



# *St Michael's Primary School*

## *Newsletter*

**Friday 4 March 2021**

**Term 1 Week 6**

**Issue 3**

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

**Tel: 9865 1600 Fax: 9865 1699  
Email: [stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au)**

### *From the Principal*

Dear Parents

#### *Cross Country 4 March 2021*

Congratulations to all the students that took part in our Cross Country event on Thursday. We were blessed with glorious weather and the children seemed to enjoy the challenge.

Admittedly, by the end of the cross country event it was quite warm however our children were very resilient and coped with the walk back to the school. Well done St Michael's!

Our thanks to all of our parent helpers, without whom we would not be able to run this event. Your assistance was greatly appreciated.



A big thank you to Mr Kovelis and all of our staff for their support and hard work today.

A gentle reminder that in future, for any carnival event, excursions etc, please make sure that your children have plenty of water, a school hat and sunscreen.

#### *Medical conditions—Asthma*

The Cross Country event has highlighted for us that some of our families have not informed us that their child suffers from Asthma. These children were at the carnival and required the use of an Asthma puffer which they didn't have. The school, however, does come prepared for these situations but we do require parents to inform us if their child has any sort of medical condition.

#### *Issues regarding other children*

A gentle reminder that parents are not to reprimand someone else's child if there are issues between their own child and another student. If your child is experiencing problems with another child, the first person to contact is your child's classroom teacher. Please make an appointment so that any issues can be addressed and if necessary arrangements put in place to monitor the children closely and help them make good choices.

#### *Catholic Schools Week*

2021 Catholic Schools Week celebrations will take place from 7-13 March and will announce the start of the official enrolment period. The theme for 2021 is '*Celebrating 200 years of Catholic education*'. We will be celebrating at our school assembly on Monday with prayer, song and sharing "why we love St Michael's school."

#### *2022 Kindergarten Open Morning*

Our 2022 Kindergarten Open Mornings will take place on:

**Tuesday 9 March 2021, Monday 15 March**  
**Thursday 18 March 2021, Tuesday 23 March 2021**  
**Tuesday 27 April**  
**9.30 am - 10.45 am**

If you know families who have children interested in coming to St Michael's in 2022, please invite them to come along to our Open Morning. As numbers are limited, bookings are essential. For further details, please call 9865 1600.

#### *2022 Kindergarten Siblings*

Given the situation with the Coronavirus (COVID-19), we have decided that our families who already have siblings in the school will be offered a place for 2022 based on their Enrolment applications and supporting documents being received and finalised, including sighting of original documents, such as your child's Birth Certificate, proof of address, Medicare immunisation statement, Certificate of Baptism. Please lodge your application by 31 March.

If your child has any special needs, physical or learning that you believe the school needs to be aware of before they start in 2022 or you have concerns about your child starting because they are young and you are unsure of whether they should start in 2022 or wait until 2023, please contact the school on 9865 1600 so that we can book you in for an interview.

## *Reflection*

Exhausted, stressed and depressed children. Frantic parents desperate to make their children succeed. This is a worrying aspect of modern parental anxiety about children and over-identification with children's performance. These harried children are more likely to suffer from profound feelings of insecurity and anxiety in later life, no matter how successful the after-school tutoring, fish oil tablets, baroque music and homework done by parents have made them. When does normal parent help and support become a takeover, with the underlying message to children that they are not clever enough to stand on their own two feet and do things themselves? Experts offer some advice which may come as a relief to parents as well as children.

- ◆ **Appreciate your children** as they are. Keep your ego and feelings of anxiety to yourself.
- ◆ **Basic warmth** between a parent and a child - hugs, kisses, listening, words of empathy, laughter - is the first pillar of parenting.
- ◆ **Stand back** a step. Support, applaud, assist, but don't hover anxiously like a 'helicopter' parent. Parents don't need to become over-involved to the point of obsession in their children's academic or sporting performance. Never be tempted into doing their schoolwork yourself.
- ◆ **Keep your expectations high** but realistic. Accept that most people are average yet still manage to lead happy, productive lives. Good behaviour and manners, a positive attitude and conscientious work habits will help most children do well at school and in life.
- ◆ **Reassure** your children that they can't be good at everything. Then give them the space to discover and develop their own strengths. Admire the achievements of other people's children without trying to make your children emulate them - or feel inadequate if they can't.
- ◆ **Avoid living vicariously** through your children. Be proud of them but resist the temptation to boast or to pull strings. Let your children be themselves, not the perfect child you wish you had been yourself. You can't relive your life through them.
- ◆ **Discipline is vital** but it doesn't just mean punishment. Be consistent - that helps children develop self-control. Live according to the values you preach to them.
- ◆ **Don't damage** their self-esteem by criticising their efforts too often. Insecure adults, however successful, often had parents who were controlling, competitive and judgemental.
- ◆ **Respect** their individuality, especially those characteristics that make your children different from you.
- ◆ **Spend time** together. Eat your evening meal together as often as possible. Involve your children in as many rituals as possible - worship, sports, visits to grandparents, birthday celebrations, family get-togethers.

