



St. Philip's Vision - Modelling the teachings of Christ, St Philip's Catholic School community aspires to be a place of welcome that provides many learning environments to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world.

## CALENDAR DATES

### JANUARY

- 28/29 Assessment Interviews
- 31 Staff Commissioning Mass- 10:30am

### FEBRUARY

- 1 All students Commence
- 2 Beginning of the Year School Mass- 9:00am
- 5 Family Picnic Night – 6:00pm-School Oval
- 8 & 15th Tennis Clinics

**PLEASE NOTE: SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS IS BETWEEN 8.40AM TO 3.45PM ON SCHOOL DAYS.**

## ASSEMBLY

All families are warmly invited to come along to our first (outdoor) assembly for the year which will take place this Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 3:00pm on the school oval.

## A PRAYER FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Dear Lord,

As we step into this new year, Restore our spirits. Renew our passion for sharing your wisdom and nurture our compassion for those in need of greater support.

Transform us as we seek to transform: Guide us as we seek to guide; Open our minds and hearts as we seek to open minds and hearts to the Good News of justice and peace.

Help us listen more deeply to the world and to your Word, so we can walk with those in our care, attentive to the Wisdom that Calls us all to the Kingdom of God. Amen.

## ST PHILIP'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

### MASS TIMES

- Saturday Evening 7.00pm Vigil
- Sunday Morning 9.00am & 10.30am
- Monday-Friday 9.00am

### CONFESSION

- Saturday 10.00am-11.00am

# From the Principal

## WELCOME

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to the 2021 school year. I hope everyone has enjoyed time during the holidays to relax and catch up with family and friends. I am excited to join the St Philip's community as Acting Principal. My experience meeting staff, parents and students today and yesterday tells me that St Philip's is a welcoming, friendly and passionate community and I look forward to getting to know you all. It is also a pleasure to welcome three new families to our community who have children beginning in Prep and Grade Two.

This newsletter is intended to provide families with important information about the first few weeks of the 2021 school year, however, if you require clarification on anything that is included in the newsletter or on any other issue please feel free to contact me via the office on 98786501 or via email at [principal@stphilipbbn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@stphilipbbn.catholic.edu.au)

## CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION AND ADVICE

As we begin the new school year we are still required to adhere to restrictions in place to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

We are reminded as a community to practice good hand hygiene and respiratory hygiene to protect against infections. Cover your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing with a tissue, or cough into your elbow, dispose of the tissue into a bin and then wash your hands afterwards. Wash your hands regularly, after using the toilet, and before eating. In addition:

- Sharing of food is not recommended.
- A variety of strategies to support physical distancing among all students and staff should be pursued where possible. While this is not always practical in the school environment and may be more challenging for younger children, a combination of health and safety measures will be taken. These include minimizing the sharing of spaces and objects.
- Anyone coming into the school for longer than 15 minutes is required to sign in.
- Progressive cleaning of high touch areas will continue during the day.
- Assemblies are restricted to students and staff only.
- Students and staff need to remain home when unwell.

The advice provided is the current advice we have received from the relevant authorities. I will continue to update families with the latest information that we receive from the relevant authorities.

## STAFFING NEWS

We welcome Fiona Markham who has been appointed Performing Arts teacher. We are yet to fill the 4/5 teaching position and the position of Learning & Teacher Leader. I will keep you updated on progress in filling these roles.

## ASSESSMENT DAYS

The assessment days began today. These days are a great opportunity for the teachers to get to know your child both socially and academically. The information gained from these assessments assists the teachers planning relevant learning experiences which endeavour to cater to your child's learning needs.

## FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

The first day of classes for Prep-Year 6 is taking place this Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February. The gates will be open for the children to enter from 8:35am on this day. The first bell will go at 8:50am when the children will line up outside with their teacher and then head into their classroom. Unfortunately,

because of Covid restrictions parents are not able to enter the school buildings. A reminder also to our new families that dismissal time for the end of the school day is 3:30pm.

## **BEGINNING OF THE YEAR SCHOOL MASS/STAFF COMMISSIONING MASS**

All families are invited to come along to our beginning of the year School Mass which will take place next Tuesday 2nd February at 9:00am at the St Philip's Parish Church. Families are also most welcome to come along this weekend to the Staff Commissioning Mass this Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at St Philip's Parish Church at 10:30am. Please be aware that social distancing must be adhered to during the Mass.

## **ASSEMBLY**

We will hold a special assembly to officially celebrate the start of the school year on Monday 1 February at 2.50 pm on the school oval. Parents are invited to attend this outdoor event however we ask that you adhere to social distancing requirements. Access to and from the oval will be available to parents via the walkway alongside the school building.

