

Term 1, Week 2

7 February, 2020

From the Principal

What a wonderful start to our school year. It has been a delight to see so many smiling faces and the energy and enthusiasm that our children and their teachers have for school. Our Year 6 students have welcomed their Kindergarten buddies with compassion and friendliness and have exemplified our school values in their interactions with our youngest members of our community. This is a testament to the values you instil at home and we support at school. It was also lovely to see so many 2020 Kindergarten parents at our "Tea and Tissues" morning last Friday and the swapping of First Day of Kindergarten stories and experiences made the morning even more special. Thank you also to our very generous P & F who organised the special photo opportunity and tissues to commemorate the children's first day of 'big school'.

Parish Celebrations

Last weekend, our parish celebrated 50 years of faith-filled service to the Winston Hills community. Along with a great number of our staff, it was lovely to join with our Bishop, the Very Rev. Bishop Vincent Long, Fr Ranning and Fr Marcus in a celebration of the Eucharist with our parishioners. Following Mass, we were able to come together to mark this very special occasion by celebrating with a meal together on our school grounds. Despite the heat and humidity, it was a very well attended event and superbly organised by the parish. We are so blessed to have such a special and supportive relationship with our parish.



Working in Partnership with Parents

We know that children receive the best education when parents and teachers work as a team. Parents' enthusiasm, support and involvement are integral to the success of our school as are the skills, dedication and professionalism of our staff. Together we can provide educational excellence for every student, so that they can achieve their personal best. I hope that throughout the year, our school will be a place where staff, students and families have opportunities to experience God's presence in our lives. The prophet Jeremiah says "The Lord says, I know the plans I have for you....Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11. When we all model God's love for one another and value each other we express our commitment to the Gospel values and are role models for others.

2020 School Goals

The staff at St Paul's are committed to providing quality education for all students and we look forward to sharing the learning this year with you. Our two goals for 2020 have been informed by our work in 2019 and through the close analysis of our student data with our teachers and our support personnel from the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP). Our goals are:

- **Religious Education:** *We will explore the link Scripture, our Church and our world through deep engagement, inquiry and reflection.*
- **Learning:** *To build assessment capable learners who understand their learning trajectory and are confident to take on challenge and the opportunity to extend their learning.*



We have developed and drilled down our learning goal into a student friendly version for our children in the form of a success criteria.

I can:

- **name what I am learning about and why and where I need to go next**
- **take responsibility for my learning and challenge myself to extend my thinking**
- **use feedback to improve my learning.**

These goals are now visible in every learning space at St Paul's and will form the basis for our work with teachers, students and parents this year. This is our vision for 2020. We are looking forward to sharing information about our goals as the year progresses and so, this week in our school newsletter, Mrs Misek offers some helpful questions for parents as potential conversation starters with your child/ren.

Kindergarten 2020 - Information Night

This **Tuesday, 11 February** we will be holding a Kindergarten Information Evening from **6:00 - 7:00pm** in the Kindergarten learning space. This is a great opportunity for you to meet our 2020 Kindergarten teachers and for them to explain the day to day runnings of Kindy. We ask that children are left at home for this session. Thank you for your cooperation, we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday night.

Open Day Sessions

Believe it or not, even though our Kindergarten students have only just started, we are in the process of organising our 2021 Kindergarten Enrolment Applications and invite any prospective parents to attend our **Open Day sessions on Tuesday 3 March, 2020. Our first session is scheduled for 9:30am to 10:30am with a repeat session scheduled for 2pm to 3pm.** If you are interested in applying for 2021, please register your interest in one of these sessions with the office staff.

Enrolment forms for applications for Kindergarten 2021 will be available from the school office from **Monday 17 February**. Applications close on Tuesday March 31. Unfortunately, all late or incomplete applications will be placed on a waiting list.

Peace and Joy!
Mrs Megan Baird
Principal

From the Assistant Principal

As already mentioned by Mrs Baird, in 2020 our school learning goal focuses on developing our students as Assessment Capable Learners.

Assessment capable learners:

- Know where they are going
- Have the right tools for the Journey
- Can monitor their own progress
- Can recognise when they are ready to move on in their learning
- Know what to do next to

In other words - Assessment Capable Learners know what to do when they don't know what to do. As teachers and parents there are many ways that we can work together to support our students on this learning journey. Each day when we are working in the classrooms we are asking critical questions of ourselves as teachers and as leaders and we are asking the students similar questions to gather up to date information about how students feel they are going with their learning.