## *Prayer*

*O God, source of all compassion, you teach us anew how to do what is right.  
Grant us clean hearts and lead us always to follow your will.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Danuta Maka*

*Wishing you every blessing for the week ahead.*

## *Religious Education*

### **'Embrace us, forgive us and heal us'**

In this week's Gospel – John 2:13-25 Jesus Cleanses the Temple, we see Jesus confronted by a cluttered and distracting scene in the forecourt of the Temple. Such marketplace trading in the house of prayer and worship, prevented there being a clear focus on God. Jesus therefore acted with passion to cleanse the Temple. When our Indigenous brothers and sisters gather for sacred ceremonies they firstly cleanse the space with a smoking ceremony. Such a ritual wards off distracting spirits. The space is purified which enables a free flow of the life enhancing Spirit.



*Jesus cleansing the Temple by Jeffrey Weston*

### **With this in mind we pray:**

*God creator and restorer of life, your Spirit is working in our world in all sorts of different ways in different people. Help us to recognise our gifts and to use them to bring about your Kingdom, on earth as it is in heaven. Embrace us, forgive us and heal us.*

*God of mystery, you lead us on life's journey to places of sacred encounter. Here your presence transforms our lives to see the wonders of your glory. Open our ears, that we might hear your voice calling us to follow Jesus, our way, our truth and our life. Amen*

**Mrs Jennie Meniconi, Acting Religious Education Coordinator**



# *St Michael's Primary School*

**ENROLLING NOW**

**KINDERGARTEN 2022**

## *2022 Kindergarten Open Mornings*

**Tuesday 9 March**

**Monday 15 March**

**Thursday 18 March**

**Tuesday 23 March**

**Tuesday 27 April**

*Commencing at 9.30 am, concluding 10.45 am*



## *Learning for a brighter future*



Our motto as a school community is 'Knowledge, Faith, and Love.' This represents the values of our vision and mission as a Catholic learning community.

All students have access to up-to-date resources, print and digital, including a range of mobile devices. This adds to the creation of engaging learning environments.

Over fifty-five well-qualified professional and support staff deliver quality teaching and learning programmes, meeting students' individual learning needs.

## *Open Morning Schedule*

- Principal's welcome and overview of the school
- Question time
- Tour of the school



## *Bookings Essential*

*For further information please call us on*

**9865 1600**

*[stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmichaelsbhills@parra.catholic.edu.au)*

*[www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au)*





## Mini Vinnies

Miss Anderson, Miss Flannery and Mrs Orehek were thrilled with all the excited faces that greeted us on our first day of Mini Vinnies this year. This enthusiastic group of students will spend the year becoming advocates within our school community, focusing on social justice issues in Australia and around the world. Thank you to all these students who give up their lunch time for this great cause.

Currently Mini Vinnies is learning about and raising awareness for Caritas' Project Compassion this Lent. This week they heard the story of Margaret a teacher at a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands.

She was born deaf, so she knows the challenges it poses to education and employment.



Some of the challenges the school faced were:

- water shortages, with not enough to supply staff and students with safe water for drinking, cooking, washing and growing vegetables.
- Tropical Cyclone Harold damaging the school and its vegetable garden.
- Food shortages
- COVID-19

With Caritas Australia's support:

- the school installed water tanks,
- cyclone-proof building materials were used to rebuild,
- COVID-19 prevention measures were implemented.

The community has been transformed with enough water for its students and the capacity to cater for more with plans to boost food security through increased agricultural production.

So far our school has raised **\$211.55** from students donating their spare change or giving up their canteen treat so that the money can go into the Project Compassion boxes.

