



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 4th October 2021
Term 4 Week 1

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2021

Key Dates

Term 4
Oct 4 – Dec 16

Term 4 Week 1

Monday 4th October
First Day of Term 4

Tuesday 5th October
P & F Committee Meeting

Friday 8th October
Term 4 Prayer – Celebration
of Mercy - Online

Term 4 Week 2

Tuesday 12th October
School Board Meeting

Term 4 Week 4

Wednesday 27th October
Year 4 Camp

Friday 29th October
Casual Dress Day

Term 4 Week 5

Monday 1st November
Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 2nd November
Public Holiday
Melbourne Cup
P & F Committee Meeting

Term 4 Week 6

Monday 8th November
Year 5 Camp - Kangarooie

Tuesday 9th November
School Board Meeting

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome back to Term 4. I hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable holiday!

Looking Forward to Term 4

Term 4 will be a critical time for the re-engagement of our children, the re-establishment of school routines and undertaking the steps necessary to prepare for and complete successful transitions into 2022.

During the period of remote learning in our CLC, some children have faced barriers to their learning. Many others have found new pathways to learning. What will matter most in Term 4 is providing continuity in learning and support for every child to the fullest extent possible.

This means refocusing our efforts on a set of common and core priorities: the most important things our school must deliver over the remainder of this year and into 2022. This will make sure that every child in our care is supported in their wellbeing, learning and transition needs.

Thank you for your ongoing support of all our children and their families.

Sad news of the passing of Edward Pearson

It is with sadness that I advise you that after a brief illness, Edward Pearson aged 95, passed away peacefully surrounded by family. He is greatly loved and will be greatly missed.

Edward is the father of our friend and colleague Cath. Our prayers are with Cath, her mum and their extended family.

Closure Dates – Term 4 2021

- **Monday 1st November** Pupil Free Day - Staff Professional Development
- **Tuesday 2nd November** Melbourne Cup Day - Public Holiday

Mandatory Vaccination Directions from Chief Health Officer

The Victorian Government has now formalised the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccine Directions (No. 4). The Directions introduce mandatory vaccination for specific workplace industries to limit the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (COVID-19) within the population in these settings. The Directions by the Chief Health Officer include “education facilities” and therefore mandates that people who work in these settings be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by specified dates.

Who must be vaccinated under the Directions?

The mandate for vaccination includes:

Term 4 Week 8

Friday 26th November
Casual Dress Day

Term 4 Week 9

Tuesday 30th November
SFX Orientation
Year 6 Transition

Friday 3rd December
St. Francis Xavier Feast Day

Term 4 Week 10

Thursday 9th December
Year 6 Thanksgiving and
Graduation

Friday 10th December
Foundation Nativity

Term 4 Week 11

Tuesday 14th December
School Board Meeting

Thursday 16th December
Last Day of Term 4

All other Calendar Dates for 2021 have been updated and can be accessed live on the Skoolbag App or by visiting the School Website.

- any person who is employed by an education operator to work in an “education facility” or school (including teachers, early childhood educators and educational support staff);
- people contracted to work at an “education facility” and who will or may be in close proximity to children, students or staff, whether or not engaged by the education operator, including casual relief teachers, Breakfast Club suppliers, IT personnel, NDIS providers and auditors, but does not include delivery personnel or contractors;
- staff of any other entity who attend an “education facility” eg. CEB staff, priests, School Board Directors;
- **volunteers that attend an “education facility” and that work in close proximity to children, students or staff (including parent helpers); and**
- students on placements at an “education facility”.

What is the mandated deadline for vaccination?

