



# Holy Family Primary

## Emerton

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**Term 1 Week 2**

Greetings!

Welcome to our new year of school based learning, growing and fun. I hope that you and the children enjoyed the time together without the pressure of school routines.

Welcome also to our new:

**Staff:** Miss. De Santis – Yr. 3, Miss. Crombie – Yr. 4, Mr. Fletcher – Yr. 5 and Miss. Williams – School Counsellor.

Kindergarten students and students who have started in other grades.

All new parents in our community.

We will be having a welcome ceremony next week where we will formally welcome our new staff, students and parents.

There will also be a Welcome Family Disco next week as a special expression of welcome. A separate flyer has been sent home about this. I hope to see you there.

We have had a very settled start to the new school year. Classes are busy with our First 25 Days unit, which is designed to help children settle into school and develop their learning habits. We will share this with you later.



I hope the children had an opportunity to share with you the exciting news of our special assembly visitor last week. Ask the children to tell you about:

The book “Wombat Goes to School”

Some missing socks

Lola the wombat and our special wombat.

The missing socks and the visiting wombat were some special fun for the first day of the year. The serious message, however, is that the story, “Wombat Goes to School” is a reminder that **every student needs to be at school every day**. The only reasons not to be at school are if you are sick or there is some other serious problem.

All the schools in our diocese are attempting to improve attendance rates. There will be lots of information about what we are doing and why it is so important. Please let us know if you need any help with school attendance.

During the last week of the holidays, we trialed a special program focusing on fun numeracy activities. During the two days the children measured, counted, calculated, drew, discussed and celebrated. We were able to host the days through the generosity of our own staff and some staff from the CEO. We are looking to run similar programs during other holiday periods. Thank you to all of the staff who volunteered their time and to the children for sharing this time with us. Thanks also to the parents for transporting the children to and from school. Some of the students will share their experiences with you in our next newsletter.

At the end of January the parish said goodbye to Fr. Stan as he left for Brisbane for at least six months. I would like to thank Fr. Stan for the many things he did for Holy Family during his time at Emerton. Fr. Stan was always happy to assist with liturgies and with driving the bus for us when we needed it. Best wishes Fr. Stan.

Best wishes for the year ahead,  
John Spradbrow  
Principal

**9th February 2017**

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## The Learning Corner

### Mathematics Assessment Interview

During the next two weeks of school, the teachers will administer the Mathematical Assessment Interview individually to our students. This one to one interview between teacher and student provides the teachers with a wealth of information about the children's number knowledge, including the mental strategies that the students use when solving mathematical problems. The teachers will be meeting over the next few weeks and planning the learning program for the students using the information gained during the interview.

### The Numeracy Block

Each day students across the school, work through a 60 minute Numeracy Block. The structure of this block involves a **Warm Up** activity, followed by an **Investigation** with a clear mathematical focus and ends with a Reflection, where students share efficient strategies and tune in to the Mathematics that has been learnt.



Mrs Angela Alonzo  
Stage 3 Coordinator

## Literacy Learning at Holy Family

Dear Parents and Friends,

In 2017, Holy Family set our school community a number of goals to achieve in areas of Formation, Literacy and Numeracy. We believe that all children can grow and succeed.

Holy Family Literacy Goal: *To accelerate vocabulary and oral skills through a focus on comprehension.*

Over the first few weeks of the school year, teachers have been collecting initial data on all of our students to assist them in the programming and planning of each and every child at Holy Family. Numeracy and Literacy Data walls are used so that all children can be tracked and monitored throughout the year. So how can you help your child develop as a lifelong learner? One way is to get them into a routine of reading every day.

### Tips for Making a Regular Time for Reading Every Day

- Turn off the T.V
  - Let your child know that you *enjoy* the time together
  - Make listening to reading a *special* time
  - Your child will sense when listening to reading becomes boring for you
  - Be seen as a reader *yourself*
- Encourage your child to make use of the local and school *libraries*.



Read at least 15 minutes every day!

Mrs Alex Ali  
Literacy Co-ordinator

## Attendance at Holy Family Primary Emerton

Dear Parents and Carers,

Australia has one of the very best education systems anywhere in the world. Each day, our young people are provided with opportunities to learn more about the world they live in through their experiences in and out of the classroom. Schools teach children about themselves, their relationships with others and about life beyond school. This includes preparing them for the workforce.

Regular attendance at school is critical to ensuring that every student has the kind of opportunities in life that he or she deserves. When students are not at school, they are missing out on so much. Without the knowledge, the skills or the support that schools are so good at providing, young people can get left behind and find themselves underprepared for a fast-paced and often very challenging world.

In 2017, Holy Family Primary Emerton will be lending our support to a campaign called '**Every Learner, Every Day**', an initiative designed to remind all students and parents why regular school attendance is so important. As part of this campaign, a range of resources and strategies will be made available to help parents, if help is needed.

A poster that explains simply the benefits of being at school regularly is included in this communication. I encourage you to think about the ideas suggested on the poster and to speak to your child about these messages. A dedicated website that will provide easy access to support resources will be launched soon.

I appreciate that this is not a matter that may impact on a large number of our families; however, if the 'Every learner, every day' campaign can assist even just a few students to be at school more regularly, with all the benefits that come with that, it is a terrific outcome.

Thank you in advance for your support of this important initiative.

Kind Regards,  
Monika Cunningham  
School Attendance Liason



### Fees 2017

Accounts for Term 1 school fees will be posted out within the next couple of days and payments will be due March 2017. Arrangements made for 2016 are now finalised and any families having difficulty completing term payments on time and who wish to make payments by installments using cash, Centrelink or Bpay etc, please contact Mrs Carroll in the school office to set up a new arrangement. Current Centrelink or Direct Debit payments may require adjustment to cover the 2017 fees. Please review your account and if required please contact Mrs Denise Carroll on 9628 9232.

