

St Joseph's P-6 School

Growing in excellence within a Christ-centred community.



1 February 2017

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to another exciting year of excellence at Saint Joseph's. This year will be another year of moving ahead with contemporary education and best practice.

With excitement and enthusiasm I approached the School Board towards the end of last year with current best practice and research into the ever hot debate, Home Learning. As a result a new Home Learning Policy is in place for 2017. I would like to share some of this information and other exciting modifications with you at the Parent Information Night on Tuesday 14 February at 7pm. Please join me in the Hall to listen to further details of this exciting step forward. In the meantime, Home Learning will follow the familiar pattern of Take Home Tuesday and Make Sure Monday. There will however only be two components of Home Learning for students from Year One to Year Three. Additional tasks for students in Year 4 onwards will be set to align with the flipped classroom philosophy of Saint Joseph's. Foundation will follow our Year One to Year Three approach from Week Five of this term.

What does this mean for you?

Students in Year One to Year Three have a reading diary in their bag today.

One (of the two) components for your child's Home Learning is to read four nights out of seven. We ask that you sign your child's reading diary and "MAKE SURE it comes back to school on MONDAY." Your child will "TAKE HOME new reading material on TUESDAY".

The second component of your child's Home Learning is also in their bag. It is titled Number Home Learning for Term One. This week by week guide to Number activities offers the flexibility, ease and essential automatic Number skills we would like your support with. The plan has the activity listed for the weeks of the term and corresponding examples of what you as a parent can say to initiate that activity. Your child will not have a Home Learning book to write in and will not need to bring back the Number sheet each week. The majority of activities are oral and mental, if your child would like to record their work in written form that is more than OK. This can be done on whatever resource they would like. The idea is, it stays at home for the term and your family can work through the activities, revising previous weeks as you see fit.

Students in Year Four to Six, will have the same expectations as above. However all of their Home Learning will be online. A reading page has been set up for your child to record and respond to their reading. Your child's teacher will reply to these responses electronically. The Number Home Learning for Term One will contain oral and mental Number skills at the appropriate grade level. In addition to the Reading and Number activities teachers will assign other tasks that align with the flipped classroom philosophy of Saint Joseph's. This will mean teachers will put activities such as specific reading, tutorials or discussions on Google Classroom prior to a lesson with the expectation that the work will be complete on time for the lesson at school.

Your child's teacher has discussed these new approaches with your child today. However students all learn new processes at different rates, therefore if your child is unsure of the expectations please reassure them that you will let us know and we will revise the process as many times as necessary.

Caz Perryman
Assistant Principal