and Friends in this format. Each Friday at 9:10am we will have a Liturgy one week and then an Assembly the following week. Please check the Important Dates section of the newsletter to see which class is coming up. Please note that these times may change slightly on occasions but will be communicated through the newsletter or SeeSaw.

SPORTS DAY – SAVE THE DATE

This year we have planned our Sports Day to take place on **Friday, 14 March**, Week 7. We will also host some 7/8/9 events the day before on Thursday, 13 March. Further details will be shared closer to the date. We will need lots of volunteers as well so keep an eye out in future newsletters for a volunteer slip.

-Taylor Meyer

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

2025 DIOCESAN THEME

Each year, the Schools in the Port Pirie Diocese have a theme that we use to focus on throughout the year. This year the theme is 'Seeds of Hope'. The theme calls upon us to plant seeds of hope, believing that something good is coming, even when we don't know exactly how or when. The seeds of hope we plant—through our words, our actions, and our faith—will grow in God's time. It may take days, months, or even years, but one day, we will see the fruits of what we have planted.

Our prayer for this year's theme is below, we will be using this prayer throughout our school this year.

Father in heaven,

May the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of love enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform our world in the expectation of a new heaven and earth where goodness triumphs.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of Jesus throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

SCHOOL NEWS

PBIS – POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR INTERVENTIONS and SUPPORTS

The image to the right shows our four key belief statements about how we expect every member of the St Joseph's School community to be. We have used the acronym CARE and then each letter represents how we can show CARE at St Joseph's.

We expect all members of our community to **Care** for self, others & the environment; to **Actively Learn**; to **Respect** self, others & the environment; and that **Everyone** is safe & welcome.

As the year progresses, you will become more accustomed to hearing these beliefs and students and teachers will be undertaking teaching and learning focussed on specific behaviours. If a child doesn't know how to read, we teach them. It is just the same with behaviour, if a child doesn't know how to behave in the expected way, we need to teach them. This approach is research based and evidenced and many schools across the country have implemented it with great success.

The staff have developed a matrix which delves deeper into what behaviours are expected in particular areas across the school. We have

At St Joseph's
Peterborough
we...



Thriving people, capable learners, leaders for the world God desires

also created a flow chart which provides a clear, consistent and educative response to student behaviours that do not show CARE. We look forward to hosting information sessions throughout the year to share the work we have been doing as a school and to strengthen the partnership between school and home.

This year we will continue with our CARE Awards and at Class Assemblies each fortnight (approximately) students will be acknowledged for their efforts to demonstrate our beliefs of C.A.R.E at St Joseph's.

We look forward to sharing more with you as the year progresses!

-Taylor Meyer, Kylie Wells & Nicki Morgan

PARENTS & FRIENDS NEWS

KIDS CAFÉ

Please fill out the below table if you are able to help with Kid's Café and return to the front office. Thanks for your support. *Please note, if we do not have volunteers on Mondays, Canteen will not be available.

To place an order for Kid's Café simply write your child's name on a bag/envelope with your child's order. Please provide the correct money for your order if possible. These need to be placed in the classroom lunch basket. A canteen price list is available from the front office. Friday prices are below:

SAUSAGES \$2 each (sauce free)

FRUIT BOXES \$1 each

KIDS CAFÉ VOLUNTEERS – Term 1			
	CANTEEN (Mondays)	CANTEEN (Wednesdays)	SAUSAGE SIZZLE (Fridays)
WEEK 1	PUBLIC HOLIDAY – NO CANTEEN	Katrina Hill	Bill Hill & Russell Sleep
WEEK 2	Katrina Hill	Katrina Hill	Rotary Club
WEEK 3	Katrina Hill	Katrina Hill	Bill Hill & Russell Sleep
WEEK 4	Katrina Hill	Katrina Hill	Rotary Club
WEEK 5	Katrina Hill	Katrina Hill	Bill Hill & Russell Sleep
WEEK 6	Katrina Hill	Katrina Hill	Rotary Club
WEEK 7	Katrina Hill	Katrina Hill	SPORTS DAY
WEEK 8	Katrina Hill	Katrina Hill	Rotary Club
WEEK 9	Katrina Hill	Katrina Hill	Bill Hill & Russell Sleep
WEEK 10	Katrina Hill	Katrina Hill	Rotary Club
WEEK 11	Katrina Hill	Katrina Hill	EARLY FINISH – NO CANTEEN

COMMUNITY NEWS

SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE

Don't forget that you can also keep up to date with what is happening in our school by liking us on Facebook. Our Facebook page is regularly updated with useful information, photos, videos, etc.