Thank you for your generosity! Well done St Michael's.



## Social Skill Tips for Parents

### Week 7: C from Respect

- Cooperate with all members of the St Michael's community.

### Week 8: T from Respect

- Think before I act. Know what triggers anger.

### Week 9: Mantra 1 - Stop! No! Go

- Stop! I don't like it when you \_\_\_\_\_ (name what you don't like)
- No! I asked you to stop \_\_\_\_\_
- If the behaviour continues: Go and tell the teacher on duty.

## Prayers

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

We ask this through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



## Photographs taken at school

From time to time photographs may be taken of your child whilst they are at school. These photos may be used in school Newsletters, publications and the school website. They may also be used by Catholic Education, Parramatta Diocese in their publications and website.

If you do not wish your child's photo to be taken, please put this in writing and address to the Principal, Mrs Maka.

### Star corner

**Congratulations to William Ison on being named the Hills Zone 11yrs Age Champion at the Zone Swimming Carnival on 19 February. A tremendous achievement!**

William achieved 1st in 50m freestyle, 50m butterfly, 100m freestyle, 200m Individual medley; and 2nd in 50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, Senior relay.

Well done William!



## Calendar Dates

### WEEK 7—Catholic Schools Week

<b>Mon 8 Mar</b>	School Assembly 2.30 pm Diocesan Hockey Trials
<b>Tue 9 Mar</b>	2022 Kindergarten Open Morning 9.30 am Diocesan Swimming Carnival

### WEEK 8

<b>Mon 15 Mar</b>	School Assembly 2022 Kindergarten Open Morning 9.30 am
<b>Wed 17 Mar</b>	St Patrick's Day
<b>Thu 18 Mar</b>	2022 Kindergarten Open Morning 9.30 am The Big Veggie Crunch 10.00 am
<b>Fri 19 Mar</b>	Diocesan Cricket Trials

### WEEK 9

<b>Mon 22 Mar</b>	School Assembly NSWCPS Swimming
<b>Tue 23 Mar</b>	2022 Kindergarten Open Morning 9.30 am
<b>Wed 24 Mar</b>	Diocesan Touch Trials
<b>Fri 26 Mar</b>	Mackillop AFL Trials

### WEEK 10

<b>Mon 29 Mar</b>	School Assembly
<b>Thu 1 Apr</b>	Term 1 finishes 3.10 pm

**Easter—Friday 2 April to Monday 4 April**  
**School Holidays Friday 2 April to Sunday 18 April**

### TERM 2 WEEK 1

<b>Mon 19 Apr</b>	Students and Staff return for Term 2
<b>Wed 21 Apr</b>	Diocesan Rugby Union Trials
<b>Fri 23 Apr</b>	Mackillop Football Trials

### WEEK 2

<b>Mon 26 Apr</b>	Staff Development Day Pupil free
<b>Tue 27 Apr</b>	2022 Kindergarten Open Morning

## 2021 School Terms

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

**Term 2—Monday, 19 April to Friday, 25 June**

**Staff Development Day: Monday 26 April**

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

**Term 4—Tuesday, 5 October to Friday, 17 December\***

*\*Students finish on Wednesday, 15 December*

**Staff Development Days:**

*Thursday, 16 December and Friday, 17 December*

## Staff Development Day Monday 26 April

Our staff will be undertaking a Religious Education professional learning day on Monday 26 April (Term 2 Week 2).

The school will be closed and no supervision will be provided. Please make alternative care arrangements for your child/ren on this day.

## The Big Veggie Crunch

### What is The Big Veggie Crunch?

Did you know that only around 6% of Australian children eat enough vegetables?

To help our community do their bit to improve this number, our school will be taking part in The Big Veggie Crunch at **10 am on Thursday 18 March**.

Primary schools across NSW will be joining together to break the record for the most students crunching vegetables

⇒ 50,260 students crunching simultaneously (2018 record)

⇒ 14,991 students crunching at other times over Vegetable Week (2019 record)

### What can you do to help?

- ◆ Pack a container of vegetables (**not fruit this time**) for your child to eat on Thursday 18 March

### Need some ideas?

- ◆ carrot, celery, cucumber – cut into sticks or left whole
- ◆ capsicum – cut into sticks or wedges
- ◆ corn – raw baby corn spears or a cooked corn cob
- ◆ broccoli or cauliflower florets - raw or lightly cooked to keep their crunch
- ◆ tomatoes – small cherry tomatoes or a large tomato that can be eaten like an apple
- ◆ beans or snow peas - raw or lightly cooked to keep their crunch
- ◆ mushrooms – sliced or left whole
- ◆ if fresh veg isn't possible, try canned or frozen vegetables instead

**\*\*Remember to keep serving up the vegetables at home and in your children's lunchboxes.**

Check out the [UP THE VEG at Home](#) resource for ideas

The countdown is on [click here](#) to see how long to go?



