

From our Principal

Mrs Janelle Heffernan

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to our new school year. I hope you all enjoyed a very relaxing and enjoyable time with family and friends over our Christmas break. This year promises to be a year full of unknown opportunities for us to support each other in our partnership of educating, guiding and modelling Christian values to our children.

The term has started with a real sense of purpose and a great spirit of co-operation and enthusiasm for learning. Teachers have worked tirelessly to ensure that classrooms are ready for learning and I am sure that you will be happy with your child's new learning environment. We especially welcome our 2020 Kindergarten students and the many families who are beginning their educational journey at St Carthage's. We hope your time is happy and rewarding.

I would like to thank you for supporting us in undertaking our Maths Assessment Interviews last week. The days went well, with only a couple of minor hiccups. Thank you for your patience, support and understanding if your schedule, room or teacher changed at the last minute. We have gained valuable information and insight to assist the students with their mathematical conceptual understanding. It was also a great opportunity for teachers to touch base with students before formal classes begin.

Congratulations to our students for the way you have started on this new stage of your learning journey and thanks to parents for having them so well prepared for school. Thank you to the staff who have spent a lot of their holiday time at school setting up rooms, developing programs and organising resources and school events for Term One. It is this dedication and commitment which allows us to start the year so smoothly. Well done all!

To you, the parents and families, I eagerly look forward to meeting you over the next few weeks at our Welcome Barbeque, Parent/Teacher Meetings, School Masses and other activities and events which are planned for the term. We are here to work in partnership with you and I would appreciate any input or suggestions which you may have to ensure that our school runs as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

We welcome Mrs Abbie Matthews to our staff this year. Mrs Matthews is undertaking the role of Leader of Pedagogy. Abbie comes to us from St Mary's Casino where she has undertaken many roles – the most recent being Instructional Leader. I know you will support Abbie as she transitions to her new role and new school. We also welcome many new students and families to our school community and trust that their experience of St Carthage's will be a positive and a rewarding one for each of them.

As we move through our second week of school, I hope that your children are settled and happy in their new classes. Certainly the talk has been very positive, with teachers commenting about how eager and enthusiastic the students have been. As we begin this new year, it is important to remember that parents and teachers are partners in helping each child achieve a successful transition into adulthood. This combined support is essential if the transition is to be a positive developmental experience for your child. A good relationship with your child's teacher will make it easier for you to stay informed about your child's progress across all areas of schooling and to work together if difficulties or problems arise throughout the year. On occasions, you might find that teachers offer advice or constructive criticism about your child that you may not agree with. However, it is important to keep an open mind to the teacher's comments (and they to yours). Unfortunately none of us are perfect, so if a problem arises, it is important to consider both sides of the story. The outcome should be one that helps your child succeed at school. There needs to be a sensitivity which respects the parents who have a special knowledge of their children, and the teacher as a well trained professional.

Teachers are dedicated and caring people (particularly the teachers at St Carthage's!) and they want to be not just good teachers, but teachers who their students will remember because they shared their knowledge and love of learning with them. Jonathan Sarks, Rabbi and author of —The Politics of Hope, said about teachers:

"Teachers open our eyes to the world. They give us curiosity and confidence.

They teach us to ask questions. They connect us to our past and future.

They are the guardians of our social heritage.

Life without a teacher is surely not a life."

May 2020 be a great year for you and your children and please remember, if you have any questions, queries or concerns regarding your children throughout the year, please contact your child's teacher, our Assistant Principals or myself so that we can work together on a joint solution.

OPENING SCHOOL MASS

Our Opening School Mass will be held in the Cathedral on Friday, 21st February at 9:30am. At this Mass our School Captains, Vice Captains and Colour House Captains will receive their badges. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

PARISH MASS TIMES

The times for weekday Masses in the Cathedral are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 8:00am, and Friday at 12:05pm.

Weekend Mass times are Saturday Vigil – 5:30pm

Sunday Morning – 9:00am

Sunday Evening – 5:30pm

VISITORS' PROTOCOL

It is both a legal requirement and a safety issue that all visitors report to the Office and sign in and out in the Visitor's Book. This is necessary in the unlikely event of a fire, evacuation, lockdown etc. but more importantly for the safety of the students in our care. If you are staying at the school, you will also be issued with a visitor's badge.

