



St Joseph's Catholic School

Newsletter : Issue 54

Week 3, Term 1
17 February 2022



Dear families and friends of the school,

A huge thank you to all our parents for being so accommodating at this difficult time. It is wonderful to see parents wearing their masks and ensuring that they are using the Covid tracing app when they are entering the school for any reason. Your compliance with these new regulations makes our lives very easy. It is much appreciated.

It is timely that the community feels well supported in the knowledge that a plan is in place should we have a case of Omicron in our school. The following plan is current but, as you will be aware, things can change daily and quickly. Because of this, we will need to update the plan and seek advice when/if it is appropriate or needed.

Covid Response Plan

As St Joseph's School prepares for the Omicron variant to arrive, we need to look carefully at what our actions may need to look like.

The proposed following actions are designed to keep school open as long as we can. We are here to support you and your families!

As soon as a case is evident here at school, we will contact the Ministry of Education and Health and follow their guidelines, and may need to close for 48 hours to assess close contacts, tracking and clean the school. You will also be notified, especially close contacts.

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
'Business as usual' with the school open and fully staffed.	'Business as usual' and the school open but there is a possibility of less staff and children. Some online/ homeschooling starts for students at home due to COVID illness or contact.	'Business as usual' is limited due to cases and absences. Online/home education is present.

No cases of COVID at school	Identified case at school or close contacts evident.	Multiple cases developing or present
<p>Four teams running with regular school timetables. Teams separated for assemblies and eating.</p> <p>Masks inside for year 4-8 and health requirements being monitored with sanitiser and cleaning.</p>	<p>Four teams running. Teams separated for assemblies and eating.</p> <p>Separate timetables for play eating times.</p> <p>Staff in their own teams and no mixing with other staff.</p> <p>Masks inside for years 4-8 and health requirements being monitored with sanitiser and cleaning.</p>	<p>2 schools running on same site.</p> <p>Family Groupings on the same site (including staff).</p> <p>Separate timetables for play and eating times - no assemblies in teams.</p> <p>Masks inside for years 4-8 and health requirements being monitored with sanitiser and cleaning.</p> <p>This step may also see reduced days of operation with a possibility of two days at school and three at home.</p>

Our planning will take into account those children who will have to be at school all of the time due to your work commitments.

If we hit Step three, then:

'School A' - Will be situated in the "old" part of the school

'School B' - Will be situated in the newest buildings

Staffing for Step 3 - Omicron in the school

School A – Cath Blacklow Families with surnames A - G	School B – Paula Davies Families with surnames H - Z
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry and exit through main gate • School A bus students front of buses - all bus students with masks for the trip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entry and exit through gate beside Tui 1 • School B bus students back of buses - all bus students with masks for the trip
<p>Cath Blacklow / Claire Corbett Lucy Boyle Anna Tonks Cathy Reid / Kate Parkin Steph McCallum Rachel Brown *Louise Hobbs</p> <p>Tina Cox Susan Kinley Islay Swan Mandy Reid Sandra Hurley</p>	<p>Paula Davies / Catherine Rush Ashleigh Scott Janelle McMillan Jess Saunders *Ann Wise</p> <p>Jo Rowlands Mariska Hopkins Rachael Moore Holly Preece Arlene McCrea</p>

If the school had to move to half weeks and a mix of school at home and onsite, please consider your situation. Will you be able to manage school at home online or would your child/children need to be at school every day for instruction? We will request this information via Hero when required.



Strategic Plan 2022

This year we have a number of initiatives, some new and some a continuation of last year, which we will be focusing on as part of our Strategic Plan. Today I would like to share with you briefly, our aims for this year taken directly off our Strategic Plan for 2022.

Strategic Aim 1:

Passionate future-focused teaching and learning within a Catholic context

- Students are goal focused and achieving at or above their expected curriculum level in Literacy
- Students know and effectively use the learners' process across all curriculum areas.
- Teachers are effectively using HERO to report to whanau on student progress and achievement throughout the year in Reading, Writing and Maths
- Learners' Qualities are used as an integral part of our assessment practices
- Learners are empowered to use digital devices and manage their digital wellbeing in a safe, ethical and responsible way.

Comment: We have begun the school year focusing on how we can be good digital citizens. This has included an outside provider talking to each of our classes on keeping safe on the internet and the importance of being aware of the digital footprint they make. The school hosted a well attended night for parents which parents attending found enlightening and helpful. We will endeavour to run a second parent meeting later in the year. As the year progresses, our focus on developing our assessment practice will continue by working to provide parents with excellent information on their child's progress and achievement across the curriculum on Hero. All teams will develop achievement targets, with a particular focus on Literacy.

