



St Joseph's School

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Term 1 | Newsletter 2

Dear St Joseph's Families,

I can't believe another fortnight has flown by. The parent teacher conversations were a great opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and to share information about them. We appreciate you prioritising time for these meetings.

Some of you have had the opportunity to meet Mrs Robyn Brownett who is our Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHIPS) leader. This important role is funded by the Government and is about building the capacity of staff to recognise and respond to mental health and wellbeing matters across the school. Robyn is a teacher and is undergoing targeted training which will help her to develop whole school approaches and provide resources to our community. She will not, however, be working with individual children, but she may support families with referrals and links to external agencies. We are looking forward to what Robyn will add to our school.

The children are thoroughly enjoying their Auslan lessons with Mrs Daphne Ward. Please ask the children to share with you what they are learning and encourage them to practice at home.

A reminder about our school Homework Policy. Highly regarded research tells us that standard, set homework is not valuable for primary school children. This type of homework refers to every child in the class receiving the same homework.

We recognise that the children work very hard all day and that home offers them other activities and time to rest.

At St Joseph's, we do, however, expect that children are reading every night and your child's teacher will provide you with ideas about how you can support this skill at home. Please ensure that you are helping your child to record their reading in their diaries.

Sometimes, your child may also have tasks to complete at home and this will be individualised practice. You can expect that, on these occasions, you will have been made aware by their teacher.

This week, our Year 5/6 class head off to Phillip Island for camp. The itinerary looks wonderful and I'm sure it will be an exciting time for the children. I want to particularly thank our staff, Mrs Mullin, Mrs Sandman, Mrs Jones, John Livesey and Cate O'Brien who will be attending with the children.

Enjoy the fortnight ahead and as always, thank you for your support and encouragement.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sharon Anderson'.

Sharon

Helping with Homework for more proficient readers

Reading Chapter Books

You don't have to listen to the whole book but it is still a good idea to hear them reading a few pages to support and give feedback.

Students might misread a word and continue. Wait until they get to the end of the sentence before stopping them. Sometimes the reader will realise their mistake because it doesn't make sense—and then self-correct—but they often need to get to the end of the sentence to realise this. We want readers to be able to read for meaning, and it's an important skill for them to develop. If we immediately stop and correct them again, we undermine the development of this process.



1. If they keep reading and ignore a key error you can ask them: "You just read
"Did that make sense?" If not "which bit?"
2. If they think it made sense, direct them to the error. Ask them to try again.
3. If they cannot read the word, help them to break it up into sounds or syllables. If it is still unknown, just tell them.
4. If it is an unfamiliar word, briefly talk about the meaning of the word, and how to break up to pronounce.

COMPREHENSION

It is important when you are not listening to the whole book to have conversations with your child about the books they are reading to promote comprehension of the texts.

Questions you might ask to start a conversation include:

1. Tell me about the setting/s of the story.
2. What is the main character like?
3. What has happened in the story so far?
4. What information have you found out so far?
5. What has surprised you in this book?
6. Does this story remind you of anything else you have read?

A FRESH TREAT

Last Thursday, everyone at St Joseph's got a lovely surprise. We want to thank Select Produce and the Nobile family for donating fresh Snow Peas to every child and staff member in the school. At the end of the day, we noticed lots of children munching on their healthy treat as they showed their parents.



ST JOSEPH'S DOORS OF HOPE

To mark the Year of Jubilee, in Art each student created their own hope-filled flowers containing each child's image of their personal hope for the world. Each child's flower has contributed to creating two communal 'Doors of Hope' in our school office foyer. Doors open to welcome others inside, offering hope. Doors also send us out to be people of hope. We welcome you to pop in and see these beautiful doors which we **hope** will remain in place for the duration of the year.



THE DIOCESE OF SALE 2025 ASSEMBLY

More than 220 delegates from across the Diocese of Sale gathered for the Diocesan Assembly to identify our pastoral priorities for the next five years. Following months of consultation and discernment, key themes were identified and were presented to the delegates of the 2025 Diocesan Assembly, aiding their reflection and discernment on pastoral priorities for the Diocese over the next five years.



Over the two-day Assembly, delegates engaged in prayerful listening and spiritual conversations in 27 table groups to acknowledge and affirm the strengths and best practices of the Diocese, identify the significant challenges being faced, and discern which pastoral priorities needed to be given priority to leverage the movement toward becoming a more Christ-centred, synodal and missionary Church.

