



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 12th October 2020
Term 4 Week 2

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2020

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Key Dates

Term 4
Oct 7 – Dec 16

Term 4 Week 2

Tuesday 13th October
School Board Meeting

Thursday 15th October
SFX Virtual Live Tour

Friday 16th October
Foundation Transition Day
1

Term 4 Week 3

Monday 19th October
Book Week Begins

Friday 23rd October
**AFL Grand Final – Public
Holiday**

Term 4 Week 4

Thursday 29th October
SFX Virtual Live Tour
SFX Information Webinar

Friday 30th October
Casual Dress Day
JDRF Fundraiser
Foundation Transition Day
2

Term 4 Week 5

Monday 2nd November
Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 3rd November
Melbourne Cup Day Public
Holiday

Friday 6th November
Foundation Transition Day
3

Dear Parents and Families,

Thank you to everyone for a wonderful return to Face-to-Face Learning in Week 1. All the children and staff were very excited to be back at school reacquainting themselves with their friends and their classrooms!

The following priorities for children and staff will guide our operations in Term 4:

Priority 1 – Mental Health and Wellbeing

Our highest priority is the mental health, safety and wellbeing of every student and member of staff. Students from disadvantaged backgrounds and many students with disabilities have been disproportionately impacted across all areas of their education.

This means encouraging and sustaining motivation for learning, re-engaging students and families where needed, and supporting the social and emotional learning of children and young people alongside curriculum-based learning.

This also means ensuring support for school staff, who have sustained their efforts through multiple transitions in modes of teaching and learning delivery.

Priority 2 – Learning and Excellence

Some students have been better able to progress in their learning in the remote and flexible learning environment, others have maintained their rate of progress, and some have, despite their best efforts and those of their families and teachers, fallen behind.

Our priority will be to ensure those who have fallen behind can catch up and those who have progressed significantly can continue to be extended and stretched in their learning.

Student voice and student agency should inform how we provide continuity of learning and support for every student in this environment. Literacy and numeracy across the curriculum remain a focus, with schools also adapting their teaching and learning program in Term 4 to be responsive to student needs.

Priority 3 – Transitions

Term 4 is a critical period, particularly for the children moving from kindergarten into Prep, from Grade 6 into Year 7. Students in other year levels will also prepare for a change of teachers and new classmates.

A key focus of Term 4 will be to make every effort to ensure each of these end-of-year and beginning-of-year transitions occurs as successfully as possible. This includes finding contextually appropriate ways to conduct orientations and end-of-year celebrations and ensuring transition information captures additional details as necessary.

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

Term 4 Week 6

Tuesday 10th November
Bravehearts Incurion
School Board Meeting

Thursday 12th November

SFX Virtual Live Tour

Term 4 Week 7

Term 4 Week 8

Thursday 26th November
Foundation Information
Night 2021 (TBC)
SFX Information Webinar

Friday 27th November
Casual Dress Day

Term 4 Week 9

Tuesday 1st December
Orientation Day
Year 6 Transition Day
P & F Meeting

Thursday 3rd December
Feast of St. Francis Xavier

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

Term 4 Week 10

Tuesday 8th December
Foundation Nativity
School Board Meeting

Thursday 10th December
SFX Virtual Live Tour
Year 6 Graduation Mass

Friday 11th December
Foundation Nativity
Staff v Student Netball
Match

Term 4 Week 11

Wednesday 16th December
End of Year Mass
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.**

Welcome to St. Francis Xavier

Isn't it nice to see the sun out! The weekend felt like the first time in a long time that I had been outside with the sun shining! It was nice to catch up with those jobs in the garden that seem to drag on through winter and to finally dust the cobwebs off my bike and go for a ride! It will be nice to see some growth in the plants and gardens around the school this week and for the children to be outside enjoying the fresh air with the sun on their backs!

This morning we welcomed three new children to our school; Cooper (4BL) and Molloy Danaher (2GH) and Sophia St. Louis (2GH). We hope that you all make them feel welcome and they enjoy this time at St. Francis Xavier.

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.

Working for your kingdom

Lord Jesus, give us the grace to hear your voice,
And the strength to continue working for your kingdom in this time of pandemic.
Do not allow us to be indifferent to those who today suffer the loss of a loved one, or who suffer from the absence of work.
But give us the courage to accompany and side with those who suffer violence or injustice.
Amen.

Javier Eduardo Martinez Rueda from Colombia. Javier is team director at Programa de Desarrollo y Paz, an organisation working on peacebuilding as part of our Hands On Magdalena Medio project.

