

St Brendan's School Dunnstown



Parent Information Book 2023

Contents

Introduction.....	3
The History of St Brendan's School, Dunnstown.....	4
Daily Timetable	5
Procedures and Response to Student Absences.....	6
Our School's Philosophical Statement	7
Our School Mission.....	7
Our School Objectives	9
School Curriculum	10
Our Democratic Principles	11
Pursuing Fullness of Life – Student Outcomes	12
St Brendan's Staff.....	17

Introduction

The school staff warmly welcomes your child to St Brendan's School, Dunnstown.

From the beginning you should be aware of the school's desire for your child's school days to be happy and successful.

At St Brendan's we aim to create an atmosphere in which both children and staff can grow and develop as a Christian community loved by God. We aim to extend this to a sense of belonging and welcome within the wider community of home, school and parish.

Our understanding of the real beauty and value of the individual leads us to aim constantly at emphasising those aspects of life and learning which will enable each person to continue to grow as a unique being.

The following information is given to help you understand the general school routine, the ethos and the wider community to help you prepare your child for school.



The History of St Brendan's School, Dunnstown

Catholic Education has played a prominent role in the development of the Bungaree Parish and the district of Dunnstown for over one hundred and forty-one years.

The school had its origins in 1858 in a wooden building known as the Catholic School Shed, situated not far from its present site.

Throughout its history, the school has been staffed by a combination of religious orders and lay teachers. We owe a great deal to the teaching sisters of the Black Josephite Order, who taught here for ten years, the Presentation Sisters for forty-four years and the Sisters of Mercy for thirteen years, as well as the dedicated lay teachers who have taught in the school. Above all, as history shows, it has been the continuing support from the community that has enabled the school to endure and prosper for so many years.

The school was named by the Josephites as St. Brendan's around 1900, but when the church was built in the school site in 1905 and the school was moved to an area behind the church, it was renamed St. Mary's. In 1929 the School was renamed St Brendan's.

The old wooden building was replaced by a modern brick structure in 1952 and Bishop O'Collins placed the school under the patronage of St Brendan's.

A newspaper article published at the time of the opening recorded, "The School Committee had made itself responsible for funding the project (an amount of six thousand pounds) and the Mother's Club had furnished the school, and the Children of Mary had given it the finishing touches."

This community involvement continues today and success of the school and Catholic Education depends largely on the partnership between the community and the teaching staff.



Daily Timetable

8:45am	Children arrive
9:00am-11:00am	School commences with Prayer Morning program
11:00am-11:30am	First Break
11:30am-11:45am	Eating Time
11:45am-1:45pm	Morning program continues
1:45pm-1:55pm	Eating Time
1:55pm-2:25pm	Second Break
2:30pm-3:30pm	Afternoon program
3:30pm	End of School

The timetable complies with VRQA requirements of 5 hours of teaching time per day.

Teachers are available daily before school and after school for a quick chat. More in depth discussion may require an appointment. Please note that the timetable may alter if guest speakers, excursions etc. are taking place. Notification of these are made via the newsletter or PAM permission notes.



Procedures and Response to Student Absences

It is a requirement of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development that accurate records of student's absences are kept by the school. We appreciate parent support in notifying the school of their child's absence.

Parents/guardians are requested to notify the School of the child's absence in one of three ways:

- (Preferred method) Use PAM/SIMON App prior to 9.00am to inform the School of their child/children's absence and the reason for the absence. This is preferred because it informs all staff, including the principal simultaneously.
- Telephone the School Office prior to 9.00am to inform of their child/children's absence and the reason for the absence.
- If the absence extends beyond one day, parents/guardians are asked to contact the School each day the child is absent.

Office staff will contact parents/guardians by 9.30am each day to ascertain the whereabouts of any child who has not been advised absent by parents/guardians.

Parents/guardians are requested to inform the Principal in advance and in writing of any anticipated extended absences from school, e.g. for health, family or holiday reasons.

A request is made for a Medical Certificate if the student is absent for two or more consecutive days or within one teaching week.

