



St Cecilia's Catholic Primary School

24/1/2024

Welcome Letter

Dear Families

Welcome to the new school year. We are excited to see the achievements we can make together for your children. Please see the information below about some changes, reminders and events that will occur early in Term One.

Book Drop Off

Parents may wish to drop books off at the children's classrooms on **Friday, January 31st, between 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.** This may be helpful for students who will catch the bus to school on the first day of the school year.

SEQTA Engage App

Last year, parents were sent codes to access and download the SEQTA Parent Engage app. This year, this will be the only way that you can register your child's absences from school. If you are yet to download the app, new codes will be sent in the first week of school so that you can access the app moving forward.

Timetable Changes

As part of our school's Strategic Plan, and taking on recommendations from our recent Quality Catholic Education School Review, we have decided to make some changes to the school timetable to improve academic engagement in core learning areas. School will still commence at 8:30 am and conclude at 2:45 pm. The morning session will run from 8:30-10:40am, giving an extra 20 minutes of learning time. This session, as it is now extended, will include time for Brain Breaks and Crunch and Sip to ensure students remain engaged in learning. Recess will be from 10:40 am to 11:10 am, with the first 20 minutes for play and the remaining 10 minutes for eating.

The middle session will run from 11:10 am-12:50 pm. Lunch will commence at 12:50 pm, with 30 minutes for play and 10 minutes for eating, concluding at 1:30 pm.

These changes make the afternoon session, when students are tired during the hottest part of the day, much shorter, from 1:30 pm to 2:45 pm.

We are trialling these timetable changes for Term One and would appreciate any feedback students, families and staff have on these changes.

Assembly

As another way to increase classroom instruction during the most effective learning window, we have chosen to move school assemblies to **Friday afternoon at 2:15pm during even weeks** of the school term (Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10). These will continue to be held in the School Hall.

Specialist Lessons

Students will continue to have Physical Education (Sport), Health Education, Science, Digital Technologies and Chinese (Years 3-6). Classroom teachers will teach some Science units and Design and Technology in order to meet SCSA requirements for instruction hours for each curriculum area.

Faith Family Friendship

Beginning of the Year Mass

Families are invited to attend our Mass to bless and begin the new school year on Friday 07 February, at 8:45 am, St Cecilia's Parish.

Welcome BBQ and Open Night

Families are invited to attend our beginning of the year celebration on Friday, 21st February. Classrooms will be open 4:00-5:00pm, giving parents the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and see the learning their child has been engaged in for the first few weeks of the new year.

After the open classrooms, we invite families to stay for our BBQ, 5:00pm-6:00pm, to meet and catch up with new and old friends.

Week 5 & 6- Learn to Swim Program

This year, our Swimming Program will take place over a two-week period for 7 days.

WEEK 5

Monday 3rd March- No Swimming Labor Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 4th March- Swimming lessons

Wednesday 5th March- Swimming Lessons

Thursday 6th March- Swimming Lessons

Friday 7th March- NO SWIMMING

WEEK 6

Monday 10th March- Thursday 13th March

Friday 14th March- Faction Swimming Carnival Gratwick Pool.

The cost for the swimming program is included in annual school fees. Swimming permission notices will be sent out during Week 2. Please return ASAP.

Local Excursions

Families will receive a letter during the first week of Term One informing you of changes to our processes regarding local excursions that do not involve water. To lower the workload of families and staff, we have issued one permission form permitting students to attend all local events and excursions throughout the school year. Details of individual excursions will be given to families via Seesaw, including the date, time, location and educational reason for the excursion or event.

Excursions and events that involve children being in or near water will still require permission forms for that specific event due to risk management.

Uniform Reminder

Changes to the school uniform come into effect this year. Students are to wear plain **black socks** with their black sneakers. They can choose to wear drill shorts, sports shorts, or skorts on any day of the week. Please see our school website to see the most up-to-date School Uniform Guidelines.

Office Hours for days before students return

Friday 24 Jan- 9:00am-3:00 pm

Monday 27 Jan- Closed Public Holiday

Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 Jan- 9:00-4:00 pm

Thursday 30 and Friday 31 Jan- 11:00am-3:30pm

Monday 3 & Tuesday 4 Feb- Reduced hours due to meetings and trainings (please email or call before visiting).

Wednesday 5 Feb- Students Return, normal office hours 8am -4:00pm

We can't wait to welcome you back to St Cecilia's for 2025!