The Directions mandate a first dose by 18th October 2021 and a second dose by 29th November 2021. All groups identified in the Directions in all Victorian education facilities, including Catholic schools, must comply with the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccine Directions and be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by the 29th November deadline unless a medical exemption applies. Individuals will be required to show evidence of their vaccination status or valid medical exemption. This will work similarly to the Working with Children Check/Police Check requirements – **staff must be vaccinated to work in any Victorian educational facility, including St. Francis Xavier.**

Leadership Appointments 2022

I am pleased to advise that the School Board Directors have endorsed the interview panel's recommendations of the following appointments for 2022 and 2023

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Religious Education Leader: | Mrs. Bernadette Luckman |
| 2. Junior School Leader | Ms. Rebecca Conroy |
| 3. Wellbeing Leader: | Mrs. Christine Meneely |
| 4. Learning Technologies Leader: | Mr. Michael Marshall |
| 5. School Sports and Events Co-ordinator | Mr. Shaun Carroll |
| 6. First Aid Co-ordinator | Mrs. Andrea Grant |

I am also pleased to announce the following 1 Year appointments.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Year Level Leader: | Ms. Emma Hancock |
| 2. Year Level Leader: | Ms. Shannon Macklin |
| 3. Year Level Leader: | Mrs. Petra Barclay |
| 4. Year Level Leader: | Ms. Nikki Dalton |
| 5. Year Level Leader: | Mrs. Belinda Wrigley |
| 6. Year Level Leader: | Ms. Lindy Harty |
| 7. Year Level Leader: | Mrs. Cynthia Cook |
| 8. Specialist Leader | Mrs. Jacinta Molloy |

I would like to thank and acknowledge all the candidates for the quality of their applications. We should be proud at St. Francis Xavier of the depth and quality of the leaders within our school. I am sure you join me in congratulating the successful applicants and we look forward to working with them!

Teachers on Leave in 2022:

Next year Mrs Sally Brennan (3SB) and Mr Matthew (1MM) have applied for, and been granted a year's leave. Ms. Carla Cicchini, Ms Monique McGrath and Ms. Ginnane Smith will be on Parental Leave.

Class Lists for 2022

Thank you to those who followed the process regarding requests around the placement of their children into class groupings for 2022. Please note that this invitation has now closed; staff are currently working on 2022 class groupings.

Class Structure for 2022

Next year all our classes will be straight again and we reach our capacity! Teachers will begin work shortly on constructing class groups for next year. As part of this process the children will also be asked to nominate children who they know they can work well with and would like to be considered to be in a room with.

Foundation x 4
Year 1 x 3
Year 2 x 3
Year 3 x 3
Year 4 x 3
Year 5 x 3
Year 6 x 3

In the next few weeks I will be in a position to share our class teacher allocation with you and your child's 2022 class placement.

With planning for the 2022 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.

NAPLAN 2021 – NUMERACY Results

Year 3 Numeracy Results – 5 Year Trend Data Numeracy

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Nation	409	408	408	-	-
State	421	419	420	-	414
St. Francis Xavier	443	431	449	-	433
Student Count	56	52	61	-	58

Year 5 Numeracy Results – 5 Year Trend Data Numeracy

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Nation	494	494	496	-	-
State	503	504	507	-	506
St. Francis Xavier	532	519	530	-	522
Student Count	48	48	52	-	67

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 18th 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!

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

We continue to follow the advice of the Chief Health Officer and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regarding the spread and response to COVID-19. We are also monitoring the advice of the Victorian Government, Catholic Education Commission Victoria (CECV) and the Catholic Education Ballarat (CEB).

Immediate lockdown for Moorabool Shire LGA

Moorabool students attending schools in non-locked down LGAs

- **Students** who live in Moorabool LGA and attend schools in non-locked down areas **will be able to attend school on-site in accordance with their year level** (see staggered start details announced in yesterday's email to the SFX School Community).
- **Staff** who are required to cross the Moorabool LGA lockdown border to attend school **must be double vaccinated or must get tested twice weekly.**

1. Staged Return for Children

The staged return to school will include:

1. The week commencing Monday 4th October (Term 4 - Week 1)

- All children from Foundation to Year 2 will return to onsite learning at school on a full-time basis as per the end of Term 3.
- This means that children in the Junior classes, (F-2) will commence the term with classes onsite each day of the working week.
- All other children (Years 3-6) will attend classes online for this period of time.

