



St John's School

Kindergarten to Year 6

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TERM 1 WEEK 1

7 February 2025

Principal's Notes

Welcome to 2025

Welcome back to St John's School for 2025. It was so wonderful to see the smiling faces of the students as they arrived back at school on Wednesday. The students have brought life, love and laughter back to our community and it has been delightful to have them return to the school environment. I look forward to the journey we are all about to take as we embark on the 2025 school year.

New Students

In addition to the students starting their schooling in the Kindy Classroom, we have a number of new students across other year levels. As our numbers need time to settle, new students will be officially welcomed in the next newsletter to ensure I do not miss any individual.

Over the past two days, our new students have settled in well, beautifully supported by their new friends, and we look forward to getting to know the students better as time goes on. It is wonderful to have so many new members in our school family, the family of St John's School.

Staffing 2025

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new staff who have joined the St John's School for the 2025 school year:

Mrs Alison Gilbert	Year One Teacher
Miss Eloise Drew	Year Four Education Assistant
Miss Bridie Teakle	Year Six Education Assistant

We are blessed to have you as part of the St John's School Community and we look forward to working with you in 2025. The Staff of St John's School, old and new, are all committed to working in partnership in the best interests of the students...Every Story Every Opportunity.

It is with sadness that I announce that Mrs Linda Osborn resigned from her position at the end of the 2024 school year. Mrs Osborn worked at St John's School for ten years in the role of an Education Assistant in the early years. I am very grateful for Mrs Osborn's organisation, professionalism and commitment to the role. St Francis Xavier Primary School are very lucky to have Mrs Osborn's skills and expertise.

Home School Communication

At St John's School, we encourage open lines of communication between home and school. If you need to contact the teaching staff, Seesaw is the best option. Alternatively, you can email the Office (admin@sjr.wa.edu.au) or individual staff members (firstname.surname@cewa.edu.au).

The telephones in the School Office are manned between 8:00am and 4:00pm. A voice message can be recorded outside of these hours.

If you wish to request a meeting, please schedule a time to ensure confidentiality and preparation. In the mornings, when the classrooms open, teachers have limited time and availability to discuss, at length, matters of importance.

Absentees can be communicated via Seesaw, phone calls, email, note or online via the School Website <https://www.sjr.wa.edu.au/online-absentee>

Dates to Remember

Dates can also be found on the School Website

Monday 10 February
Spelling Mastery commences

Friday 14 February
Prayer Assembly
Year 4 - 8.45am

Friday 21 February
Prayer Assembly
Year 3 - 8.45am

Monday 24 February
P&F Meeting - 6.00pm

Thursday 27 February
Assembly Year 5
2.20pm - Hall

Friday 28 February
Prayer Assembly
EA's - 8.45am

Principal's Notes

Seesaw

In 2025, St John's School will continue its use of Seesaw across the school. Seesaw has a three tiered approach:

- **Students show learning** - Students use built-in multimodal tools to capture what they know in Seesaw's digital portfolio
- **Teachers gain insights** - Teachers see all stages of student thinking and progress, enabling them to teach better
- **Families connect** - Families gain a window into their student's learning and engage in home-to-school connections

Seesaw is the main tool for home school communication. It is vitally important that all parents/carers connect to Seesaw as soon as possible to ensure you are kept up to date with all the necessary information. Please liaise with your child's classroom teacher for assistance.

Holiday Work

Over the holidays, a number of tasks and a range of work as completed. In the best interests of the students, staff and school community we:

- painted the wooden play equipment in Kindy/Pre Primary Classroom
- touched up the paint on various aspects of the play equipment adjacent to Years One and Two
- painted the exterior wall on the north side of the Library
- laid new carpet in Year Six
- installed a washer dryer in the Cleaner's Storeroom
- installed a TV in the Staffroom
- set up one hundred more student iPads. Years Four, Five and Six all have one to one iPads in their classrooms. All other year levels have access to one iPad between two students.
- provided Teachers with new laptops
- installed a new computer in the Office for Mrs Doglione to use
- provided Mrs Harris with a new laptop for her role as the Finance Officer
- furnished the Year Five and Six Classrooms with new desks, chairs and storage units
install cupboards in the Resource Room for the future storage of Maths Equipment

As you can see from the above list, lots of items were achieved across many areas of the school thanks to the work of the School Advisory Council, the P&F, Mrs Harris in preparing the 2025 budget and the staff for advocating their needs.