## *News from Year 2P—Mrs Petrenas*

### **Chloe**

This year in 2P we have been doing fun experiments, like making play-dough, paper planes and pirate hats. When we play on the oval sometimes we lose our friends and have to make new friends.

### **Hope**

This year in 2P we have been doing procedures, like how to make play-dough, popcorn, chocolate balls and pancakes, and making new friends. It is so much fun, playing on the oval.

### **Zac**

This year in 2P we have been busy. There are fun experiments, making new friends and playing on the oval.

### **Levi**

This year in 2P we have been doing fun experiments with wet and dry materials.

We have been playing on the oval, making pirate hats and colour wheels.

### **Elsie**

This year in 2P we have been doing fun experiments and what I like about it is finger painting, picking two things and mixing them. And I love my teacher, she is so kind, she helps us and she is a lovely teacher.

### **Sam**

This year in 2P we have been playing on the top oval because the top oval is nice and fun and I can play with friends.

### **Thomas**

This year in 2P we have been learning fun experiments with wet and dry and making fun procedures like pancakes, popcorn, paper planes and pirate hats.

### **Dominic**

This year in 2P we have been making pirate hats and paper planes. We had fun experiments with wet and dry materials, mixtures.

### **Chloe**

This year in 2P we have been making mixtures like play-dough and wet and dry ingredients. We've also been making lots of friends and in Art we have been painting the colour wheel. In English, we are making paper planes.

### **Reeve**

This year in 2P we have been doing experiments. We have made chocolate balls. The chocolate was very yummy. We have made play-dough. The play-dough looked cool. We have made pancakes, they were very nice and delicious.

### **Jaxen**

This year in 2P, we have been doing very fun experiments in the classroom, like dry and wet ingredients and making new friends on the playground.

### **Samantha**

This year in 2P we have been doing fun experiments with wet and dry materials, like rice bubbles and dish-washing detergent. I have been enjoying making new friends like Livia. I like doing sports like running. I had great fun!

### **Livia**

This year in 2P we have been making fun experiments with wet and dry materials. I like playing with my friends. We have been making pirate hats, paper planes and colour wheels. We've been making procedures for play-dough, popcorn, chocolate balls and pancakes. I like doing Sport and Music, it's fun. I have a good teacher. I like doing Art. We have been making fireworks, a colour wheel, a heart and tell about you.

### **Nicholas**

This year we have been doing fun Maths games.

### **Matthew**

This year in 2P we have been doing fun Science experiments.

### **Angus**

This year in 2P we have been doing procedures, including making play-dough, popcorn, chocolate balls and pancakes. We have been doing take away, plus, divided by and times. I've also been doing fun experiments with wet and dry materials.

### **Diara**

This year in 2P we have been doing procedures for Science for making stuff like chocolate balls, popcorn, play-dough and pancakes. They were super fun. In 2P I like making new friends. My best friend is Samantha. In 2P I like doing Art; we have been making Valentine's hearts and colour wheels, paper planes.

### **Christopher**

This year in 2P, we have been doing super fun experiments with wet and dry materials. In 2P's class it's so fun because we can paint colour wheels and paint with our thumbs and other fingers. In English, we make procedures about how to make things and we made pirate hats, we also made paper planes.

### **Ethan**

This year in 2P we have been making experiments. My favourite thing I have done is making experiments. What I like about St. Michael's is that they let Year 1,2,3,4,5,6 on the Oval. The second thing I like about St. Michael's is that they set it out perfect. My third thing about St. Michael's is that you keep us safe.

### **Sophie**

This year in 2P we have been experimenting with wet ingredients and dry ingredients and that was fun. We mixed rice bubbles and milk, and the milk evaporated! We were surprised. My favourite activities are Science, Religion, Sports and Music, they are super fun!