2. The week commencing Monday 11th October (Term 4 - Week 2)

- Children in Years 3 & 4 will attend classes onsite each Tuesday and Wednesday and attend to remote learning each Monday, Thursday and Friday.
- Children in Years 5 & 6 will attend classes onsite on Thursday and Friday with remote learning each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

3. The week commencing Monday 18th October (Term 4 - Week 3) will follow the same staggered format as Week 2.

4. The week commencing Monday 25th October (Term 4 - Week 4)

- As of Tuesday 26th October, ALL children F-6 will return to full-time onsite learning.

If your child is medically vulnerable and unable to attend school based on medical advice, please inform the school via email – principal@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au as soon as possible.

2. Onsite Supervision for Children in Years 3 to 6

Remote and flexible learning will continue for all children in Years 3 to 6 until Friday 22nd October.

Our school will continue to be available to families with special cases, for on-site supervision, only in the following exceptional circumstances:

- **Reason 1** - For vulnerable children without access to a suitable learning environment at home
- **Reason 2** - For children of Essential Workers whose parents can't work from home and who require supervision

Supervision will now take place in classrooms and the same beginning of day drop off and end of day dismissal processes will be adopted. Booking arrangements for Year 3 to 6 children continues using the following process:

3. Process for Parents to book for Onsite Child Supervision at St. Francis Xavier Primary School

ALL eligible families (including those that have booked previously) need to follow the process for booking children for Onsite Supervision.

Bookings are **NOW OPEN** and parents are able to book their children through until Friday 22nd October (inclusive).

4. Instructions for Booking:

- Bookings are made through CareBookings. 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 NOW open.
- Bookings **close 5:00pm the night before** for the following days. No late bookings will be accepted.
- **It is recommended that children onsite wear masks if possible (advice from the Chief Health Officer)**

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 Coronavirus restrictions.



5. Important Operations Update from DHHS

- Non-essential visitors should be excluded from school sites for this period.
- School tours should not be conducted on-site for prospective students and their families at this time.
- Incursions are not permitted at this time.
- Non-essential meetings, and all school events, gatherings and assemblies should be deferred or held remotely.
- Staggered start and finish times – Schools should introduce staggered start and finish times to reduce congestion at the school gate during drop-off and pick-up times.

6. Face masks in schools

- School staff and secondary school students aged 12 or older must always wear a face mask at school unless a lawful exception applies.
- Children under 12 years of age and students at primary school are not required to wear face masks when at school.
- Teachers and education support staff are NOW required to wear face masks while teaching. It is recommended that face masks be worn while teaching.
- Face masks are mandatory for all school staff and school students aged 12 or older when travelling to and from school on public transport and when in taxis or ride share vehicles.
- **All parents collecting children must wear a face mask unless an exemption applies.**

7. Gatherings and Liturgies

- Large school gatherings (ceremonies, assemblies, school formals etc.) are not permitted at this time.
- Liturgies cannot be held at schools at this time, consistent with guidance on assemblies.

8. QR Codes and Signing-in at the School Office

- Please note it is mandatory for all visitors to the school to sign-in via the School Office or by using the State Government's QR code system.
- The use of Service Victoria QR codes for electronic record keeping is NOW mandatory for all schools to enable the effective contact tracing of any COVID-19 cases.
- The public health intent of including schools in the QR code check in system for workplaces is to capture those visitors accessing school buildings or indoor facilities, but not those entering the school grounds for reasons such as school pick up.
- **QR code check ins will not be required for staff or students, or parents who come onto school grounds for drop off or pick up, but do not enter buildings.**

9. COVID Safe Principles for Children and Parents:

- Any child who is unwell must not attend school
- Beginning of the Day Drop Off arrangements (see below)
- End of the Day Dismissal arrangements (see below)
- 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
- Request that parents avoid or minimise time spent in or around the school grounds
- Regular School Cleaning
- Frequent announcements, messages, signage and red gaffer tape around school to remind staff, children and families of the need for changed behaviours

10. Beginning of the Day Drop Off:

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.

