

PARENT INFORMATION

Wednesday 26 February 2020



Responsible Student Behaviour

Be Safe

Be Kind

Be Responsible

Be Respectful



Responsible Student Behaviour

ALL STARS and HOUSE POINT PARTY

The St Philomena's All Stars award embraces the house system, extending its application to both the social and academic arenas. Within this, students will be encouraged to become proactive social and academic contributors to their 'house', as well as through participation in swimming and athletics carnivals.

Students will be awarded a St Philomena's All Stars point for

- working well towards learning goals
- consistent good behaviour
- excellence in a work task
- achieving a goal
- acts of kindness

A house point progress score is given at assembly with the winning house given an award at the end of the term.



Taking Responsibility

We acknowledge that as they grow, children are learning to act in ways that are always SAFE, KIND, RESPONSIBLE AND RESPECTFUL. On occasions when they do not, we respond by helping children to

- identify what their action was
- identify why they acted the way they did
- be aware of the effects of their actions on others
- plan for more positive interactions

This may be done through discussion with members of the Leadership team at lunchtime via the completion of a [Taking Responsibility](#) sheet. These are sent home for parent signature and returned the next day.

Consequences of ongoing incidents:

- Loss of playground privilege
- Suspension
- * Parent meetings
- * Withdrawal of enrolment



Our Catholic Identity

Daily prayer

Masses

Whole School Masses

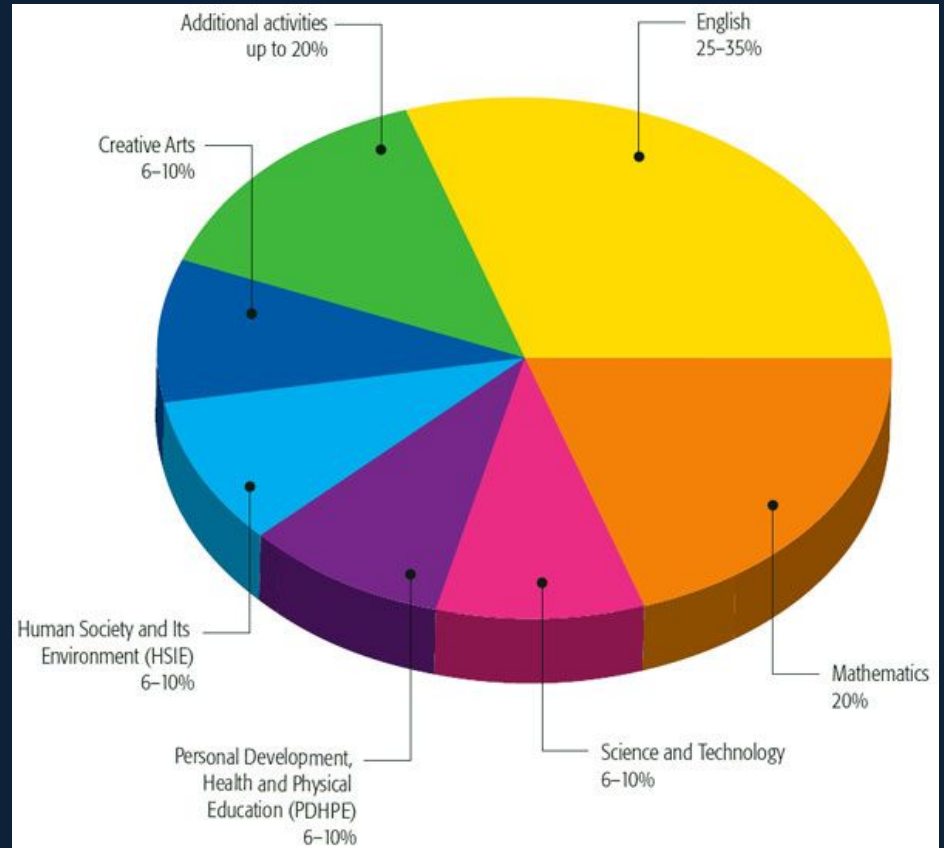
Sacraments



St Philomena's Catholic School, Moree

Key Learning Areas

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) allocates % breakdowns to KLAs. These may be divided weekly, or can be averaged over the term or year.



Uninterrupted Literacy Block K - 6

As part of a diocesan and school commitment we seek to have an interruption free dedicated literacy block from 9 - 11 am Mon - Thurs.

