



Thursday 3rd February 2022

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a wonderful start to the school year with the children settling into the school routines very quickly. The children have shown a great deal of excitement and joy being back at school with their friends ready for another year of learning.

It was also great to see the students in Years 1-6 on Tuesday and our Kinder students starting big school yesterday arrive dressed smartly in school Uniform. I thank parents for their commitment to supporting the uniform expectations.

Covid-safe Procedures

I thank parents for continuing to adjust to the Covid-safe restrictions in place, particularly for supporting the use of the RAT kits. We expect to pick up another two-week supply in the coming week ready to send home to families.

I remind parents to make sure they follow the Covid-safe guidelines:

- If a student or staff member receives a **positive** RAT test, they need to
 - record the positive RAT result through the [Service NSW website](#) or [Service NSW app](#)
 - **notify the school of the positive RAT or PCR test result as soon as possible**
 - follow [NSW Health advice](#) to isolate for 7 days

• We welcome new staff to our school community, Mrs Kylie Lloyd-Jones (REC & Year 6 Teacher), Mrs Teaghan Pugsley (Music), Mrs Alice Rowley (PE- Wednesday & Year 3 Thursday) and Mrs Stephanie Taggart (Learning Support). I am sure you will warmly welcome our new staff to the school community.

While Mrs Christine Ryan (Language Teacher- Italian) is on leave for the first weeks of Term 1, Mrs Simone Hayward will be taking these classes.

• Today I wrote to parents and carers of Year 4 Green to announce that Miss Louise Penny has resigned from her teaching position from St. Patrick's. Louise has accepted a position elsewhere that will provide her with excellent career opportunities.

Louise has been at St. Patrick's Primary School for the past 7 years and has been a wonderful servant to our school community during that time. Her dedication to the children and the broader school community along with her passion for teaching will be missed. Louise will continue to teach the class until Friday 25th February. In the meantime, the school will advertise to find a suitable replacement.

• Thank you everyone for supporting the Best Start and Mathematics Assessment Interviews this week. The information gathered by the teachers from the MAI is invaluable in getting to know your child's level of competence in counting, place value and the four number operations. The Best Start assessment provides information about the children's literacy knowledge and skills. Time will be allocated in the coming weeks for students who are still to complete the assessments.

• Swimming Carnival/Infants Water Fun Day – Friday 5th February. **All children including non-swimmers from Years 3-6 will attend the Carnival** along with any 8-year-old children from Year 2 who are capable 50m swimmers. Under current restrictions we are unable to have parent spectators at the carnival. Only parents who are helping in an official capacity can attend the carnival.

If you have not already done so, parents need to complete the permission and entry form via this link: [St. Patrick's Swimming Carnival Permission/Entry Form](#)

Children in Years K-2 will have a fun day at school participating in some fun water activities. I ask parents to refer to previous communication about this event.

- Parent Information Meetings for each grade will take place this term in Week 4 via Zoom. During this meeting parents will meet their child's class and grade teachers together with other parents with the purpose of providing information about class and grade routines, curriculum topics and planned events. Individual Parent/Teacher Meetings will be scheduled for later in the term. Further information about the Parent Information Meetings schedule and links to access each meeting will be provided next week.

God bless you and your families.

Todd Vane-Tempest

Principal