### **Max**

This year in 2P we have been experimenting with mixtures. We mixed wet ingredients with dry ingredients. We have been making pirate hats and paper planes. After we made them, we wrote down how to make them and what you need. We also made play-dough, popcorn, chocolates and pancakes. They were all procedures. We got to make play-dough but the teachers made the popcorn and the chocolate balls and the pancakes! But at least we got to eat it. It was fun!

### **Gabrielle**

This year in 2P we have been making fun experiments with wet and dry materials – mixtures. We have been playing on the oval. I made a new friend called Mia. We have a nice teacher and my shoulder partner is Max. Also, the people on my table are Sophie, Luca, Max and myself. We made pancakes and popcorn and play-dough.

### **Lily**

In 2P this year, I have been playing new games in the playground, and Maths games.

### **Luca**

At St. Michael's I like playing Maths games and doing Science experiments.

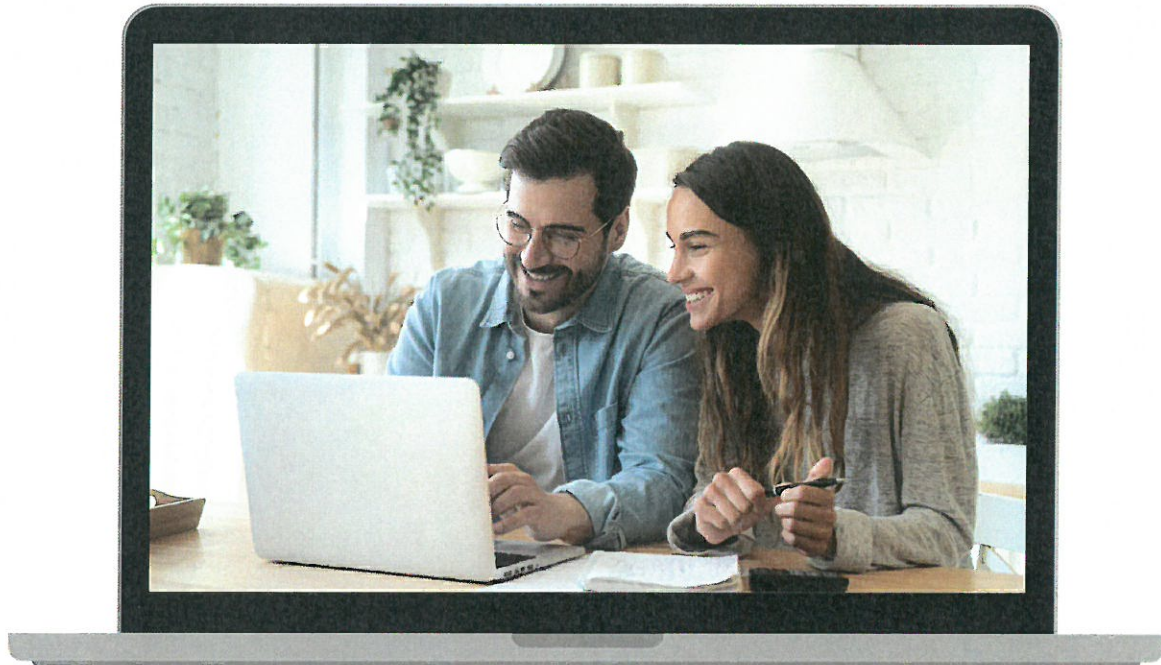




# positive partnerships

Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

## NSW PARENT/CARER ONLINE WORKSHOP



Join us for an online workshop where you will have the opportunity to listen, share and learn with parents and carers who support young people on the autism spectrum, from across New South Wales.

This online workshop is for parents, full-time carers and grandparents. Join other families to learn more about autism and ways to strengthen the home-school partnership.

During the online workshops, we will cover three topics:

- diversity of autism
- understanding behaviour
- working together with your child's school

### Location:

 New South Wales  
via zoom online

### Date:

Tuesday 9th March 2021

### Time

Wed 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM (AEDT)

<http://>



For more information and to register, visit [www.positivepartnerships.com.au](http://www.positivepartnerships.com.au)  
or contact Laura Owens [lauraowens@autismspectrum.org.au](mailto:lauraowens@autismspectrum.org.au)

# COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

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## Policy and Procedures

At St Michael's Primary School, Baulkham Hills, the dignity of each individual is valued and the rights and beliefs of all members of the community are respected. St Michael's follows the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta Complaint Handling Policy and Procedures which is available from the school office and on the school website.

