

# St Michael's Primary School

# Newsletter

3-5 Chapel Lane, **Baulkham Hills** 

Email: stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au

Tel: 9865 1600 Fax: 9865 1699

Issue 15 Term 4 Week 2 Friday 23 October 2020

## From the Principal

Dear Parents / Caregivers

#### Welcome back to Term 4

We hope that all our families had a very restful break during the holidays and it was wonderful to see the children's smiling faces on their return.

We are delighted that restrictions (due to COVID-19) continue to be lifted so that the children can enjoy some of the traditional events and experiences that occur at the school in Term 4—such as the sports carnival, incursions and Years 1-3 swimming program. All of these events take place following COVID safety guidelines.

In order to maintain some sense of normality for our children, the school will be holding infants and primary mini athletic carnivals next week—Primary on Tuesday 27 October and Infants on Wednesday 28 October. Please ensure that your child is at school in their sports uniform, has plenty of water and also some sunscreen with them on that day.

# Staff Development Day Monday 26 October

Just a reminder that Monday 26 October will be an English professional learning day for staff and the school will be closed. Please organise alternative care arrangements for Monday.

# Classes for 2021

The cut off date for consideration regarding your child's learning needs and their placement for 2021 will be Tuesday 27 October. The staff spend a great deal of time considering the needs of all students. This includes not only their learning needs but also their social and emotional needs. No changes will be made after Tuesday 27 October 2020.

# Term 4 Teacher professional learning

Due to COVID, the professional learning that would have taken place earlier in the year did not go ahead.

This term, the teachers will have the opportunity to work with their grade partners and a Leader of Learning on their HSIE (History & Geography) units and English program. Infants classes will also have some release time to undertake Early Years Assessment for the students in Kindergarten and Year 1. These professional learning opportunities are vital to ensure that we provide the best learning opportunities for our students and that we are up-to-date with any new curriculum in response to evidence based practice. The casual teachers employed to replace your child's teacher/s are regular casuals at St Michael's and will follow the class teacher's program and expectations. Thank you in anticipation of your understanding and support. ongratulations.

# Sacrament of Holy Communion

Congratulations to our students who made their First Holy Communion last weekend. We also congratulate, in advance, the students who will be making their First Holy Communion over the next couple of weeks.

# 2021 Kindergarten Orientation and Parent Information Night

Kindergarten Orientation will take place on Tuesday 10 and Thursday 12 November as per normal; however, there will need to be changes made to the way parents enter and exit the school. Further information will be emailed to our families early next week.

Kindergarten Parent Information Night will take place via a zoom meeting on Monday 2 November at 7 pm. Further information and the link will also be sent to our families next week.

*(continued over the page)* 

## Year 6 Graduation

We are continuing to finalise our plans for the Year 6 Graduation based on NSW Health guidelines.

We are delighted to hear that Fr Wim will be able to celebrate our Year 6 Graduation Mass with the children on Thursday 10 December at 10.15 am due the recent increase in the number of people who can attend a Church service.

The presentation of awards and recognition of achievements for our Year 6 students will also take place on Thursday 10 December.

Unfortunately, the restrictions that social distancing places on us mean that we are unable to have a huge gathering of parents for this very special event in your child's life. Should the guidelines change further we will inform you as soon as possible.

## Daily attendance

Thank you parents for your assistance in keeping your child/ren at home when they are unwell, undertaking COVID testing (when required) and sending in the testing results—which have all been negative! We appreciate your support.

Please continue to send your child/ren to school, when they are well, for the full school day.

#### Late arrivals

To ensure your child's safe arrival at school when they are late, please walk them down to the school office and have them signed in. It is not safe to drop them off at the Church car park or Chapel Lane and ask them to walk down to the office on their own. The area between the Church car park and Chapel Lane to the school office is not continually supervised during the day.

# World Teachers' Day

This year World Teachers' Day in Australia will be celebrated on Friday 30 October.

I take this opportunity to recognise the tremendous dedication and commitment that our staff demonstrate in their various teaching and support roles at St Michael's, whether full time or part time this year. The cycle of assessing, programming, resourcing and teaching across all Key Learning Areas, alongside quality and rigorous professional learning expected for all teachers is continual and ongoing. We have a number of staff who spend evenings, weekends and holidays engaging in additional professional learning or formal studies in addition to their teaching roles.