Simply click on the following link or type it into your web browser
<https://www.facebook.com/StJosephsSchoolPeterborough>

SCHOOL INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT

Did you know that we also have a presence on Instagram? If you want to follow us, scan the QR code 😊



STJOSPETERBOROUGH



St Joseph's School PETERBOROUGH

UNIFORM POLICY

At St Joseph's School the presentation of our students is important. The uniform policy exists to ensure appropriate and safe standards of dress. All students who attend St Joseph's School must wear the approved school uniform. The wearing of our school uniform is a requirement as stated in the enrolment forms but more importantly is one way we can all take pride in our school.

Compulsory enforcement of our uniform policy enables consistency in dress standards throughout the school and is a way of identifying students who are part of the St Joseph's community. If for any reason your child is unable to wear a particular item of our school uniform, they should provide a note from their parent/caregiver advising the school of the situation and take appropriate steps to correct the uniform as soon as possible. This is not permission to wear incorrect items for an extended period of time.

This Uniform Policy also addresses accessories which are acceptable. Again, approval of such accessories takes into account the safety, both physical and environmental, of each child.

To ensure consistency for students and across the school **all clothing items must be purchased through the school.** Therefore, similar items of clothing purchased from other sources will be deemed as not correct school uniform.

Uniform R-9	
Pants	Tops
<p>Navy Blue Cargo Shorts</p> 	<p>Navy Blue/Gold Polo Top <i>(with embroidered school logo)</i></p> 
<p>Navy Blue Skort</p> 	<p>Navy Blue School Jumper <i>(with embroidered school logo)</i></p> 
<p>Navy Blue Tracksuit Pants <i>(with gold pinstripe)</i></p> 	<p>Navy Blue/Gold Tracksuit Jacket <i>(with embroidered school logo)</i></p> 

Footwear

Sandshoes



White or Navy Blue Socks



PLEASE NOTE: *Canvas material is not acceptable*

ACCESSORIES

School Hat

Navy Blue with St Joseph's Crest (*No Hat - No Play*)



Earrings	Jewellery	Hair
Students are only permitted to wear no more than one stud/sleeper in the lower ear lobe. Stud to be plain silver/gold or can have a school coloured stone (blue/gold)	Students are permitted to wear a necklace but it needs to be worn under the shirt. Wrist watches are allowed to be worn also.	Shoulder length hair must be tied back with a natural hair colour or school colour ribbon. (Navy/gold)
Make-Up	Nail Polish	
Students are not permitted to wear any form of facial make-up. Sunscreen and moisturiser are allowed.	Students are not permitted to wear nail polish or artificial nails.	

Uniform 6-9 – Commemorative Items

In **Year 6**, students design a special Polo shirt and Jumper that can be worn as part of their school uniform. This is to recognise their final year of Primary School. This is a special item of the uniform that can be worn from Year 6 through to the end of Year 9.

In **Year 9**, students will also design their own polo and jumper as a symbol of their final year of Schooling at St Joseph's School.

These items of uniform are only able to be purchased at Year 6 and Year 9.

All other items of the uniform are to be worn from R-9. These commemorative items are unique to Yr 6-9 and are worn in addition to the regular uniform.

Please make sure that all uniforms are clearly marked with your child's name.

Reviewed & approved by School Leadership/Board: 2021

Next Review: 2024



MOBILE DIGITAL DEVICES POLICY

Definitions

'Mobile digital devices' are hand-held electronic devices that can generate, receive, store, process and send digital information, including photos and videos. Under this policy, mobile digital devices include smartphones, smartwatches and mobile tablets but not Chromebooks or laptops. (Carr-Gregg, 2008). This policy makes a distinction between personal devices that often have independent internet connectivity which bypasses the school internet filter and devices that are provided by the school and or authorized by the school as part of teacher-directed educational activities.

