



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 7th September 2020
Term 3 Week 9

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2020 Key Dates

Term 3 Week 9

Monday 7th September
Catholic Education Week

Tuesday 8th September
School Board Meeting

Term 3 Week 10

Monday 14th September
Swimming Program Year 1,
3 & 5 begins
CANCELLED

Friday 18th September
Last Day of Term 3

Term 4
Oct 6 – Dec 16

Term 4 Week 1

Monday 5th October
Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 6th October
Remote Learning and
Onsite Supervision
continues

Friday 9th October
Remote Learning and
Onsite Supervision finishes

Term 4 Week 2

Monday 12th October 2020
Onsite Schooling Resumes

Tuesday 13th October
School Board Meeting

Friday 16th October
Foundation Transition Day

1

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Parents and Families,

As we (as a school community) have travelled through 2020 in times that have been extraordinary in our lives, it has made me even more proud (if that is possible) of our children, staff, parents and community regarding how all have handled the pressures and stresses around this Coronavirus pandemic.

My absolute and sincerest of thanks I send to the many people (mostly our staff) who have enabled our school to continue to operate during these unique times and quickly follow on with my deepest gratitude to all the children for attacking their work in such a positive and adventurous manner. Their hard work and willingness to try new things has been a joy to see!

Our staff have gone above and beyond what would be their normal routine and duties, and I am so indebted to them all. I am truly inspired by and thrilled to see the genuine excitement staff had in meeting all the challenges faced, their personal and professional commitment to making a difference during COVID 19 and the obvious love all had of both their role and our school. By showing this commitment, staff have helped to ensure that the point of difference between St. Francis Xavier and many other schools is the welfare of our whole community and to ensure we deliver what is best for our children. I cannot be prouder of the great people I lead that help make this place so special.

After being in remote learning now for both occasions, it will be uplifting and rewarding to offer everybody a huge welcome back when it finally arrives. When this occurs, it will be wonderful to see everyone back at school and doing what we believe is just a normal part of life. During 2020, many staff, parents and children have said to me on numerous occasions things such as:

- We miss school
- We love being at school

I absolutely agree. School is one of the greatest parts of our lives. It is an integral part of our day. We need to make the most of it now and enjoy it when we return!

Please see below key information about our return to Onsite Schooling in Term 4.

Catholic Education Week 2020

Our theme for Catholic Education Week 2020 is **Listen to what the Spirit is saying**. This theme focuses on listening and discernment which is borne from rich dialogue. Pope Francis defines discernment as more than intelligence or common sense: 'It is a gift which we must implore. If we ask with confidence that the Holy Spirit grant us this gift, and then seek to develop it through prayer, reflection, reading and good counsel, then surely we will grow in this spiritual endowment.' Gaudete et Exsultate 166

School Assembly Program

As principal of St. Francis Xavier, I have a strong commitment to listening and discerning and I think it is particularly important to listen and discern in order to understand!

Term 4 Week 3

Monday 19th October

Book Week Begins

Catholic Education Week Prayer

Gracious God, nurture in us a discerning heart, to hear the Holy Spirit in the voices of others, to challenge our own will, desires, fears and prejudices and to be open to your will. Amen

Term 4 Week 4

Wednesday 28th October

Year 4 Camp

CANCELLED

Victoria's roadmap for reopening – Schooling in regional Victoria

The Victorian Government has released its plan for easing coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions. It includes the following decisions about school operations:

Friday 30th October
Casual Dress Day
Foundation Transition Day
2
School Assembly Program

1. **All schools will continue to provide remote and flexible learning for the remainder of Term 3**, except specialist schools in rural and regional Victoria, consistent with current settings.

These following changes remain subject to the advice of Victoria's Chief Health Officer:

Term 4 Week 5

Monday 2nd November

Pupil Free Day

First week of Term 4 – Tuesday 6th to Friday 9th October 2020

Tuesday 3rd November
Melbourne Cup Day Public
Holiday

2. Remote and flexible learning will continue for all students, except in specialist schools in rural and regional Victoria. Please note that **Monday 5th October is a designated St. Francis Xavier Pupil Free Day** and staff will be participating in a Religious Education Professional Learning Day.

Friday 6th November
Foundation Transition Day
3

3. On-site supervision for children of eligible workers and vulnerable students will continue to be provided consistent with existing guidelines from Tuesday 6th October to Friday 9th October using the current CareBooking system

Term 4 Week 6

Tuesday 10th November

Bravehearts Incursion
School Board Meeting

Second week of Term 4 - Monday 12th October 2020

4. All children from Prep to Year 6 and their teachers return to full-time on-site schooling adhering to the following principles and arrangements:

Term 4 Week 7

Term 4 Week 8

Thursday 26th November

Foundation Information
Night 2021

Fathers and Special Men's Day at– Sunday 6th September 2020

Happy Father's Day for yesterday to all St. Francis Xavier dads, and to all of the fathers and father figures in our lives. We give thanks for them, the role they play, the people they are. We hope that each and every one enjoyed a special day with their families!

