



24th February 2017

Dear Parents,

There may seem to be a lot of information coming to you in the first few weeks. This will settle down as we move through this term, but I do encourage families to read over the information carefully and note any key dates or information. If you have any queries, please feel free to email me anytime. No question or discussion is too trivial. That is what we are here for!

Below is some useful information regarding our class routines. If children are to feel secure, it is important that they are met on time. If you are going to be late, or someone else is picking your child up, please ring the school office. If your child is to be collected early, please go to the front office and sign your child "out". You will be given a release form to bring to the classroom. If your child is unable to attend school because of sickness etc please inform the school office by 9.00am who will in turn inform us.

Newsletters and Communication

What a wonderful group of caring and supportive parents we have this year. You have all been so considerate of how busy things are in the morning and the afternoon, but please do feel you can approach and say hello or discuss minor items. If you have anything you wish to discuss in detail, you are welcome to email (andrea.reece@catholic.tas.edu.au) or arrange an appointment. Even if I do not respond on the day, I will read emails each day and endeavour to reply as soon as possible.

Families will have the opportunity to casually meet other families from our Kinder class, the College and teaching staff at the whole College Welcome BBQ, this Friday, 24th February, from 4 to 6pm at the Huntingfield Campus. Further to this, we will have parent/teacher interviews mid-March (dates and times to be confirmed) where each family will have a scheduled time to meet and discuss their child's start and year in Kinder.

College newsletters are available on the new Schoolzine application/website fortnightly. Families can access the link via the website or by clicking the link below

<https://www.staloyisus.tas.edu.au/newsletters/>

Please see the School Office if you need to arrange to receive a hard copy.

The College uses an app 'School Stream' as a way of communicating. Please download this application, if you have yet to do so. Key information on organisation and excursions will be placed on School Stream. This information will not be posted on Seesaw.

This year, we will be using the document wallets to send home notices and art work, to ensure these items are not crushed or misplaced in your child's bag. Please also feel free to use the wallets to return notices or place notes to the teacher in. We have made the decision that we would like the wallets to be placed in the 'Return Notices' tray (available in both rooms) each morning. We will continue to use the display folder, placed outside the classroom each afternoon, for families collecting children after school. Those who catch the bus or attend ASC will have their wallets placed in their bag.

Hats

All children are to have a hat at school. St. Aloysius is a "Sun Smart School" and if a child does not have a hat they must remain in a shaded area when outside. Please ensure all hats, uniforms, lunch boxes and drink bottles are clearly named. You are welcome to send roll-on sunscreen with your child, which your child will need to be able to apply themselves. Please do not send tubes or bottles, as this can get very messy.

Communication Book

There is a note book inside the classroom on top of the bag box cupboard. Please write in any after school care dates, bus days or if anyone different is picking up your child after school. Please also verbally pass any new information on to us.

Excursions

We hope to go on many excursions during the school year. Our first excursion will be on Tuesday, 7th March, where we will be going to the Hobart Botanical Gardens. A notice giving more information will be placed on School Stream shortly.

Having parent helpers on our excursions is greatly appreciated, as this assists us with supervision and different activities. We would hope to have some three helpers on this excursion, so please let us know if you are able to attend. You will be required to have your WWVP card by then, in order to be an official helper (please see information below). Families and siblings (with or without WWVP card) are welcome to meet us at the gardens for a picnic lunch at 12noon, as per information provided in the letter.

Parent Help and Working with Vulnerable Children People (WWVP) Registration

We like students to adjust to school routines and settle in before we ask for your assistance in the classroom. We envisage commencing parent help during the week 5 of this term. Confidentiality is important. What you hear and see in the classroom remains private. If you wish to be involved in parent help we ask you to place your name on the calendar provided above the bag boxes. Please limit each session to one-two helpers each day. Parent helpers must sign in and out at the office each session, producing their WWVP card for a live check.

If you volunteer in our college for any reasons, it is now compulsory for you to have a current **WWVP Registration Card**. Without this, you will not be permitted to volunteer for parent help, attend excursions, work in the canteen and participate in many activities. Registrations are to be completed online at www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children. Once you receive your WWVP Registration card, please take it to the office and a copy will be made for the College's records. You will need to bring your card each time you volunteer, and present it at the school office when you sign in. If you have any questions regarding this process, please contact Melissa Dance via email at melissa.dance@catholic.tas.edu.au

Show and Share Roster

In the few weeks we will commence our Show and Share time. Your child will have a rostered day for sharing. It may help to talk to your child about what they are going to share prior to their day. Please send only ONE item for this activity and remember nothing too fragile or precious. We will inform you when show and share will commence and the day your child is rostered on.