Early Departures

When a student needs to leave the school during school hours, eg. to keep a dental or doctor's appointment, parents are asked to sign the Early Departure Book in the School Office.

Late Arrivals

When a student arrives late to school during school they must collect a late pass from the school office and hand to the classroom teacher.

All students arriving late or leaving early must inform the school office.

Our School's Philosophical Statement

St Brendan's School has a strong tradition of educating children from rural communities in the faith traditions of the Church and Catholic Education as a whole. As educators we believe that learning is a life long progress in which we play an integral part in the primary sector.

We also believe that given a sound understanding of the main concepts of learning that our students will be able to make a positive contribution not only to the community they live but also to society as a whole. We hope that through positive learning encounters our students will develop into well-rounded and informed adults who continue to see the integral link between education, faith, gospel values and life.

Our School Vision

As a community, we are inspired by Christ, to pursue, provide and promote fullness of life for all.

Our School Mission

To live the Christian message of love by –

- building positive relationships
- ensuring a safe, supportive and inclusive environment that promotes high outcomes and celebrates achievements
- providing relevant and purposeful opportunities for growth
- working in collaborative partnerships to provide high quality, stimulating and evidence informed learning
- empowering all to be responsible citizens of our world through caring for our common home

Our BRICKS for living a Christian Life
Be - Respectful, Inclusive, Courageous and Kind.

*"A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another."
John 13: 34*

Our School Values

- Care and Compassion. Care for self and others.
- Doing Your Best. Seek to accomplish something worthy and admirable, try hard, pursue excellence.
- Integrity.
- Respect
- Responsibility
- A Fair Go
- Freedom. ...
- Understanding, Tolerance, and Inclusion.



Our School Objectives

St Brendan's has a particularly strong emphasis on engaging students in a faith-based education where high standards are maximised in all areas of the curriculum. Our school provides an environment which encourages your child to be confident and excited about learning from the start of school life.

Our students are at the centre of all learning arrangements, and we recognise that students are individuals, each with diverse learning needs.

Our teachers design learning experiences that are responsive to the different ways in which students achieve their best and provide facilities that enable your child to use and develop skills in various technologies, as well as to learn in engaging and effective ways.

St Brendan's provide deep learning and powerful teaching with teachers approaching learning to:

- aim to maximise growth and progress for all students
- enable students to develop deep understandings about the world and how to operate effectively in that world
- build capacity for lifelong learning
- use questions and issues as drivers for learning
- create flexible learning opportunities in response to the different ways in which students learn and achieve their best
- encourage children and young people to be empowered about their rights and participate in decisions affecting them
- encourage effective use of technologies to deepen and accelerate student learning, both inside and outside school
- encourage learners to think and work creatively, explore and experiment, plan and reflect, communicate and collaborate
- create learning opportunities in different environments within and beyond the classroom.

Our school curriculum

Our curriculum is planned carefully to ensure the development of the whole child, including intellectual, spiritual, physical, emotional and social dimensions.

The curriculum is based on the dignity of the human person, a culture of community, and a commitment to social justice and service for the common good. It is designed to prepare students to be lifelong learners who can respond creatively to the challenges of the future, including rapid developments in science and technology, the environment, global activity and social change.

Our school meets the curriculum, assessment and reporting requirements set by the Victorian and Australian governments. The curriculum is the common set of knowledge and skills required by students for lifelong learning, social development, and active and informed citizenship.

Sr Brendan's uses an integrated curriculum to structure the teaching and learning program. This helps students make meaningful links between different learning areas and

supports the exploration of ideas and themes of study, particularly through an inquiry approach to learning.

SCHOOL'S CURRICULUM			
The Arts	✓	English	✓
Health and Physical Education	✓	LOTE (Italian)	✓
Humanities	✓	Mathematics	✓
Religious Education	✓	Technology	✓
Science	✓	Interpersonal Development	✓
Personal Learning	✓	Communication	✓
Design, Creativity & Technology	✓	Information & Communication Technology (ICT)	✓
Thinking Processes	✓		

The class teacher will send home a classroom timetable and information at the beginning of the school year, outlining time allocations for subjects.