Strategic Aim 2:

A connected and actively engaged faith community

- Students are building a greater understanding of the Life of Jesus through the scripture.
- Teachers and students understand and recognise the unique status of tangata whenua in Aotearoa.
- Teachers and students understand and acknowledge the histories, heritages, languages and cultures of partners to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Comment: We continue to work towards providing our students with an understanding of our unique country and the significance of honouring its bicultural partnership. We are also committed to growing our tamariki's spiritual growth and knowledge of Jesus's life through stories and an improved understanding of the liturgical year.

Strategic Aim 3:

Celebrating diversity in a warm, stimulating Catholic environment

- Teachers are confidently catering for the diverse students in their care.

Comment: We continue to focus this year on developing our programmes for our diverse learners. This encompasses our students that need extra support and/or targeted support in their learning. Diverse learners also include our English speakers of other languages and our gifted learners.

Congratulations and thank you!

Last night we held our first board meeting of the year. This is a time for the positions of office to be confirmed for the year ahead.

We would like to congratulate Andrew McKenzie for being nominated and accepting for the Chairperson's role and Lucia Ghidoli Young for being nominated and accepting the position of Deputy Chairperson. I know that they will do a fabulous job for our school.

A very big thank you to Dale Thomas for all the work he has put in over the years supporting the school and myself in my role as Principal. I have very much appreciated Dale's input and commitment to our school and wish him all the very best as he takes on the busy role of coaching rugby at Ashburton College this year.

School Fees and Attendance Dues - an explanation

School fees

You may be aware that as our school is a decile 8 school, we are unable to opt into the Government's school donations scheme. For schools with a decile of 1-7, this means that the Government pays their school \$150.00 per student to support the cost of extra activities, with the proviso that the school is then unable to ask parents for a donation towards any activities except for school camps. As a decile 8 school, we are able to ask parents for a donation towards activities to supplement the cost.

I'm sure that you will be sympathetic to the difficulty in continuing to provide a rich and varied programme for our students without support from our parents. We do endeavour to keep the costs as low as we can for activities across the year and often the activity is heavily subsidised by our hardworking Home and School team, and Board of Trustees.

You are able to access the school fees through our Hero app. We ask that these are paid by the end of term 2. You are able to pay these weekly, monthly or in a lump sum depending on your circumstances.

Attendance dues

Attendance dues are requested from our Parish on behalf of the Christchurch Diocese. This money does not go directly to our Parish or our school but supports the greater Catholic community which, of course, we are part of. We have just benefited hugely from the Catholic Development Fund that has helped to pay for our new buildings and admin area. These are also able to be paid weekly, monthly or in a lump sum depending on your circumstances as an automatic payment. If you have any issues with paying the attendance dues, please ring and discuss this with the office or myself. We have funds available to support families with such things.

Please be aware that the office is now **cashless** - all money, except for the sausage sizzle on Fridays and second hand uniforms, needs to be paid online.

Please have the correct money for Subway and Sushi - we do not deal with this money and the companies have asked that the right money be placed in bags.

Outside Sports Competitions

One of the things I think we are all struggling with at this time is perhaps the inconsistencies that exist around procedures and mandatory requirements placed on us in our day to day lives in different circumstances. Schools also have a real battle or dilemma on their hands trying to balance the importance of social and emotional connection with others and the requirement to keep our tamariki as safe as possible during the pandemic. Due to impending competitions starting, the Mid Canterbury Principals' Association has come up with a statement that they feel is important in order to clarify our position as educators in this environment. Please take it in good faith.

“This year, in light of the current Omicron situation, sporting teams that would usually be a part of local Mid Canterbury after school competitions and events need special consideration. Mid Canterbury Principals’ Association recommends that if students are to be involved in these competitions or events, they are to be parent-run and organised, and cannot be endorsed by schools. Inclusion in such events will be solely at the discretion of parents. We have received clear guidance from the Ministry of Education that to participate in such competitions is in contradiction to the health and safety measures currently in place/recommended in schools.”

If you have any concerns or queries about any of the things written in this newsletter, please email me: cath@st-josephs.school.nz

Kind regards
Cath Blacklow
Principal

School Vision

To learn, to grow, and to live our faith by being the hands and voice of Jesus

Term 1 Calendar

WEEK 4	
Wednesday 23 rd February	Swimming Sports Year 3-8, 9.30am
WEEK 5	
Wednesday 2 nd March	Ash Wednesday
Friday 4 th March	Teacher Only Day – school closed for instruction
WEEK 6	
Wednesday 9 th March	Home and School Meeting 7.30pm
WEEK 7	
Friday 18 th March	Celebrating St Joseph’s Day
WEEK 8	
Wednesday 23 rd March	Board of Trustees Meeting
Friday 25 th March	The Annunciation
WEEK 9	
Monday 28 th March	Grips Leadership Course for Year 8 students

WEEK 10	
Monday 4 th April	School photographs taken
WEEK 11	
Thursday 14 th April	Last day of Term 1
Friday 15 th April	Good Friday

NB: These are the dates we currently have on the calendar. This will be updated each fortnight to include new dates as they are decided upon throughout the term.