The fruits of the two days were evident in the strong sense of communion, grace, positivity and renewed hope expressed by the delegates. *“My heart is filled with*

joy, confidence and immense gratitude”. *“A wonderful two days filled with richness, faith and friendship beyond my expectations”.* *“The experience has given me hope that we will be moving in a direction to secure the future of the Church.”* *“Let’s walk in unity as a Diocese and bring these priorities to life through considered action.”*

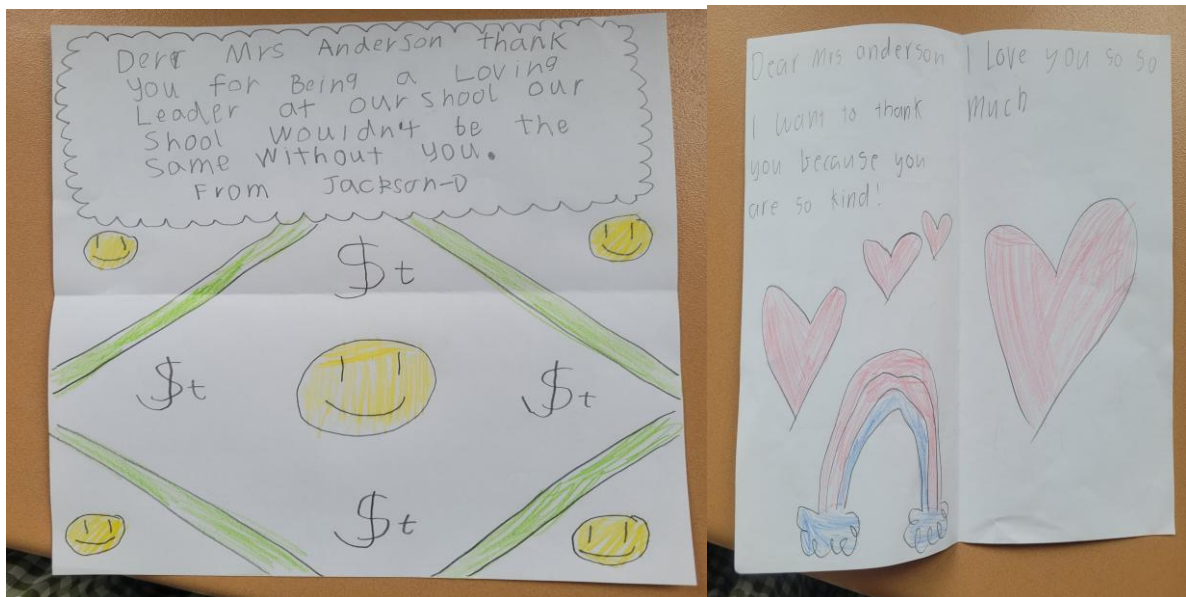
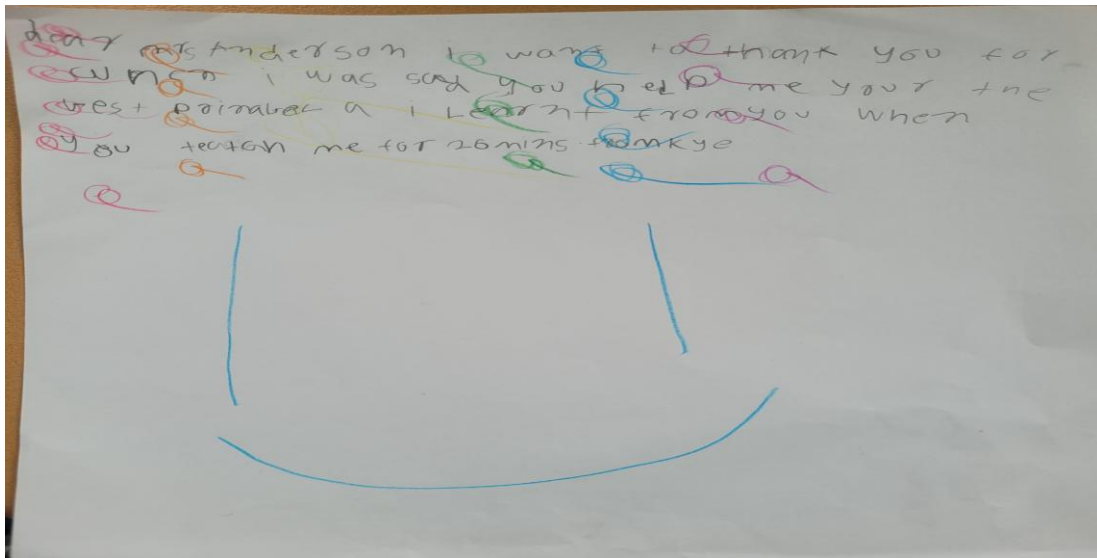
Reconciliation Sacramental Program