Closure Dates – Term 4 2020

- **Friday 23rd October** AFL Grand Final – Public Holiday
- **Monday 2nd November** Pupil Free Day - Staff Professional Development
- **Tuesday 3rd November** Melbourne Cup Day - Public Holiday

New Path to the Top Oval

Over the holidays we redesigned and reconstructed the path to the Top Oval. This path now allows disability access and is compliant with Australian Standards. We have opened the path for use this morning. We thank Ballarat Groundworks and the Ashton family (a school family) for completing the works!



Friday Lunches Announcement

The Parents and Friends Committee are excited to announce that Friday Lunches are once again on offer for Term 4 with a choice of hot items, salad rolls & delicious sweet treats available.

As always, orders must be placed on Flexischools by Thursday morning at 10am.

Camps, Sport and Excursions Fund

The Department of Education has announced that the Camps, Sport and Excursions Fund is to be extended in 2020 to assist with financial hardship due to COVID-19.

The final eligibility date for CSEF in 2020 has now been extended from 14th April until 5th October 2020.

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. The normal special consideration arrangements continue in addition. Payments will be made at 50% of the standard per student rates for families.

CSEF usage is normally restricted to camps, sports and excursions activities. However, as there is limited opportunity to undertake these activities this year, it was announced in term 2 that CSEF could be used for technology devices and internet access. The funds will be credited to your fee account and cannot be paid directly to families.

If you believe you are eligible, please complete the attached application form and return to the school before 27th November.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY CLAIMED THE CSEF IN 2020, YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO DO ANYTHING.

World Teachers' Day

Last Monday 5th October was **World Teachers' Day**. World Teachers' Day is a welcome opportunity to celebrate the achievements of teachers across our nation. Teachers play a crucial role in equipping young people with the knowledge, skills, confidence and desire to achieve the most in life. This commitment to having all students achieve the best possible education is central to teacher practice and to the well-being and development of the children at St. Francis Xavier.

It is timely on World Teachers' Day for families, students and the wider community to express appreciation for the commitment and dedication of the teaching profession in helping children learn and to say a special thank you to teachers who have really made a difference to the children they have taught.

Summer Uniform:

The reason for our school uniform is to ensure that our children are identified as students who belong to the community of St. Francis Xavier. When some students continually ignore aspects of the uniform policy, this causes resentment and disharmony for other students and families. I ask parents to be encouraging and supportive in your role so that the school uniform is respected and adhered to and that there is a strong level of equality and fairness in the management of the uniform protocol.

- Full summer uniform may be worn from Day 1 Term 4.
- For the first 2 weeks of Term 4 we will be in a transition phase for Uniform. Children are permitted to be in either Summer or Winter Uniform.
- From **Monday 19th October** (Week 3) all children are expected to be in Summer Uniform.

Hats, Hats, Hats

Remember that our children need to have their school hats from the beginning of Term 4 until the end of Term 1 next year!

- Please contact Yvonne or Sam in the Uniform Shop to purchase a hat!

Class Groupings 2021

Over the next few weeks our teachers are putting the final touches to class groupings for 2021. In doing this, academic, social and emotional considerations are taken into account to inform decisions.

We are fortunate at St. Francis Xavier to have our teachers plan learning activities that often allow our children to mix across the year group where they are working alongside all the children within their age and class grouping.

School is a place where children learn how to relate to other children. It is important that children learn to mix with lots of children rather than spending time with just a few favourite friends or children of like ability. They learn about themselves in relationships and identify qualities within others that they find positive and assuring for themselves. It is important at this young age that they experience many varied friendships and children of different learning abilities to their own.

We hope to inform you by the end of November of your child's class and teacher for 2021.

Foundation Transition Days

This Friday 16th October we will hold Foundation Transition days for our 2021 Foundation Children. All of our children look forward to these days with great expectation. It is a sign of the life and movement that make schools reinvent themselves all the time. Many thanks to the Foundation Teachers for organising this wonderful experience for our 2021 Foundation children!

Parent's Car Park – Traffic Movement

I wish to remind everyone at the start of this new term that the management of traffic flow at the beginning and end of the day is always a concern. We are fortunate that there is very little non-school traffic in the mix at these times. If the road signage and markings are adhered to with a good level of patience a safe environment can be maintained. We remind drivers to pull off to the left around the trees where the buses travel and U-turn to return down Fortune Street rather than cross directly across the traffic. (This is illegal!).

