



SJC 2024 - WELCOME MEMO

1st February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our 2024 school year.

It was so wonderful to greet and welcome our students and families back to St Joseph's these past 2 days and we are excited to be welcoming our new Kinder students, starting on Monday. The new year offers us new beginnings, new learnings, new friendships, and new opportunities. It is an exciting time but can also be filled with anxieties. These anxieties are common, and we all feel varying levels of worry about new experiences and change. Please know that the staff at St Joey's are here to support your children to settle in with the new routines and expectations. We are also here for you and will keep you informed of what is happening in and out of the classroom. You may actually feel overwhelmed with the amount of information that is pushed out at the start of the year, but its purpose is to help you become familiar with the classroom and school events at the start of the year.

This year we increase to 13 classes with new enrolments across the school in all grades. We have 28 siblings starting Kinder this year and 28 new families joining us in Kinder. We also welcome 22 new students in other grades across the school. We are so excited to welcome you all to our school family. I trust you will find us a welcoming, faith filled, learning community where your children will flourish.

Welcome New Families

Ahmataj, Andrews, Arnott, Aubrey, Bendeich, Bynon, Campbell, Carter, Counsell, Corwell, Cummings, Curk, Connors, Dark, Davies, Darby, Foote, Gavin, Goldman, Kerry, Kilmartin, Mawkes, Mathias, Merrill, Muchena, Nall, Odukoya, O'Brien, O'Dell, O'Sullivan, Pearson, Poole, Pringle, Quinlan, Rana, Reineau, Robinson, Shaikh, Singh, Schumacher, Taylor, Teuma, Twiss, Wright, Valencia, Zulumovski

STAFFING

Welcome back to all our staff who have been busily preparing for the term ahead. This year we welcome new members to our team; Gina Sneddon, Emily Dale, Caitlin Morris, Sophie Perkins, Masie Duff and Frances Courtney. Please see our staff list below:

CLASS	Teacher/s
Kinder Red	Angela Foxon
Kinder Blue	Karen Nolan & Catherine Schumacher
Year 1 Red	Sue Woodward & Sophie Perkins
Year 1 Blue	Clare Paff & Mark Faith
Year 2 Red	Isabelle Peacock
Year 2 Blue	Brydie Dan
Year 3 Red	Frances Courtney & Sophie Perkins
Year 3 Blue	Emily Dale
Year 4 Red	Issac Fox
Year 5 Blue	Kyla Flanagan & Kate Papworth
Year 5 Red	Caitlin Morris
Year 6 Blue	Natalie Davis & Mark Faith
Year 6 Red	Kathryn Hill & Masie Duff

Administration Officer – Amale Yi
Clerical Assistant – Gina Sneddon
Principal - Kate Drake
Assistant Principal – Kathryn Hill
Religious Education Coordinator – Clare Paff
Primary Coordinator – Frances Courtney
Teacher Librarians – Stephanie Tranter & Brigitta Gleeson
Library Assistant – Donna Hoffman
Gifted Education Mentor – Bek Henshaw
Pedagogical Mentors – Kathryn Hill & Karen Nolan
Learning Support Teachers – Amber Christie & Heidi Routley & Kate Papworth
Learning Support Assistants –Cheree Chapman, Lynne Dawson, Teresa Hanrahan, Patricia Hines, Kim McAlister, Etsuko Brain, Karen Peacock
Specialist Music/Drama Teacher – Karyn Savage
EAL/D Teacher – Anne Turner
Aboriginal Torres Strait Island Teacher – Danielle Shaw
School Psychologist – Gayna Turner
Pastoral Care Worker – Maree Holmgreen
Canteen Supervisor – Kelly Brands
Specialist Band Teacher – Bryn Wilson-Kellaway

WEEKLY ASSEMBLY – Will be Tuesday mornings 8:55am beginning **WEEK 3 Tuesday 13th Feb.** Parents are welcome to stay after drop off. Swimming Carnival ribbons and medals will be awarded at our first assembly. Please note only the 1st, 2nd and 3rd fastest times in each EVENT (not each heat) are awarded ribbons.

CANTEEN

Our CANTEEN administrator is Mrs Kelly Brands and it will reopen next Wednesday 7th Feb. Orders can be placed on QKR UP TO 8:45am and coins can be brought in for small items at recess. We will still require parent/grandparent volunteers to assist in the canteen. If you are currently registered as a volunteer, please use this link to sign up: <https://signup.zone/Qw4zoS2aGaYyYspRn>

VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to become a school volunteer this year for the canteen or events, sport carnivals, excursions etc and have not already applied to volunteer through our Diocesan Child Protection Services please start the process to be cleared to assist. You will need a current Working with Children Check which can be obtained through Service NSW. We love to see our parents and grandparents helping out and so do the students. Please follow the link here: <https://www.mn.catholic.org.au/people/volunteer/>

UNIFORM

It is lovely to see our students returned in correct school uniform, showing pride in our school and respect for the school expectations. Black polishable shoes are to be worn on Tues/Wed/Thurs, with the summer uniform. Sports uniform on Monday and Friday. School hats need to be worn on all days at break and sport times ensuring our Sun Safe policy is followed. All students with shoulder length hair need to have it tied up neatly. School coloured hair accessories only please. Jewellery is to be minimal with only sleepers or studs worn at school. Please remember to label all items of clothing and belongings such as lunch and drink containers.

