

St Joseph's School Warialda



Parent Information Booklet 2017

Principal: Joe Dimech
Teachers: Mary-Jane Guest,
Merran Riley
Administration: Sue Bell, Lisa Moore
Education Assistants: Deanne Bostock,
Brooke Cutmore



Welcome to St Joseph's. Our learning and teaching team is made up of Joe Dimech, Mary-Jane Guest, Merran Riley, Deanne Bostock and Brooke Cutmore. Our Administration Assistants are Sue Bell and Lisa Moore. We are excited about working with you and your children as we travel our learning journey this year.



Which teacher is responsible for teaching my child?

Joe teaches the children from Monday to Thursday with the assistance of Brooke and Deanne. Mary-Jane works Tuesdays to Thursdays with the assistance of Brooke and Deanne. Merran takes the class on Thursdays and Fridays and is also supported by Brooke and Deanne. Brooke works with students identified for the Mini Lit program and Deanne with students identified for the Multi Lit programs. Joe teaches aspects of English and Maths, Religion, Geography / History, Personal Development and Health and Library. Mary-Jane teaches aspects of English and Maths, and Sport. Merran teaches aspects of English and Maths, Science and Visual Arts. The students experience daily fitness during the week and sport on Wednesdays.

The classroom is a centre for learning

We operate as a multi-staged class in one learning space. Children are immersed in real-life and life-like purposeful activities that foster co-operative learning through literacy and numeracy.

Our Vision For Learning is . . .

St Joseph's students are confident, independent, proactive and engaged in their own education. Students display a self-reflective, critical and inquiring mindset to the many learning opportunities provided. They will display high self-efficacy by confidently engaging in collaborative learning and sharing their knowledge, prior and current, to develop new understandings. All students will develop skills to assist them to contribute to our society and become lifelong learners. Teaching and learning at St Joseph's is founded on the Catholic Core Principles and Values of the Armidale Diocese.

Our learning space does not only belong to the teachers but also to the children. We feel in order to achieve this, children need to have certain responsibilities so as to value and respect the classroom environment. Class jobs are changed weekly and primary students are responsible for maintaining the sports shed.

How do children learn best?

Just like adults, children learn in different ways, therefore it is vital that we provide them with a **variety of activities** and learning experiences. Planning a variety of learning experiences at **varying levels** provides opportunities for children to **consolidate and extend their understandings**.

Working in small ability groups allows children the opportunity to learn from one another as well as giving teachers the chance to closely observe individual children's development to then further support or extend their understandings. Working in small groups also provides children with an opportunity to develop their **confidence and self-esteem** to speak up in front of their peers.



Homework

On Monday Homework will be explained and distributed to children along with four home readers for students under Level 30. Students over Level 30 borrow library books for class and home reading. Some children on reading programs also take home sight words. Homework is generally a mix of literacy (word building and writing), Maths and activities covering a range of problems and topics. Homework is an opportunity for children to consolidate, practise and extend their knowledge and understanding of a variety of concepts. Parents play a valuable role in assisting their children with their Homework by actively listening and encouraging their efforts. If your child is struggling with a question, please circle the question so that we know that your child had some trouble - this is very useful for us! If Homework is unable to be completed, please ensure books are returned on Friday with a note. We'd rather the children bring their homework to us during the week for clarification rather than being brought to school incomplete on Fridays.

Spelling

Kindergarten and students in the MiniLit program practice their sight words at school and home. St Joseph's follows the Words Their Way Spelling Program. This combines phonics, spelling, and vocabulary. It differentiates instruction, allowing each child to work at their appropriate instructional level. The program focuses a word study approach that teaches students how to look for patterns in words, decode words, examine words for irregularities ("oddball" words: ones that don't fit a pattern or rule) and study the origin and meaning of words.

Home Reading

Each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night your child is expected to spend time reading their home reader. This should involve parental assistance. It is essential that parents sign the reading log to indicate that you have listened to your child and also communicate any concerns. Readers are to be returned to school on Fridays.

The 'Home Reader' from school is not the only reading material your child has to read, it is recommended that you identify other reading materials of interest to your child and read aloud to them each night. Studies have shown this greatly improves children's literacy skills.



Reading Levels to be achieved by completion of the school year (as targeted by the Catholic Schools Office)

- ★ Kinder: Reading Level 8. Student is able to read thirty sight words.
- ★ Year One: Reading Level 15. Student is able to read more than fifty sight words.
- ★ Year Two: Reading Level 22. Student is able to read more than fifty sight words.

Speaking and Listening

Throughout the term the children will have an opportunity to share information and gain confidence when speaking in front of their peers. They will be asked to prepare a short talk at home to further enhance their knowledge on a particular topic by researching with their family.



Mathematics

The school follows the Australian Curriculum for Mathematics (NSW). Maths concepts are taught under the following strands: Working Mathematically, Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, Statistics and Probability.

Library

Library lessons will take place on Mondays with Mr Dimech. All children are able to borrow books from the library on a weekly basis. Children will not be allowed to borrow books if they have failed to return their previous loans; it is also necessary that all children have a library bag.

Parent Teacher Interviews and Report

Formal Parent/Teacher Interviews takes place at the end of Term 2.

An A to E Report is sent home at the end of Terms 1 and 4.

Positive Reinforcement



We are constantly using positive reinforcement to encourage students work habits and learning. In the classroom this is assisted by a program called Class Dojo that tracks positive behaviour and rewards students. Students are reminded of the positive behaviours for learning. Consequences for not meeting acceptable behaviour include time out in class or from the playground..

We look forward to working together with you to maximize your child's learning this year. Please ensure their clothes and belongings labelled as well as a painting shirt and a library bag!

If at any time you wish to see us, please don't hesitate to contact the school to make a mutually convenient time to meet.

Kind regards,

Mr Joe Dimech, Mrs Mary-Jane Guest, Mrs Merran Riley, Miss Brooke Cutmore, Mrs Deanne Bostock.

School Prayer

**St Joseph's is a family,
united as one
May it be a place of both
learning and fun.
May our faith be shown
by the way we care,
May we always turn
to you in prayer.
While we strive to do
our best each day
May we be like you
in all we do and say.
St Joseph, pray for us.**

St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.

(Written by students and staff, 1997)