From the Director of Religious Studies

For the first half of Term 1, our main Virtue focus is Respect. Please talk to your child/ren about what respect is, why it is important and how they can show respect at home and at school.

This term, we are also learning about Jesus' Life Story. The children will be learning about what Jesus' life was like, as well as about the major events of his life, beginning with the story of 'The Annunciation' when the Angel Gabriel told Mary she was going to have a baby, through to the story of 'Pentecost' when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to his disciples after he had returned to Heaven to be with his Father. If you have a bible, especially a children's bible at home, you may like to include some of these stories as part of your regular reading material with your child/ren.

For children in Year 4 and any older children who have not yet made their First Holy Communion, enrolment forms will be sent home in the next few weeks.

Here is a short prayer that you may like to include in your family karakia:



Home and School Update



The Home and School had its first meeting of the year last week and we thought it was an opportune time to fill you in on what we have been up to as a committee.

Last year was a huge year, with two major fundraising events being the cheese rolls in April and catering for the SI Smallbore Rifle Championships in July. Both were a lot of work to co-ordinate and with the assistance of many from the school community, both events were extremely successful, with lots of positive feedback from both of these events. In addition, we would like to thank you for your support of our other fundraising activities such as sausages on a Friday, croissants, catering and movies.

Like many others, we were unable to hold a dedicated social event for our school community.

We were able to provide support to the school for a number of events and resources which included additional STEM kits for the Kea team, art resources for the Kiwi team, board games and other play activities for the Tui Team, contribution towards the costs of school production, subsidising costs associated with end of year trips and activities, and the Year 8 leaver's dinner. Thanks to Harry Oldham and others for also completing an excellent nature garden.

To date this year, we have already committed to supporting the end of year activities for all students, assistance with education outside the classroom, additional maths resources for the senior team and extra playground equipment.

We have a number of fundraising ventures planned for this year which will begin in March. When the opportunity arises, we also hope to hold a social function for the school community.

Thanks to the good work of the committee and those on earlier committees, we have built up a small fund which we hope could be earmarked for a landscaping or outside activity project in conjunction with the recent new build. We are currently working with Cath and others to determine what this might look like.

Thank you again for all your continued support.

Hayden Robinson
Chairperson
Home and School Committee

P.S. There are still some recipe books available for purchase!

Help Wanted

First Holy Communion 2022

We are seeking the support of three parents to work with the priests and the co-ordinator to deliver this Sacramental Programme beginning mid April. Interested in helping? Contact Maree O'Neill, Co-ordinator, 027 7734 777.

Enrolment forms for children preparing for First Holy Communion will be sent home with the children this week.

Other Notices for your Interest or Information



GIANT LEAPS
SPEECH + DRAMA

Enrol now for 2022
classes in
ASHBURTON!

Speech
NEW ZEALAND

TRINITY
COLLEGE LONDON

0800 4 SPEECH | info@giantleaps.nz | WWW.GIANTLEAPS.NZ



Learn about
our Boarding
Advantage

MATT PARR – Director of Boarding

BOARDING ROAD SHOWS
Visit stac.school.nz for further information and to register on line

21 February	BLENHEIM	28 February	WAIPARA
22 February	NELSON	1 March	ASHBURTON
23 February	QUEENSTOWN		

St Andrew's College

PRE SEASON KICK AROUND

**MID CANTERBURY UNITED
FOOTBALL CLUB**



**RUNS ON THURSDAYS
FROM 3RD MARCH -
28TH APRIL 2022 @
ARGYLE PARK**

First kicks (4-6) 3.30pm - 4pm
Fun Kicks (7-9) 4pm - 4.45pm
Ages 10 and up 4.45pm - 5.30pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL FDO@MCFOOTBALL.CO.NZ

Closing Prayer

Loving God, we come to you full of anxiety about what may happen in the coming days and weeks. Shower us with the peace Jesus promised to his disciples, and make us into steady pillars for those around us.

In this time of uncertainty and epidemic, wake us up to the reminder that we are not alone.

Even as we are asked to keep our distance from others, help us to find ways to reach out to those who need our support.

We pray especially for those whose incomes and livelihoods are threatened; for the children who will miss meals due to school closures; for those already isolated, lonely and scared.

Loving God, give them your peace and through our hands, ensure they have what they need.

Sustain, strengthen and protect all caregivers. Bless them as they offer compassionate care and show selfless courage in the face of risk.

Remind us, each time we wash our hands, that in our baptism, you call us to let go of our fears and live in joy, peace and hope. Amen.