Everyday, New South Wales teachers are making a difference educating and inspiring young people across our state. World Teachers' Day is an opportunity to acknowledge our teachers and say thanks for the significant contributions they make in our classrooms and communities.

Celebrated in more than 100 countries world-wide, World Teachers' Day was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 1994 to recognise the role of teachers in society. Please take this opportunity to thank a teacher.

# Thank you and best wishes

Rasha Azar, our finance secretary, has been part of the school staff for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years. She has always done an extraordinary job managing her responsibilities as finance secretary and as part of the office team. We are very sorry to see her leave St Michael's but understand that families come first, especially when you have young children. Working at a school closer to home will make a huge difference to Rasha and her family. We wish her well in the future.

We warmly welcome Adriana Grima, our new finance secretary to St Michael's and wish her every success in her role.

"God of grace and wisdom, you continually raise up people who show with their lives that they are faithful disciples of Jesus.

Let our lives be true to all that our faith teaches, so that we will grow more and more in your son's likeness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen."

We wish you every blessing for the week ahead.

Danuta Maka

Chank You



# **Enrolling Now**

## 2021 Kindergarten to Year 6

# Phone 9865 1600



#### Kindergarten 2021 Positions still available

We invite new families to contact us to discuss their child's enrolment for 2021, as soon as possible.

#### Years 1-6 Enrolments open

If you have family or friends who would like their child to come to St Michael's, please ask them to contact us as soon as possible.

All enquiries regarding enrolments, please call the school office on 9865 1600.



Our focus during these past two weeks has been to:

We walk around the school safely.

Please continue to support our <u>Positive Behaviour Support For Learning (PBS4L)</u> by talking with your children about each two week Focus.

# Facebook

We are going to launch our Facebook page shortly. If you have not given permission for your child to be photographed, your child will not be photographed or included in any photos/videos that will be placed on Facebook.

# Updated Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education now available online

For several years now, our Catholic community has been working together to update the way we share our faith with children and young people. An updated version of the <a href="Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education">Draft New Curriculum for Religious Education</a> with references to the relevant sections of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is now available on the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta website, together with a guide to help community members learn more.

The Draft New Curriculum remains faithful to Sacred Scripture and Tradition while ensuring the way that the learning and teaching happens is kept up-to-date. When it is launched in late 2021 the Draft New Curriculum will replace 'Sharing Our Story'. The current curriculum that has been in place for more than 20 years.

# Social Skill Tips for Parents

#### Week 3: Ask for help if you need it

 Ask for help if you need it; whether in the playground, with work in the classroom, or out of school. Ask questions that will help you understand the task.

#### Week 4: Perseverance

- Having the ability to continue to maintain a purpose in spite of difficulties.
- Keep trying even when work seems too hard.
- FAIL: First Attempt In Learning;
- Try a new strategy; Ask for assistance.

# Prayers

We pray for those in our community who may be unwell or suffering at the moment .



We also pray for the members of our community whose anniversary occurs at this time.

# Families leaving St Michael's at the end of the year

If your family is not returning to St Michael's for Years 1-6 in 2021, please let Mrs Maka, Principal, know as soon as possible.

Please address all letters/emails to Mrs Maka c/o the school office.

This will assist with placing students in classes for 2021.

Please note If you are leaving the school at the end of the year in Years K-5, parents must provide one term's notice in writing in lieu of one term's school fee payment.

Please contact the school office for further information on 98651600.

Calendar dates			
Week 2 Book Week—'Curious Creatures, Wild Minds'			
Fri 23 Oct	Yr 4 & 5 Incursion—Author, Tim Harris Kindergarten Incursion—Golden Ridge Farm		
Week 3			
Mon 26 Oct	Staff Development Day—Pupil Free—no supervision		
Tue 27 Oct	Sports Carnival Years 3-6—held at school		
Wed 28 Oct	Sports Carnival Years K-2—held at school		
Fri 30 Oct	Day for Daniel—Wear something red Kindergarten incursion—"Cheeky Emus" - Author, Eleanor Clapham		
Week 4			
Mon 2 Nov	K2021 Parent Information Zoom Meeting 7 pm		
Thu 5 Nov	Music "Count us in" 12.30 pm		
Week 5			
	K2021 Kindy Orientation - Day 1		
Tue 10 Nov	Group 1: 9.30-11.30 am		
	Group 2: 12.30-2.30 pm		
Wed 11 Nov	Remembrance Day		
	K2021 Kindy Orientation - Day 2		
Thu 12 Nov	Group 2: 9.30-11.30 am		
	Group 1: 12.30-2.30 pm		
Week 10			
Wed 16 Dec	Promotions afternoon 2 pm End of Term 4—3.10 pm		
Thu 17 Dec & Fri 18 Dec	Staff Development Days—Pupil Free—No supervision		

