



St Francis Xavier Primary School

Newsletter

Monday 18th October 2021
Term 4 Week 3

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2021

In the Land of the Wadawurrung People

Key Dates

Dear Parents and Families,

Term 4
Oct 4 – Dec 16

We were very pleased to hear the news yesterday that all children will be returning to school on a **fulltime basis from this Friday!** Please see details below.

Term 4 Week 3

Term 4 Week 3

Monday 18th October
Foundation to Year 2
Children Onsite

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
F to Year 2				
	Year 3 & 4	Year 3 & 4		Year 3 & 4
			Year 5 & 6	Year 5 & 6

Tuesday 19th October
Foundation to Year 2
Children Onsite

Year 3 & 4 Children Onsite
School Board Meeting

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.

Wednesday 20th October
Foundation to Year 2
Children Onsite
Year 3 & 4 Children Onsite

Deputy Principal Appointment

In consultation with and approval of the St. Francis Xavier Primary School Board, I am pleased to announce that Jayne Mohr has been appointed to the position of Deputy Principal – Learning Diversity at St. Francis Xavier from the beginning of 2022.

Friday 22nd October
All children onsite
Foundation 2022 Transition
Day 2

Term 4 Week 4

Currently, Jayne is the Learning Diversity and Religious Education Leader at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Alfredton. Jayne has worked in leadership roles at St. Thomas More for a number of years having also been a Wellbeing Leader and lead teacher. Jayne is also participating in this year's intake of The Brown Collective's 'Leading with Impact' program.



Wednesday 27th October
Year 4 Camp
POSTPONED
Foundation 2022 Transition
Day 3

The panel and School Board were impressed with Jayne's understanding and experience of leadership, in particular her strong beliefs of being authentic to her purpose, and her demonstrated ability of making decisions with integrity and foresight. Jayne brings calmness and stability to the people she works with, and strongly believes in putting people first and establishing relationships that enable people to flourish. Jayne possesses strong interpersonal skills and will be an asset to the St. Francis Xavier Primary School Community.

Friday 29th October
Casual Dress Day

Term 4 Week 5

Jayne holds a Master of Education- Wellbeing, Professional Certificates of Early Intervention and Autism Spectrum Conditions from the University of Melbourne and has undertaken study through Australian Catholic University in Enhancing Catholic Identity.

Monday 1st November
Pupil Free Day

I am sure you join me in congratulating Jayne and making her feel welcome to our St. Francis Xavier community!

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

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

Wednesday 3rd November
SFX SIF Review

Thursday 4th November
SFX SIF Review

Friday 5th November
Foundation 2022 Transition
Day 1

Term 4 Week 6

Monday 8th November
Year 5 Camp - Kangarooie

Tuesday 9th November
School Board Meeting

Term 4 Week 8

Thursday 25th November
Foundation 2022 Parent
Information Evening

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

Monday 13th December
Reports – Available on PAM
for Download

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.**

Class Groupings 2022

Over the next few weeks our teachers are putting the final touches to class groupings for 2022. 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 2022.

To assist with managing enrolments for 2022 I ask that any families who already know they will not be returning to St. Francis Xavier to please contact the school office. This allows us to contact families waiting for places as well as assisting with class lists and planning.

Foundation Transition Days

This Friday 22nd October we will hold our first Foundation Transition Day for our 2022 Foundation Children. All 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 2022 Foundation children!



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 10:-00am.

Closure Dates – Term 4 2021

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

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).

Masks for children in Year 3 to 6

The Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton and Paediatrician from the Royal Children's Hospital, Dr Jane Munro, have issued the new requirement for children in Years 3 - 6 to wear masks whilst at school, with a strong recommendation for children in Foundation to Year 2 to wear

them as well. This new measure is a safe and appropriate way to get our students back to school and stay in school safely.

- 1. Students in Year 3 to Year 6 to wear face masks when indoors on school premises, unless an exception applies.**
- 2. There are a number of lawful reasons for not wearing a face mask, including for staff and students who are unable to wear a face mask due to the nature of their disability, medical or a mental health condition.**

We know that our children will adapt and are resilient. As this is an aerosol virus, the wearing of masks will help to reduce the spread and continue to keep children and families safe and healthy. Wearing a mask not only supports students to reduce the risk of catching the virus but spreading it as well. Staff will support children to ensure they know how to wear masks correctly.

We encourage families to purchase masks for their children. The school will have spare disposable masks available for those students who are unable to secure one prior to Monday.

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:

1. 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);
2. 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;
3. staff of any other entity who attend an “education facility” eg. CEB staff, priests, School Board Directors;
4. **volunteers that attend an “education facility” and that work in close proximity to children, students or staff (including parent helpers); and**
5. 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.**

3. Staged Return for Children

As of Friday 22nd October, ALL children F - 6 will return to full-time onsite learning.

The week commencing Monday 18th October (Term 4 - Week 3)

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

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.

4. Onsite Supervision for Children in Years 3 to 6

Remote and flexible learning will continue for all children in Years 3 to 6 until Thursday 21st 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:

5. 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).