We ask for your support by

- ensuring your child is at school and ready to be in class by 9am
- not making medical appointments etc between 9:00am and 11:00am
- scheduling birthday celebrations for 12.55pm

Birthdays - if you would like to bring in a PRE-Cut cake or cupcakes to celebrate your child's birthday, you must make contact with your child's teacher **THE DAY BEFORE**. We ask that you be mindful of allergies.



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Language of Contemporary Learning Spaces

Campfire

- The campfire is a space where people gather to learn from an expert.
- Teacher models a new skill or explains a new concept.
- Expertise can be shared in person or via technology.

Watering Hole

- The watering hole is the place for social learning among peers (conversations, not lectures).
- Peers act as both the learner and the teacher simultaneously.
- It is vocal - although accountable to the learning.

Cave

- A private space/time where an individual can think, reflect and transform learning from external knowledge to internal belief



Materials for Learning K-10

K - 6 students are supplied with pens, pencils, rulers, sharpeners and erasers. Learners from Years 3-6 will need to bring in a pencil case and are responsible for making sure that they have their equipment ready to start each day and for each learning activity. They are permitted to bring texta colours from Year 3.

Years 7 -10

For each class, students are expected to bring the following materials:

- Fully charged Chromebook
- Diary
- Pencil Case - Blue pen, black pen, pencil, ruler



Supporting Learning at Home - Why we focus on READING

Starting in kindergarten, if a student reads 20 minutes a day at home, they will hear 1.8 million words per year. They will have read for 851 hours by 6th grade and on standardized tests, they will likely score better than 90% of their peers.

From the time your child is born, reading out loud is a positive influence. As your child grows, daily reading will help the brain make connections between the written and spoken word, widening vocabulary in the process.

Adding to that benefit, vocabulary knowledge equates to masterful spelling. In fact, reading, spelling and vocabulary are critically important to a child's lifelong achievement.



Supporting Learning at Home - Literacy

Kindergarten

- Home Reading Diary. This diary has a section for you to record the books you have read to/with your child. At the back of these books are some revision activities. It is important these activities are only completed once indicated by the class teacher. The diary will be sent home every Monday and we ask that it is returned every Friday.
- Sight words will be sent home in week 7 for you to practise at home daily with your child.

Year 1 - 6

- Reading Log, which when returned after 20 nights of reading, and signed by the leader of learning. After 100 nights of reading they will receive a merit at the whole school assembly.
- Big Write “Talk Homework”



Supporting Learning at Home - Numeracy

Maths is everywhere! When learners see, hear and use maths in real life, it gives their learning purpose. Use maths whenever you see the chance. Play maths games in the car. Involve the kids when you're cooking, shopping or budgeting. Add up the footy and cricket scores together. Talk about fractions as you serve food. Any numeracy work you do at home with your child will help them in their learning. These NSW Dept Education 2018 booklets also provide useful tips for helping support numeracy development at home.

[Kindergarten Parent Support Numeracy](#)

[Year 1 Parent Support Numeracy](#)

[Year 2 Parent Support Numeracy](#)

[Year 3 Parent Support Numeracy](#)

[Year 4 Parent Support Numeracy](#)

[Year 5 Parent Support Numeracy](#)

[Year 6 Parent Support Numeracy](#)



Big Write and VCOP - Big Talk Homework

Big Write and VCOP is a writing approach which aims to specifically support students in increasing their skills in uplevelling the writing elements of:

- ★ **V**ocabulary
- ★ **C**onnectives
- ★ **O**peners
- ★ **P**unctuation

Students participate in specially dedicated writing opportunities known as 'Big Write'.

As part of the 'Big Write' approach, students will be given 'Talk Homework'. The idea of Big Write and Talk Homework is; *'if the children can't say it, they can't write it'*.



ICT Agreements

Our ICT agreements clearly outline our expectations of students while using the chrome books.

These are reviewed with the learners each year.


[ICT Student Agreement and Expectations](#)



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Big Talk Homework

- ★ Students are given their topic for Big Write the following day.
- ★ They take home a slip with the topic and genre and are encouraged to **talk** with family members about the topic and gather ideas and language.
- ★ ***If they can't say it, they can't write it.***
- ★ Home talk is revisited the following morning before the Big Write.