# 2021 School Terms

#### Term 1—Wednesday, 27 January to Thursday, 1 April

- Wednesday 27 January and Thursday 28 January— Mathematic Assessment Interviews:
- Friday 29 January—2021 Years 1-6 commence
- Monday 1 February—2021 Kindergarten commence

Term 2-Monday, 19 April to Friday, 25 June

Term 3—Monday, 12 July to Friday, 17 September

Term 4—Monday, 4 October to Friday, 17 December

# Staff Development Days—Term 4

**Week 3—Monday 26 October** will be an English professional learning day for staff and the school will be closed.

#### Week 10—Thursday 17 December & Friday 18 December

Staff will undertake compulsory training on these days and the school will be closed.

There is no supervision for children on these days. Please organise alternative care arrangements for these days.

# Day for Daniel—Friday 30 October

Day for Daniel is Australia's largest day of action to raise awareness of child safety, protection, and harm prevention. Held annually on the last Friday of October, Day for Daniel honours the memory of Daniel Morcombe.

The theme is Wear Red, Educate and Donate.

On this day the children can wear something red with their sports uniform—a red ribbon, a red shirt, red socks, etc.

Parents, carers, and educators are encouraged to start a conversation with children and young people about personal safety. Schools and early learning centres conduct child safety education activities. Businesses and community come together to raise awareness of child safety issues.

Day for Daniel is the Daniel Morcombe Foundation's biggest fundraiser each year. Your support through fundraising helps us to continue developing free resources and programs for parents, carers, and educators to teach children how to stay safe. Funds also contribute to supporting young victims of crime.

More information can be found at the Daniel Morcombe Foundation: https://danielmorcombe.com.au/ and donations can be made at https://danielmorcombe.com.au/donate/

#### Music News: Count Us In 2020

On Thursday 5 November at 12.30 pm, all students from K-6 will take part in the annual Music Count Us In Event. This event is a celebration of music education in Australia. Each year hundreds of thousands of students all over Australia take part in the event, to perform the same song on the same day at the same time. Our students have been working very hard in music lessons to learn this year's song "You Won't Bring Me Down". This year, the students have learnt the AUSLAN translation of the song due to not being able to sing last term. They have really enjoyed learning sign language and are becoming quite good at performing it with the song.

Mrs Parker and Ms Young

# Parking

When parking in surrounding streets, please ensure that you do not park across or block residents driveways.

# School Crossing

When the school crossing supervisor is on duty in the mornings and afternoon, please wait until the school crossing supervisor goes into the middle of the crossing and then gives you the direction to cross.

Please reminder that cars must not stop on the school crossing at any time.

#### Term 4 Awards

#### Bronze Week 1

Cecilia V KR Kiara K KH Charlotte C KvG Lila R 1Mc Charlotte-Jessica P 6BR Logan O 4FR Chloe C 4F (Term 3) Madison B 2A Claire D 4FR Matteo C 1Mc Connor P 1M (Term 3) Nicoletta L KH Eloise P KR Noah S 1Mc Elsie L 1C Prisha K 2J Esra K KvG Ryan M 2A Eva V 4F Sienna D 2J Imogen C 1C Sophia M 2A Josephine E KvG Xavier C 2A Joy C 1Mc Zaiah N 1C

Silver Week 1

Erin Machado 2P



#### Canteen

If you have late or changed orders or need to follow up any instances of items not received please contact Healthy Canteens on 9678 9242.

Healthy Canteens will contact the canteen outside of their busiest periods and still ensure all necessary changes are made.