Our Democratic Principles

St Brendan's is committed to creating an environment which supports the development of Australian citizens who have an awareness of the values and systems which scaffold our democracy.

We strive to ensure that our students develop;

- An understanding of, and commitment to, Australia's democratic system of government, law and civic life.
- The capacity to examine values and principles that underpin Australia's democracy and the ways in which these contribute to a fair and just society.
- The knowledge, skills and values to act as informed and responsible citizens.
- An appreciation of the local, state, national and global rights and responsibilities of citizenship and civic life.
- An appreciation of the experiences and heritage of Australia's aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their influence on Australian civic identity and society.
- An appreciation of Australia as a multicultural society and a commitment to supporting intercultural understandings within the context of Australian democracy.
- An understanding of the ways in which governance structures from other countries are similar to, or differ from, democracy in Australia.

We are committed to ensuring that our school culture deepens an understanding of Australian values. Our work in teaching to the Australian Curriculum demonstrates the manner in which we develop this in our school and our Handbooks, our newsletters and our Prospectus all demonstrate our commitment to putting this statement into practice and to promoting those values in the community.

Our school is committed to an education that references its programs and policies to a Christian worldview and is open to families of any faith who are agreeable for their children to have an education based on Christian beliefs, principles and standards.

St Brendan's Primary School actively promotes and teaches the following values for Australian schooling:

Care and compassion in caring for self and others

Doing your best in seeking to accomplish something worthy and admirable, persevering, and pursuing excellence.

Giving a fair go – pursuing and protecting the common good where all people are treated fairly for a just society.

Finally, the school is open to the normal processes of accountability required by Governments and commits to ethical and transparent practices in respect of each of those requirements.

Pursuing Fullness of Life – Student Outcomes

Rationale

St Brendan's School promotes students' personal, academic and spiritual development so that *they may have fullness of life*. St Brendan's makes connections for and with the students through the curriculum, learning experiences, feedback and teaching approaches so that students can develop as active and socially just citizens who integrate faith and life. Integral to improving student outcomes is learning and teaching, curriculum, assessment and reporting.

Definitions

Learning and teaching: All approaches and strategies for student learning development including how the content is delivered, the choice of student learning experiences and the ways in which schools and teachers are organised to reflect a learning and teaching approach. It also incorporates decisions on the need for, and use of, resources and facilities and partnerships with the wider school community. It includes curriculum, assessment and reporting of student outcomes.

Curriculum: is the common set of knowledge and skills that are required by all students for life-long learning, social development and active and informed citizenship. As such, the curriculum is a part or subset of the school's teaching and learning program which is the school-based plan for delivering, expanding and extending this common set of knowledge and skills in ways that best utilise local resources, expertise and contexts (VCAA. February 2014, F–10 Curriculum Planning and Reporting Guidelines).

Assessment: The collection of information about student achievement, including authentic and valid feedback for ongoing improvement in teaching and student learning.

Reporting: All the procedures and processes for communicating to teachers, parents and students on student progress (strengths and challenges) and future learning directions. Reporting draws on the recording of data including teacher observation and student work samples.

Inclusion: is about every student having their educational needs met (within reasonable adjustments) in order to ensure the active participation and progress of all students in their learning without experiencing discrimination.

Policy Statement

St Brendan's School implements this policy to ensure an inclusive and holistic Catholic education within a safe environment that promotes improved outcomes for all students. **(Please access the complete Fullness of Life Policy on our school website).**

Principles

Quality relationships between teacher and students, and amongst students themselves.

Positive relationships based on respect, care and genuine affection help build a supportive classroom community where individuals feel safe enough to respect the opinions and feelings of others, and to challenge themselves.

A classroom atmosphere that is characterised by interest, challenge and high expectations that are developmentally appropriate.

Learning occurs when students respond to challenges to question existing ideas, to research, to go beyond their present understanding and to develop new skills in a classroom that is both supportive and productive. Teachers consistently challenge students through high expectations for learning as well as social behaviours.

