

# St Joseph's School Warialda



## Parent Information Booklet 2020

Principal:  
Teachers:

Joe Dimech  
Joy McDonald, Merran Riley,  
Ruth Anderson

Administration:  
Mini Lit Tutor:  
Aboriginal EA:

Lisa Moore  
Amy Brooks  
Tianna Egan



Welcome to St Joseph's Warialda. Our learning and teaching team is made up of Joe Dimech, Jennifer Cutcliffe, Katie Higham, Ruth Anderson and Dymity Logan. Our Administration Assistant is Lisa Moore. We are excited about working with you and your children as we travel our learning journey this year.



### **Which teacher is responsible for teaching my child?**

English and Mathematics are taught by Jennifer and Joe from Monday to Wednesday mornings and Jennifer, Katie and Ruth (on even week Thursdays) on Thursdays and Fridays. Jennifer also teaches the children R.E., HSIE, Creative Arts, Science & Technology and Library. Katie teaches PD/H/PE practical (Sport) and theory (Personal Development and Health). Ruth takes the class on even week Thursdays so that Joe can work with the teachers on Literacy. Dymity works with students identified for the Mini Lit program. The students experience fitness on a Monday and Friday morning during the week and sport of a Thursday afternoon.

### **The classroom is a centre for learning**

We operate as a multi-staged class using three flexible learning spaces. Children are immersed in real-life and life-like purposeful activities that foster co-operative learning through literacy and numeracy.

### **Our Vision for Learning is . . .**

St Joseph's students are confident, independent, proactive and engaged in their own education. Students display a self-reflective, critical and inquiring mindset to the many learning opportunities provided. They will display high self-efficacy by confidently engaging in collaborative learning and sharing their knowledge, prior and current, to develop new understandings. All students will develop skills to assist them to contribute to our society and become lifelong learners. Teaching and learning at St Joseph's is founded on the Catholic Core Principles and Values of the Armidale Diocese.

Our flexible learning spaces not only belong to the teachers but also to the children.

### **How do children learn best?**

Just like adults, children learn in different ways, therefore it is vital that we provide them with a **variety of activities** and learning experiences. Planning a variety of learning experiences at **varying levels** provides opportunities for children to **consolidate and extend their understandings**.

**Working in small ability groups** allows children the opportunity to learn from one another as well as giving teachers the chance to closely observe individual children's development to then further support or extend their understandings. Working in small groups also provides children with an opportunity to develop their **confidence and self-esteem** to speak up in front of their peers.



## **Homework**

On Monday Homework will be explained and distributed to children along with home readers for students under Level 30. Students over Level 30 borrow library books for class and home reading. Some children on reading programs also take home sight words. Homework is generally a mix of literacy (word building and writing), Maths and activities covering a range of problems and topics. In 2019 students will take home Big Write Talking Homework; a writing topic that is encouraged to be discussed at home before the writing task at school. Homework is an opportunity for children to consolidate, practise and extend their knowledge and understanding of a variety of concepts. Parents play a valuable role in assisting their children with their Homework by actively listening and encouraging their efforts. If your child is struggling with a question, please circle the question so that we know that your child had some trouble - this is very useful for us! If Homework is unable to be completed, please ensure books are returned on Friday with a note. We'd rather the children bring their homework to us during the week for clarification rather than being brought to school incomplete on Fridays.

## **Sight Words**

Kindergarten and students in the MiniLit program practice their sight words at school and home.

## **Home Reading**

Each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday night your child is expected to spend time reading their home reader. This should involve parental assistance. Please write the names of the books your child has read and sign the Reading Log in the Home Reading Journal. Readers are to be returned to school on Fridays. The 'Home Reader' from school is not the only reading material your child has to read, it is recommended that you identify other reading materials of interest to your child and read aloud to them each night. Studies have shown this greatly improves children's literacy skills.



## **Reading Levels to be achieved by completion of the school year**

(as targeted by the Catholic Schools Office)

- ★ Kinder: Level 8 and have a high frequency sight words vocabulary of thirty words
- ★ Year One: Level 15 and have a high frequency sight words vocabulary of more than fifty words
- ★ Year Two: Level 22

## **Speaking and Listening**

Throughout the term the children will have an opportunity to speak publicly. They will have the opportunity to read at school liturgies, assemblies and prepare a speech for the KLAs.



## **Mathematics**

The school follows the Australian Curriculum for Mathematics (NSW). Maths concepts are taught under the following strands: Working Mathematically, Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, Statistics and Probability.

## **Library**

Library lessons will take place on Fridays with Miss Cutcliffe. All children are able to borrow books from the library on a weekly basis. Children will not be allowed to borrow books if they have failed to return their previous loans; it is also necessary that all children have a library bag.

## **Parent Teacher Interviews and Report**

Formal Parent/Teacher Interviews takes place at the end of Term 2. An A to E Report is sent home at the end of Terms 1 and 4. If at any time you have any concerns please call the office staff to make an appointment and the teachers will contact you directly regarding suitable times.

## Positive Reinforcement

At the start of the year the children developed and signed their acceptance of our Class Responsibilities. These are...

1. We will look after our things and each other.
2. We will treat everyone with respect.
3. We will take pride in our school.
4. We will always try our best.
5. We will be safe at school.

These are phrased as proactive “We will” statements with focus this year on individual and collective responsibility for behaviour regulation and learning.

The children will also be rostered for class jobs and be provided with many opportunities to develop leadership skills. The Stage 3 children will be taking part in a leadership program throughout the year as well as all the primary students being members of the Joey’s Mini Vinnies team.



We constantly use positive reinforcement to encourage students work habits and learning.

## Housekeeping

**Crunch & Sip** is a fantastic 5 minute daily program for the children to recharge their batteries to get them through their morning lessons. We ask that students bring fresh fruit and / or vegetables, cut up ready to eat and have a drink bottle of water to sip in the classroom. This will ensure we are on schedule within the 5 minutes allocated for this morning snack time.

The **Canteen** generally operates one day a week and this depends on the availability of parents. A Canteen Roster is prepared each term with the days of the canteen’s operation.

Staff will **reheat student lunches** in the microwave on Thursdays only. Food must be in a microwave safe container. This is in order to meet WHS laws and to ensure that staff have an opportunity to sit, have a break and eat their lunch. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Please ensure **students’ clothing** and belongings are clearly labelled.

## Recess and Lunch

The children will eat their recess and lunch on the benches under the COLA. All staff eat their lunch with the children before going off to play at 1pm.

We look forward to working together with you to maximize your child's learning this year.

If at any time you wish to see us, please don't hesitate to contact the school to make a mutually convenient time to meet.

Kind regards,

Mr Joe Dimech, Miss Jennifer Cutcliffe, Mrs Katie Higham, Mrs Ruth Anderson and Miss Dymity Logan.

# **School Prayer**

**St Joseph's is a family,**

**united as one**

**May it be a place of both  
learning and fun.**

**May our faith be shown**

**by the way we care,**

**May we always turn**

**to you in prayer.**

**While we strive to do**

**our best each day**

**May we be like you**

**in all we do and say.**

**St Joseph, pray for us.**

**St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.**

*(Written by students and staff, 1997)*