PARKING ON SCHOOL PREMISES

The School Visitor/Accessible parking area (in the front of the Administration building) is for short term parking between the hours of 9:15am – 2:45pm. You are welcome to use this carpark during these times if you have an appointment at the school. It is **not a pick up or drop off area** for parents' use **before or after school** (unless you are entitled to Accessible Parking). The Staff Carpark (behind the Administration building) is for Staff only and not for visitor use at any time.

INTERRUPTIONS TO TEACHING TIME

Please avoid conferring with the teachers during teaching time 8.50am to 3:15pm, as valuable teaching time is lost. From time to time you may need to speak with your child's teacher about a specific issue related to your child's learning, and if so, we encourage you to make an appointment with them to ensure an appropriate time is made available. You can do this by phoning the Office, sending a note to the teacher or sending an email via the School email: stcarthlism@lism.catholic.edu.au (attention to the relevant teacher).

BEFORE SCHOOL SUPERVISION

Morning Playground Supervision commences at 8:30am. **All** children who arrive at school before 8:30am must sit down in the Canteen area and wait for teachers to start morning duty. All classrooms will be locked and are out-of-bounds to children and parents at this time. At 8:30am the teachers on duty will direct grades, one at a time, to place their school bags onto their classroom bag racks. Children will then have supervised play time on the bottom playground and in the quadrangle. [Active Kids Before School Care](#) is available.

PARENT INFORMATION MEETINGS

These Parent-Teacher Information Meetings are a vital communication link between home and school. I encourage every family to attend the Kindergarten to Year 6 meetings. This sends a powerful message to your children about the value you place on your child's learning this year. Teachers go to a lot of trouble preparing these nights and I thank them for giving up their family time to assist your children's education. The meetings will be held at St. Carthage's on **Tuesday, 25th February in classrooms**. In order to make it easier for parents to attend these important meetings, we will repeat each meeting at a different time on the same evening. This means that parents will be able to attend each of their child's class meetings on the one evening. The meetings will run for 30 minutes. See table for the schedule for these meetings.

Meeting Times:				
6:00pm	Kindergarten	Year 2	Year 4	Year 6
6:30pm	Year 1	Year 3	Year 5	---
7:00pm	Kindergarten	Year 2	Year 4	Year 6
7:30pm	Year 1	Year 3	Year 5	---

AFTERNOON PICK-UP AND TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Parents have a number of options when collecting their children after school. These options, mentioned below, are designated as safe areas to collect children. As many parents are aware, we have a specific routine set up for Cathedral pick-up (our preferred pick-up option). Thank you to all parents who have been following this routine.

· School grounds:

Parents may collect children from the school grounds. **Children will wait on the Library steps for collection.**

This should lessen the confusion and temptation that some children have to play on the playground equipment when the bell rings. This equipment is out of bounds until the Cathedral Line and the first Bus Bay Line have moved off. However, **no child should be on the equipment at any time without parent supervision.**

· Leycester St.: immediately in front of the Kinder-Year 2 building. **Please do not double park;**

· Trinity Catholic College Car Park:

Children walking over to the Trinity Car Park or Trinity Swimming Pool, line up with children going to Bus Bays 17-20;

· Visitor/Accessible Car Park:

Between 8:30am-9:15am and 2:45pm-3:30pm use of the Visitor/Accessible Car Park outside the Administration building is restricted to **parents or students entitled to Accessible Parking.**;

· Cathedral grounds :