Census

Friday 21 February is Census Day for St John's School and reporting to various bodies. It is vitally important that all students from Pre Primary to Year Six are at school on this Friday. If you son/daughter is absent, a written note of explanation must be provided to meet guidelines. This Census has many purposes, one of which relates to funding so please ensure your child is at school on Friday 21 February.

Good News Story

The first good news story of 2025 must be the way that all students, and staff, have settled back into the 2025 school year. The students have adjusted to life back at school and are following the routines of the school very well, ready for a year of learning and opportunity.

Mrs Melissa Marquis

PRINCIPAL

Library News

Library books are kept for one week and then returned to school. A Library Bag is required to borrow books.

Library Days

Library Days: WEDNESDAY – PP, Year 1, Year 4 and Year 6. THURSDAY – Year 2, Year 3 and Year 5

Welcome back to the library for 2025. It was lovely to see lots of familiar faces and meet new students too.

All students from Pre-Primary to Year 6 have weekly timetabled library sessions with their Teachers and Mrs Connolly the Library Technician. Each student requires a library bag, and they borrow their books for a week. Students can renew their books for an extra week if they are still reading it.

Overdue reminder slips will be sent via Seesaw or a paper slip will be handed to students. If a book is damaged or lost, please inform your child's teacher or Mrs Connolly.

As the year progresses, I look forward to sharing various library and book events with the students and their families. Some of these annual events are Western Australia Young Readers Book Awards (WAYRBA), National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) and our much-loved Children's Book Week.

Our theme for 2025 WAYRBA is "Treasure awaits inside a book"



Religious Education

Welcome

Happy New Year and welcome back to the start of another wonderful year at St John's School. We hope you and your families had a wonderful break over the Christmas and New Year period and are ready for an exciting year ahead.

A very warm welcome to any new families, staff, and particularly, our new students. To all families and students returning, welcome back!

Prayer Assemblies

Prayer assemblies will commence in Week Two.

Week Two Prayer Assembly will be held at 8.45am, in the Undercover Area, the Year Four Class will be leading the school community in prayer. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Week Three Prayer Assembly will be held at 8.45am, in the Undercover Area, the Year Three Class will be leading the school community in prayer. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Fruit of the Spirit

St John's School use the Fruit of the Spirit to guide our students to become faith-filled individuals, representing Catholic virtues in all that they do.

To begin the year, I would like to focus on the scripture where the Fruit of the Holy Spirit is identified. Please take a moment to read **Galatians 5: 22-23**:

*'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
Against such things there is no law.'*

In class, under guidance from their teachers, the students will be encouraged to use the ideas and language of the Fruit of the Spirit in their daily lives. The first Fruit of the Spirit to focus on will be the **Fruit of Love**. How will you show the Fruit of Love?

Sacrament of Reconciliation

This term, our First Reconciliation candidates and their parent/carers will prepare for, and celebrate the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. A note will go home today to all Year Three students with further information. Please take note of the following information and key dates:

The Commitment Mass for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be held in the St Francis Xavier Cathedral on the following dates:

- **15 February Saturday Vigil at 6.00pm**
- **16 February Sunday 7.30am, 9.30am or 6.30pm**
- **22 February Saturday Vigil at 6.00pm**

A St John's School representative will be present at all Commitment Masses.

A Parent/Child First Reconciliation Meeting will be held at **St John's School, Year 3 Classroom on Wednesday 5th March, at 3.15pm**

The Sacrament of First Reconciliation for St John's School will be held on **Tuesday 1st April, at 9am in the St John's School Hall**. Family members are encouraged to attend.

