



Thursday, 27 January 2022

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back and a special welcome to new families and staff joining St Francis Xavier for the first time.

As we start the school year, creating a welcoming learning environment is an important attribute that we can all contribute to.

It is fairly easy to articulate practical examples of how we welcome students. Greeting children by name, having names on class hooks, access to class resources, community circles are just a few.

But as adults, schools can be daunting places. How do we make our learning community a place where every person feels valued and has a shared sense of belonging? By no means is it easy, however, I encourage parents to be courageous and introduce themselves or welcome a new family. A friendly smile or a simple introduction can break down barriers and create a common bond that strengthens our school community.

I also encourage parents to contact teachers and introduce themselves early in the school year. Developing positive relationships and establishing partnerships enables consistent teaching approaches to be shared. When school and home communicate effectively, successful outcomes for learning can be achieved.

Email is the preferred way to communicate with teaching staff. When communicating, be aware that a teacher's priority is teaching. A response may not be received immediately or outside of school contact hours. If communication is urgent, parents are asked to phone the school office.

SeeSaw is used to share school celebrations and student information.

To support parents and teachers to develop relationships, an Open Family Fun Night is scheduled on Friday 11th February from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm. This is an informal way to meet teachers and develop relationships with other parents. A range of family activities will be held on the school oval.

A degree of uncertainty still exists as we start the school year. Regardless, our collective commitment to the wellbeing of our staff, children and wider community remains our focus. This will ensure St Francis Xavier continues to provide quality teaching and learning experiences for all students.

I look forward to meeting all families as the year commences.

Ben Doyle

Principal

Additional Information

COVID-19 Drop Off and Pick Up

Uncertainty continues to surround processes in schools as COVID-19 evolves. Our focus will be to maintain safety for staff, students and parents whilst providing an exemplary education.

At this stage, parents will be able to drop children off and enter classrooms on the first day of school if required. This should be brief. Wishing your child the best, letting them know that you will see them at the end of the school day and saying I love you. Whilst on school grounds parents should comply with State Government health requirements. This includes mask-wearing, social distancing and healthy hygiene habits.

Additional staff will be available at the front of the school to welcome children.

Parents will be able to access the Early Childhood Centre at the conclusion of the day to collect their children.

All visitors, late arrivals or departures for appointments must be processed through the administration as per previous years.

Uniform and Grooming

A high standard of dress and grooming is essential to reflect the personal standards required of a student at Saint Francis Xavier. As parents, supporting these standards was agreed upon when you accepted a position at St Francis Xavier. I Thank you for your assistance with this - your support will set the tone for the other students. The uniform expectations can be found:

<https://sfx.wa.edu.au/uniform/>

Code of Conduct

St Francis Xavier expects all members of our community to treat each other with respect and dignity in all interactions. Our school Code of Conduct describes the minimum standard of behaviour to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone. The Code of Conduct applies to all parents, guardians, volunteers, visitors, staff and students. As we commence the school year, I ask all members of our community to familiarise and commit to these behaviours: <https://sfx.wa.edu.au/policies/>

Bell Change

Research shows that optimal learning occurs in the morning. As a result, changes to the school bell have been developed to support student learning. The morning teaching blocks have been extended with lunch commencing at 1:05. Crunch and sip will continue to ensure students have access to healthy snacks during morning learning blocks. All students require a labelled water bottle.