Library

Our library day will be each Monday. It is important your child has a clearly named library bag. Your child will be able to borrow one book weekly. Each Monday morning, please return your child's library book and bag back to school in order that another one may be borrowed. We will place two tubs out on Monday mornings. We ask that families assist their child in taking their library book out of its bag, and place the book in the book tub and the bag in the bag tub. Leaving books in school bags may result in them being missed on that week. We usually try to check but sometimes run out of time if it is a busy day.

Music and Physical Education (PE)

We will be having a specialist Music and PE lesson every Wednesday.

Star of the Week

Each week a student will be randomly chosen to be our Star of the Week. The Star will complete a 'get-to-know-you' sheet and bring in items that will help us find out more about their interests. They will also enjoy the privilege of having special jobs for that week. They will be allowed to look after "Benjamin" our class teddy for the week, and fill in a page in Benjamin's diary of visits with Kinder families. Further details will be provided when this commences and it is your child's turn.

Nursery Rhyme Book

Each week one student will be able to take home our class Nursery Rhyme Book. A note will be sent home with this book for your information. These rhymes will be presented by your child to the class. We will possibly add another book, later in the term, relating to another aspect of learning, as children love having the opportunity to have this small piece of homework to do. We will review this as the term progresses, and inform families when this commences.

Canteen

Kinder R students will be allowed to have canteen on Wednesdays. Please keep an eye out in the school newsletter for when canteen will commence and for ordering information.

Buddies

Our buddy class is Grade 2L. We will be meeting our new friends soon. Each Kinder child will be placed with a Grade 2 buddy, who will act like a mentor for that kindergarten student. Further information will be provided about who your child's buddy will be at a later date.

Book club

We send home Scholastic book club order forms approximately eight times per year. If you wish to purchase any books please complete the order form/s and either pay by phone to Scholastic or return your order, together with cheque/cash, to the classroom. Orders need to be returned to school by a specified date and I will write this up on the noticeboard outside the classroom and send home via Seesaw for your information.

Learning Journals and Reporting

Reporting in Kindergarten is presented in the format of a learning story, designed to show the journey and progress of your child, throughout their Kinder year. Each student has their black portfolio, designed to present larger items of work. They also have two scrapbooks which will be used to present their learning stories, one which will be sent home mid-year and the other at the end of the year. The black portfolio will be sent home at the end of the year, as we will need to use this for the duration. Educators notes and information will be presented alongside your child's work. Information on how Seesaw provides an online part of your child's learning story and reporting, has previously be sent home with the Seesaw QR link.

Allergies/Medication

St Aloysius College is a Allergy Awareness School. Please check foods to be sure that they are nut free. Be aware that many muesli bars contain tree nuts. We ask families to read labels carefully, to avoid having items removed from lunch-boxes. Any medications that your child may need, with the exception of asthma medication and Epipens, are to be administered through the school office. The school requires families to provide asthma medication inhalers, antihistamines and Epipens that can be kept at school. Sending medication each day in your child's bag runs the risk of it being forgotten or accidentally used by a child.

Fruit Break

It would be appreciated if you could bring in fruit each day and place in the fruit bowl. This is cut up and shared daily.

Goal Setting Meetings (parent/teacher)

Will be held later in the term. This is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress with us. However, if you need to talk to us at a time other than the scheduled appointment, please see us and we can meet at a convenient time.

HOMEWORK ITEMS

Paper Bag Investigation - Thank you for completing this task. If your child had not yet returned their item, they are still welcome to bring it in next week.

ICT Notices

ICT notices were sent home this week. Please sign and return this form to our class. We will be using iPads at some stage, and will discuss appropriate use with the class. Please discuss with your child the need to look after our ICT equipment (iPads, computer, cameras) by handling them carefully and sharing with others. Can you please get your child write their name in the signature area to agree to be responsible, and return as soon as possible. We will discuss further during the term.

Family sharing

We would like each of our Kinders to bring in some family photos, which we can place on display. Please send a copy that we can keep or email a copy. We will display these with your child's drawing of their family, on displayed in the Penguins Room.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to your classroom teachers.

Regards,

(Mrs) Andrea Reece
Kindergarten Teacher

(Mrs) Katrina Denton
Teacher's Assistant

(Mr) Brendan Gill & (Mr) Joseph Sandric
Co-Principals