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.

11. Continued Arrangements for End of the School Day Pick-Up

Please see the table below for staggered pick up arrangements that continue at St. Francis Xavier.

	3:00pm – 3:10pm	3:10:pm – 3:20pm	3:20pm onwards
	Children with Surnames beginning...		
Week 1 to Week 4 Monday 4 th October to Friday 22 nd October	A - G	H - P	Q - Z

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.

Dismissal / Collections Area

Year Level	Teacher	Collection Area
Foundation	Shannon Macklin	Side door of the Foundation SM classroom
Foundation	Tom Willmott	Side door of the Foundation TW 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 school FRONT GATES and proceed to classrooms via flag pole entrance (Please do not enter via the lower laneway)
Year One	Rebecca Conroy	
Year One	Matthew Manzl	
Year 2 - 6	Class Teachers	Collect from classroom door

12. Uniform Shop Sales during Term 4

For the time being and until further notice the Uniform Shop is CLOSED and will only accept orders submitted by completing the attached order form and emailing back to office@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au or by dropping it into the school office. Payment can be made by filling out your credit card details on the order form or by cash. Please indicate your preferred payment method on the order form.

Stay safe, stay well, and together we can work towards a positive re-entry to school for all children.

Parking around St Francis Xavier - Respect the road rules and parking signs

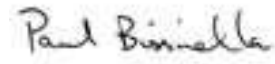
Parents please observe ALL 'No Standing,' 'No U-Turns,' 'One Way' and 'Bus Zone' signs. The Fortune Street Bus Zone is for BUSES ONLY. If you continue to park in the Bus Zone you do so at your own risk and may incur a fine.

DO NOT PARK in the entrance to the Top Oval outside the Gymnasium as this is a 'NO STANDING' area and signs are displayed.

For the safety of all - use the designated areas for parking and follow the rules.
Police and Council patrols happen randomly and parents can and will be caught and fined.

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, 184

Religious Education News



Mercy Day

On the 24th September every year, Sisters of Mercy and their friends around the world celebrate Mercy Day. This is the day on which Catherine McAuley first opened the House of Mercy in Ireland and dedicated it to Our Lady of Mercy. This is a day to celebrate all the wonderful work Sisters of Mercy and their friends do around the world.

Our students will celebrate Mercy Day through prayer in their classrooms in Term 4.



First Eucharist News

Please continue to check your emails from St Alipius Parish regularly in case of changes to First Eucharist plans. At present, no First Eucharist masses can be held due to Covid restrictions.

Please direct all sacrament inquiries and requests (including certificates) to Bronwyn Ballesty in the parish office on 53326611 or via email on ballarateast@ballarat.catholic.org.au. The office is staffed Tuesday, Thursday, Friday between 10:00 and 3:30.

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.

If you are seeking Baptism for your child, please call the St Alipius parish office on 53326611. If you wish your child to convert to Catholicism from another Christian faith, also call the parish office.

Bernadette Luckman
Religious Education Leader

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

Gospel

Mk 10:2-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

What God has joined together, no one must divide.

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

The Gospel of the Lord



REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

In the Western world today, somewhere between one-third and one-half of marriages end in divorce. It's a statistic that we hear wheeled out as a sign of the collapse of family values in our society. However, the reverse statistic is also true: somewhere between one-half and two-thirds of marriages are lasting ones. In the last 30-40 years, divorce has transformed from being a shameful scandal to an accepted, even commonplace, fact of life. It would be uncommon not to know someone affected by divorce. Despite those who argue that divorce is too 'easy', it is an emotional and difficult decision for couples to reach and has rippling impacts on children, extended families and friends.

When the Pharisees in the gospel asked Jesus about the law regarding divorce, they really weren't interested in divorce; they wanted to check Jesus' orthodoxy – how he stood in relation to traditional teaching. Rather than respond to them directly, Jesus asks them first of all to name the teaching to which they refer. He then explains that Moses only ever wrote the instruction because the people were so unwilling to listen to God's way.