Flexible teaching approaches designed to respond to individual differences in students' needs, abilities, interests and learning styles.

Students develop at different rates, come from diverse social, cultural and domestic backgrounds, and have different abilities, personal traits and preferred learning styles. Student learning is at the centre of curriculum design, learning and teaching strategies, learning pathways and resource allocation including development of partnerships with external providers. A variety of approaches and intervention strategies maximise opportunities to capitalise on this rich diversity. These include intervention strategies, students working effectively in teams and using technologies to link learning to the wider global community. High quality teaching and learning experiences support students to be able to lead happy and rewarding lives.

The encouragement of students to engage in independent planning, higher order thinking and purposeful learning.

The more students take responsibility for their own learning, the more effective and meaningful this learning is likely to become. Inquiry-based learning that leads to rich dialogue and deep thinking is embedded into learning. Teachers take on different roles in the learning process such as moderator, instructor, collaborator and coach.

The active engagement of students in learning experiences that are purposeful and relevant.

Students are motivated and helped by having clear learning goals, assessment criteria and tools, regular feedback against milestones and standards and by participating in tasks that are relevant and make sense to them. Students have opportunities to provide input into goals and assessment tasks and reflection on their learning, setting and reviewing personal learning goals.

Students being encouraged to try new approaches and to solve problems in different ways.

Students progress as learners by developing a range of thinking and learning styles which enable them to experience, apply and integrate different ways of knowing. This builds their capacity to challenge themselves in their learning growth and confidence as successful learners.

Genuine interest in and enthusiasm for the learning focus on the part of the teacher.

Students often take their cues from their teachers who in a number of ways, both overt and covert, define the significance of a subject or learning focus. Teachers demonstrate they are knowledgeable on the learning focus as well as collaborating with students to learn new knowledge, skills and capabilities.

Students being assisted to make connections between prior and new experiences and knowledge, and between different areas of knowledge.

Students develop intellectually by reconstructing mental frameworks to accommodate new experiences and concepts. Teachers implement strategies to gain insights into student prior knowledge and skills in order to maximize learning growth. Students need to see their development of knowledge, skills and capabilities as an integrated whole.

Inclusion

- Successful inclusive provision at St Brendan's School is seen as the responsibility of the whole school community, permeating all aspects of school life and applicable to all students.
- Staff will actively support all students to reach their potential regardless of academic ability or demographic background.
- In accordance with the *Disability Standards of Education 2005*, all students at St Brendan's School will be given full access to Victorian Curriculum F-10 and Awakenings (CEOB).
- St Brendan's School implements strategies to prevent discrimination and harassment of all students including those with a disability. These include:
 - anti-bullying and harassment policy
 - strategies to enhance student voice
 - curriculum focuses on social and emotional learning that develops knowledge and awareness of the importance of the dignity of each person, empathy, social justice, resilience and reconciliation.
 - curriculum design draws on resources such as Awakenings (CEOB) and Respectful Relationships F-10 (DET/CECV)
 - restorative justice processes
 - Child safe practices

Roles and Responsibilities

Teachers:

- provide a challenging and stimulating curriculum with high expectation of success in learning for all students
- ensure curriculum planning is documented, comprehensive, identifies strengths and challenges of learners and gives recognition and value to all learning styles. It incorporates a variety of modes of assessment tools with criteria and rubrics that have clear links to the learning goals and curriculum standards
- are clear in their understandings of curriculum standards and where each student is in their learning journey
- ensure that learning is sequential, progressive and continuous and learning strategies are evidenced-based and engages students in learning
- are good role models, well prepared and organised and up to date with evidence-based strategies
- engage in dialogue with students that develops different levels of thinking
- encourage students to take risks with their learning
- use resources effectively, including other adults and technology, to support student learning
- provide clarity to students on learning purpose and assessment for specific learning sequences and units of work. This is accessible to students who can refer as required.
- provide students with regular opportunities to reflect on assessment of their learning and support students in understanding and transferring their knowledge
- provide clear information to students and parent on student progress
- establish partnerships and links with the local community to enhance student learning
- have a positive attitude to change and the development of their own expertise and assisting colleagues in their growth
- are active in improving their professional knowledge and practice including the use of technology in learning and evidenced-based strategies that engage students and improve outcomes.
- collaborate in designated teams and evaluate strategies that engage students in learning
- have up-to-date assessment records including observations and student work samples where student progress in all areas of the curriculum is tracked
- complete Conflict of Interest for senior secondary courses and follow requirements for assessment as outlined by VCAA