Rationale

Mobile digital devices are an important communication medium and have significant benefits for use in the broader community. Some of the benefits include:

- Aids to wellbeing
 - Connection to peer networks and communities of interest
 - Personal safety
 - Digital literacy
 - Access to information
 - Communication benefits
- (Carr-Gregg, 2018)

However, research has found that "Mobile digital device use in schools has the potential to disrupt student wellbeing and affect the education of the 'whole child'" (Griffiths & Williams, 2018). In particular, some of the significant risks and harms of mobile digital devices include:

- Distraction from school work
 - Impediment to good physical health
 - Negative impact on mental health
 - Decreased face-to face social interaction
 - Exposure to inappropriate material
 - Cyberbullying
- (Griffiths & Williams, 2018)

Guidelines

- Students are not to use mobile digital devices on school grounds during school hours, this includes during lesson times, recess, lunchtime, in between lessons or during afterschool study.
 - *School grounds extends to school excursions, sports carnivals, and other events off the school site, where an approved school activity takes place.*
- If a student chooses to bring their mobile digital device(s) to school:
 - R-6 students will need to turn their mobile digital device(s) off or on silent and hand in at the front office where it will be safely stored until the end of the day.
 - 7-9 students will need to turn their mobile digital device(s) off or on silent and have them locked in the student's locker and must not be accessed during school hours.
- Mobile digital devices are brought to St Joseph's School at the owner's own risk. No liability will be accepted by the School in the event of loss, theft or damage of the mobile digital device.
- Students are discouraged from using their mobile digital devices whilst walking or riding to and from the School. There are significant safety risks associated with walking and riding whilst texting, messaging, being on the internet or listening to music with earbuds or headphones

- Students are reminded that when mobile digital devices are used outside of school hours they must be used in a manner consistent with the School's Anti-Bullying & Harassment, Behaviour Education and Personal Responsibility and Intervention, Computer & Internet and Learning Technologies policies.
- Normally, a parent should not communicate with their child during school hours. In the event of an emergency, parents are requested to contact the School Front office, advise them of the nature of the emergency and staff members will facilitate communications with their child. Parents should be aware that calls or messages to their child's mobile device will not be accessed until the end of the school day.

Procedure

- Students who choose to use their mobile digital devices for any reason will first be issued with a warning. Teacher will record the breach of procedure on SEQTA.
- Students who choose to use their mobile digital devices for any reason on a second occasion within a calendar year will have their device confiscated. It will be stored safely in the front office and will be able to be collected by a parent/caregiver at the end of the day. Teacher will record the breach of procedure on SEQTA
- Students who choose to use their mobile digital devices for any reason on more than two occasions will have their phone confiscated. It will be stored safely in the front office and will be able to be collected by a parent/caregiver at the end of the day. If the student is in R-6 the parents will be informed that the child is no longer permitted to bring the device to school. If the student is in 7-9 they will no longer be permitted to leave their device in their locker and will instead need to hand their device in to the front office at the start of each day. They can then collect it again at the end of the day.
- Any further breaches of these expectations by 7-9 students will result in the device no longer being permitted at school.
- Exemptions to this policy for medical purposes maybe given after direct negotiation between parent/carer and the Principal.

Responsibilities

Students

- Are expected to follow the guidelines outlined above.

All Staff

- Model appropriate behaviour at all times;
- It is expected that staff mobile phones are either switched off or on silent during meetings, school functions and lessons, so there is minimal distraction to others.
- When in a supervisory capacity, it is inappropriate for staff to engage in personal communication other than in an emergency.

Teaching Staff

- Ensure all students are provided with ICT Agreements, that they understand them, and that they understand the will face consequences in the event they misuse ICT equipment and devices;
- Deal with all reported and observed incidents of inappropriate mobile digital device use in accordance with this policy; and
- Ensure that any incident of inappropriate mobile digital device use that they observe or is reported to them, is recorded appropriately on SEQTA.

Parents/Caregivers

- The decision to provide a mobile phone and other electronic equipment to their children should be made by parents/caregivers.
- Parents/Caregivers should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone or other electronic equipment onto St Joseph's School premises.
- Parents are asked to contact their child only through the St Joseph's School landline 86518100 during school hours not via their child's mobile phone.
- As a courtesy, parents are asked to turn off phones or switch to silent when attending St Joseph's School functions and meetings.

References

Carr-Gregg, M (2018), "Review into the non-educational use of mobile devices in NSW schools – report" accessed 30 March 2019 from: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/strategies-and-reports/our-reports-and-reviews/mobile-devices-in-schools>

Griffiths, K & Williams, M, (2018), "Literature review – Impact of mobile digital devices in schools", Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation, accessed 30 March 2019 from <https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/strategies-and-reports/media/documents/mobile-device-literature-review.pdf>.

Policy reviewed 2022