



St Bernadette's School

Friday 29 January 2021 — Term 1 Week 1

No. 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2021 school year! We hope that your family had a safe and restful break from the school routines. No doubt you and your children are glad to be returning to 'normal'.

A very special welcome to the following staff members who are joining the St Bernadette's community this year. I know you will make them feel welcome:

- Miss Rebecca Mann (Diversity)
- Miss Julia Smith (Kindergarten)
- Miss Jessica Piperata (Year 2)
- Mrs Lesa Beames (Diversity and Executive release)
- Mr Alexander Chan (IT leader)

Special welcome also to the many new families who have joined us this year. We look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

Hamish & Philippa Smith
Emily Chen
Hannah & Laura Scanlon
Emily & Cameron McVean
Clovis Chan

Hayden & James Sharwood
Raymond, Savannah & Jake Younis
William & Oliver Tran
Jordi Ekladius



We are also very excited to have Kindergarten students starting school on Tuesday. Welcome!

Many thanks to the parents who attended a school working bee in January. Your dedication to assist us in preparing the school grounds for the start of the school year is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Nick Gooley, Steven Lavis, Belisa Papandrea, Carlo Vioria, Bunsoem Heneghan, Juliet Ranieri, Luke and Thomas Gillogly, Amanda, Matthew, Claire and Sean Baker, Marc Haj, Adam, Oscar and William O'Byrne, Brendon and Michael Mitchell. Much was achieved in such a short time. We look forward to organising other working bees in the near future.

As you know, COVID-19 still influences our daily lives and we respond to directions provided by the Department of Health NSW as well as the Catholic Education Department Parramatta (CEDP). As you know, at this time site access to parents is strictly limited. We appreciate your co-operation with procedures that are not always popular.

As always, we will continue to keep you informed of any changes.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Bianca Cooke



A warm welcome from Mrs Cooke, Principal (left) our school leaders and Mrs Floody, Assistant Principal (right).

Prayer for the start of the year

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends. Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year!

Amen

Week 2 Dates

Waste Free Recess & Lunch

Mon 1st February

8.30am Class Lines
Dance Fever

Tue 2nd February

8-10am Uniform Shop
(Emailed orders only)
Kindy 2021 start

Fri 5th February

Band Lessons

**ENROLLING SOON
FOR
KINDERGARTEN
2022**

**OPEN DAYS:
Tues 9th March
9.15—10.15am**

**Fri 12th March
11.30—12.30pm**

Address: 357 Old Northern Road, Castle Hill NSW 2154 **Phone:** 9407 6600 **Fax:** 9407 6699

Address: 357 Old Northern Road CASTLE HILL NSW 2154 **Phone:** 02 9407 6600

Email: Bernadettech@parra.catholic.edu.au **Website:** <http://www.stbernadetteschill.catholic.edu.au>

School Calendar: <http://www.stbernadetteschill.catholic.edu.au/en/Community/Events>

Illness

Please do **NOT** send your child to school if they are sick in any way, especially if they have a runny nose, sneezing, cough and/or a high temperature. If your child displays flu like symptoms, keep them at home and get a COVID test or visit your GP. A negative test result or GP clearance letter is required for your child to be able to return to school. Unwell children that come to school will be sent to the sick bay and parents will be contacted to collect them. Thank you for your co-operation.

Carpark

A reminder that the only entry point to school carpark is **via Brisbane Road**. Please drive slowly along the driveways and park in marked spots only. Be extra vigilant reversing out of car spots and allow pedestrians to go first. When walking through carparks, please hold your child's hand for added safety. Do not enter school via Old Northern Road.

Infants Swimming Program

The Infants swimming program will not go ahead this year (like last year) and has not been included in the school fees schedule for 2021. The decision to cancel this program was based around best evidence for learning to swim. Learning to swim is an essential skill for all Australians though is a process that takes longer than 1 week of 45 minute sessions containing a large group of students. Learning to swim should begin before students begin school, the younger the better. Learning to swim programs should be of consistent timing over a series of weeks, months or even years. Royal Life Saving Society Senior Manager Swimming and Water Safety Education Trent Hotchkin says "Parents are an integral part of their child's aquatic education by providing guidance and support through activities that provide for the development of water familiarisation, exploration and water safety skills." Learning to swim is not part of the Physical Education Syllabus.

Water Bottles

Please remind your child to bring a refillable water bottle to school each day as the bubblers remain closed due to COVID-19. We have brand new refillable water bottle stations in the school to allow for children to refill their bottles with tap water during the day. Thank you to Year 6 2020 for their fabulous donation of the water stations to our school. I know they will be used every day!



ENROLLING SOON FOR KINDERGARTEN 2022

OPEN DAYS:

Tues 9 March
9.15-10.15 am
Fri 12 March
11.30-12.30 pm

Please contact the school office on 9407 6600.