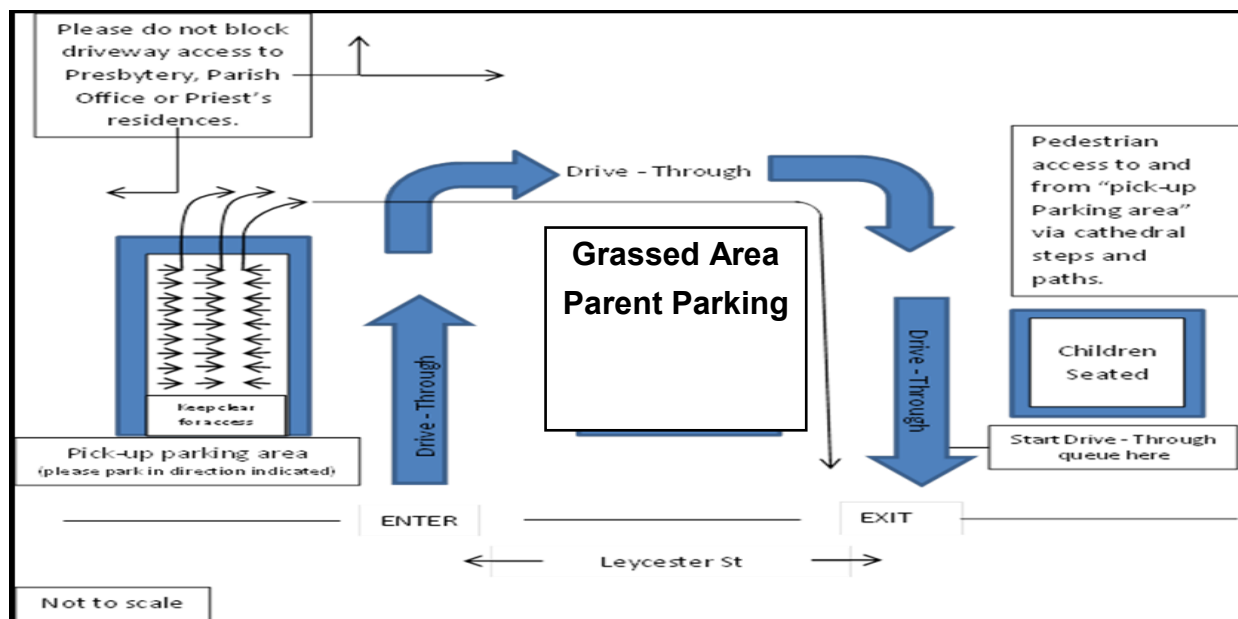
Children being picked up from the Cathedral in the afternoon, line up with their hat on, next to bus lines. A teacher will escort them, via the underpass, to the Cathedral.

A "Drive-Through" operates as outlined below:

Cathedral Pick-up and Drive-Through Guidelines

1. All children must sit on the grassed area and wait for parents to collect them. (No children are to run off to meet their parents).
2. **If you are getting out of your car please park in the carpark not in the drive through line.**
3. ONE WAY TRAFFIC only.
4. The Drive-Through-Lane is only for parents of children who do not need assistance getting into cars. (speedy operation) Parents, please do not leave your car. Teachers will direct your child/ren to your car when it is timely and safe to do so.
5. NO CHILD is to enter a car from the right hand side of the vehicle when using the drive-through.
6. If your child needs assistance, parents must park in the "Pick-up Parking" area on the far side of grounds and walk over to pick up your child.
7. **All pedestrian access via Cathedral steps and paths. Please do not cross in front of queuing "drive-through" traffic.**
8. Vehicles exit "Pick-up Parking" area on inside lane of Drive-Through queue (see diagram below).
9. Parents in Drive-Through-Lane have RIGHT OF WAY.
10. Please do not block driveway access to the Presbytery, Parish Office or Priests' residences.
11. Parents who need to park and collect children may wish to stagger their pick up time until after the initial rush.
12. At 3:40pm any children still waiting will walk back to school with the supervising teacher.
13. In the event of **wet weather or storms**, children are to be collected from the Library steps.

We would appreciate parents reading and sharing these guidelines with other people who might pick up your child and support us in this endeavour in keeping your child safe.



DO NOT PARK:

Parents are asked to avoid blocking bus zones or private driveways and are not to park in the Police Youth Club Car Park, the Service Station or the Staff Car Park *including* the driveway access (located off Dawson Street).

CHANGES TO YOUR CHILD'S AFTERNOON PICK-UP ARRANGEMENTS

If there is a change in your child's travel arrangements, please let us know by note or phone call. We ask that phone calls to the Office to advise children of an unexpected change to pick-up arrangements be made **prior to 2:45pm**. This provides Office Staff with the best chance of ensuring that your child receives the message. As you might imagine, a flurry of last minute phone calls at this busy time of the school day is not ideal.

