



Bethany Catholic Primary School Werribee

Newsletter No. 1 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the 2021 school year to all existing families and a special welcome to our Prep students and their families, and to all those who are new to the Bethany school community from Years 1 to 6.

As the new Principal of Bethany, I feel very excited and honoured to both lead and serve this faith community. I look forward to meeting and greeting each of you, beginning to establish partnerships in your child or children's learning, and forging strong relationships built on mutual trust and respect.

I hope that you all have enjoyed the holiday break, having the opportunity to rest and relax, enjoying the extra family time.

This newsletter provides information to assist you to prepare for the new school year. It outlines the way forward, as we move towards a Covid normal and what this will mean for all of us- the students, you the families and the staff, as we return for 2021.

Prayer:

God of Wisdom and might,

We praise you for

The wonder of our being,

For mind, body and spirit.

Be with our students

Our School Vision:

"Creating authentic relationships for successful living within a Catholic tradition."

Bethany Catholic Primary School is committed to the safety, wellbeing and protection of all children in our care.

***Our School Motto:
Journey Together***

As they begin a new school year.

Bless them, their families, their teachers

And staff.

Give them strength and grace as they grow:

Wisdom and knowledge to their minds

As they search for understanding:

And peace and enthusiasm to their hearts.

We ask this through

Jesus Christ the Lord

Amen

Best wishes to each of you, as you prepare for the new school year. Should you wish further assistance with any of the information below or if we can help in any way, do not hesitate to phone the school (Ph. 9742 9800) from Wednesday 27th January after 11:00am.

Take care.

God bless.

Again, we look forward to welcoming you all back next week.

Joanne Webster.

Return to School 2021 Plan

To ensure we continue to be Covid Safe, the following practices will now be established at Bethany to align with directives from MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools) formerly known as Catholic Education Melbourne and the Department of Education.

1. Families will now be permitted on site for up to 15 minutes. If you are here longer than 15 minutes you are required to register at the school office. A QR code will be in place for this registration. Please remember to adequately social distance.
2. School times will resume as normal- that is –
 1. 8:30am gates open
 2. 8:40am Welcome bell
 3. 8:50am School begins
 4. 3:00pm School day ends.

This means no more staggered beginnings or ends to the day.

3. Interschool Sports may now resume
4. Singing and choirs may also resume practice in well ventilated spaces
5. If your child is unwell please keep them home and have them tested even if they have the mildest symptoms. This continues to keep the community safe
6. Some students will have underlying conditions such as asthma and hay fever. Students whose symptoms are clearly typical of these underlying conditions can continue to attend school.
7. Good hygiene practices will continue, with the addition of upright hand sanitisers at all entrances to school. We ask that all students and families entering the school hand sanitise as they enter.
8. Parents are asked to wear face masks if the 1.5 metre physical distancing cannot be maintained.
9. Due to the continued density ratios which exist for indoor spaces families will not be able to enter the Learning Centres.

I thank you in advance for your co-operation with this.

Important Dates to begin the 2021 Year.

- **Thursday 28th January between 9.30 – 10.30 a.m. –**
 - **Orientation for Students Beginning at Bethany for the First Time (Prep – Yr 6)**

This session is an opportunity for students to meet their teachers and to begin to feel at home amongst us. A mini information session will be provided for parents. **Students are free to wear casual clothes for this orientation session.**

- **Friday 29th January 2021**
 - **Years 1-6 Start Date 2021**

Years 1 to 6, will begin as a whole school on **Friday 29th January 2021 at 8:50am**. The welcome bell will ring at 8.40am. The school gates open at 8:30am. A reminder to families that no student is to arrive prior to 8:30am. The school day ends at 3:00pm, and it is most important that students are collected at this time each day.

Should you require care prior to 8.30am, please access Quantin Binnah Before School Program (phone number 9742 5040) or make private arrangements.

It is not acceptable for students to be left in the school grounds even five or ten minutes earlier than 8.30 a.m. There is **no teacher supervision** available and it is unfair to the many families, who often in difficult circumstances, support this request.

o **Year 1 – 6 Students Beginning at Bethany for the First Time**

Students new to our community are asked to arrive at **9.30 a.m.** on **Friday, 29th January** allowing us the opportunity to care for them without interruption

● **Monday 1st February 2021**

o **Foundation (Prep) Students**

Foundation students will begin on **Monday, 3rd February** at 9.15 a.m.

School Uniform

Students are always encouraged to wear their uniform with pride. Summer uniform will be expected for all of term one.

- Full uniform is to be worn at all times. This includes correct footwear. Runners are **not acceptable** other than with sports uniform.
- Hair is to be neatly groomed, appropriate to the wearing of a uniform, fastened back, and off the face at all times. This expectation is for both boys and girls.
- Hair accessories are to be kept to the school colours – royal blue / gold.
- Unusual fashion modes that are not in keeping with the wearing of a school uniform are unacceptable. – i.e. unnatural hair colour.
- Fashion jewellery or accessories of any kind are not to be worn. One wrist watch, and a pair of **plain** studs or small plain sleepers (gold or silver), one in each **lower** lobe of the ear is permissible.
- No make up or nail polish is to be worn.

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S HAT, WINDCHEATERS, JACKETS, ETC ARE CLEARLY NAMED.