Friday 27th November
Casual Dress Day
School Assembly Program

Class Lists for 2021

Early next term our classroom teachers will start to look at possible groupings for classes for next year. If you have any concerns that are of a serious nature please forward these requests to me by email no later than Friday 18th September 2020. Please understand that this is the only process to go through if you would like this issue addressed properly.

Term 4 Week 9

Tuesday 1st December

Orientation Day
Year 6 Transition Day
P & F Meeting

principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au

With planning for the 2021 school year now gathering momentum, I would ask families that are aware that they will not be returning to St. Francis Xavier next year, to promptly inform the school.

Thursday 3rd December
Feast of St. Francis Xavier

Friday 4th December
EE – World Soil Day
Year 6 Graduation Practice

Ballarat Show Day Holiday moved to Melbourne Cup Day

Ballarat City Council has selected Melbourne Cup Day as its public holiday for 2020. It follows a decision by the Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society to cancel the 2020 Ballarat Show, with the municipal public holiday usually held on Ballarat Show Day.

Term 4 Week 10

Tuesday 8th December

Foundation Nativity

Called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition we will enrich thinking, expand horizons and pursue excellence!

School Board Meeting

Thursday 10th December
Year 6 Graduation Mass

Friday 11th December
Staff v Student Netball
Match

Term 4 Week 11

Wednesday 16th December
Last Day of Term 4

All other Calendar Dates
for 2020 have been
updated and can be
accessed live on the
Skoolbag App or by visiting
the School Website.

This year Show Day would have been 13th November but instead Council has opted to have Melbourne Cup Day on Tuesday 3rd November as its public holiday. Please find below the adjustments. ** denotes changed dates.

Old Calendar

4	Monday 5 th October	Staff Professional Development Day
5	**Monday 9 th November	Staff Professional Development Day
	**Friday 13 th November	Ballarat Show Day - Public Holiday
6	Thursday 17 th December	Staff Professional Development Day
	Friday 18 th December	Last Day for Staff - Staff Professional Development

****New Calendar**

4	Monday 5 th October	Staff Professional Development Day
5	**Monday 2 nd November	Staff Professional Development Day
	**Tuesday 3 rd November	Melbourne Cup Day - Public Holiday
6	Thursday 17 th December	Staff Professional Development Day
	Friday 18 th December	Last Day for Staff - Staff Professional Development

St. Francis Xavier Primary School - Covid-19 Update

As the COVID-19 crisis in Victoria continues, St. Francis Xavier Primary School understands there is heightened anxiety in our community.

We continue to follow the advice from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Catholic Education Office Ballarat (CEOB). Whilst many restrictions remain unchanged, there is a need to provide further information, including procedures to be followed when a child or staff member has been in close contact with a symptomatic person or a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

COVID Safe Principles

- Adults to wear a mask or face covering
- Don't go to work if you feel sick or unwell
- Physical distancing (1.5 metres)
- Cough and sneeze into tissue or elbow
- Good hand hygiene
- Outdoor activities

Arrangements for Beginning of Term 4 – Week 2

- School Health and Safety Measures continue for children
- Regular School Cleaning
- **Any child who is unwell must not attend school**
- Beginning of the Day Drop Off arrangements
- End of the Day Dismissal arrangements
- Entry and exit points to the school will be open, with additional staff allocated to ensure children are safely supervised
- Parents are not to enter classrooms at any stage and are to adhere to social distancing guidelines when waiting to collect their child at the classroom door
- Asking parents to avoid or minimise time spent in or around the school grounds
- Frequent announcements, messages, signage and red gaffer tape around school to remind staff, children and families of the need for changed behaviours

School Health and Safety Measures return for children

The return to onsite school attendance is based on the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer. We have considered a variety of strategies to support physical distancing, particularly among adults, and good hygiene practices to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission within the practical limitations of our school environment.

Called to action through Gospel values and Mercy tradition we will enrich thinking, expand horizons and pursue excellence!

Beginning of the Day Drop Off

At no stage are parents able to enter any classroom. Red Tape and Distance markers will be outside each classroom door to remind all adults.

Parents will be required to drop their children off in the undercover area and then exit the school in a prompt manner. Staff will be present in the undercover area from 8:30am to assist children with walking to their classrooms if required.

End of the Day Dismissal

To minimise congestion within and outside of the school and following the advice of the Victorian Chief Health Officer a staggered approach for collection of children will be implemented.

Timetable for Dismissal

Dismissal/Collection Time	Children with Surnames beginning...
2:50pm to 3:10pm	A - G
3:10 pm to 3:20pm	H - P
3:20 pm to 3:40pm	Q - Z

Dismissal / Collections Area

Year Level	Teacher	Collection Area
Foundation	Shannon Macklin	Side door of the Foundation SM classroom
Foundation	Madelyn Halouvas	Side door of the Foundation MH classroom
Foundation	Emma Hancock	Side door of the Foundation EH classroom
Foundation	Nicki Dalton	Side door of the Foundation ND classroom
Year One	Gemma Johnson	Enter via flag pole entrance
Year One	Rebecca Conroy	Enter via side gate (opposite perma patch). Walk up first set of stairs.
Year One	Matthew Manzl	
Year 2 to 6	Class Teachers	Collect from classroom door

Please see attached Map of St. Francis Xavier for School Entry / Access Points.