If a child is unsure of their home time arrangements on a particular day, and we have received no notification, the child will be sent home on their bus as usual.

BUS BAY LINE UP

We have had the conversation with the students about our expectations of them when the afternoon bell rings. Teachers walk their classes down to the quadrangle and help supervise until the Bus Bay Teacher arrives. Children can go to the toilet and have a drink, then they must go straight to their bus bay line up areas. They will then move off with the teacher on duty.

LATE ARRIVAL & EARLY DEPARTURE

- *Students arriving after the school bell has rung*, must be brought to the Office by their parent/carer upon arrival.
- *Parents/carers collecting students early* must come to the School Office. Staff will call students to the Office for collection. (Parents are asked to try to make dental appointments, etc. **outside** school hours if possible.)

Please Note: We are unable to allow children to go with another parent unless we have permission (preferably written). If unknown to Office Staff, parents/carers calling to collect children will be asked for photographic I.D. This is not meant to offend and is only in the interest of your child/ren's safety.

NOTIFICATION OF STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents of students marked as Absent (unexplained) will receive an SMS notification asking you to advise the reason for your child's absence by return SMS. As SMS messages are now considered legitimate forms of communication, a follow-up phone call or note is not required. However, if you are unable to respond to the SMS then the school does require some form of communication via a phone call, email, Skoolbag app or note, to explain absences.

PEANUT AVOIDANCE

It is our intention to make our school environment as safe as possible for all. Our most urgent concerns have been for a small group of children who have a severe allergy to nuts. Exposure to nut products for these children will trigger a serious reaction. Such a reaction could be fatal if not treated quickly and appropriately. For this reason we are asking your co-operation to help reduce the risk for these children. Ideally, this means that we are strongly recommending parents pack lunches and snacks which are free from nuts or nut products and should discourage children from sharing food at all times. The school staff and parents of these children are implementing strategies to help these children to be aware of their allergies and to learn responsibility. We sincerely thank each and every parent for taking time to read and consider this request. We understand that these measures will require extra thought when packing your child's lunch. Your co-operation, however, will enable these children and their families to feel supported and safer in their school environment.

BIRTHDAY CAKES

After careful consideration, we have made the decision to no longer allow birthday cakes or birthday treats to be shared in the classroom. This is due to the increasing number of students in our school with allergies. Students' birthdays will be acknowledged by the class teacher in other ways. I know that you will support this decision in ensuring that a safe environment is available for all students.

Janella

Welcome Back to 2020

Welcome back to the 2020 school year to all our returning and new families. I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday break. We have started the year well and we look forward to continuing to have a great year full of learning and fun here at St Carthage's.

Mathematics Assessment Interviews (MAI)

Our teachers had a wonderful two days sitting with students to conduct the Mathematics Assessment Interviews (MAIs) last week. We thank all our parents for working with us to have students attend their individual appointments. The information gathered, as a result of the interview, is important in helping us to assess where a child's understanding is at in order for teachers to plan teaching that is targeted to the needs of their learners to enable them to thrive mathematically.

This valuable data on your child, will be shared with you during Term One, when the school conducts its Parent/Teacher Meetings.

Kindergarten Best Start Assessments and Mathematics Assessment Interviews

The Kindergarten Best Start/MAI concluded yesterday and we welcomed our new Kindergarten students today. Thank you to our Kindergarten parents for organising a time for these assessments. The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment is a state-wide assessment that helps show teachers the literacy skills of each student at the beginning of Kindergarten. As a Diocese, our Catholic schools then complete a MAI with each Kindergarten student so that we have an understanding of their numeracy skills. Both of these assessments help teachers to plan lessons to best support the learning needs of every child in their classrooms.

The data collected through the Best Start and MAI will be shared with parents during Term One. If you have any questions regarding this please speak with your child's teacher.

School Uniform

At St Carthage's the wearing of the correct school uniform is compulsory. A note to the school is required if your child is not in the correct uniform. Permission must be sought for a child to be excused for longer periods (e.g. medical reasons).