## Catholic Mission's Socktober



# Here am I, send me (Is 6:8)

Pope Francis celebrated World Mission Day on Sunday 18 October. The theme this year is taken from the Book of Isaiah, "Here am I, send me". The Pope's message says that the COVID-19 pandemic is an opportunity for mission and service to others.

To take up this mission and service, St Michael's has decided to participate in Catholic Mission's Socktober during Week 4 this term. The aim of the week is to build our intentional faith community by helping the students and their families to understand what mission is, how it works and how we are all called to mission as Catholics. The resources used will provide an avenue for students to flourish in their understanding of their missionary learning, prayer and advocacy through concrete action of a gold coin donation on our Sockball shootout day Friday 6 November.

During Week 4 students will participate in a range of activities that will allow them through the world game of football (soccer) to connect with children less fortunate than themselves to understand how and why it is important to be missionaries in their thinking.

If you would like more information please follow the link below.

https://www.socktober.org.au/socktober-challenge

# Stop and Drop

As you know the Stop and Drop in the morning is run by parent volunteers.

A big thank you to Mrs Rebecca Duda for her coordination of the Stop and Drop since 2016. We are most appreciative of her time and efforts over this period of time as well as her assistance as a Stop and Drop volunteer for many years prior to taking up the coordinator role. Mrs Duda's youngest child will now be heading to high school and she will no longer be able to continue in this role.

We will need another parent/carer to volunteer to coordinate Stop and Drop for 2021. If you would like to apply for this voluntary role, please contact the school office on 9865 1600.

We would also like to thank all the volunteers, especially those who are leaving us this year as their youngest child moves on to high school. We appreciate your time and effort in giving freely to assist our St Michael's community.

As we have a number of volunteers leaving, new volunteers are needed to assist with Stop and Drop in 2021. A minimum of 40 volunteers are needed to assist with Stop and Drop. All it requires is half an hour, one morning, once a month.

We are requesting your assistance in ensuring that the Stop and Drop continues for 2021.

If you are able to assist, please return the form below with your details to the School Office.

Thank you for your support of the Stop and Drop.

Help
and the second s
Wanted
AA CILL

2021 STOP AND DROP VOLUNTEER			
Name:	Mobile:		
Email:			
Day/s available: Monday $\square$	Tuesday $\square$ Wednesday $\square$ Thursday $\square$ Friday $\square$		
Child:			
F	Please return to the school office as soon as possible		



Is your child interested in joining the school band?

The school band is now taking enrolments for 2021 and is open to all students currently in years 2-5.

No prior experience needed!

During Term 4 students will see a <u>band demonstration</u> at school that highlights the different instruments available for tuition. After this demonstration they will receive a green *Expression of Interest* note providing introductory information.

What do you need to do?

- Carefully read the green Expression of Interest and then register your child's interest in joining the band online at <a href="https://www.teachingservices.com.au/eoi">https://www.teachingservices.com.au/eoi</a>
- 2. Once you register online a TSA tutor will meet your child to help them assess which instrument they are most suited to\*\*
- 3. The results of this instrument trial will be sent home with enrolment information

Learning an instrument in an ensemble is a great way to experience the social, educational and personal benefits that music and the arts have to offer! TSA provides a variety of tuition options as well as instrument hire and sales to help parents give the gift of music to their children.

TSA is a registered COVID-safe provider and delivers instrumental programs with a focus on inclusion, student engagement and well-being.

\*\*Instrument trials will take place within strict COVID-safe guidelines and will include a basic aural and rhythm assessment among several other activities which measure your child's suitability for each instrument.









#### IMPORTANT ALLERGY INFORMATION

At St Michael's we have a number of children with **life threatening allergies** (Anaphylaxis) to various forms of food, latex, dust, animals and insect stings.

Some children have allergies that are so severe that smells or touch could trigger a reaction.

In particular, we have a number of children who have severe allergies to nuts. While allergic reactions are common and most are not serious, for some people the reaction can be life-threatening. Anaphylaxis and can occur within minutes of an exposure to a trigger.

