

February 2020



Dear Parents,

We hope that you and your child have happily settled into St. Monica's.

Below are some organizational issues for this year.

Administration

Each day we ask that the children bring the following items into the classroom:

- School hat- **clearly named**. Hats are left at school each night in your child's tub. If your child attends After School Care could you please include a second hat in their bag.
- Monica's Blue Book Bag - for take home books and library books.

Eating at School

We have three eating times at school; fruit at 10:00, lunch at 11:35-11:45 and snack from 1:40-1:45.

Fruit: we have a fruit break each morning at 10:00. Could your child please bring a piece of fresh fruit or veggies that are easy to manage, eg. apple, banana, grapes, carrot sticks, celery. Preserved fruit cups and fruit straps are not appropriate for fruit time, however can be eaten for snack and lunch (please include a spoon).

Could this please be in a separate container/zip bag to their lunchbox as we only have a short fruit break and it is easier for your child to get one container rather than their whole lunch box.

Lunchbox: a sandwich, roll, wrap, dry biscuits etc. as well as 1 or 2 snacks and extra fruit. Please be mindful of nut products, eggs and fish when preparing your child's lunch and snack, as we do have children with anaphylaxis to these products in our Prep classrooms. We encourage children to wash their hands after eating and would appreciate if you could have this conversation at home with your child. If your child is bringing nuts, fish or eggs to school please let us know so that we can monitor.

Drink Bottle: We ask that your child's drink bottle contain only water.

Naming of items

Please ensure that any items brought to school are clearly named. --particularly, jackets, jumpers and hats.

Supplies

Children will also need the following items:

- Art Smock - named
- 1 box of tissues for the classroom

Classroom Times

The classroom doors are opened at 8:30. We would appreciate that all children be brought into the classroom between **8:30 and 8:55** each day. We ask that the children wait at their outside door and not in the hallways or other classrooms until the teacher is ready to open the door at 8:30. As soon as they have unpacked their bag and read their new book with an adult, they are to go outside and play on the lower area.

If you and your child arrive after 9:05 you will need to sign them in at the office.

ST MONICA'S SCHOOL

91 High street, Kangaroo Flat, Victoria 3555 P.O. Box 1243, Kangaroo Flat, Victoria 3555

Telephone: (03) 5447 7832 **Facsimile:** (03) 5447 1749

Email: admin_office@smkangaroooflat.catholic.edu.au

ABN 30 477 548 549

Independence

One of the important things we work towards in the Prep Unit is helping your child to become independent with simple routines. Please allow your child to carry and unpack their own bag in the morning. This helps students to understand that there are certain things we need to do to be ready for school. When your child has done the morning jobs, they are to go outside to play.

Classroom Reading

Each morning your child will choose a new book. We encourage you to read the book with your child each morning and again at night. **We do appreciate volunteers to help with both morning reading and reading group sessions (please note volunteers for reading do need a working with children's check and to have completed the induction with Reuben).** Your assistance can be on a set day or any time when you are able to help out. We will go through the procedure with you.

Teacher Reading Your child will read to their teacher at least once a week – this will be on the same day that they have their sharing. On this day, could your child please be at school as early as possible.

Home Learning

Beginning Monday Feb 03rd your child will bring home a reader and a list of high frequency words. As part of your evening routine, please look through the book with your child discussing what you can see in the pictures, read the story to them, and then listen to them read the text. We then encourage your child to practise recognising, reading and finding their list words in text.

The more 'high frequency words' your child can read, the greater the chance of being a competent reader, however please remember that all children learn at different stages and in different ways and may need to have their word lists for more than one week.

Show and Tell

Each week your child will have an opportunity to talk to the class about a designated topic (included on separate note). The topics are aligned with our Inquiry Unit. **Please allow your child time to prepare and practise at home.** When it is Free Choice we prefer that the children do not bring expensive, precious belongings and that they realise these items need to stay in their bags in the classroom.

Arts and Languages:

Each Wednesday, from March the 11th, children will have Art with Mrs Lucy Spalding, Music with Miss Bree McAlpine and Indonesian through Drama with Mr Darcy Haintz.

Students will also have Health/Physical Education with Mr Darcy Haintz each week.

Library

Once a week your child will go to the Library where they listen to a story, read independently and borrow a book to take home.

Library Day: **Prep B** - Wednesday **Prep F** - Tuesday **Prep M** - Thursday

Books need to be returned the day before Library day or else children will be unable to borrow a new book.

We encourage the children to regularly participate in this practice of borrowing and enjoying a variety of picture storybooks.

Sport Uniform

ST MONICA'S SCHOOL

91 High street, Kangaroo Flat, Victoria 3555 P.O. Box 1243, Kangaroo Flat, Victoria 3555

Telephone: (03) 5447 7832 **Facsimile:** (03) 5447 1749

Email: admin_office@smkangaroooflat.catholic.edu.au

ABN 30 477 548 549

Children will need to wear their sports uniform on:

Prep B Tuesday and Wednesday

Prep F Monday and Thursday

Prep M Monday and Friday weeks 2-6 and then Wednesday and Friday thereafter

Toys

We have a schoolwide policy of children not bringing toys to school. This helps to prevent children becoming anxious and upset when they lose a toy or it gets broken or damaged..

Birthdays

When it is a child's birthday they are allowed to wear casual clothes (if your child's birthday falls in the holidays your child may choose to celebrate just before, or just after, the holidays). If your child is giving out invitations to a party, please give them to the teacher so that they can be discreetly given out. If you wish to bring food for your child to share on his/her birthday, please keep it simple eg freddo frog, lolly pop, small cup cake (please be aware of food allergies).

'I need to talk to you'

We realise that, along the way, you will have questions about your child's schooling and progress. We like to think we are very approachable so please see us if you have any questions or problems. Mornings are a very busy time so if you need to see us about your child, an appointment will need to be made.

We use a platform called Class Dojo at Saint Monicas. This is an electronic messaging service that allows us to message all parents at the same time or individually. It is a great way for us to communicate with you about your child and things that are happening at school and for you to respond to us with messages and simple questions.

We will talk more about this at our Prep Information session on Thursday the 6th of February at 3:30.

Lunch Orders

Canteen is open on Thursdays, 1st break, and on Fridays, both breaks. Children order their lunch on a Thursday and eat it on Friday. You will need to send other food for snacks as well!

Assembly

Assembly is held in the Jaara Centre, commencing at 2:45 on "even" weeks.

Therefore our first assembly will be Week 2, Monday, February 4th.

Home Time

We ask that you please wait outside the classrooms at 3:30 and we will bring the children out to you.

We will wait with your child until you arrive.

- If, at any time, you are running considerably late, please contact the office. Your child will wait in the office area.

If you ever have any queries please feel free to ask before or after school. If more time is required, we will make an appointment. It is very important to air concerns or clarify issues.

Kind Regards,

Angela, Kate and Eliza

ST MONICA'S SCHOOL

91 High street, Kangaroo Flat, Victoria 3555 P.O. Box 1243, Kangaroo Flat, Victoria 3555

Telephone: (03) 5447 7832 **Facsimile:** (03) 5447 1749

Email: admin_office@smkangaroooflat.catholic.edu.au

ABN 30 477 548 549