Our uniform shop is run by an amazing group of parent volunteers, and I thank them for their preparations and time supporting this service to our school. The shop is located under the COLA and will be open on Monday 5th Feb 8:30am - 9:30am and then regular weekly times of Tuesday and Friday 8:45-9:15am.

Uniforms can also be ordered online via the QKR app and sent home with students. Enquiries can be emailed to chl.uniformshop@mn.catholic.edu.au

QKR APP

This app is used for the canteen and uniform shop purchases. For existing parents **please remember to change your child's class for 2024 otherwise their lunches and other orders will go to last years class.**

COMMUNICATION

We have many events planned for the year and you can find regular information in our fortnightly newsletter, Compass Community Calendar and student profile pages. Each class will also have their own reminders and communication via SEESAW. Please regularly check these apps for important information.

We value positive parent school partnerships and encourage you to make contact with your class teacher if you have any questions, concerns or praise. An email or phone call to set up a time to meet is preferred as teachers have duties before and after school. **Please allow 48 hours for a teacher response to a non-urgent query and they will be answered in work hours. Please refrain from emailing staff out of hours.** We will host parent teacher interviews during Week 8. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

If you have questions about the canteen, fees or events etc please contact the school office via email admin@charlestown.catholic.edu.au or phone 4943 5414.

IMPORTANT DATES for your diaries:

Lakes Regional Swimming Carnival – Mon 19th Feb Lambton Pool. Team notice will go home today.

Beginning of the School Year Mass – Wed 21st Feb 9:30am. Yr 6 student leaders are commissioned.

School BBQ night – Wed 6th Mar 6pm -7:30pm. Come along for a fun community evening.

Pupil Free Day Friday 12th April - ADVANCED NOTICE

Stage 3 Camp – 14th & 15th Oct Tea Gardens – ADVANCED NOTICE

SCHOOL BAND

Our band lessons will resume in Week 3, day to be confirmed. Any child in Year 3-6 interested in joining the band this year can contact Band instructor, Bryn Wilson-Kellaway, *Brass specialist music tuition*, via email: thebrynwk@gmail.com

RICKY'S GUITAR LESSONS -are provided in school sessions and will resume next week on Wednesdays. To enrol your child please contact enrol@rickysmusic tuition.com.au or phone 0431 524 870

OOSH SERVICES

The before and after school care at St Joseph's is provided by St Nicholas OOSH, Diocese of Maitland Newcastle. Open from 7am-8:30am and 3:00pm-6:00pm.

Please note - School supervision begins at 8:25am and finishes at 3:15pm

MICHELLE BIRCH

NOMINATED SUPERVISOR | St Nicholas OOSH CHARLESTOWN

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Email taylor.cefai@stnicholasoosh.org.au Visit us online www.stnicholasoosh.org.au

REGIONAL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to our swim team representing St Joseph's at the Lakes Region Carnival, on Monday 19th Feb at Lambton Pool. The names of students who met the regional qualifying times and were the fastest 3 swimmers in **each event** (not individual heats) will be posted on Compass today. More information will follow next week regarding specific events, permissions, and spectators. Thank you to Ms Natalie Davis for organising our team for this event.

SUMMER SPORTS TRIALS

Notes for tryouts at the Regional Winter Sports trials for hockey, netball, soccer and league will be handed out to all **Stage 3** students next week. The process involves students trialling at several levels in an attempt to be selected in Polding (Northern NSW Catholic School) representative teams which attend Primary Schools (PSSA) State Carnivals.

If interested and you consider your child to have *exceptional talent* in one of the above sports, you may nominate your child for the trials via the written nomination form. Important information includes present club, outstanding achievements, and current representative honours.

Written applications must be forwarded to the school no later than Friday 16th February.

Please return the forms in an envelope marked "Mrs Davis, Sport Trials".

Parents & Friends Association (P&F)

At St Joseph's we have a strong parent representative body in the form of a P & F committee which meet twice a term to support the school in the form of organising social and fundraising initiatives. Our first meeting will be **Monday 12th Feb, 6:30pm** in the staffroom. We would love to see some new members who would be interested in helping out throughout the year. You don't have to be involved in every initiative, you may just like to volunteer in the canteen, uniform shop or assist with a particular fundraiser or event. Our President Lisa Evans and Vice President Kim Smith would love to answer any questions you may have or hear any suggestions for future events. Volunteering and helping with school initiatives helps build our positive and strong community partnerships.

THANK YOU to the Fagan family who came in to school during the holidays to water our Vegie garden keeping it alive and thriving. Mrs McAlister and Garden Club will be kept busy tending to this beautiful space.

Please keep in touch throughout the term, volunteer where possible and attend any events that you can. Encourage your children to always do their best, to follow and embrace our school values and to speak up for themselves and others. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance and then me if needed. We encourage positive home school partnerships and strive to work with you to support your children as they learn and grow.

May God bless us all as we enter into this new school year together.

Kate Drake

Principal