Boys

Summer Uniform	Winter Uniform	Sports Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Sleeve Gold Polo Shirt • Navy Shorts • Navy Socks • Royal Blue Windcheater / Zip Jacket • Navy Legionnaire Hat • Black Shoes / Boots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long/Short Sleeve Gold Polo Shirt • Navy Trousers • Navy Socks • Royal Blue Windcheater / Zip Jacket • Black Shoes / Boots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold Polo Shirt (long or short sleeved) • Navy Tracksuit Pants / Royal Blue Sports Shorts • Navy Windcheater • White Socks • Runners

Girls

Summer Uniform	Winter Uniform	Sports Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress <u>or</u> • Short Sleeve Gold Polo Shirt • Navy Shorts • White Short Socks • Royal Blue Windcheater / Zip Jacket • Navy Legionnaire Hat • Black Shoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tunic with navy tights/socks <u>or</u> • Navy Slacks with white socks • Long/Short Sleeve Gold Polo Shirt • Royal Blue Windcheater / Zip Jacket • Black Shoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold Polo Shirt (long or short sleeved) • Navy Tracksuit Pants / Royal Blue Sports Shorts / Royal Blue Netball Skirt • Navy Windcheater • White Socks • Runners

Please check that your child's uniform still fits. Where needed, new items can be purchased from Rushfords, Shop 1/13 Barnes Place, Werribee (ph. 9741 3211).

Hats

The Bethany hat is a legionnaire style. It is an expectation that students have their hat at school **every** day. **Please ensure your child's hat is clearly named.**

Shoes

I urge families to ensure that students are always wearing the correct footwear – black shoes/black boots.

Rain Jackets

All students are required to have a rain jacket in their bag every day.

Bethany School Bag

The school bag can also be purchased from Rushfords.

Sports Uniform Days

Students need to be in full sports uniform on the following days for term 1:

Leadership Centre: Friday

Bridging Centre: Wednesday

Discovery Centre: Tuesday

Exploration Centre: Monday (As from – Monday, 8th February)

Lunch Orders

The date lunch orders will begin, is yet to be determined.

Matters Financial

All student levies (\$365 per student) are expected to be finalised by **Friday, 29th January**. Payment can be made in person from Wednesday 27th January from 11:00am and all other days between 8.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m. or by mail (cheque) or over the phone (credit card).

Health Care Card Holders (CSEF)

Parents who hold a Health Care Card that is current on 27th January, 2020 may be eligible for the CSEF. This grant offers \$125 per student. The payment is made directly to the school and as such would offset \$125 of the student fee.

Student Fee 2021 = \$365 per student: \$240 is allocated to general resources

\$125 is allocated to sport and excursion

Families with a Health Care Card are asked to make an application for the Sport / Excursion grant on either **Wednesday, 27th January, Thursday, 28th January or Friday, 29th January, 2021**. It is important that you have your Health Care Card with you when making an application.

Successful applicants will then only need to pay \$240 per student fee.

If you received this payment in 2020 you do not need to reapply.

You will automatically receive this payment if your Health Care Card is still valid.

Should you wish further information re this funding or if you have questions as to whether you are eligible, please do not hesitate to contact the school and ask to speak to Joanne Webster.

First Instalment School Fee

The first instalment school fee (\$535) is due by Friday, February 12th. It is important that fee payments are made on time.

Parish Thanksgiving

Payment to be made directly to the Parish Office or placed in the collection when attending Mass.

Every family is aware of the invitation to contribute to Parish Thanksgiving. All communication re this program needs to be had directly with the Parish:

St. Andrews Parish

105 Greaves Street

WERRIBEE VIC 3030

Phone: 9741 4144

Email: werribee@cam.org.au

If you haven't received Parish envelopes please contact the Parish Office directly.

The school no longer accepts Thanksgiving payments. Please give your payments directly to the Parish Office or place them in the collection when attending Mass.

Keeping All Children Safe

One of the significant areas of child safety improvement has been the ways in which all schools have been directed to accept volunteers in their communities. To this end we encourage all parents and friends wishing to support the school to obtain a Working with Children Check.

The Working with Children Check is free for volunteers and can be obtained by:

1. Filling in the form and verify your identity online at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au
2. Checking the email that will be sent to you with instructions on how to finalise your application at Australia Post
3. At Australia Post your photo will be taken at no charge to you
4. Volunteer cards are free

Medication

Where possible it is our preference that medication is **administered at home**.

Should this not be possible, it is most important that the school receive clear instructions regarding the administering of medication and that all authorities have a parent signature.

To this end we ask that parents only use the medication request form. Please speak to the Admin Centre Office.

Collecting Children Outside of Normal School Hours

Should you need to collect your child from school outside of the normal timetable we ask that you do **not** collect them at **recess** or **lunch time**.

Expected procedure for collecting children during school hours:

1. Go directly to the Admin Centre office and complete an early dismissal form.
2. Take the form to your child's hub and the teacher will assist you accordingly.

If you know in advance that you intend to collect your child early please let us know.

The school day is divided into three sessions. When collecting children early please be mindful of the following expectation:

Session 1: Collect by 10.40 a.m. Do not collect children between 10.50 - 11.30 a.m.

Session 2: Collect by 12.40 p.m. Do not collect children between 12.50 - 1.40 p.m.

Session 3: Collect by 2.45 p.m. Do not collect children between 2.45 - 3.00 p.m.