The New Normal

As our children prepare to return to school after remote learning for what seems like an eternity for everyone involved, the reality is that our relationship with technology will remain as prevalent as ever. While

our children are able to return to face-to-face learning, spending time online is likely to continue to be a part of their life. Our children have spent a vast amount of time on electronic devices in recent times and transitioning back to pencil and paper can be a difficult task to negotiate. The link below from the eSafety Commissioner provides you with handy tips that you can discuss with your child to instill a happy and healthy relationship with technology.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/how-to/balancing-time-online>



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.

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.

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 |

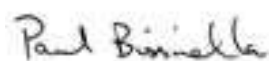
To minimise congestion, especially among adults, we ask families to adhere to this timetable and to be vigilant when promptly entering and exiting the building. Teachers will not be available to engage in discussion with parents at drop off or dismissal time and we ask parents to refrain from stopping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

Return of Borrowed Home Learning Devices

If your child has borrowed a device from the school, we kindly ask that you return it to the office - NOT your child's teacher. This is so we can track which devices have been returned. Please do not forget to return the device with its accompanying charger.

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

Yours sincerely,



Paul Bissinella
Principal

Catherine McAuley

How rapidly the days, weeks, and months are passing. Another month ended, that seemed but a few days begun. If we have not forfeited the friendship of almighty God, but have been trying to love Him more and more, and to serve Him faithfully, they were blessed days for us.

Letter to de Sales White February 28, 1841

Religious Education News



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

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

Curriculum News



Book Week

Each year, across Australia, the CBCA brings children and books together celebrating CBCA Book Week. Throughout the year, the CBCA works in partnership with authors, illustrators, publishers, booksellers and other organisations in the children's book world to bring words, images and stories into the hearts and minds of children and adults.

This year, CBCA Book Week will take place in Week 3 of Term 4, beginning on 17 October, and ending on 23 October, with the theme 'Curious Creatures, Wild Minds'.

Please click on the following link to view the 2020 CBCA shortlisted books:

<https://cbcacloud.blob.core.windows.net/documents/National/BookOfTheYear/2020/2020%20CBCA%20Shortlist.pdf>



Winners and honours will be announced on Friday 16th October!

Book Week will look different to other years and the following activities will take place:

Book Week Parade

Due to the current restrictions, we will be unable to facilitate a whole school parade. As an alternative, children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character on Thursday 22nd October. Classroom parades will occur on this day and footage will be collated and presented to the school community.

Book Week Performance- The Greatest Discovery

This year, again we will welcome Perform Education to our school... virtually!



In Week 3 of Term 4, children in years F – 6 will participate in this Virtual Incursion. 'The Greatest Discovery' will feature a selection of the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Shortlisted Books.

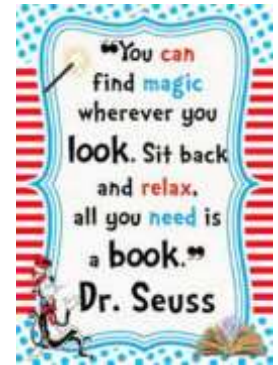
Reading in the Library

The Library will be open at first recess daily in Week 3 for the children to listen to the Children's Book Council of Australia shortlisted books.

We look forward to our Book Week celebrations this term!

Jayne Bosworth

Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement



Wellbeing News



Upcoming Event:

Casual Dress day fundraiser (and awareness raiser) to support JDRF.

Please add to your diary **Friday 30th October 2020** as the designated Casual Dress Day.

Funds raised will go to JDRF, an organisation providing funding for Type 1 Diabetes.



About JDRF Australia

JDRF is the leading supporter of T1D research globally, investing USD\$2.25B since 1970 with \$191M invested in Australia. JDRF Australia evaluates the Australian and global research landscape and supports the most promising programs from learning, to lab, to life-changing breakthroughs. We mobilise a vast network of people who work together in pursuit of a world without T1D.

In 2019 alone, research breakthroughs in our mission to cure, treat and prevent T1D have included huge advances in beta cell replacement, new targets for complication treatments, and the first ever therapy to delay the onset of T1D.

Diabetes (including type 1 and type 2 diabetes) is the number one cause of blindness in working age Australians. Three hundred and twenty-eight people needed help to remain conscious today as a result of hypoglycaemia.

Whilst there can be short and long term complications from T1D, JDRF Australia is funding research which will help reduce the number of people who experience these impacts – and one day hopes to defeat T1D once and for all! You can help us.

Happy Days,

Jane Clark

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



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

The right side of the banner features a photograph of three students in school uniforms. A girl on the left is playing a trumpet, a boy in the middle is playing a saxophone, and a girl on the right is smiling at the camera. They appear to be part of a school band or orchestra.

Go to our **St. Francis Xavier Facebook** page for more photos:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Francis-Xavier-Primary-School/273229632859103?ref=hl>