However, from time to time concerns may arise between different groups within the school community. At St Michael's we aim to attempt resolution as soon as any concerns arise.

### Procedural Fairness

We endeavour to ensure that our student behaviour procedures and strategies allow for procedural fairness. We believe that procedural fairness is a basic right of all when dealing with school authorities. We apply the "right to an unbiased decision" and the "hearing rule".

The "right to an unbiased decision" includes the right to:

- impartiality in an investigation and decision making
- an absence of bias by a decision-maker

The "hearing rule" includes the right of the student against whom an allegation has been made to:

- know the allegations related to a specific matter and any other information which will be taken into account in considering the matter
- know the process by which the matter will be considered
- respond to the allegations
- know how to repair relationships and to "make things right"
- know how to seek a review of the decision made in response to the allegations.

*In order to ensure procedural fairness, school staff need to be allowed to investigate and respond to matters in an appropriate manner. Parents must always communicate directly with the staff of the school when they have concerns about student behaviour, rather than approach individual students or parents with their concerns*

### Parents

Complaints or grievances pertaining to classroom issues or that relate to other children are to be dealt with by school personnel. It is not appropriate for parents to approach other children or other parents while on school premises to resolve issues.

The recommended procedure to be followed by parents is:

- The first point of contact is the child's class teacher. An appointment with the teacher should be made via the school office or directly with the teacher.
- If parents are not satisfied with the solutions offered or believe they have not been given a fair hearing, they are encouraged to make an appointment with either the Principal or Assistant Principal, to discuss the issue further.
- Parents are reminded that there are always two sides to every story and while it is important to listen to their own child, it is also just as important not to draw conclusions or make accusations until all the facts are known.
- Parents may also contact Catholic Education, Diocese of Parramatta for further discussion.
- All parties should aim to work towards a mutually agreeable solution to the grievance.

### Students

The recommended procedure for students who have complaints or grievances is:

- If and when issues arise in the classroom, students are encouraged to speak to the class teacher in order to seek assistance in finding a resolution.
- Students encountering problems on the playground are asked to talk to the staff member on duty, who will then if necessary refer it to the class teacher or one of the school's Leadership team.
- Students may also speak to any other staff member regarding any issues.

### Employees

The recommended procedure to follow is the procedure set out in the Diocesan "Complaint Handling Policy and Procedures."

### Appeal

A person who is not satisfied the matter has been resolved appropriately may choose to appeal to the Principal of the school if the Principal has not been involved in investigating or examining the complaint, or is not the person named as the source of the grievance / complaint.

Alternatively an appeal may be made to the Director of Performance for the school who may be contacted at the CEDP.

For CEDP matters an appeal may be made to the Executive Director of Schools.

**Further information can be found on our school website:**

<http://www.stmichaelsbhills.catholic.edu.au/-/media/Files/CEDP/Global/Policies/Complaint-Handling--Policy.ashx>



## Clothing for the Philippines

Last year, Effie Normoyle, one of our former teachers contacted us regarding the poor people in the Philippines who had been affected by a typhoon.

Our families generously helped with donating clothing to the appeal with all six boxes of clothes being shipped to the Philippines on 24 November.

Mrs Normoyle sends the following message to our families:

*"I am pleased to let you know that all the donated clothes have been distributed to the needy. With the help of health officers, they were able to finalise the distribution during the first week of February."*

*On behalf of those needy families, my brother would like to thank the St Michael's school community for their generosity. The recipients were very grateful of what they received."*

**Mrs Effie Normoyle**

THANK YOU



**Did you know**

1 in 6 primary students are not attending school regularly. Schools are here to help.

If you are having attendance issues with your child please contact us so we can support you to address them.

every learner  
every day



## Homework HELP

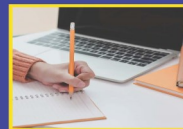
**FREE**

Homework Help Group Volunteer Tutors available to help support you while you work, in a safe supported place.

**When:**

**Mondays during school term**  
Year 4 / 5 / 6 - 3:30pm-4:30pm  
Year 7 - 12 - 4:30pm-5:30pm

**Starting Monday  
March 1st**



REGISTRATIONS ESSENTIAL  
To register please contact Belinda  
0423 213 199  
belindam@hca.org.au

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