



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Royston Parade Asquith 2077

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Parish Clergy

Rev Dr Biju Jose, OSH

Parish Priest

Fr Joy Thomas OSH

Assistant Priest

Weekend Mass Times

St Patrick's Asquith

St Bernard's Berowra Heights

Saturday Vigil 6pm

Saturday Vigil 5pm

Sunday 8am, 10am, 6pm

Sunday 9am

We recognise the Traditional Owners of the land of Hornsby Shire, the Darug and Guringai peoples, and pay respect to their Ancestors and Elders past and present.



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday we celebrated our Opening School Mass. Thank you to those parents and grandparents who came along to be part of the celebration. The traditional Year 6 blessing of our new Kindergarten children and the acknowledgement and blessing of our Year 6 leaders was again a very special moment. The parents of our school captains and sports captains were rightly proud as they presented and pinned their badges.

I was also very proud of how the children participated so prayerfully and sang so beautifully during the celebration. I thank Fr. Biju for leading us as our whole school community took the opportunity to thank God for all our blessings and ask for his grace and guidance for the coming year.

School Open Day

Each year I call on all parents to assist in promoting our school as the perfect place for new students to attend. If you know of parents who have preschool children ready to start school in 2026 and beyond, please take the opportunity to let them know about St. Patrick's Asquith as the school for them. Please encourage them to attend one of our School Open Day sessions on Thursday 20th March to see and hear why St. Patrick's is the perfect place for their child.

Parents can register their attendance via the school website or using the following link: [School Open Day 2025](#)

Parent Information Meetings

Next week teachers will be holding Parent Information Meetings on Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th February. Meetings will occur at school in classrooms.

The times for the sessions are:

Tuesday 18th February

5.30pm- Years 1 & 2

6.00pm- Years 3 & 4

6.30pm- Years 5 & 6

Wednesday 19th February

5.30pm- Kindergarten

The purpose of these meetings is to provide an opportunity at the start of the school year for parents and carers to collectively meet their child's teacher. It will also allow teachers to provide information to parents and carers about class, grade and school routines and expectations, curriculum topics and planned events.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

These meetings are not meant for individual parent meetings. Parents who have important information they wish to communicate to their child's class teacher are encouraged to make an appointment through the school office or communicate information via an email to the school office to be passed on to the class teacher.

Reminder: Communication Methods & Protocols

I have again provided the same communication from last week's newsletter as a reminder of the established Communication Protocols. Each year the communication protocols are provided to the community to support that vital partnership between home and school. The school values strong and respectful communication and when we get this right, the children are best supported.

If you wish to speak to a teacher:

- You can make contact through the school office staff by phone, via email or in person. The office staff will pass this message onto the teacher concerned. The teacher will either confirm an appointment, or phone to talk within a reasonable timeframe (usually 24 to 48 hours or the following Monday if contact is made on a Friday). Often a return call might come earlier, but for practical reasons, at least one day's grace is required.

If it is a matter to be conveyed in writing:

- Please either send a note to the teacher/staff member or an email to the front office.

- Emails will be forwarded to the teacher within normal hours and in a timely way. If confidential, please send as an attachment and mark as confidential. The school email address is: spa@dbb.catholic.edu.au

- I ask that parents don't email teachers/staff directly. Emails received late at night or on weekends can impact on a staff member's personal and family situations and add to their stresses, especially if the matter is emotive or subjective. Also, if a staff member is on leave, delays in response can result.

I thank all parents in advance for adhering to and respecting these protocols and for your continued support.

Internet Agreement

This week we acknowledged International Safer Internet Day by teaching the children our expectations for using technology through the Internet User Agreement. The 2025 Internet Agreements created by CSBB for the safe use of technology at St. Patrick's Asquith will be distributed to parents at the Parent Information Session for your child/ren.

A vital aspect of the ongoing work each school does is to facilitate a safe online working space for the children and staff to operate in. To support this the school has developed and seeks to communicate clearly understood protocols for our children, which are known and reinforced by parents and teachers. Such discussions and common understandings are crucial in keeping our children safe, as well as having clearly understood expectations and rules.

I urge all our parents to set time aside to discuss your expectations at home for using technology safely. In partnership, we send the children the important message on all fronts when this takes place and enable them to learn firsthand the important responsibilities each has.