One of the most common questions we are asked by parents is how they can help their children. One way we can all help our children is to reframe the questions we ask. How often have you collected your child/ren from school and asked them what they do throughout the day only to be answered with "nothing". This year we challenge you to reframe the questions you ask so that you are focusing on the learning. Some questions you could ask are:

- What did you learn today?
- How did you go with that?
- What did you do if you didn't understand?
- How can you improve?
- What are you most proud of today?
- What feedback did you get today and what did you do with it?

It is important that we work together to assure our students that it is good to seek feedback and to recognise that there are many opportunities to learn throughout the day. These questions help to create opportunities for conversations with your children that give you important information about his/her learning and show them that we are all working in partnership.

Religious Education

Welcome Ceremony - Friday 14 February 2020 at 2:00pm in the Church. This is a beautiful ceremony to welcome all new staff and students into the family of St Paul's. Please join us on this very special occasion.

The school will be organising and Years 2 to 6 will be attending the **Ash Wednesday Mass on 26 February 2020 at 9:10 in the Church**. We would love if you could join us to start the season of Lent together. Our Kindergarten and Year 1 students and teachers will have a prayer liturgy in their classrooms after this mass and receive their ashes.

Opening School Mass this year will be celebrated in Catholic Schools week. Many events are happening this week but we will end the week of events sharing the Eucharist together on **Friday 6 March 2020 starting at 9:10am in the Church**. We would love for you to join in our celebration of Mass. These events are in our School Calendar.

Learning DanceFever

Over the past two weeks, all students from K-6 have experienced their first DanceFever lessons. Two of the three teachers from DanceFever have returned to St. Paul's in 2020 and have already provided the students with fun and engaging dance experiences.



Japanese

This week, our Primary students have experienced their first Japanese lessons with Mrs Honda. There was such a great buzz of enthusiasm and excitement in this new learning opportunity and we are looking forward to hearing more about how our Japanese lessons are enhancing learning at St Paul's.

Band

This week, we welcomed back our Teaching Services Australia (TSA) tutors for Band lessons. Teaching Services Australia is an independent and private company who provides tuition to some of our students during school time on a Wednesday. If you are interested in organising lessons for your child, please liaise directly with TSA.



Inquiry/Project Based Learning

This week, Mrs Hooper and Mrs Misk had the opportunity to meet together to review our scope and sequence of learning outcomes and to plan some new and exciting learning experiences with an inquiry focus for the students.

Next month, our Year 5 and 6 teachers, together with Mrs Ferguson will attend a three day course with Dr Michael McDowell on "Rigorous Project Based Learning". These opportunities support and enhance our inquiry based experiential learning at St. Paul's and will afford the teachers the opportunity to reimagine and reinvent not only in school learning opportunities but also excursion and incursion opportunities which will complement and enhance learning.

Attendance

It is important for your child's wellbeing and academic progress that they attend school regularly, are on time for school, and complete each school day. Children need to attend school every day from 8.55am until 3.15pm unless illness prevents their attendance. Please ensure that appointments are made outside of school hours in order to ensure that your child can maximise their learning potential. Learning takes place from 8.55am until the final bell at 3.15pm. Being late, or taking your child early from school, particularly on a regular basis, may hinder their personal, social and academic progress. This is often reflected in school reports. Parents taking their children out of school on a regular basis will be contacted by the Principal.



Should you need to take your child out of school early on an unavoidable occasion, a note should be sent in to the class teacher. This will minimise the interruption to learning time for all students. Please avoid disruption to teachers and students by arriving unexpectedly to pick up children without prior notice, except in the case of an emergency.

Sickness

If your child is too sick for school, you can send a Skoolbag app notification, email or call* the school office. If you inform us with a Skoolbag notification or via email, you do not need to send in another note. *Please note—If you call the office you will still need to send a signed note listing the days absent and reason.

Other leave

Taking leave for family holidays during the school term is not encouraged. Government regulations require you to seek leave approval from the school for holidays of 5 days or more **prior** to your journey. Contact the school office for an Application for Extended Leave (L) - Travel Leave—From A.1. This form is also available on our website under School Notes. Travel leave 1-4 days—please send in a written note to the school prior to your leave. Taking leave for the entertainment industry or an elite sporting event Government regulations require you to seek an exemption from the school for all leave in the entertainment industry or elite sporting events, prior to the event. Contact the school office for an Application for Exemption from Attendance at School (M) - Form 1.2. This form is also available on our website.