P&F News

pandf@sjr.wa.edu.au

P&F Committee

Meeting Dates

Monday 24 February

Monday 24 March

All welcome

Medical Updates and Health Considerations

It is extremely important that the school is aware of any medical conditions or other health considerations that your child/ren may have. If you are new to the school or aware of any new medical conditions or other health considerations that may have developed over the holidays, then **please come and collect the appropriate forms from the School Office as soon as possible.**

A reminder that existing student medical plans must be updated yearly and, where necessary, signed by your doctor. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Allergy Aware School

St John's School is an allergy aware school. The foods that are particularly life-threatening for some of our students are **nuts (peanuts and tree nuts), eggs and shellfish.** We ask that students do not bring these foods to school in their lunch boxes.

Students are learning about ways they can help their classmates who have allergies stay safe. There are several posters around the school reminding the school community of the steps they can take to do this. Most of the steps are common practise in our school but it is useful for everyone to be reminded of these important steps.

The steps include:

- Don't share your food, especially with friends who have allergies.

- Wash your hands before and after eating.

- Know what your friends are allergic to.

- If a schoolmate who has allergies becomes sick, get help straight away.

Your assistance to help keep everyone safe at our school is much appreciated.

Mrs Laura Lang - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Administration News

Welcome to 2025!

Happy New Year, and welcome to the start of another amazing year at St John's School. I hope you and your families had a great break for the Christmas and New Year period and are ready for an exciting year ahead!

2025 Student Booklists

As communicated in 2024, the process for ordering student booklists has been changed at St John's School. Each student is required to bring two boxes of tissues to their classroom teacher during Week One. Students are NOT required to bring any stationery or other equipment with them to school this year. Everything they need has been organised by St John's School Staff. Any items brought to school will be sent home. Parents will continue to pay for student booklist requirements through the amenities fee, included in each child's school fees. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

School Communication

If you need to communicate with your child's classroom teacher this year, there are several options available to you;

1. Message directly through the school communication platform, Seesaw. New families have received QR codes to register for the app and be connected directly to their child's class.
2. Phone the School Office and leave a message for the teacher to return your call. Please note, teachers will be unable to return parent phone calls whilst they are teaching during the day.
3. Arrange a face to face meeting at a mutually convenient time.

Should any issues arise during the school year, parents are asked to make contact with the classroom teacher first to discuss. Following this, if required, a member of the Leadership Team will be able to assist if further follow up is required.

A reminder that absences from school can be communicated through the school's website page, via a phone call to the School Office or a note sent in with your child upon their return.

Seesaw

Seesaw is an app that provides parents with visibility into the students' learning journey to support and celebrate their learning. It is also our preferred method of communication between home and school. If you do not have access to Seesaw, require a new QR code to be printed, or need assistance to create or manage your account, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Student Leadership Day

On Friday, 7th February our Year Five and Six students will be attending the School Leadership Day. We hope students enjoy the opportunities to grow and develop their leadership skills and enjoy the scheduled events. Further information has been sent home to Year Five and Six parents.

Nagle Catholic College Principal Visit

On Monday 17th February, Michael Williams, Principal of Nagle Catholic College will be visiting the Year Six students to provide them with information about the College and give them an opportunity to ask any questions.

Keeping Safe Curriculum

Throughout the year, students will be engaging with the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum. This is a child safety and respectful relationships curriculum providing age and developmentally appropriate activities for children and young people. This program helps children and young people to recognise abuse and tell a trusted adult, understand what is appropriate and inappropriate touching, and understand ways to keep themselves safe.

All teachers have received explicit training to deliver this curriculum. Although parent permission is not required for students to participate in this curriculum, we encourage parents and carers to seek further clarification if required and to provide the school with any relevant information about their child if required.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN testing for students in Year Three and Five is scheduled to commence in Week Six, on Wednesday 12th March. The testing window closes on Monday 24th March. Further information, including the proposed timetable, will be sent home to parents in the coming week.

Mrs Sarah D'Mello

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - ADMINISTRATION



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

3 February 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues, Parents, and Friends of Catholic Education WA

I am pleased to welcome you back for another busy and hopefully productive year. I especially wanted to welcome the 82,000 students who will be attending Catholic schools in 2025, particularly those students who are starting their educational journey in Catholic education for the first time.