For the second time in the last few weeks, the gospel shows Jesus welcoming children and praising their attitude as the way to the kingdom of God. Children of the time had no status and were regarded as literally the property of their father. When Jesus laid his hands on the children and gave them his blessing, this was the action of a father 'claiming' the child as their own. To welcome the kingdom like a little child is to enter into living the kingdom of God without any claim to position or status; to recognise our complete dependence on others; to let go of our ideas of who is important and who is not; to allow ourselves to be 'claimed' by Jesus.

Scriptural context – Discipleship

This section of Mark's Gospel explores what it means to be a disciple. While this particular passage may seem to be a bit out of place, Jesus seems to be stressing to the disciples that there are some bottom lines – some non-negotiables – when it comes to being a disciple. Unlike the Pharisees who are preoccupied with the letter of the Law, Jesus encourages his disciples

to get beyond that and understand the spirit of the Law – God’s dream for humankind. The shift in the passage to the focus on children seems a little disconnected but the whole passage is about living in the kingdom with the right attitude.

Gospel Focus – Like a little child

Most of us at some time or another have been told to ‘grow up’; ‘stop acting like a child’; or to ‘act your age’. It implies that, as we grow older, we have to behave in a more ‘responsible’ or ‘mature’ way than when we were children. Jesus turns this on its head and tells us that unless we ‘welcome the kingdom like a little child’ we will never enter it. The gospels are full of stories about people who call on God’s mercy because they recognise that without God they are nothing. When they subsequently receive God’s mercy or healing they welcome it all the more – like a little child.

Historical Context – Writ of dismissal

In Jewish tradition, a man could divorce his wife but a woman could not divorce her husband – she could only seek a court ruling to force her husband to divorce her. The grounds for divorce under biblical law were *ervat devar* – meaning ‘some fault or indecency’. One legal tradition held that *ervat devar* applied exclusively to adultery while another applied it to anything that was ‘offensive’ to the husband. To divorce his wife, a man simply had to renounce his wife and ask a court to authorise a writ, or bill, of dismissal – his wife had no chance to challenge his decision.

A beginning point for discussion of this week's Gospel with children:

- Q. Why might the Pharisees have been trying to ‘test’ Jesus with their question about divorce?
- Q. Why do you think the gospel writer followed the question about divorce with the teaching about children?
- Q. What does it mean to welcome the kingdom of God?
- Q. What characteristics of little children might Jesus be encouraging us to adopt?

Greg Sunter has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.

Curriculum News



Welcome back!

We all know that Term 4 will just fly by and we seem to have so much to do! Our rich curriculum at St Francis Xavier will continue to be delivered Face to Face or OnLine and will be adapted to suit the situations we find ourselves in. Our planned and sequenced curriculum will continue to engage our students and our terrific teachers over the term will continually assess the children to once again build up an accurate understanding of where each child is working at.

Many plans may look different but we will strive to provide our children with enthusiasm and a sense of pride when learning has happened for them.

We begin again in Week 3 with our 'Big Write' and later in the term will be conducting our PAT (Progressive Assessment Tasks) in Weeks 7-9 for the whole school. Our Foundation children will also participate in testing to view their achievement and progress throughout the year beginning in Week 2.

May we enjoy each other's company and laugh together.

Jane Clark

Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement





Problem-solving skills

I trust you and your families had a lovely break and feel re-energised for the term ahead. During our Social and Emotional Learning in Term Four, we are focusing on the Respectful Relationships topic of Problem Solving.

Problem-solving skills are an important part of the coping repertoire. Whether it's a toy-related conflict, a tricky maths equation or negative peer pressure, children of all ages face problems and challenges on a daily basis.