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Face masks in schools for adults

- 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.**

9. 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.

10. 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.**

11. 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

12. 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.

13. 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

14. 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.

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.

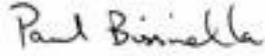
Hats, Hats, Hats

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

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

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



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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

Gospel

Mk 10:35-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for all.

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him, 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.'

When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them: 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION by Greg Sunter

James and John are effectively calling 'shotgun' on the best seats at the table! When they ask to sit at the left and right hand of Jesus, they are asking Jesus to name them as his deputies. They're looking to secure for themselves positions of power and authority. The only problem is that they have a completely messed up idea of what it means for Jesus to enter into his glory. For several weeks now, we have been exploring a theme from the Gospel of Mark that follows a physical journey towards Jerusalem as well as a symbolic and theological journey towards what is going to occur in Jerusalem – Jesus' arrest, crucifixion and resurrection.

Throughout this journey, Jesus has been trying to prepare the disciples for what is to come and educate them about what it really means to be a disciple of his. Three times Jesus tells the disciples explicitly what lies ahead. Each time the disciples fail to grasp what Jesus tells them. Despite occasional glimpses of insight, the disciples still believe that Jesus is going to rise up as a political or military figure. In a complete dismissal of this sort of thinking, Jesus declares quite forcefully that leadership of this sort is not what he intends for himself, nor for those who follow him.

Leadership in the Jesus model is about being of service to others; it is not about prestige and acclamation. Many of the best leaders are those who do not have any title of leadership or authority. Their leadership and authority come from what they do and how they do it. They inspire others to follow their example. They don't demand it; they don't bully; they don't play power games. People simply want to follow their example.

Living the Gospel – Servant Leadership

What does it really mean to practise servant leadership? It means placing the needs of others before your own desires for prestige or authority. We've all known people who have been given a position of leadership and they really only wanted the job as recognition of their popularity; a thank you for previous work done; an opportunity to demonstrate their strength of will or cleverness with words. Servant leadership is about collaborating; it's about empowering people to do their best; it's about trusting others and about rolling up your sleeves and getting on with the job.

Have you thought? Integrity

Who do you really admire? Who would you really like to be like? Aside from sports stars, models and actors whose particular skills you might admire or even envy; who is a person who lives their life in a way that you would like to emulate? Perhaps it's not that you want to do exactly what they have done but rather it's the way they've gone about living their life. I would bet that there is a close match between what they hold to be true and the way they live their life – integrity!

Scriptural context – Mark's Gospel

Despite appearing second, Mark's gospel is now recognised as being the first written of those that appear in the Bible. The shortest of the four gospels, it begins with Jesus' entry into public life and, in its original form, ends with the discovery of the empty tomb. It is sometimes called a gospel 'in a hurry' as the movement between events is almost abrupt. The gospel writer identifies almost immediately that Jesus is God's 'beloved Son' and then spen

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

- Q. Why does Jesus ask James and John if they can 'drink the cup' that he must drink?
- Q. Why were the other disciples upset with James and John?
- Q. Have you ever experienced a leader who would 'lord it over' others?
- Q. What qualities make a good leader?
- Q. In what areas of your life can you exercise servant leadership?

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



Our learning at St. Francis Xavier

Our learning at St. Francis Xavier is a little like our building site. All our teachers work really hard to build solid foundations of knowledge and skills for every child. It's all teamwork and using the best 'tools' we can. We continually scaffold our learning and experiences and revisit concepts so all children can 'build on' with their knowledge and application of skills. Revisiting, refining/applying our knowledge is all part of our academic building.



This week we will begin our **Big Write** sessions where all children will once again be asked to write a narrative from a picture stimulus or story starter. This will provide teachers with a wealth of information and guide our learning throughout the term.

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

Jane Clark

Deputy Principal - Learning Enhancement



Conflict and siblings tend to go together!

Over the holidays I was reflecting on what I say frequently to my children.

As a mother of two boys, I realised the words I speak most days seem to be: “Someone will get hurt” followed by “This will not end well”.

Conflict and siblings tend to go together! While sibling squabbles can be annoying, they offer us as parents a great opportunity to help our children handle conflict effectively (and this is a very important life skill).

With our help, children can learn to work out disagreements by themselves, without fighting. This can help your children get along better and deal positively with conflicts with other children.

Here are some tips for helping your children work things out:

- Let children go if they're trying to work things out. Talking, debating and even arguing are all signs that children are trying to work things out. Add some enthusiastic feedback about the way they're interacting. For example, 'Hey, I'm really proud of the way you're trying to work this out on your own'.
- Give some tips. A few well-placed suggestions might be all children need. For example, 'Do you think that's the best tone of voice right now?' or 'Remember to be fair and take turns. Whose turn was it last?'
- Give friendly reminders about house rules, what you expect and what will happen if a fight breaks out. For example, 'Remember we all speak nicely', or 'Remember what happens if you don't keep your hands and feet to yourself'.

Attached is a great article by Michael Grose on helping siblings resolve their fights

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.

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. **EFTPOS available**

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.



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>