Among this group of students commencing their journey in a Catholic school for the first time is my youngest grandchild, Matteo (see the photo below with Holy Cross Principal Albert Borrello and Kindergarten teacher Mrs Barbara Stanley), who commences kindergarten at Holy Cross College, Ellenbrook. All of my grandchildren

have, or continue to benefit from the outstanding academic, pastoral and spiritual opportunities provided by Catholic schools. The core vision of Catholic education in Western Australia is a commitment to ensuring that Catholic schools continue to be faith communities where Christ is at the centre and children are our focus.



While every year is important, this year is particularly significant in the context of our faith, as it signifies a Jubilee Year for the Catholic Church. A Jubilee Year is marked every 25 years, with the last one occurring in the year 2000.

In his letter announcing the Jubilee, Pope Francis has called on us to *“fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open*

spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision” and said the *“forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth”*. In the context of our mission to deliver a quality, affordable, faith-based education, this message

serves as an aspiration: to give the young people in our schools hope for the future, and a strength of mind and spirit to tackle life's challenges and embrace its gifts wherever they may lie.

This year also marks a significant milestone for Catholic education in Western Australia, with the opening of our newest school, St Marcellin Catholic College in Madora Bay; a Catholic school in the Marist tradition. The school will eventually be a full Pre-Kindergarten - Year 12 College but opens this term to around 100 students in Pre-Kindy to Year 2. I want to thank everyone who has contributed to ensuring the school is ready to welcome its foundation students and thank those parents who have put their trust in us to support your children as they grow, learn, and discover their passions in life. I especially wish to acknowledge Anita O'Donohue, the foundation principal, who has been working over the last 18 months to ensure that our foundation students will experience an excellent and authentic Catholic education.



Thank you to the thousands of families from across our diverse state who have chosen to be a part of one of our 162 Catholic school communities. Our passionate, dedicated teaching and support staff, under the leadership of our principals, and in partnership with our families, are committed to fostering faith communities which support young people to not only excel in academics, arts, culture, and sport but to grow into compassionate,

community-minded young people inspired by the model of Christ.

We recognise the privileged position that we hold in being able to serve the Western Australian community and are committed to advocating for equity in government funding for those families who pay their taxes, while also contributing to their child's Catholic education through school fees. Unlike other states, WA's Catholic schools do not receive any state government capital grant funding. Ahead of the state election in March, we have therefore called on all WA political parties to commit to providing capital grant funding to Catholic schools, along with commitments for funding in the Kimberley. You can find out more about our asks by visiting <https://fairfunding.cewa.edu.au/>.

In 2025 we also welcome new Bishops to the Dioceses of Broome and Bunbury. In November last year, Bishop Tim Norton SVD was installed as the third Bishop of Broome. Bishop Tim has a wealth of experience, including time working in Mexico City as a missionary and as the Provincial Superior for the Society of the Divine Word. Bishop Tim will bring great energy, enthusiasm and vision to the Diocese of Broome accompanied by a great commitment to First Nations people.

In January, Pope Francis appointed Fr George Kolodziej SDS, who has served as Chaplain for Catholic Education WA since January 2019, as the new Bishop of Bunbury. I have known Fr George for 30 years, and I am grateful to him for his wise counsel and spiritual support to

me and our staff during his time here. Fr George is currently the regional superior of the Salvatorians in Australia. I wish him well in his new mission in Bunbury. He is a faith-filled man who will bring a great love of Jesus to the Bunbury Diocese.

A new year often brings with it significant change. I would like to welcome Annette Morey who has been confirmed as Deputy Executive Director of Catholic Education for a five-year term.

Annette has done excellent work over the last twelve-months in the role, and I congratulate her on this substantive appointment. Another new face in CEWA's Executive team this year is Dan Wood, who began as Director School Improvement and Wellbeing on 1 January. Dan has worked in Catholic education in Western Australia for twenty years, both in schools and in the Catholic Education Office. I look forward to working with Dan and Annette in their new roles and thank all my colleagues on the Executive for their service.

