



St Joseph's Benalla

Term 1 2026 F-2 Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to our Foundation, Grade 1, and Grade 2 classes! The early years of school are an exciting and important time. Our focus is on helping children feel safe, confident, and happy while building strong learning habits and friendships.

Students will develop routines, independence, and a love of learning, with a strong focus on early reading, writing, and numeracy. Through Magnify Sandhurst, students take part in extended literacy and numeracy sessions, allowing for focused teaching and strong foundations aligned with the Victorian Curriculum.

We value strong partnerships with families and encourage open communication. Please contact your child's classroom teacher first if you have any questions or concerns.

We look forward to a wonderful year of learning and growth together.

Important Term 1 Dates

11th of February- Rest day for Foundation and Foundation interviews with teachers.

12th of February- Breakfast Club, 8am in Hall every Thursday (excluding Shrove Tuesday week).

13th of February- Assembly in the Hall, 2.30pm.

17th of February- Shrove Tuesday- Pancakes from 8am (no breakfast club this week).

18th of February- Ash Wednesday. Rest day for Foundation and Foundation interviews with teachers.

24th of February- Rest day for Foundation and Foundation interviews with teachers.
Grade 1&2 Open classrooms, 3.30-4.30pm.

27th of February- Assembly in the Hall, 2.30pm.

4th of March- Rest day for Foundation and Foundation interviews with teachers.

6th of March- Pupil Free Day

9th of March- Labour Day Public Holiday.

13th of March- Assembly in the Hall, 2.30pm.

19th of March- St. Joseph's Feast Day.

22nd of March- Parish School Mass, 930am.

27th of March- Assembly in the Hall, 2.30pm.

2nd of April- Last day of Term 1

Foundation Teachers

- **Room A - Meagan Griffiths-**
mgriffiths@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
- **Room B - Kat Barker (Mon/Tues)**
kbarker@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
Alicia Kempton (Wed, Thurs, Fri)
akempton@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
- **Room C - Kaitlin Kaine (Mon/Tues)**
kkaine@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
Fran Dayman (Wed, Thu, Fri)
fdayman@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au

Learning Supports- Marg Briggs, Janine Lewis and Sienna Smith.

Grade 1 Teachers

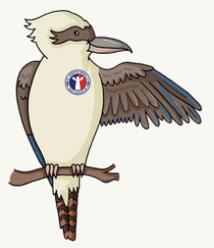
- **Room 1Q - Hannah Clough**
hclough@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
- **Room 1R - Brae Young - Term 1**
byoung@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au

Learning Support- Megan Bamford

Grade 2 Teachers

- **Room 2S - Sandra Hall**
shall@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
- **Room 2T - Isabella Riley**
iriley@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au
- **Room 2U - Bonnie Evers**
bevers@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au

Learning Supports- Rachel O'Brien and Julie Sheehan



What we are learning

As we commence a new school year we spend time going over our rules and routines, in particular how to **be safe, be respectful and responsible**. We aim to set up calm and predictable classroom environments.

We will also be learning about our learning attitudes, these help us to be the best learners we can be. These are Creative Kangaroo, Cooperative Kookaburra, Risk-taker Turtle, Independent Echidna and Persistent Possum.

In Rights, Resilience and Respectful relationships we are all covering Emotional Literacy and Personal and cultural Strengths

Foundation

English

In English we cover all areas of Reading- Oral Language, Phonological Awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary, Fluency, and Comprehension.

Specifically we look at:

- what is a word?
- Rhyming
- Syllables
- Blending and segmenting sounds
- The sounds and letters m, s, t and a.
- Beginning sounds.
- Reading words.
- Orally saying imaginative, informative and persuasive sentences and using images to support.
- Handwriting.

Maths

In Mathematics there is lots of hands on learning that focuses on early Mathematical concepts. Specifically:

- Patterns using shapes, colours or actions.
- Parts of the day, weekdays and weekends.
- Naming the days of the week in order.
- Ordering events.
- Reading, writing, counting, adding one more and comparing numbers to 10.

History

Our Family Story- students will explore the concept of family, learning about the diverse roles, structures and connections that make each family unique.

Chemical Science

What are things made of?- students learn that objects can be composed of one or more materials.

Digital Technologies

Safe Havens- How can we design a shelter to protect animals.

Health and Physical Education

Grade 1

English

In English we cover all areas of Reading- Oral Language, Phonological Awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary, Fluency, and Comprehension.

Specifically we look at:

- Revision of single sounds and words with up to 6 sounds.
- Revision of double letters and 2 letters making one sound- sh, wh, ch, th, oo, ng.
- Compound words and Homophones.
- Nouns, verbs
- 2 syllable words
- The letters and sounds for ai/ay, ee/ea, oa/ow
- Imaginative and informative writing.

Maths

In Mathematics there is lots of hands on learning that focuses on early Mathematical concepts. Specifically:

- Data
- Counting and Place Value- up to 120.
- Addition and subtraction

History

Same but different family life- Exploring how families are diverse.

Physical Science

Pushes and pulls- exploring the concept of force.

Digital Technologies

Move me- changing materials to make movement.

Health and Physical Education

Grade 2

English

In English we cover all areas of Reading- Oral Language, Phonological Awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary, Fluency, and Comprehension.

Specifically we look at:

- Revision of Grade 1 content- ay/ai, ee/ea, oa/ow/, igh/_y, ue/ew/
- Spelling choices for the /ay/, /ee/, /igh/, /ow/, /ue/ sound
- Adding ing
- Imaginative, informative and persuasive texts
- Predicting.
- Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives,

Maths

In Mathematics there is lots of hands on learning that focuses on early Mathematical concepts. Specifically:

- Place value with 3 digit numbers
- Time- telling time to the hour, half hour and quarter hour.
- Clockwise and anti-clockwise.
- Using calendars.
- Addition and subtraction.

History

Uncovering History- Students focus on the places, buildings, groups and people that have shaped their local community.

Physical Science

Making sound- students develop their early understanding of how sound is produced.

Design and Technologies

Make some noise- Making a musical instrument.

Health and Physical Education



Reading at home

Reading at home plays a vital role in your child's learning and development. When children read regularly at home, they build confidence, improve their reading skills, and develop a love of books. Even short, daily reading sessions make a big difference and are vital to seeing each child progress in their reading.

Uniform

In week 1 you received an email from your teacher with your timetable and sports uniform days.

Please see Parent Handbook for further information about our uniforms.

Foundation

Read a storybook each day to your child and discuss the story, pointing out any new words to enrich their vocabulary. Spend time teaching your child nursery rhymes, songs and poems. Play language games. Talk about letters and sounds in the environment.

Please note your child won't take home decodable readers until Term 2.

Grade 1 and 2

- Read at least 4 times a week with your child.
- Fill in the diary, date, name of book, notes.
- Encourage them to sound out, not guess.
- We will check diaries each week.

Reading is a skill that needs to be practised in order to master.