Year 3	
	Talk Homework
For Big Write this week I am writing a _____ (insert text type in Bold and remove asterisk)	
Our (insert text type) will be about _____	
I need to talk about my ideas and opinions with as many family members as possible. A great time to do this is while we are all sitting at the table for dinner. Can we please not have the television on so that I can concentrate.	
I would love to hear your ideas and opinions on the topic to help me shape my ideas. Please remember to use the "because" word and remind me to do the same. That way when I write tomorrow I will have so many ideas and will be able to use a connective like "because" to make my ideas really valuable.	
I would love it if you could offer me some up-levelled V.C.O.P. suggestions/ideas for my writing.	
V = Vocabulary, wow words (for example, fearful, marvellous, glimmering)	
C = Connective, words that join ideas together (for example, although, besides, because, however)	
O = Openers, amazing ways to start a sentence. (Eventually..., Another thing..., Before too long...)	
P = Punctuation. (capital letter . ? , ! " ")	

A "Talk Homework" sample video is linked to the newsletter this week.



How will I know **WHAT** my child is doing at school?

- Newsletter Published digitally fortnightly available on website and Skoolbag app
 - Coming soon - a re-vamp featuring more information and more photos
- St Philomena's School website provides diverse school information. The website is: <http://www.stphilomenasmoree.nsw.edu.au/>
- St Philomena's Skoolbag App provides quick updates and notices.
- St Philomena's Facebook Page showcases current school and diocesan events.
- Digital sign on Gwydir Street is regularly updated.



How will I know HOW my child is doing at school?

Student Data Conversation (with parents)

- Week 10, Term 1
- This will be an opportunity for leaders of learning to share specific data regarding your child, along with goals for their learning during 2020.
- This will be an opportunity to discuss further how you can support your child's learning at home.

Additionally

- Contact the office to request a meeting with your child's teacher at any time



Meeting with your child's Leader of Learning

To help preserve the morning preparation time of our Leaders of Learning, please do not arrive at the classroom door requesting a meeting.

Please make a meeting request via contacting the school office via email or phone.



St Philomena's Catholic School, Moree

Assembly

Whole School - our staff and students K -10 gather each alternate Fridays announcements and the distribution of weekly awards. This a staff and student only assembly.

Grade Assemblies K - 6 - Throughout Terms 2 - 4, class groups of K-6 students each take a turn to host an assembly through which they get to showcase and present their new knowledge and skills. Parents and friends are most welcome to attend. These assemblies are noted on the parent calendar and invitations are extended by the host class prior to the event.



Proposed changes to overnight excursions in 2020

These excursions are currently in the planning phase and will be announced by end of Term . They will be scheduled for Term 3 or 4

Stage 2 1-2 nights

Stage 3 3-4 nights

More info to follow



Anaphylaxis & Allergies

St Philomena's is an 'allergy aware' school. We aim to minimise exposure to particular foods such as peanuts and tree nuts to help reduce the level of risk.

Management Strategies:

We request that parents/carers do not include nut spreads in sandwiches or products containing nuts in their lunch box.

We have removed nut spreads and products containing nuts from our school canteen, (this does not include products that 'may contain traces' of peanuts or tree nuts).

We avoid the use of peanuts, tree nuts, peanut butter and other nut products in all curricular or extra curricular products.



Illness or Injury

The school will administer simple first aid whenever necessary. In cases of serious injury at school, parents and / or contact person will be notified. When urgent medical attention is needed, your child will be transported by ambulance to the hospital. It is important that the office is notified of any changes to your contact details.

If a student becomes unwell during the school day, you will be contacted and we will ask that you, or someone you have nominated, collect them asap.



Attendance

Late arrivals

K - 6 students are deemed late if they arrive after 9.00 am

7 - 10 students are deemed late if they arrive after 8.45 am

Early Departures

guardian.

K - 10 students wishing to leave earlier than 3.10pm must be signed out at the office by a parent or

Notes after an unplanned absence

A explanation is required for any student absence. The preferred way to do this is via the eform on the Skoolbag app or via email to admin@stphilomenasmoree.catholic.edu.au Please avoid making phonecalls to the office.

Applying for pre- approval of extended leave

It is a NSW Govt regulation that students who take extended leave, eg for 2 weeks of travel, need to seek pre-approval from their school principal.

The form for this application is held at the admin office.



Cashless Canteen, Qkr

Cashless ordering from the canteen is encouraged.
Our preferred method is Qkr! app for smartphone.
Order cut-off is 9.20am each day.

Families who miss the order cut off time are able to place an “emergency” lunch order until 12.20pm, from a limited selection of items.

Canteen is open on a daily basis between 9 am - 2 pm.
Parents are encouraged to volunteer one day a month, or as often as they can, to assist with Canteen.



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Thank you



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