The Catholic Education Office is also offering a Flexible Payment Plan (FPP) for your 2017 School Fees - details will be included with your school fee statement.

All resource fee payments must be paid as soon as possible unless you are paying through Centrepay or Direct Debit.



### Fundraising 2017

A sincere thank you to everybody for all your support in 2016. The great result was achieved with the help of many generous parents and grandparents. In 2017 we are asking for your support again. We will have many different activities during the year and even if you can help with one event we would be very grateful. All money raised is of great assistance to us in providing important resources for your children. If you would like to volunteer your time please contact the office on 9628 9232.



### Skoolbag App

Schoolbag is a mobile app that communicates directly to parent smart phones. It is a free app for the communication of information from school to parents. It will deliver notices directly to parents, including school events, newsletters, notes, documents and updates. It is a great way for the school to keep you up to date with what is happening at school. Also, parents can conveniently and securely submit absence notices via the app.



Download the Holy Family Skoolbag App today!!

### Staff List for 2017

KD/KK	Miss Margaret Dobrucki / Mrs Mary Kelly (AP)
KL	Miss Jenny Leano
1M	Miss Brooke Mackay
1S	Miss Katelyn Sweeney
2A	Mrs Alex Ali— <b>Literacy Coordinator</b>
2Q	Mrs Bernadette Quigley
3D	Miss Julie De Santis
3V	Mrs Cathy Vogt— <b>REC Coordinator/Sports Coordinator</b>
4C	Mrs Alison Crombie
4L	Mr Andrew Lehmann
5B	Mrs Alex Boss
5F	Mr Adam Fletcher
6A	Mrs Angela Alonzo – <b>Stage 3 Coordinator (Maths)</b>
6W	Mr James West - LTST

<b>PRINCIPAL:</b>	Mr John Spradbrow
<b>ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL:</b>	Mrs Mary Kelly
<b>R.E.C.:</b>	Mrs Cathy Vogt
<b>OFFICE FINANCE:</b>	Mrs Denise Carroll
<b>OFFICE ADMIN:</b>	Mrs Monika Cunningham
<b>TEACHER LIBRARIAN:</b>	Mrs Janet Marie
<b>LIBRARY ADMIN:</b>	Mrs Rose Ragen
<b>COUNSELLOR:</b>	Miss Rachelle Williams
<b>PARENT /HOME LIASON:</b>	Sr Katherine Tyrrell
<b>EXECUTIVE RELEASE:</b>	Mrs Lisa Powderly
<b>LEARNING SUPPORT:</b>	Miss Faith Jessell
	Mrs Melissa Slatford
	Mrs Janet Marie
<b>LITERACY/NUMERACY COACH:</b>	Mrs Debbie Long
<b>SCHOOL ASSISTANTS:</b>	Mrs Chris Cadman
	Mrs Maite Fallon
	Mrs Sue Garland
	Mrs Linda Keating
<b>ABORIGINAL ED. ASSISTANT—JARARA</b>	Mr Joel Dobbie
<b>IT SUPPORT/RELEASE:</b>	Mr James West
<b>CREATIVE ARTS:</b>	Mrs Michelle Dennis



### Library News

There are still many library books that are overdue from 2016. Please ask your children to check in their rooms, all around the house even at Nan and Pops house. If there is an issue with a book that may have been damaged or lost, please contact the library.



### PLEASE RETURN LIBRARY BOOKS



### Sports Days for 2017



<b>Kinder</b>	Friday & another day to be advised
<b>Year 1</b>	Wednesday
<b>Year 2</b>	Wednesday, Friday
<b>Year 3</b>	Tuesday, Friday
<b>Year 4</b>	Tuesday
<b>Year 5</b>	Friday, Tuesday
<b>Year 6</b>	Friday

### Welcoming Ceremony & First School Mass

We invite you to come and celebrate the start of the 2017 school year at our Welcoming Ceremony on **Friday 17th February at 10:15am**. We come together to welcome our new teachers, students and Kindergarten children to our Holy Family Community.



Everyone is also welcome to join us for our first School Mass for 2017 on **Thursday 23rd February at 9:15am**. During our Opening Mass we celebrate the new school year and we present the leaders with their badges.



Both ceremonies will take place in the Church.

**Dates for your Diary**

<b>February 15</b>	Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival
<b>17</b>	Welcoming Ceremony @ 10:15am in the Church
<b>17</b>	School Disco/Family Picnic @ 5pm
<b>23</b>	Opening Mass @ 9:15am in the Church
<b>20-24</b>	Healthy Harold Visits @ at Holy Family

**RELIGION AT HOLY FAMILY EMERTON**

Welcome all students, families and staff back to school for the 2017.

Last year we continued to embed our Holy Family Values. This will continue this year. The values and the school terms that they will be a focus are listed below.

- ◇ Respect and Compassion (Term 1)
- ◇ Responsibility and Trust (Term 2)
- ◇ Forgiveness and Respect (Term 3)
- ◇ Compassion and Forgiveness (Term 4)

These values underpin all that we do at Holy Family, now and into the future. The classroom teachers have spoken to the students about these values and they will continue to develop their classroom expectations or “Stepping Stones” with these values in mind. Please talk to your child/ren about our Holy Family Values, as they are very important to all of us.

**Dates to Remember**

**Welcoming Liturgy** - Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> February at 10.15am in the church. (To celebrate and welcome our new Kindergarten children, new families and teachers to our school.)

**Morning tea** will be provided in the school hall before the Welcoming Liturgy from 9.15am.

**Opening School Mass** – Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February and 9.15am in the church.

Mrs Cathy Vogt  
Religious Education Coordinator