As parents or teachers, we can't always be there to solve every problem for our children! In fact, this is not our job! **Our job is to teach children how to solve problems by themselves.**

When children tackle problems on their own or in a group they learn valuable skills, such as looking at challenges from a fresh perspective, negotiation, patience and time management.

The classroom program provides a number of learning activities to develop students' problem-solving skills. The activities in the program assist students to develop their critical and creative thinking skills, and to apply them to scenarios exploring personal, social and ethical dilemmas. Typically, children who learn effective problem solving skills are happier, more independent and more confident in their ability to cope with adversity.

Here are some tips for coaching your children in problem-solving:

- Give your children opportunities to play with others. Playgroups, playdates and games help children learn to play well together and practise positive alternatives to fighting.
- Step in with ideas as soon as you see that children are finding it hard to work things out. For example, 'Remember to share', or 'Can you think of a way that you can both have a turn?'
- Talk things over later. With older children, working out a blame-free solution afterwards will make the fight less likely to happen again. For example, 'How could you have handled it so that both of you got to use the tablet?'
- Help children find ways to express upset or angry feelings through calm words or positive activities. For example, water play, painting and playdough help younger children express feelings. Older children might find that kicking a ball or playing music helps.
- Teach and model the social skill of 'respectful disagreeing'. This involves saying something that you can both agree on, then saying what you don't agree on. For example, 'I agree that Grandma gave you the book for your birthday, but I don't think it's fair to stop your sister reading it if she asks politely'.

Happy Days!

Christine Meneely
Wellbeing Leader



Uniform Shop Update

NEWS from the Uniform Shop:

Uniform Shop Sales during Term 4

For the time being and until further notice the Uniform Shop is CLOSED and will only accept orders submitted by completing the attached order form and emailing back to office@sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au or by dropping it into the school office.

Payment can be made by filling out your credit card details on the order form or by cash. Please indicate your preferred payment method on the order form.

- EFTPOS AVAILABLE in the Uniform Shop
- POP up shop will be happening again in the undercover area on Friday 26th March 2:45 to 3:30 all uniforms for sale \$5 and \$10

Opening Hours Term 1 2021:

- Monday 8.40 am – 9.10 am
- Wednesday 8.40 am – 9.10 am
- Friday 3.00pm – 3.30pm

Available NOW!

- Boys school socks \$10 a pair
- School coats available \$55
- Swim hats available \$10

Price List & Order Form

The price list and order form is downloadable from the schoolbag app.
Orders **with full payment** may be left at the front office.

DONATIONS PLEASE

Please check your cupboards for any uniform items you no longer need. Donations of second hand uniforms can be left at the shop with Sam or Yvonne. All donations are appreciated. Thanks.

Uniform Shop Volunteers – we need your help All we need is half an hour of your time once or twice a term!!

Please Sign Up to Help in the Uniform Shop by clicking on the following link:

<https://signup.com/go/JvsbATD>



or text Yvonne Arnts on 0426 240 496 if you are able to help, with your preferred day. Thanks.

The shop is open and EFTPOS available in store and for all your online orders. All orders to be picked up at front office



Information Evenings & Open Mornings for 2023 Commencement

Damascus College warmly invites all families to attend our upcoming Information Events. The Information Evenings are a great way for prospective families to learn more about Damascus College.

INFORMATION EVENING: Wednesday 8 September at 5pm
 Tuesday 19 October at 6.30pm

OPEN MORNING TOURS: Thursday 16 September at 9am
 Thursday 21 October at 9am

You will be sent an online link the day prior to the event

TO REGISTER, PLEASE GO TO: <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/enrolment/visit-us>

KELLY SPORTS IS BACK FOR TERM 4!

Multi-Sports Program

Wednesdays 3:25-4:50pm (90 minutes)

Starting Wed 6th Oct

Concluding Wed 8th Dec

Cost: \$220 for the 10 week Program

Enrol: www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat

Queries: Call Dom 0417 967 621

* Students can sign up a few weeks into the term please just contact Dom

* Covid Guidelines are in place

* **All our coaches have been Covid Vaccinated**

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

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