Students:

- attend school regularly and punctually
- are organised and bring back to school, as required, resources such as “take home” books and completed home tasks
- ensure that home tasks are effectively completed and represent their own efforts. If they are not able to complete the tasks, they should communicate to their parents to provide a note (or write the note and have parents sign) in their diary explaining the reasons.
- contribute to a safe learning environment
- engage in effective social skills including effective listening and responding
- ensure they do not interfere with others in their learning or safety
- take increased responsibility for their own learning and actions
- set and review personal learning goals
- participate and contribute effectively in opportunities to collaborate on learning tasks as well as times for independent learning
- use technology effectively and appropriately
- reflect on feedback on assessment tasks and ask for any clarifications or assistance
- provide feedback on learning to teachers and peers
- provide their parents any teacher-parent communication in their diary
- participate in three-way conferences with teachers and parents to review their learning progress

Parents:

- ensure that their child attends school regularly, punctually, well-rested and in good health
- engage in opportunities to learn about student learning
- respect that the learning environment at all times needs to be safe, supportive and fosters different pathways and progress to learning and achievement
- work in a partnership of respect and trust with the school in supporting their child's progress
- check regularly parent communication app and student learning diaries
- ensure early contact with school to discuss matters that affects their child's happiness, progress and behaviour
- provide information on their child that may impact on their educational progress and wellbeing including relevant reports from external educational/health providers
- provide support for the student behaviour strategies and for the teacher's role in investigating and implementing actions and consequences
- participate in discussions concerning their child's progress and achievement
- support their child's learning at home such as hearing their child's reading, ensuring the completed tasks represent the student's efforts and allowing them sufficient time and an appropriate environment to complete home tasks
- allow their child to become increasingly independent and responsible for their own learning and actions as they progress throughout the school.



St Brendan's Staff

Father Sajan Mathew	Parish Priest
Mrs Inez French	Principal
Mr Callum Stevens	Senior Teacher, Learning Diversity & Wellbeing Leader
Mrs Majella Lewis	Junior Teacher
Ms Clare Scanlon	Junior Teacher
Mrs Jessica Sartori	LOTE Italian Teacher
Mrs Jo Dash	Librarian
Ms Lyndal O'Keefe	Education Support Officer
Mrs Tina Handley	Pastoral Care
Mrs Anita Lidgett	Administration
Mrs Claire Hay	Risk Compliance Officer

2023 School Fees

School Fees/Family Fee	\$1,450.00 per family
Student Fee	\$270.00 per student
Excursion/Swimming Levy	\$200.00 per student
Capital Levy	\$100.00 per family
TOTAL	\$2,020. 00

This equates to 20 fortnightly payments of \$101.00. Camp fees are additional to these fees for Years 3-6 students and will vary from year to year. Parents will be given prior notice of camp costs; these charges will need to be paid before camp commences.

This will increase yearly by approximately 5% to 10%.



St Brendan's Uniform

Rationale:

A uniform dress code reinforces in students a pride in their own appearance, instils recognition of themselves as an integral part of the school community, and assists in developing pride in representing their school. Issues of equality, health and safety, and expense are also factors that contribute to the establishment of the Dress Code.

Aims:

- To develop a sense of pride in, and identification with, our school.
- To develop and enhance the positive image of the school in the community.
- To promote equality amongst all students.
- To provide durable clothing that is cost effective and practical for our school environment.