Please label each item of clothing clearly as we end up with numerous uniform items (particularly hats) in Lost Property and they can not be returned to the rightful owner as they have no name on it.

School hats are a compulsory part of the uniform and need to be worn at all times when the students are outdoors (including Bus Bays). If your child/ren comes to school without their hat they will be asked to sit in the shade.

School Uniform - Boys:

Short sleeved blue shirt with school badge (tucked in)

Grey school shorts

Grey socks - blue and gold stripes

Black lace-up leather shoes

Royal blue school hat

School Uniform - Girls:

Blue/gold check skirt or culottes

Blue with check trim overblouse

Royal blue socks

Black leather shoes

Sports Uniform - Boys:

Gold sports shirt (PE rotation day)

Colour House shirt (Sport day)

Royal blue shorts

Black Joggers- not sandshoes/volleys and no coloured soles, stripes or shoelaces.

St Carthage's School Sport Socks (Optional). Socks must be 5cm above the ankles - NO ankle socks allowed.

Sports Uniform - Girls:

Gold sports shirt (PE rotation day)

Colour House shirt (Sport day)

Royal blue sports shorts

Black Joggers – not sandals/soles and no coloured soles, stripes or shoelaces.

St Carthage's School Sport Socks (Optional). Socks must be 5cm above the ankles - NO ankle socks allowed.

Jewellery:

Girls may wear one set of either plain sleepers or plain studs in their ears.

Boys/Girls can wear a Cross or Medal necklace.

Leather jewellery is not permitted nor are plastic wristbands.

Hair:

Girls should have all long hair tied back and boys are to have a conventional hairstyle. If a boy's hair is below their collar it needs to be tied back. If a girl is going to wear ribbons in their hair they need to be gold or blue only.

Other:

There is to be no nail polish or fake nails at school.

Years 1 to 6 Morning Fitness

Morning Fitness will start week 4 for Years 1 to 6. Meet Mrs Atlee in front of the Canteen at 8:30am on Friday morning.

Kindy can join in, in Term 3.

**Term 1 Sports and PE Days**

	PE—Yellow Shirt	Colour Shirt—Sport Days
Kinder	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Year One	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
Year Two	MONDAY	FRIDAY
Year Three	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
Year Four	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Year Five	TUESDAY	FRIDAY
Year Six	TUESDAY	FRIDAY

Sports Team Winner in the Lismore City Council Australia Day Awards 2020

St Carthage's Catholic Primary School, Lismore Rugby 10's Team - Champion of the NSW Catholic Schools Competition

Teams from across NSW Catholic primary schools came together to compete in this tournament for the chance to be crowned NSW Catholic Schools State Champions in 2019.

This group of boys represented St Carthage's Catholic Primary School with pride and respect, always demonstrating great teamwork and sportsmanship.

Many thanks to all our parents and Sponsors for their continued support.



HEAD, HANDS AND HEARTS!

Welcome back to the new school term - we invite you to involve yourself in the religious and spiritual life of your Parish school community.

As a Catholic school - we look to JESUS CHRIST who shows us how we are to live. We strive to continue Jesus' message through the way our policies and procedures, the symbols we hold as important and our behaviours. In the Gospels, Jesus models love of others through: compassion, forgiveness, tolerance, advocating for justice and service to the poor and marginalised. He invites us to do as he does: "Do this in memory of me."

Meet other families over a cuppa at our **'Back-to-School' Morning Tea** for **this Friday, 7 February** from 08:45 – 10:30. Hosted by Class Parents, all parents/carers are welcome to come and say "Hi!". (There's a note up on the school's Facebook page).

Our **Opening School Mass** is an important occasion - this is an opportunity to place a focus upon the Catholic and faith identity of the school. Our school not only provides for the academic, physical, social and emotional formation of students but also their spiritual formation. We give form to our spiritual lives through the ways we worship. Mass will include the Blessing and Presentations of School Leader Badges, the reciting of the Leader's Pledge by our 2020 Year 6 students and the presentation of Lismore Lions Club Citizenship Award 2020.

Our first **FAMILY SCHOOL MASS** for the year is on Sunday 1 March commencing at 5:30pm.

Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes - 11 February - Our Lady of Lourdes is a title of the Blessed Virgin Mary venerated in honour of the Marian apparitions that occurred in 1858 near Lourdes in France. The first of these was to 14-year old Bernadette Soubirous. Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, the Blessed Virgin appeared eighteen times, and showed herself to St. Bernadette in the hollow of the rock at Lourdes. On March 25 she said to the little shepherdess who was only fourteen years of age: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Since then Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and many cures and conversions have taken place. The message of Lourdes is a call to personal conversion, prayer, and charity.

As the message of Lourdes is one of charity to others, our school asks families to provide cooked meals to be frozen and to **RESTOCK OUR 'FAMILY IN NEED' FREEZER!** Pope John Paul II declared 11 February as World Day of the Sick and so these meals are kept for families who are in need and distributed as needed by our wonderful Class Parents. If you are able to contribute please drop off meals to the Office - these are appreciated. Our **FREEZER IS EMPTY** :((Meals need to have an attached date of cooking and ingredients please.)



Teddy bears and prayers morning for Kinder families will be held on the morning of the 13th of February. An opportunity to build connections between school and families, Kinder parents will receive a special invitation soon!

Developing positive relationships and communication between home and school - Yes, once again we will continue our **Better Together Program** enabling opportunities for parents and carers to be involved in the life and decision making of the school. George Ortero will host **Learning Walks for parents** on Tuesday 18 February. George and our Principal will lead parents on a Learning Walk through learning areas and simply observe how learning is taking place to be followed by discussion. Refer to back page in this Newsletter for more information and to register for this event.

The heart of our work is one on one with people-it's about building relationships, it is not about meetings-it's about conversations. Robert Putnam-Better Together Program

Project Compassion - Lenten effort - Lent commences on, 26 February - **Ash Wednesday**. As in previous years we are using the St Carthage's **Caritas Cross Country** on March 6 as part of our 2020 fundraising event for Project Compassion. Prior to the Cross Country, students are encouraged to ask sponsors to donate if the student completes the course. The amount of sponsorship is up to the individual child and their family who assist them. All funds raised going directly to Caritas Australian Lenten Appeal (Project Compassion). <https://www.caritas.org.au/>



The relics of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux - For the first time in 18 years, the relics of St Thérèse of Lisieux, one of the most popular saints of modern times, are visiting Australia on a four-month pilgrimage. They will be in our Parish on the 16th and 17th of February. You can find out more about St Therese by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/u3j5pjh>

Our Bishop, Gregory Homeming gives us an insight into how the relics of Saints should be viewed. *"Many people wonder why the Church persists in what seems to be an archaic practice. Why tour the remains of saints and make them available for veneration? Of themselves relics are not holy. It is more correct to say, they are the remains of a holy person, a saint, and on account of their connection to that holy person are revered."*

In Australia we are used to caring for and respecting sacred sites - this may be a place of spiritual significance to a people as is the case with many indigenous Australians or a place where an important event took place such as Gallipoli. It may be a building in which over hundreds of years people have prayed and worshiped, such as a church or cathedral.

We all have souvenirs of people we have loved, insignificant items of little value, but to us they are treasured gems which move us to remember a loved one or an event. When the item attaches to a person it can bring to mind the attributes and goodness of the person. In some cases it can even encourage us to live according to higher values. The relics of saints fall into this category. They remind us of the saint and through the saint move us to live better lives. Please see the Parish Bulletin for details for this event in our Parish.

Thérèse of Lisieux, born Marie Françoise-Thérèse Martin was a French Catholic Discalced Carmelite nun who is widely venerated in modern times. She is popularly known as "The Little Flower of Jesus", or simply "The Little Flower." **Thérèse** was canonised in 1925 and in 1997 she was declared a Doctor of the Church, one of only three women to be so. She is the **patron saint** of missionaries, Aids sufferers, florists and the sick.