We see prevention as a major part of providing a safe environment for these children. <u>In order to support these children, we ask that you do not send in nuts or any foods containing nuts to the school with your children.</u>

Common foods that trigger an allergic reaction are listed below and we ask you to be 'nut aware' and refrain from sending them to school and to seek suitable alternatives. The following list gives examples of such foods:

FOOD TYPE	EXAMPLES
Peanuts / peanut butter	Any kind of peanut or peanut butter
Tree nuts	Hazelnuts, almonds, cashews, pecans, walnuts, macadamia – any kind of nuts
Sesame seeds	
Nutella	Any brand
Biscuits containing or topped with nuts	Particularly chocolate biscuits
Cakes or slices containing nuts	
Snack packs containing nuts	Dried fruit + nut mixes
Chocolates containing nuts	Picnics, Snickers, Mars Bars (almond), Nut Breaks, Ferrero Rocher, Fruit and Nut, Praline based chocolates – Guylian, Marble Blocks
Chocolate lollies containing nuts	Peanut M&Ms
Marzipan and nougat	
Breakfast cereals containing nuts	Crunchy Nut or Honey Nut Cornflakes, Muesli, Nutri Grain, Just Right etc
Muesli Bars and Snack Bars containing nuts	
Yoghurt with nut mixer packs	
Confectionary items	Lolly Gobble Bliss Bombs, Rocky Road
"Health Food" confectionary bars containing nuts	Uncle Toby's yoghurt muesli bars
Foods containing satay	Thai, Malaysian, Indonesian meals

#### The Canteen does not sell any of these products.

In the case of a child bringing a nut product to school, teachers will bring the matter to the attention of parents.

There are many foods that DO NOT contain peanuts or nuts in their ingredients list, but the food package has the statement. "May contain traces of dairy, nut or seed". This food may be brought to school and consumed only by non-allergic children.

Due to safety and concerns, we discourage children from sharing food and drink. We would also appreciate parents speaking to their children regarding this matter. Your child's diet at home need not change.

Below is a list of foods that are safe for you to choose from. We're sure you can think of many others.

- Fruit and vegetables
- Dried fruits, Fruit snack packs
- Vegemite, jam, honey, cheese spreads
- Parker's Pretzels, Rice crackers
- Chips, Popcorn
- Plain biscuits sweet or savoury without nuts
- Chocolate biscuits without nuts
- Plain Cornflakes, Rice Bubbles, Weetbix, etc without nuts
- Fruit based muesli bars and snack bars without nuts
- Yoghurt without nuts mixes
- Lollies and confectionary items marshmallow, spearmint leaves, jelly babies, snakes, raspberries, etc without nuts.

Basically we ask you not to send food to school with your child that contains a nut or nut product listed in ingredients.

We thank you for helping us to provide a safe environment for all children at St Michael's.

# **School Travel for 2021**



## 2021 school travel applications are now open

Applications for student travel in 2021 opened from Monday 12 October 2020.

Students who require a School Opal card or travel pass for 2021 can now <u>apply</u> online. A new application should be submitted if a student is applying for a school travel pass for the first time or requesting an additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody).

Students who have changed school/campus, changed address, repeated a year or received an expiry notification from Transport for NSW for their school travel entitlement should re-apply or update their details.

\*Applications must be completed by the student's parent or legal guardian if the student is aged under 16 years. Students 16 years and over must complete the application form themselves.

Where there is a change of distance eligibility based on a student's grade, the system will automatically update a student's entitlement if they meet the new criteria. If they do not meet the new eligibility criteria, they will receive an expiry notification via email.

Students who have an entitlement approved under a medical condition which is due to expire will receive a notification advising them to re-apply.

Term Bus Pass holders will receive a notification to re-apply.

If a student needs to update their information or re-apply, they should go online to <a href="https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/sts/updateDetails">https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/sts/updateDetails</a>

Applications need to be submitted before **31 December 2020** to ensure that current student entitlements are updated and their current entitlement/card remains valid. If their application is submitted after 31 December 2020, the system will automatically cancel an entitlement/card and a new one will need to be issued.

Students in the Opal network applying for a SSTS or Term Bus Pass entitlement for the first time will receive their card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out from January 2021.

Students residing in Rural and Regional (R&R) areas should receive their travel pass at the commencement of the new school year from their nominated operator, this may be distributed via the school or sent direct to their address. Note: some R&R operators do not issue travel passes. Students/Parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

New Concession Entitlement Cards

Transport for NSW will be replacing the below cards with Transport Concession Entitlement Cards (TCEC) from October 2020:

- Senior Secondary Student Concession Card (16 years and over) also used by Mature Secondary Students (18 years and over), Distance Education Students and Home School Students
- Proof of Age card (when a student under 16 years of age looks older)
- Boarder Rail Pass.