Implementation:

- The Dress Code applies during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when students are on school excursions.
- Summer and winter uniforms, as well as sports uniforms, will be prescribed and are required to be worn.
- The times in which summer and winter uniform may be worn are as follows:
 - Terms 1 and 4 – summer uniform
 - Terms 2 and 3 – winter uniformHowever, during the first week of Term 2 either summer or winter uniform will be permitted and during the last week of Term 3 and the first week of Term 4 either summer or winter uniform will be permitted.
- The only items of jewellery permitted are a watch and up to two simple stud earrings or sleepers worn in the ears. Ear spacers are not allowed. Jewellery which is unacceptable will be confiscated and only returned to a parent/guardian.
- Extreme hair colours and/or extreme hairstyles are not permitted.
- No nail polish can be worn at school.
- The uniform shop operator, *Beleza School Uniforms Ballarat*, provide a service to buy quality new uniform to school families.
- The Principal and staff are to be responsible for implementation of the Dress Code in a manner consistent with the Student Code of Conduct.

The St Brendan's School Uniform is available for purchase from "BELEZA UNIFORMS", 22 Doveton Street, Ballarat.

Summer Boys:

- St Brendan's Dunnstown pale blue, short-sleeved polo with school logo
- St Brendan's Dunnstown woollen jumper (both available at Beleza)
- Navy shorts or trousers, navy socks and black shoes (may be purchased at Beleza or your choice of store)
- School hats are to be worn during Terms 1 and 4.

Summer Girls:

- St Brendan's Dunnstown check dress
- St Brendan's Dunnstown woollen jumper,
- St Brendan's Dunnstown short-sleeved, pale blue polo top (all available at Beleza)
- Navy short or skirt, navy socks and black shoes (may be purchased at Beleza or your choice of store)
- School hats are to be worn during Terms 1 and 4

Winter Boys:

- St Brendan's Dunnstown woollen jumper (worn with both summer and winter uniforms; available at Beleza)
- Navy trousers, pale blue skivvy or polo, navy socks and black shoes.
- Black shoes **not** sneakers are the required footwear (may be purchased at Beleza or your choice of store)

Winter Girls:

- St Brendan's Dunnstown checked tunic (available at Beleza)
- Or navy dress pants, pale blue polo or skivvy, navy socks or tights and black shoes (may be purchased at Beleza or your choice of store)

School Coat:

St Brendan's has a navy-blue beanie and school coat with the school logo. It is shower proof with a polar fleece lining with the school emblem on the front. Available at Beleza.

Sport Uniform:

- St Brendan's Dunnstown pale blue polo shirt (available at Beleza)
- School rugby top (available from the School Office)
- Navy shorts, navy socks and sports footwear.
- Navy skirt or shorts for girls. Where tracksuits are worn, a preference is given to the choice of navy-blue colouring (available at Beleza or your choice of store)

Please ensure that all school clothing is named with a prominent name tag.

Children's hair should be neatly trimmed, with long hair being tied back to lessen any annoyance it may cause.

In colder weather, children are advised to have a coat to wear, because of the vast difference between temperatures inside the classroom and outside. Jewellery is not to be worn to school. Studs may be worn, but not decorated earrings. Nail polish is not to be worn at school.

General Information

Accident/Illness

Your child's enrolment form has the necessary information for emergency contact. If there is any change to this relevant information, please notify the school via the PAM medical system and also the school. If your child has a long-term medical condition, eg. Asthma, anaphylaxis, hearing loss, etc, an updated plan completed by your GP must be uploaded via the PAM system into the digital medical records area. Parents are responsible for this.

Child Safety Policies

All information regarding the Child Safe Policies can be accessed via the website, <https://www.sbdunnstown.catholic.edu.au/child-safety>

Discipline

Teachers cannot take for granted that the pupils will be able, without direction, to attain self-control. Children like to know where they stand and what to expect. It is the teacher's duty therefore, to direct and stimulate proper behaviour according to the best methods. Control exercised by the teachers will be directed towards fostering self-discipline, sense of responsibility for others and honesty in thought and action. In the use of corrective measures teachers will endeavour to be firm, just, consistent and impartial. When necessary, parents will be informed of any unacceptable behaviour.