General School Information

Emails to staff

Whilst we recognise that email is a fast and convenient way to communicate with your child's teacher, we wish to remind you that teachers may read their emails at various times throughout the school day. Further, teachers are generally not expected to respond to emails from parents and students outside of normal working hours. In the case of a genuine emergency please contact the school office during business hours on 8841 3800.

If you wish to contact your child's teacher, please continue to direct your emails to winstonhills@parra.catholic.edu.au which will then be triaged, as per usual practice. We appreciate your assistance and understanding. If you have any questions about the above please feel free to contact Mrs Gray in the office on 8841 3800.

School Newsletter

Our school newsletter, St. Paul's Post, is shared with our community every **fortnight** (with the exception of the beginning of the year where there may be an abridged version circulated in Week 1 and also in Week 2.) St Paul's Post is available via Skoolbag and also on our school website. If you are unable to access our newsletter via these electronic mediums, please contact the school office to arrange alternative access.

Term One Overviews

Term One Class Overviews are available on the Skoolbag App.

Hair Girls & Boys

Hair must be neat, tidy and the child's natural colour. All shoulder length hair needs to be tied back. Hair needs to be brushed and appropriately styled for school ie. no colours, patterns, undercuts, buzz cuts, lines or extreme cuts. School personnel will challenge inappropriate haircuts.

Calendar changes

Please note that, from time to time, there may be unavoidable circumstances that may occur and dates advertised for events in our School and Parent calendar may need to be changed. Every effort is made to give as much notice as possible when changes occur. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you in advance for your understanding.



Arrival of children in the morning and afternoon supervision

Each morning, staff are on duty for supervision of children from 8.25am. The gate closest to our Administration will remain locked until 8:25am each day. Staff are on duty in the afternoons until 3:45pm. All children (except those attending COSHC) are expected to be collected **prior to 3:45pm**. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Early collection of children from school

If there is a need to collect your child early from school, please send a note to the classroom teacher in the morning and proceed to the school office when you arrive to collect them. On your arrival at the school office, staff will contact the class teacher and your child will then meet you at the school office. While you are waiting for your child, you will be asked to sign them out of the school. Parents are not permitted to go directly to classrooms or other areas to collect their children. Recess is from 11.00-11.30 am and Lunch is from 1.00-1.45pm. If you are collecting your children around Recess or Lunch, we suggest you arrive at the school prior to, or after, Recess and Lunch times. Please allow plenty of time as it will take a few minutes to contact your child, have them pack their bag and walk to the school office.

Parish Carpark

It is a privilege for St Paul's parents to use the Parish car park. For this practice to continue we need to treat our parish community with respect and park only in designated spaces - double parking is not permitted. Please observe all parking signs and road rules when using Kiss and Drop in the morning or collecting children in the afternoon so as to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all members of our school and community. We thank you for your assistance and courtesy in ensuring the safety of everyone in our community.



Photographs taken at school

From time to time, photographs may be taken of your child whilst they are at school or at school events. These photos may be used in school Newsletters, publications, Skoolbag and the school website and Facebook page. They may also be used by Catholic Education, Parramatta Diocese in their publications and website. If you do not wish your child's photo to be taken, please inform the school in writing.

Uniform Shop

Our uniform shop opening times are Thursday 2:30pm - 4:00pm. Orders can also be submitted online through Qkr (see instructions attached) If uniform orders are received by 12:00pm on a Thursday, uniform will be sent home with your child that afternoon.

We offer our condolences to Joe (Oz Fashions) and his family on the loss of his brother during the school holidays. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this difficult time.

P&F Committee

Thank you to the following parents who have generously volunteered to be part of the P&F Committee this year.

President - Mrs Rennee McClintock

Vice President - Mr David Askew

Treasurer - Mrs Kirsten Carter

Secretary - Mrs Madeline Sedrak



School Volunteers at St Paul's

All volunteers who would like to assist at the school in the classroom, on excursions or sporting events at St Paul's need to complete Steps 1 and 2 below as follows: Go to Parramatta CEDP website - <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au> Click on Parents, go to Parent Involvement, click on Child Protection Course. You will then be directed to the Catholic Education Office - Diocese of Parramatta website <http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/home> Complete Steps 1 and 2 1) Step 1: Complete 'Building Child Safe Communities - Undertaking for Volunteers' Form 2) Step 2: Complete the online training module (Updated content to be completed every two years) Once you have successfully completed the training, an email will be sent to St Paul's for our records. Unfortunately, if you offer to assist and have not completed all the volunteer requirements, you will not be able to assist until the volunteer requirements have been completed. All volunteers need to sign in at the school office. If you have any questions regarding Volunteering at school, please contact the school office on 8841 3800.