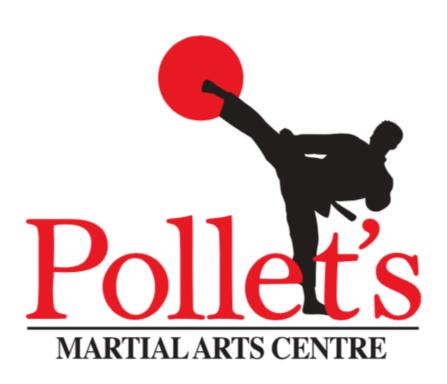
All previous cards will be valid until they expire. Students who require a Transport Concession Entitlement Card should speak with their school administration staff.

Enquiries regarding school student travel can be submitted to Transport for NSW at:

https://transportnsw.info/contact-us/feedback/passes-concessions-feedback



# **SPONSORS**



We train students
across all age groups
in a variety of
disciplines, including
Muay Thai, Boxing,
Kickboxing, Karate,
Mixed Martial Arts
and more.
Pollet's Martial Arts
Castle Hill
30/5 Salisbury Rd
Castle Hill

# **DJ BERNS**

ALL YOUR ENTERTAINMENT NEEDS

FOR PUBS, CLUBS AND PRIVATE PARTIES

INCLUDING DJ's, KARAOKE SHOWS & TRIVIA SHOWS

BERNARD FISHER

0405 323 646



John's Car Care

# OzFashíons—Kindergarten 2021 Uniform Purchase

Due to Covid-19 there will be no uniform fittings for students starting school in 2021.

St Michaels Uniform Shop is run online by Oz Fashions. Orders are to be placed on the 'QKR' app by MasterCard.

Please follow all instructions on this link to the QKR App to download the app and set up your account. No phone orders or messages will be accepted!

Delivery to the school is every Tuesday and Friday during the school term free of charge and orders must be placed by 4pm Friday for delivery on Tuesday and 4pm Wednesday for delivery on Friday.

Please choose carefully as we do not refund if you simply change your mind or make a wrong selection, however, we gladly exchange within 14 days.

Returned merchandise MUST be in its original condition with all tags still attached and accompanied by proof of purchase otherwise the exchange will not be honoured. Any item that has been worn will not be able to be exchanged.

#### Please email all exchanges to elle@ozfashions.com.au

#### Please note that Oz Fashions warehouse in Granville DOES NOT sell the St Michaels Uniform in store.

If you have any enquires please contact Elle elle@ozfashions.com.au or 0421 216 414

Please place your uniform order as soon as possible to ensure you will be able to exchange uniform sizing if necessary and to guarantee students receive a uniform to start school.

Please note: all orders for 2021 new students need to be <u>placed before Friday 20th November 2020</u> to ensure delivery before the end of the school year.

The last delivery for St Michaels uniform orders is Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Please click on the link for the <u>size guide</u> for an approximate sizing of uniform items.

Elle, Oz Fashions

# Classes for 2021

Early next term our teachers will be working together to formulate our classes for 2021. Our goal is to form parallel, even class groups in each grade.

The teachers look at the learning needs of each student, their behaviour and their social, emotional needs.

If you believe your child has any of the above needs which should be considered for their placement in a class for 2021, please put this information into a letter to the Principal by Tuesday 27 October.

This is not an invitation for you to nominate your child's teacher. It is however, an opportunity to highlight any special needs that will help the teachers form class groups for 2021.

Teachers will also provide the children with an opportunity to nominate 2 or 3 friends that they would like to be with in 2021. The school will endeavour to have at least one of their friends progress with them if this is in your child's best interest.

On Wednesday 16 December at 2.00 pm our children will have the opportunity to meet their 2021 teacher together with their new classmates.





# Taking leave for family holidays during the school term

Government regulations require you to seek leave approval from the school for holidays of 5 days or more prior to your journey. Contact the school office for an *Application for Extended Leave (L) - Travel Leave—From A.1.* This form is also available on our website under School Notes.

Travel leave 1-4 days—please send in a written note to the school prior to your leave.