Enrolment

Prep children are admitted to school if their 5th birthday is before 14th April of their first school year. Immunization status must be made known at this time. Copies of your child's Birth Certificate, Immunisation History Statement and Baptism Certificate must be submitted at time of enrolment.

Homework

Foundation - Year 2: small amount of reading each night and
Years 3 – 6: up to 30 minutes of homework in a variety of areas

Purpose of homework:

1. to reinforce skills learned in the classroom
2. to develop independent study skills
3. to involve parents actively in the education of their children
4. to inform parents of what children are learning in school

Excursions

Parents are notified of excursions via newsletter and PAM/SIMON. For the school to assume responsibility for each child on the excursion permission via our PAM system is required before the child will be allowed to partake in the excursion.

Library

The school has an operational library. Children may borrow two books on Library Day and keep them until the following week. Children are expected to carry books in a bag brought for this purpose. If a child should lose a book, or damage it beyond repair, you may be asked to donate the amount of the cost of its replacement.

Parent Access Module

The Parent Access Module is commonly known as PAM. After you have enrolled at St Brendan's, you will be given a login and a temporary password. Through the module you will be able to access your child's school reports, make parent teacher interview appointments when scheduled and you will also use PAM to input your child's medical information. We hope to use more of the areas available in PAM in the near future.

Lost Property

It is expected that all children's clothing and belongings be clearly marked with the child's name. Any property collected will be kept in the lost property box in the locker area. Parents are welcome to check this box at any time.

Lunches

Children are expected to bring a lunch from home suited to their eating/nutrition needs. Advice will be given regarding Hot Lunch Day which will be available from the Bungaree Store. Children may bring a lunch which will be heated in the school oven. Please make sure it is not frozen and clearly name lunches.

Newsletter

A newsletter is emailed home every fortnight on a Wednesday and is distributed via our Schoolzine App and can also be accessed via our Website.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

If you are at all anxious about your child, please do not hesitate to speak to the teacher. Otherwise you will be notified of a time for a discussion about your child's progress via the newsletter. Parent/Teacher interviews are book through our PAM system online.

Formal Written Reports

These will be accessible on our Parent Access Module (PAM) at the end of Terms 2 and 4. Parents will also be given a printed copy.

Foundation Timetable

Foundation children attend school for four days a week for the first four weeks of the school year. This allows for a gradual settling in period – one day will be spent at home during the week.

School Masses and Liturgies

These are held at frequent times during the year and on special occasions, eg. end of term, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter, etc. These are advised on the newsletter and everyone is always welcome.

School Rules

These are positive in their approach rather than an emphasis on the negative. Awareness of and concern for others is of utmost importance at all times. Acceptable standards of public behaviour are set and maintained. These standards should help develop the child's respect of him/her self and for his/her fellows and should enable the education program to be carried out in an orderly and pleasant atmosphere.

Term Dates

At present the school year is divided into four terms of 10 weeks (approx) with breaks between at Easter, July, September and Christmas/Summer.

School Fees

The Community Council sets the school fees with direction from the Diocesan Education Board, and are payable in a lump sum or in instalments. If there is any difficulty meeting these, please notify the Principal and arrangements will be made in confidence.

Those eligible for Education Maintenance Allowance and/or Travel Allowance can make arrangements to have these credited to their account if preferred.

Student Levy and Swimming and Excursion Levy

The student levy and swimming/excursion levy is charged per student at the beginning of the school year. The student levy supplements the government grant and is budgeted into subject areas for the children.

Infectious Diseases

With infectious childhood diseases it is necessary to keep the child home from school. Please contact the school or your family doctor for further information regarding the particular illness.

Volunteer and Parent Help Induction

The school encourages participation as volunteers in a range of activities to support schools and classroom activities, by providing Induction courses and access to current Working with Children checks and relevant information concerning Child Safety Standards.

The school will recruit and support other volunteer initiatives, which involve families and community groups in school life e.g. excursion helpers, catering, fundraising, family fun nights, Parish groups, gardening, basic maintenance.