Work Health and Safety Reminders

Emergency Procedures

As part of the compulsory component of our WHS Emergency Procedures, St Paul's primary is required to have several Evacuations and Lockdowns drills throughout the year. Our planned evacuation for today did not take place due to the inclement weather but will happen in the next couple of weeks. Prior to the evacuation drill, the teachers will explain to the students what to do during an evacuation and what it sounds like. We will be encouraging the students to be calm, prompt and safe! Over the next week or two we will also have a Lockdown Drill where students will practice sheltering in place.

Grounds and Building works

Please be aware that there are still building works being undertaken at school - including the new ramp near our administration area and external to Admin, near the parish car park. These areas are fenced off and **STRICTLY** out of bounds for all members of our community.

Love Thy Neighbour

Please respect all properties neighbouring the school and ensure that our parking does not adversely affect our local neighbours, and the safety of everyone. Our neighbours have a right to access their driveway and parents must not park across driveways or drive in an unsafe manner. A reminder that police and council officers regularly patrol (as has been the case recently) and fine drivers. Thank you for your commitment to a safe and supportive school environment.

Disabled Parking Spaces

We have a number of persons in our community that need to use these spaces in order to access our school and parish safely. Please only use these spaces if you are the holder of a disability parking scheme permit. This **must** be displayed on your windscreen. Thank you for your cooperation in supporting all members of our community.

Late Arrivers

If your child arrives at school at 8:55am or later, you **MUST** walk your child/children into the school office to sign a 'partial absence slip'.

Sport Days - Term 1

Students will need to wear sport uniform on Mondays and the following days:

Kindy - Wednesday

Year 1 - Tuesday

Year 2 - Thursday

Year 3 - Tuesday

Year 4 - Thursday

Year 5 - Thursday

Year 6 - Tuesday



Please see notes attached -

***Skoolbag Instructions - Make sure you link to your child/children's class group!**

***Qkr Online App download instructions - for use with the Canteen and Uniform Shop**

Fact Sheet for Parents and Caregivers - Explanation of Absences



Happy Birthday to all those celebrating their birthdays in the next few weeks....

Ethan M, Isabella El-R, Taylor E, Sarah W, Ruby W, Jade G, Joel O'B, Ellie G, Brandon S, Annabelle G, Braxtyn W, Chloe R, Jordy L, Bridgette B, Anthony El-B, Jonah W, George N, Ryan P, Seraphina De L, Elias K, Oliver C, Oliver D, Valentino B, Emil K, Evanna T, Vincent J, Mikka P, Andrew D, Christian B, Isabella M, Cooper P, Ethan S, George C, Filip K, Josip K, Ella B, Harrison C, Indy F, Archer H, Nicholas D.

How to install the SkoolBag app

instructions for parents and community

1. Get your favourite mobile device
2. Open the App Store/Play Store
3. Search for "SkoolBag"
4. Download the free app
5. Open the app and add your school(s)

for Apple users



Download on the
App Store

for Android users



GET IT ON
Google Play

for more info visit skoolbag.com.au

SkoolBag 



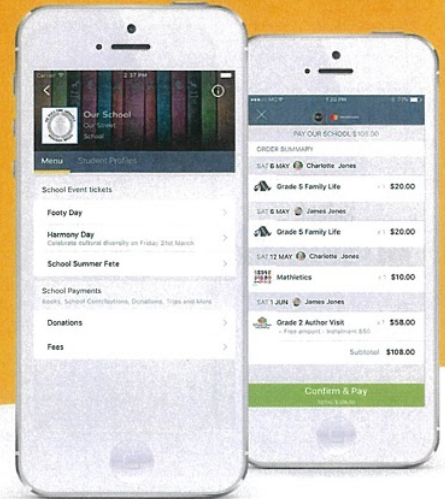
masterpass

For quicker, hassle-free school payments, try Qkr! today

Introducing Qkr! (pronounced 'quicker') by Mastercard, the secure and easy way to order and pay for school items from your phone at a time and place that suits you.

With Qkr you can:

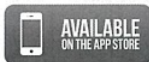
- Order and pay for your child's lunches, reducing the need to bring cash to school;
- Pay for a variety of school items;
- See your receipts on the app and get them sent by email if required.



Getting started is easy - try it yourself today

Step 1 Download Qkr!

on your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app



Step 2 Register

Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register

Step 3 Find our school

Our school will appear in 'Nearby Locations' if you're within 10kms of the school, or search for our school by name.