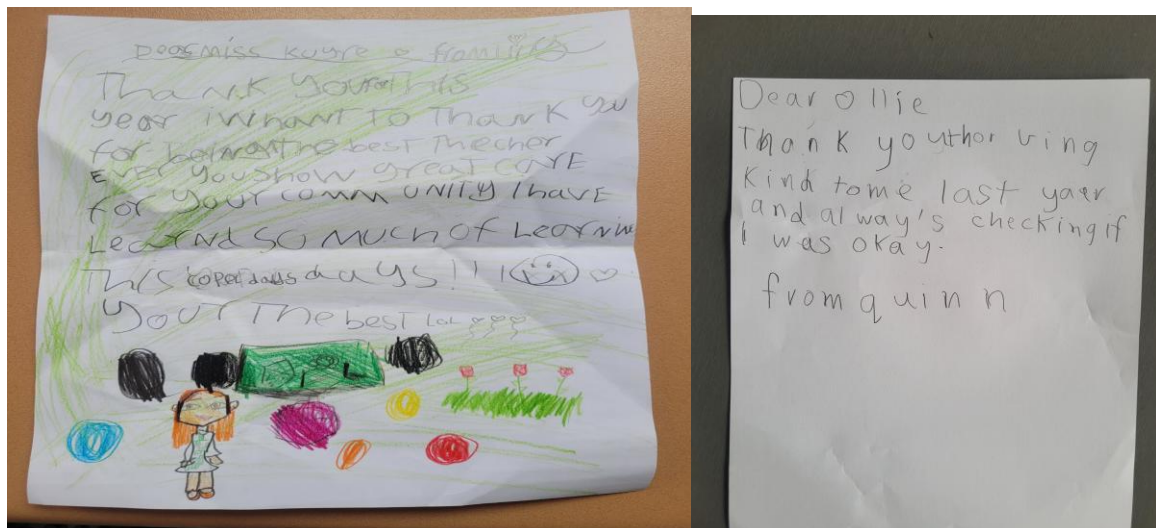
Thank you to the parents and children who attended the Reconciliation Workshop last Thursday, February 13 at 5:30pm in preparation for those making the Sacrament of Reconciliation. An online Reconciliation resource for families has been sent home via the SIMON platform today. I invite families to create time in their week to enjoy these activities which will help in preparing candidates to receive this sacrament. The most important part of the activities is the conversation shared between parent and child about forgiveness and reconciliation.

Reconciliation in 3/4

Throughout this term 3/4 have explored the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Over the last few weeks, we have learnt how to be loving towards ourselves and others; and the choices we make have impacts on ourselves and those around us. In thinking about how others show love and positive choices, students wrote a letter to someone they felt made caring and loving choices to others and how they have learnt from this.

Check out their wonderful thoughts they had about the people they have in their lives!





Senior Swimming



**Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
17th March to 27th March**

Our Grade 3-6 students will be participating in swimming lessons during Term 1 in March.

Students will travel by bus to and from Leongatha and will participate in swimming lessons run by the qualified staff of South Gippsland Splash (YMCA). **Students will need to bring an extra small bag to take with them and ensure they have appropriate bathers, a towel and goggles if they have them. If students wear their bathers to school, please ensure they have a change of underwear.**

St Joseph's Playgroup

**Do you have a preschool aged child, or know of someone who does, who would benefit from a beautiful playgroup experience at our school?
There are places available on a Tuesday from 10am til 11:30am in the school library.
Please contact Fiona Dangerfield for more information.**

DATES TO REMEMBER – TERM 1

Mon, 24 th February	Senior Camp – Phillip Island Grade 5 & 6 24, 25 and 26 th February
Wed, 26 th February	Foundation Rest Day
Thurs, 27 th February	Grade 5 & 6 Camp Rest Day (no school)
Fri, 28 th February	Division Swimming Sports
Wed, 5 th March	Foundation Rest Day
Thurs, 6 th March	Denis Huffer Athletics
Friday, 7th March	School Closure Day
Mon, 10th March	Public Holiday
Thurs, 13 th March	Denis Huffer Athletics Regional Swimming Sale
Fri, 14 th March	School Assembly @ 9am (sign in at office beforehand)
Mon, 17 th March	Senior Swimming Lessons (Grade 3, 4, 5 & 6) Begins
Thurs, 20 th March	Denis Huffer Athletics
Fri, 28 th March	School Assembly @ 9am (sign in at office beforehand) Combined Athletics
Fri, 4 th April	Whole School Easter Assembly @ 11.45 am. Last day of Term 1 – early school finish for students at 2.30 pm (buses will depart at this time)



St Joseph's Child Safety and Wellbeing Statement

St Joseph's Primary School is committed to embedding a culture of Child Safety and Wellbeing in everything we do, adhering to the Child Safety Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises (**Ministerial Order no. 1359**). We believe that ensuring the safety of the students in our care is an integral part of who we are as a Catholic Faith community. The school acts in accordance with the Ministerial Order through policies, procedures, measures and practices, staff training and, ultimately, through the strategies used in working with the students and families within our school community. We continue to maintain and develop a safe and supportive learning environment where staff are focused on engaging students in a meaningful, relevant, and challenging learning experiences.

If at the time you have any issues or concerns you feel you need to raise, please contact our Principal Sharon Anderson or our Child Safety Officer Robyn Brownnett on 5655 2040.