Dates

Friday 7 February:	'Back-to-School' Morning Tea from 08:45 – 10:30
Tuesday 11 February:	The Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the Sick.
Friday 14 February:	St Valentine, bishop, martyr
Sunday 16 February:	Relics of St Therese of Lisieux at the Cathedral
Tuesday 18 February:	George Otero - Better Together Program
Friday 21 February:	Opening School Mass 09:30 – 10:30
Wednesday 26 February:	Ash Wednesday
Sunday 1 March :	Our First FAMILY SCHOOL MASS for the year
Tuesday 3 March :	Incitare - Year 6 students
Friday 6 March :	St Carthage's Caritas Cross Country
Tuesday 17 March :	St Patrick's Day - Wear Green
Thursday 19 March :	St Joseph's Feast Day
Wednesday 8 April :	Stations of the Cross - school grounds
Friday 10 April:	Good Friday

The Sacramental Program for 2020 follows this order:

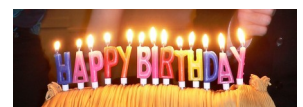
1. Sacrament of Reconciliation (**Year 3, Term 1**)
2. Sacrament of Confirmation (**Year 2, Term 2**)
3. Sacrament of the Eucharist (**Year 3, Term 3**)

Enrolment forms for these Sacraments will be sent home to all families in Year 2 and 3 in the near future. If your child is in Years 3-6 and has missed the opportunity to make any of these three Sacraments, please leave your details with the School Office to organise a further opportunity.

Canteen Clothing Pool

The School Canteen is **closed Monday and Tuesday** and will open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

The Clothing Pool is open **Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00am until 11:00am.**



Tortillas are no longer available.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MRS BARRATT

From our Leader of Sport

Mr Brendan Tickle

Representative Pathways

Students are provided with the opportunity to participate in representative sport that commences at a school level and progresses through to a national level. The representative pathway below applies for Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country (8-13 year olds), Winter Sports Trials (Year 5 & 6 - AFL, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League, Rugby Union) and Summer Sports Trials (Year 4 & 5 - Basketball, Cricket, Softball, Tennis and Touch Football).



2020 Dates

The following dates are for major sporting events at school, zone and diocesan level. Dates for NSW CPS, NSW PSSA and School Sport Australia events can be located at <http://sport.lism.catholic.edu.au/primary-sport-calendar>

Richmond Zone Swimming Carnival – Monday 17th February (BU Thursday 20th February)

Richmond Zone Winter Sports Trials (Year 5 & 6) – Wednesday 26th February (BU Thursday 5th March)

Lismore Diocesan Swimming Carnival – Friday 28th February (BU Tuesday 3rd March)

Lismore Diocesan Winter Sports Trials (Year 5 & 6) – Friday 13th March (BU Friday 17th, 24th March)

St Carthage's Cross Country – Friday 6th March

Lismore Diocesan Summer Sports Trials (Cricket, Softball, Touch Football) – 20th March (BU 27th March)

Richmond Zone Cross Country – Tuesday 5th May (BU Friday 8th May)

Lismore Diocesan Cross Country – Wednesday 27th May (BU Tuesday 2nd June)

St Carthage's 800m event – Friday 22nd May (No BU)

St Carthage's Athletics Carnival – Friday 29th May (No BU)

Richmond Zone Athletics Carnival – Wednesday 29th July (No BU)

Lismore Diocesan Athletics Carnival – Friday 21st August (BU Wednesday 26th August)

Richmond Zone Football, Netball and Multi Sports Gala Day – Thursday 3rd September (BU Thursday 10th September)

Richmond Zone Summer Sports Trials (Year 4 & 5) – Thursday 29th October (BU Thursday 5th November)

Lismore Diocesan Summer Sports Trials (Year 4 & 5) – Friday 27th November (BU Tuesday 1st December)

St Carthage's Primary School Swimming Trials – Friday 4th December (No BU)

Dates are subject to change. Please check the school newsletter for amended dates.