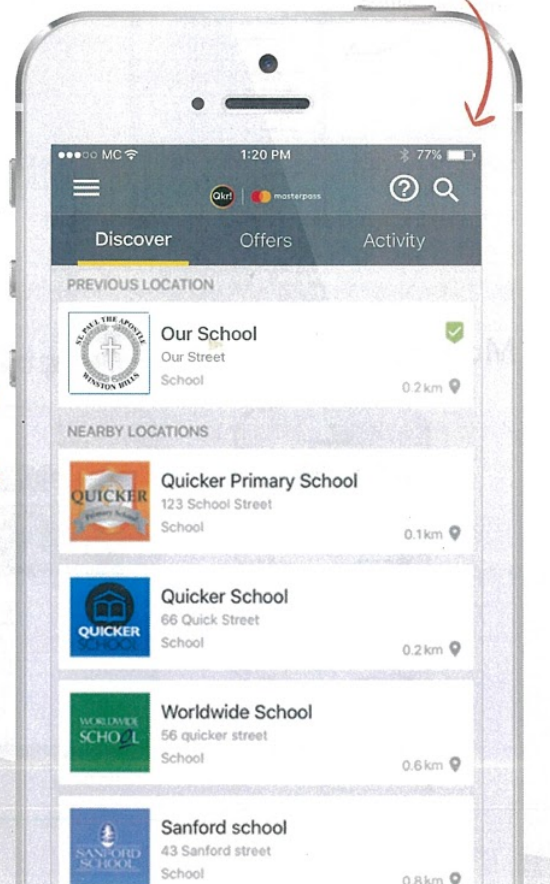
Step 4 Register your children

When first accessing our school you will be prompted to add a student profile for your child. This allows you to make orders and payments for them.

If you have made a purchase you can select our school from 'Previous Location'

If you're within 10 kms of the school, you can select our school from 'Nearby Locations'

Search for our school name





masterpass

Add your children's details in Student Profiles

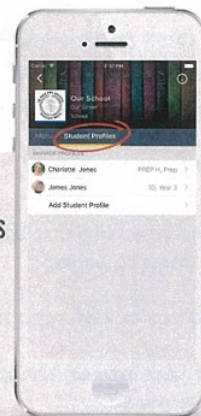
Select
'Add student profile'



Add each
child's details



Manage each
child's details in
Student Profiles



Order meals

Select a menu
from our canteen



Tap the green
box to view
your receipt
or to cancel
an order



Select a date
for a child and
order a meal

Tap 'Repeat
order' to
copy all paid
orders from
one week to
the next



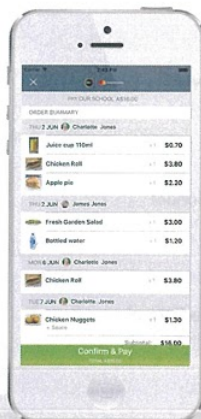
Tap to change
the date you
are ordering for

Tap to change
the child you are
ordering for

Tap 'Checkout'
then confirm and pay

Making payments

Add up to 5 cards to your wallet



At checkout select which card to
pay with.

Pay with any cards accepted
by the school.

Once your payment is approved you
can continue to the home page, or
view your receipt.

Fact Sheet for Parents and Caregivers - Explanation of Absences

CEDP promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education.

If your child is sick or absent you are required to notify their school on the first day of absence if at all possible. All explanations to the school must be provided within **7 days** from the first day of any period of absence.

Absences can be explained using one of the following methods:

1. SMS: respond with reason to school notification of absence
2. Online: log the absence directly using *[Skool Bag App / Parent Portal]*
3. Email: the school at *[email address]*
4. Telephone: the school office *[school number and line to contact]*
5. Note sent with your child

Where an explanation has not been received within the 7 day timeframe or the explanation has not been accepted, the school will record the absence as unexplained or unjustified on the student's record. The school will not be able to accept explanations which are not received within the 7 day timeframe.

Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstances e.g. attending a funeral

Why do I need to notify the school if my child is absent?

Parents of children aged 6 to 17 years are legally required to ensure their children attend school every day or provide an explanation if they are absent. Notifying the school and providing an explanation for your child's absence will fulfil this legal responsibility.

The safety and wellbeing of students are the highest priorities for schools. Parents need to know if their child isn't at school, and schools need to know when and why a child is absent. Notifying the school of your child's absence helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children in school.

What is your responsibility?

- Ensure your child attends school every day
- Notify the school immediately if your child is absent
- Provide an explanation for any absences within 7 days
- Make sure the school has your correct contact details so that you can receive attendance information about your child

every learner every day 