Weekly assemblies will continue on Fridays at 2.50pm commencing 5 February in the Father Arnold Centre (School Hall). At this time only students and staff are able to attend due to Covid restrictions.



*We encourage all families to sign up to Operoo.*

### **What is Operoo?**

You may have heard of Operoo. It is a platform that allows our school to communicate to you in a paperless format.

### **What will we use Operoo for?**

You will be able to:

- Update your Personal Details including contact details etc.
- Add and update Medical details of students
- Give permission for excursions, sporting activities and incursions electronically

Rather than getting the paperwork at the beginning of each year, you will now have the opportunity to change any details via Operoo and it will automatically update our system at school. You will however, have to manually fill out plans such as Asthma plans etc. but CareMonkey allows a quicker way of us following up those plans.

It is also important to add that Operoo does not share any of your personal information to third parties and you own the information that you give on the platform. Also, the information will be managed at school in accordance with the school's Privacy Policy and Standard Collection Notice.

### **When will this begin?**

In the coming weeks Operoo will send out an email inviting you to create and share your child's/children's Operoo profile with our school.

Those emails will be sent to the email attached to the Mother's information we have here at school. If you would prefer another email, please contact the Office as soon as possible.

In the interim before we have Operoo set up at St Philip's we will still continue to send out permission forms in paper form. Once everything is set up further information will be shared with families about how to provide permission for excursions via Operoo

If you have any questions regarding any of the above please either ring the school on 9878 6501 or email the school at [principal@stphilipbbn.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@stphilipbbn.catholic.edu.au)

## **LIBRARY**

Library borrowing will take place on Mondays in 2021. Students will need to bring their library bags along on Mondays in order to borrow books. Library borrowing will begin next Monday 1st February.

## **PLAYGROUP**

Playgroup for 2020 will begin next Monday 1st February. This takes places every Monday during the term from 9:00am-12:00pm in the Fr Arnold Centre (School Hall). All families with pre-school children are most welcome.

## **SKOOLBAG APP**

All relevant school related dates and newsletters can be accessed via the St Philip's Skoolbag App. If you have not accessed the app to this point it is available for all devices and is free. Simply go to the App store or Google Play and search for the Skoolbag app. Once the app is set up you will then be able to search on the app for St Philip's Primary School.

## **STUDENT ABSENCES**

If your child is away from school for any reason could you, please either ring the school on the morning of the absence or alternatively notify the school via the Skoolbag App. On the home page of the app press eforms. From this menu select Absentee Form. Fill in the form and sign at the bottom using your finger. Press 'Submit eForm'. The school office will receive a copy of this form which will be passed on to the relevant teacher.

Based on government attendance guidelines and our school policies on attendance we must advise parents/guardians of unexplained absences, on the same day as soon as practicable.

## **TENNIS CLINICS**

Free tennis clinics for all students from Prep-Yr 6 will be taking place on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February and Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February at the Nunawading Tennis Club behind the school. A permission form will go out to all students next week. All tennis equipment is provided at these clinics.

## **HATS**

Just a reminder to families that school hats will need to be worn by students outside throughout Term 1 as part of our school Sunsmart Policy.

## **SPECIALIST CLASSES**

Our specialist classes in 2021 are Physical Education, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Italian and Music/Performing Arts. These classes will begin in the third week of term from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

## **FAMILY PICNIC NIGHT**

All families are warmly invited to bring their own food and drinks and come along to our annual Family Picnic Night which will take place on the school oval from 6pm on Friday 5th February. For new families to our school this is a wonderful opportunity to meet and greet and get to know people in the St Philip's community. In line with the school Child Safe Policy and Code of Conduct this event is one of the designated school events where responsible consumption of alcohol is allowed. There will be further information on the Family Picnic Night in the coming week including information on the VIP Cark Park raffle.

## **BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE**

The Before and After School Care program at St Philip's run by Youth Leadership Victoria begins for 2021 this Monday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Before School Care is from 7:00am-8:40am and After School Care is from 3:30pm-6:00pm. Parent Information Packs on the program are available from the school office. Bookings from 2020 do not roll over to 2021. To assist with rostering could you please go online to <https://ylv.com.au/online-oshc-> and make your booking for 2021 ASAP.

## **PREP FAMILIES**

A reminder to families with children in Prep that once classes begin for the school year the Preps will not attend school on Wednesdays until Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March which is the first Wednesday after the Labour Day Public Holiday on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

## **NEWSLETTER DAY**

The next newsletter will come out on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February and newsletters will then come out every Thursday of the school term.

Have a great week.

Warm regards,

Michelle Worcester.