2025 Staff Development Days

Each year our staff have days set aside during the school year for professional learning opportunities. The planned Staff Development Days for 2025 are outlined below:

Term 1 – 2025:

Friday 11 April – Staff Development Day/Pupil Free Day

Term 2 – 2025:

Monday 28 & Tuesday 29 April – Staff Development Day/Pupil Free Day

Friday 4 July – Staff Development Day/Pupil Free Day

Term 3 – 2025:

Monday 21 July – Staff Development Day/Pupil Free Day

Friday 26 September – Staff Development Day/Pupil Free Day

Term 4 – 2025:

Thursday 18 & Friday 19 December – Staff Development Day/Pupil Free Day

Uniform

I thank all parents and carers in advance for supporting our School Uniform policy. Most children arrive everyday looking smartly dressed and ready for learning. This year the children will wear their Summer School Uniform each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and their Sports Uniform each Wednesday and Friday.

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Catholic Schools Broken Bay- Parent Charter

Building positive relationships between schools and parents is the cornerstone of nurturing student learning and achievement. To formalise our commitment to effective communication and mutual respect, Catholic Schools Broken Bay launched a Parent Charter in late 2023. A copy of the Charter can be found [here](#). The Charter places great emphasis on respectful, open, and two-way communication and outlines:

- What you as parents can expect from your relationship with your school.
- What our school will expect from you as parents and carers.
- Guidelines for positive communication and engagement between parents and the school.
- How to make a complaint or raise a concern.
- An explanation of unacceptable behaviours and how these are handled by the school.

As we start the year fresh, we kindly ask parents to be mindful of the following guidelines for effective partnership:

Stay Informed: Stay informed about your child's progress by attending parent-teacher conferences, reading newsletters, and checking COMPASS.

Initiate Contact: Don't hesitate to reach out to the appropriate staff member if you have concerns or questions about your child's progress, behaviour, or any other aspect of their education. Initial communications should always be with the appropriate school personnel, e.g., the classroom teacher or Year Coordinator. If further support is required, please contact our school leaders.

Be Respectful: Approach conversations with staff in a respectful and professional manner, as they are dedicated to helping your child succeed.

Respect Response Time: Recognise that staff have multiple students and responsibilities. Allow them time to respond to your inquiries and respect their working hours. Staff will usually respond within 48 hours.

Effective communication between parents and school staff is the key to a successful educational journey for your child. We value your input and are committed to working together to ensure that our school remains a collaborative, safe, and supportive environment.

Project Compassion -Pancake Tuesday 4th March

Thank you to the P&F and Mrs Lloyd-Jones for organising Pancake Tuesday again. The fun event will be held on Tuesday 4th March (Week 5). Pancakes are available to order on QKR and are \$1 each. Money raised from Pancake Tuesday supports our fundraising for Project Compassion.

P & F Welcome BBQ

Each year the P&F host a Welcome BBQ that is well attended by families in our school community. It is an opportunity for families to reconnect in a relaxed social setting after the summer holiday break. This year's Welcome BBQ is scheduled for Friday 28th February from 5pm. We look forward to enjoying a sausage sizzle and some fun activities for the children.

Parish News

The Parish Children's Choir is welcoming new members from Year 3 and up. Practices are held every Friday during school terms from 4:00 to 5:00 PM in the church. The choir sings at the 10:00 AM Mass at St Patrick's on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, and occasionally for other special events. Come along to a practice, register, and start singing with us!

Additionally, choir parents and carers are invited to a Welcome Afternoon Tea on February 21st during practice (4-5pm).

For more information, please contact Patricia Smith at 9482 7935 or via email at stpatschoir@gmail.com.

God bless,
Todd Vane-Tempest
Principal .

Dates to Remember
Term 1 - 2025
Tuesday 4th March - Pancake Day
Tuesday 4th March - The Dish
Wednesday 5th March - Ash Wednesday
Wednesday 12th March - Naplan Begins (yr 3 & 5)
Sunday 16th March - Kindy & Year 6 Mass 10am
Monday 17th March - St Patrick's Day Mass 9am
Thursday 20th March - St Patrick's Open Day
Thursday 3rd April - Cross Country
Friday 11th April - Last day term Pupil Free Day
Term 2 - 2025
Monday 28th April - SDD Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 29th April - SDD Pupil Free Day
Wednesday 30th April - First Day Term 2



Pancake Day

To launch our Project Compassion Lent Campaign we will be hosting a pancake day on **Tuesday 4th March**

Pancakes are available for \$1 either plain, with butter or with jam. Gluten free options are available

Please order pancakes through QKR by Thursday 27th February