Richmond Zone Swimming Carnival

The Richmond Zone Swimming Carnival will be held on Monday 17th February at the Lismore Memorial Baths. Notes have been sent home to those students who have qualified for the carnival. Please ensure that notes are returned to Mr Whitney by Tuesday 11th February. Good luck to the following students who will represent our school at the Richmond Zone Swimming Carnival:

Grace Hogan, Oliver Carney, Reggie Field, Jake Holmes, Amahli Adams, Adrian Brickhill, Henry Davis,

Autumn Taylor, Mya Weekes, Lincoln Cormack, Hayden Ellem, Lachlan Allen, Ruby Allen, Archie Da Fre, Jonah Hudson-Sheaffe, Alexa Johnson, Jessica Holmes, Jimmy Field, Harrison Jenkins, Sammie Jones, Jazmin Adams, Case McQuilty, William Bullpitt, Macy Field, Ellie McKay, Ruby Lake, Rue Heffernan, Max Alcorn, Masen Murray, Hyraani Underhill, Oliver Allen, Django Hudson-Sheaffe, Ziggy Lake, Elisha Lovell, Annabelle Williamson, Ayden Holmes, Thea Blok, Jasmine Boyd and Lily Comber.

Richmond Zone Winter Sports Trials

The Richmond Zone Winter Sports Trials will be held on Wednesday 26th February (BU Thursday 5th March). These trials are open to Year 5 and 6 students that display a high level of skill in one of the following sports: Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League and Rugby Union. School selections will take place during Week 3.

Polding Summer Sports Trials

Good luck to Thea Blok (tennis) and Zane Anderson (basketball) who will compete at the Polding Summer Sports Trials, held in Lismore on Friday 7th February. Reaching these trials is an outstanding achievement. We wish you the best of luck. Due to the fires and resulting smoke, the Lismore Diocesan Summer Sports Trials for Softball, Touch Football and Cricket were postponed. These trials will be held on Friday 13th March. Good luck to the following students in their respective sports:

Nate Boxsell, Myles Hancock, Connor McCarthy, Cooper Roberts, William Scheibel, Kieran Weekes (softball), Max Alcorn, Jesse Cooper, Django Hudson-Sheaffe, Case McQuilty and Theo Rogusz, Lily O'Sullivan, Jaylan Olivieri, Kate Wolton (touch football), Tom Molloy and Joe Parsons (Cricket).



Stage 2 & 3 AFL Program

Stage 2 students will be provided with the opportunity to participate in a 4 week AFL program, commencing on Friday 7th February (Week 2). This is an experience that will not only help students to develop skills in catching, passing and kicking but provide a fun and supportive environment to engage in physical activity. We appreciate the continued support of AFL in our school. Stage 3 will commence their 4 week program on Friday 13th March (Week 7).

Active Kids Program

In 2019 over half a million children engaged in a more active lifestyle, with the help of the Active Kids program. Parents, guardians and carers can apply for a voucher valued up to \$100 per calendar year for each student enrolled in school. This voucher may be used with a registered activity provider for the registration, participation and membership costs. There are over 100 providers in the Lismore region.



Apply at <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-active-kids-voucher>



ST CARTHAGE'S COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Communicating between home and school

In 2019 we held Community Conversations with parents, staff and students to explore how we could communicate better between school and home. Here's a snapshot:

What's Working Well

Digital Newsletters
Front Office Staff
Term 1 Parent Teacher Interviews
Parent info nights

What Needs Improving

Consistent classroom app
Website, facebook and skoolbag usage
Parent Forum
Clear communication policy

What actions are we taking in 2020 to respond to parent voice

Class Dojo will be the only classroom app used
Community Conversations open to all will replace the Parent Forum
Refresh of website and newsletters
Communication Policy developed

Better Together

When families and schools work together
children thrive!



Did you know that the greatest predictor of a child's wellbeing, academic outcomes and life chances is how engaged parents are in their child's learning journey?

Join us for a Family School Partnership Cafe 6pm Tuesday 18th Feb

- Examine parent ideas from 2019
- Prioritise what's important
- Contribute your voice to an action plan to develop family school partnerships
- Meet other parents
- Supper provided
- St Carthage's School Hall

Join us for a Yr 1-6 Learning Walk

2pm Tuesday 18th Feb

- See learning in action
- Understand current teaching practices
- Learn how you can support your child's learning
- Afternoon tea provided
- St Carthage's School Hall (sign in at Front Office)



Click [here](http://bit.ly/2RTwcHu) to register OR go to <http://bit.ly/2RTwcHu> OR text your name and the event/s you would like to attend to the school mobile 0434 001 833.