To minimise congestion, especially among adults, we ask families to adhere to this timetable and to be vigilant when promptly entering and exiting the building. Teachers will not be available to engage in discussion with parents at drop off or dismissal time and we ask parents to refrain from stopping and engaging in conversation with children and adults while onsite.

Arrangements for Term 3 – Week 9 & 10 and Term 4 - Week 1

1. Phase 2: Process for Booking Onsite Child Supervision at St. Francis Xavier Primary School

ALL families need to follow the process for booking children for Onsite Supervision.

1. Instructions for Booking:

- Bookings are made through Care Bookings (a similar program to School Interviews) . The school code is **JSCEC** and will not change.
- Please click on the link and follow the online instructions:
<https://www.carebookings.com.au/code/jscec>
- Bookings are open from 10:00am Wednesday 5th August
- Bookings **close 5:00pm the night before** for the following day. No late booking will be accepted.

Due to resourcing and supervision ratio requirements, Onsite Supervision is only available for students who cannot be cared for or learn from home. This is to ensure that we are protecting our staff, students, and families to the greatest extent possible and is in line with Stage 3 Coronavirus restrictions.



2. Arriving and Departing School:

- Children are to **arrive** no earlier than 8.30am – there will be no supervision before 8:30am and the school gates will not be open
- Please drop/farewell your children in the undercover area
- Children will be guided to the Mother Xavier Flood Building (Junior School) where Onsite Supervision will be conducted
- **Pick up time** 3.20 pm from the Undercover Area, no later than 3.30pm
- School **uniform** is required to be worn each day
- Children will engage in the **same online learning** program as their classmates who will be at home

3. Student Health:

- If there is a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in your family, please advise the School immediately via email principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au
- **We request that students who feel unwell remain at home.**

As you are aware, the school has had to cancel or postpone many assemblies, events and gatherings. We are working with our staff and students to provide some opportunities for alternative activities within our own school community. These arrangements will continue to be communicated through the school newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. Have a great week!

Yours sincerely,

Paul Bissinella
Principal

Catherine McAuley

Thus we go on...flourishing in the very midst of the Cross, more than a common share of which has latterly fallen to my lot, thanks be to God. I humbly trust it is the cross of Christ. I endeavor to make it in some way like his by silence.

Letter to Frances Warde May 15, 1838



Sacraments For Year 3 & 4 Students - No News



As yet we have had no indication of when Masses will resume or when COVID 19 restrictions will be lifted for larger gatherings. We have no information for you about when the children will be able to receive the sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation. As soon as we know, you will know. Thank you for your patience during this difficult time.

Please continue to complete the booklets which were sent home at the beginning of Term 3. Those families who have handed in their child's Baptism certificate, rest assured that they are safe and will not go

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Connecting With The Eucharist During COVID 19 Closures

Many people are missing the opportunity to attend Sunday Mass during this time. If you wanted to gather and participate in Mass online, try one of the following websites. It is not the same as the real thing, and you can't receive Eucharist, but it may be of comfort to you to hear the Gospel and pray.

[St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat](#)

[Melbourne Catholic's Live Mass Streaming Sites](#)

[Sydney Live Streaming Mass Sites](#)

Baptism

If your child has been baptised since he/she started at St Francis Xavier Primary School, make sure you have informed us and you have sent a copy of the Baptism certificate to the school office. Your child will not be listed as Catholic in our school records and you may miss out on sacrament information.

If you are seeking Baptism for your child, please call the St Alipius parish office on 53326611.

If you wish to convert to Catholicism from another Christian faith, also call the parish office.

Yours sincerely,

Bernadette Luckman

Religious Education Leader



Got A Specific Parenting Problem?

Whether you're dealing with the big, small or one-off problems of raising kids and teenagers —Triple P can help!

- [Temper tantrums?](#)
- [A child who won't go to bed and stay there?](#)
- [Kids who don't listen or a defiant child?](#)
- [Disrespectful or rude behaviour?](#)
- [A teenager who struggles to make friends?](#)

The Triple P- Positive Parenting Program online program has been funded by the Victorian Government and is now available free of charge to all Victorian families.

The program provides access to expert parenting advice during these challenging times. Parents have access to modules and tipsheets regarding difficult parenting situations and day-to-day challenges.

Triple P is a parenting program, but it doesn't tell you how to be a parent. It's more like a toolbox of ideas -you choose the strategies you need and how to use them to make your family life even more enjoyable.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PPP](#)

Happy Days,

Jane Clark
Wellbeing Leader

Community News



INFORMATION WEBINARS
Wed 9 Sep, 5pm & Tue 20 Oct, 6.30pm

GUIDED VIRTUAL TOURS
Held fortnightly on a Thursday at 9am

Event registration: damascus.vic.edu.au/prospective-visit-us
2022 enrolments close on Fri 5 Feb 2021