Finally, on the 4 July (the last day of Semester One), I will retire after 47 years working in Catholic Education. The Bishops of Western Australia, as the employer of the Executive Director, will commence a recruitment process in Term One. Please keep in your prayers the Bishops and any potential candidates for the position.

I wish you all a successful year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Bull
Executive Director



New players welcome.

Year 6 students playing sub juniors netball for a school can also register to play for Aztecs.

2025 Netball Season Register Now!

Juniors: <https://www.playhq.com/netball-australia/register/a2233f>

Seniors: <https://www.playhq.com/netball-australia/register/d0dfa5>

Contact: aztecsnc@gmail.com

Please note that any amendments will be notified in the School Newsletter. Thank you.



St John's School

Term 1 2025 Planner - Parent



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
WEEK 1	3 February	4	5 STUDENTS COMMENCE	6 No Library Borrowing	7 Year 5/6 Leadership Day	8	9
WEEK 2	10 Spelling Mastery commences	11	12	13	14 Prayer Assembly Yr 4 - 8:45am	15	16
WEEK 3	17 NCC Principal Year 6 Visit 9:15	18	19	20	21 Prayer Assembly Yr 3 - 8:45am	22	23
WEEK 4	24 P&F Meeting 6:00	25	26	27 Assembly Year 5	28 Prayer Assembly EAs - 8:45am	1 st March	2
WEEK 5	3 LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY	4 IEP Meetings PLP Meetings	5 Year 5 Ash Wednesday Liturgy/Mass 9:00 First Reconciliation Parent Meeting St John's 3.15	6	7 Prayer Assembly Yr 2 8:45am	8	9 First Sunday of Lent



Please note that any amendments will be notified in the School Newsletter.
Thank you.

St John's School

Term 1 2025 Planner - Parent

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
WEEK 6	10 IEP Meetings PLP Meetings	11	12 NAPLAN Begins	13	14 Prayer Assembly Yr 1 - 8:45am	15	16 Second Sunday of Lent
WEEK 7	17 St Patrick's Day	18 School Advisory Council Meeting 6:00	19	20 Assembly Choir	21 Prayer Assembly Spiritual Ministry - 8:45am Harmony Day	22	23 Third Sunday of Lent
WEEK 8	24 Year 3 First Reconciliation Retreat Day P&F Meeting 6:00 NAPLAN Ends	25	26	27	28 Prayer Assembly Teachers - 8:45am Faction Athletics Carnival 12:30pm NCC (Yrs 3 - 6)	29	30 Fourth Sunday of Lent
WEEK 9	31 Year 3 First Reconciliation Practice	1st April Year 3 First Reconciliation 9:00	2	3 Hockey WA Carnival 10:00 - 2:00 (Year 5/6) No HPE today	4 Prayer Assembly Pre-Primary - 8:45am	5	6 Fifth Sunday of Lent
WEEK 10	7	8	9 Staff Prayer Chrism Mass	10	11 LAST DAY OF TERM Stations of the Cross 9:00 Year 6	12	13 Passion Sunday

Welcome to 2022 Scholastic BookClub. The easiest way to place an order is via the LOOP ordering system.

Below is a quick 'how to' to get you started.

Go to the website www.scholastic.com.au

click on 'shop'
Click on 'LOOP (parents)'
Click on 'Not a member - register'

Then add your details.
Parent details*name*password*email address*phone number

Next you 'ADD A NEW CHILD'
child's first and last name
Select state WA
Select school by typing postcode 6530 to search and click on St John's School.
Select what year your child is in.
Click SAVE
CLICK SUBMIT (red box)

Once registered you can follow the prompts to place an order and pay via debit or credit card.

There is a "how to order" info box if you need help.
You will need to know what Issue of book club you are ordering from and the item number shown in the catalogue.

We receive 8 issues per year. 2 issues each term.

St John's School earns 20% in scholastic rewards on all book club orders which helps us obtain more books and additional learning resources for our students.

Thank You
BookClub Coordinator