Sport Uniform Days

K Mon & Thur
1 Mon & Wed
2 Mon & Tues
3 Mon & Thur

Additional sport uniform day on Tues

3W wks 4,7,10
3G wks 2,5,8
3B wks 3,6,9



4 Mon & Tues
5 Mon & Thurs
6 Mon & Wed

Library Borrowing Days

K Thursday
1 Wednesday
2 Tuesday
3 Tuesday & Thursday (TBC)
4 Tuesday
5 Thursday (may be modified)
6 Wednesday (may be modified)



Morning Supervision

Before school supervision starts at 8am. School commences **PROMPTLY** at 8.30am. Any students arriving after 8.30am need to be escorted to the office and signed in as late by a parent/guardian.

In the afternoons, all children are supervised on to buses, at Tuckshop Terrace, across roads, to after school care or while waiting for the Car Pick Up Service to start at 3pm.

School finishes at **2.45pm**—your collection of children at this time is very much appreciated.

Going Home Arrangements

A reminder to parents to please complete and return the Going Home Arrangements form and return to your child's class teacher on Monday (Wednesday for Kindy students). Any changes to your child's going home arrangement must be in writing to the teacher.

COVID-19 symptoms



Fever



Cough



Sore throat



Shortness of breath



Loss of smell



Loss of taste

Stay Safe



Clean your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand sanitiser



Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with a tissue or your elbow. Put the tissue in the bin and wash your hands

Anaphylaxis

At St Bernadette's each year there are a number of children who experience anaphylaxis – in particular a severe allergic reaction when they are exposed to peanuts and nut related products. If those children are exposed to these foods a severe allergic reaction can occur within 20 minutes of exposure and can rapidly become life threatening. Accidental exposure to these foods can happen at eating times and in the case of one of our students, the allergic reaction can be triggered when another person has touched or eaten these foods and then that person touches them.

As a community we can assist these children by making our school environment safe. We ask families to:

- NOT use peanut, nut and chocolate spreads when making and sending sandwiches to school.
- NEVER send nuts to school for your own child to eat
- remind children NOT to share their food with other children at school
- explain to your children the seriousness of food allergies for those children who are affected by them and that we can help to keep these children safe by the choices we make.

Should you wish to have more information about anaphylaxis this can be found at the Anaphylaxis Australia website www.allergyfacts.org.au

Thank you for your assistance with all that you do to help us provide a safe environment for all the children at St Bernadette's Primary School.

Meet the Teacher

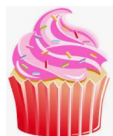
This year, we are offering an optional opportunity for a 10 minute **Meet the Teacher** discussion. These meetings have been created to allow family members to meet personally with the teacher to discuss a child's strengths, challenges and interests. With covid restrictions in place for so long, this opportunity is also for families to get to meet teachers for the new year. Bookings will be made using our online schoolinterviews booking system and will be strictly 10 minutes. Families will be able to choose between an onsite meeting (in classrooms following social distancing guidelines) or via zoom.

Meet the Teacher **Monday 8th February to Friday 12th February**, dependant upon teacher availability. Evening appointments will be available on Wednesday 10th February.

Bookings codes will not become available until Friday 5th February when Kindergarten transition week is completed.

Birthday Cakes

If you are sending in a birthday cake for your child's birthday, please only bring in cup cakes, donuts or similar (no lollies). This makes distribution in the classroom so much easier without the safety issues of bringing a knife into the classroom. Children do not bring lollies, chocolates or lolly bags to school. Thank you.



School Tuckshop

Tuckshop is now open and fully operational. The 2021 Menu was emailed to all parents and we ask that this menu only be used for ordering your child's recess or lunch. Recess orders are to be collected from the Tuckshop and lunch orders are brought out to the playground. A reminder that the cut off time for orders is 8.30am. A copy is also attached to this newsletter.

P & F News:

Summer Uniform

Our uniform shop is open every Tuesday morning between 8 and 10am. Due to COVID restrictions we are only accepting emailed order forms.

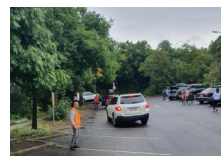
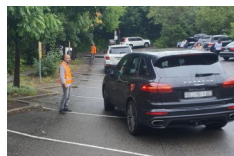
Email: uniformshop.stbpnf@gmail.com

The link to our order form is below:

[2020 2021 Summer Uniform Order Form](#)

Thank You P & F Helpers!

Thank you to P & F helpers for ensuring that the first morning school drop off went smoothly!



Other Community Information

Rugby league registrations open now—Boys & Girls ages 4+ www.pennostags.com.au. Training days are Tue, Wed & Thurs at Greenway Oval #2.

Parents Again Kinship & Foster Carers Social Support Group

Parents Again is a monthly social support group for grandparents, kinship and foster carers who have full custody or care of children. Join us and meet people in similar circumstances in a friendly, relaxed and non-judgemental environment. Contact belindam@hca.org.au or 9639 8620 for more information and to register.

Positive Partnership FREE Autism Workshops for Parents

Positive Partnerships are running two online workshops in February for NSW parents and carers.

Refer to the attached flyers. Participants can register at:

<https://www.positivepartnerships.com.au/>

Term 1:

Fri 29 Jan to Thurs 1 April

Term 2:

Mon 19 April to Fri 25 June

Term 3:

Mon 12 July to Fri 17 September

Term 4:

Tues 5 October to Fri 17 December

Please note no Staff Development Days have been included in these dates.