



St Finbar's Primary School

Faith, Truth, Knowledge



Newsletter | Term 4 Week 2 | 24 October 2019

Dear Families,



From the Assistant Principal

We started this term by opening our long awaited Sensory Garden. This new play space offers students a new multi sensory playground to access during break times. The space is also used during the school day, to provide students with a learning environment that gives them access to a variety of aromas, textures, colours, noises, physical activities and shapes.

This garden environment was designed with the purpose of stimulating the senses. From the feedback, students have provided this week, we have certainly achieved our goal.





We would like to thank the Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Parramatta, for their project management and funding of the space. This was a collaborative project that involved numerous staff members, who worked together with the project team and builders to create a beautiful new space.

We currently have a few staff members that are on leave. Mrs Southern will return in Week 3 of this term. She has been on leave for the first 2 weeks of term to support her eldest son manage the trials and tribulations of the HSC. Mrs Clarke was on leave for Week 1. She has unfortunately returned from her leave with an illness that has meant she will not return until Week 3. Mr Sharp has also taken leave to complete the extension of his new family home and will return on Monday of Week 3.

I ask that all families please ensure their children are attending school with their school hat. As the heat increases, we need to ensure the children are protected from the sun. Children who do not have a hat, during break times, will be directed to sit in the seated shaded areas. Sun screen is also available in each learning space, if your child wishes to apply this before break times as well.

Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal

Confirming Enrolments for 2020

If you have decided that your child/ren will not be returning to St Finbar's in 2020, we request that you let the school office know as soon as possible. We note that ten weeks notice is required prior to departure in order to avoid being billed for Term 1, 2020 school fees.

We have a waiting list of students who are hoping to transfer to our school next year, and it would be good to arrange final class groupings before the end of the year.

Mrs Clarke would be happy to meet with any parents to discuss students transferring to another school in order to ensure a smooth transition process for them.



NEWS FROM OUR PARISH

All Saints Children's Hero Party Thursday 31st October

St Finbar's Parish are hosting a celebration of the lives of our passed Saints and heroes, who inspire us all. Instead of scary, spooky Halloween costumes, come along dressed as your favourite, most meaningful Saint or hero and enjoy a fun, positive celebration.



WHEN: Thursday 31st October **TIME:** 5.15pm-7.15pm **WHERE:** Parish Hall

There will be fun activities, games, treats and time to meet other families within the parish. Dinner will be served at 6.30pm.

There is no cost, however for catering purposes please RSVP by **Monday 28th October** to Kristina on 0456 449 285 to confirm the number of adults and children attending.

St Finbar's Parish Christmas Eve Vigil

Last year, many families from our school came together at our parish Christmas Eve Vigil to celebrate the joyous birth of Jesus. Students dressed as figures representative of the scene of the nativity, including angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph and the three wise men.

We invite our students and families to do the same this Christmas Eve. Students are asked to arrive in dress and meet Mrs Brown at the back of the church. Here, they will each be given a candle that they will place by the crib in the church's nativity scene, after communion. Please extend the invitation to cousins, friends and neighbours, as we join together in celebrating the spirit, meaning and miracle of Christmas.

Christmas Eve Vigil commences at 6pm.

Parish Mass every Tuesday

Throughout the term, each class joins St Finbar's parish community for Mass, on a Tuesday at 9am. Please note the date your child's class will be attending mass this term. We warmly invite all parents and parishioners to join us. Parents are invited to sit with their children during Parish Mass.



Year 1 & 2	Year 5	Kindergarten	Year 3	Year 4
29th October Week 3	5th November Week 4	19th November Week 6	26th November Week 7	3rd December Week 8

Junior Altar Server Reminder

A reminder to our Junior Altar Servers to check your roster to see if you are serving at the next Parish Mass. A roster is also on display in the COSHC window.

Dates for your diary

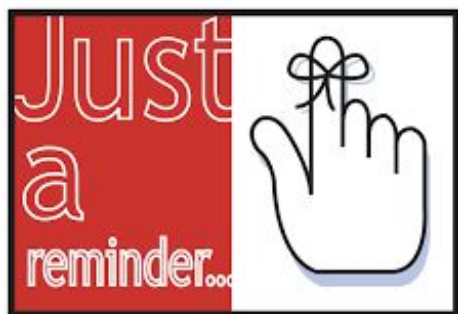


- **All Saints Day Mass** Friday 1st November 9.15am (Please note the date has been changed since the last newsletter. Sorry for any inconvenience)
- **Remembrance Day Service** Monday 11th November 10.45am
- St Finbar's Parish **Sacrament of First Holy Communion** Sunday 24th November 9.30am
- **St Finbar's Christmas Concert** Monday 9th December 6.00pm
- **Year 6 Graduation & End of Year Mass** Monday 16th December 9.15am

Yours in faith,

Leanne Brown
Religious Education Coordinator

Important Reminders



- **Check your Skoolbag App.** If you are having trouble with it, try refreshing the app by uninstalling and re-installing. Check your notification settings in the app and on your phone. You will find we are sending more information home via Skoolbag rather than paper notes. It is important that your Skoolbag app is working efficiently so that you don't miss any key information.

- Now is a good time to think about placing **uniform orders** with [The School Locker](#). Orders may take a week or two to come in and this will avoid any panic during the school holidays. Keep in mind delivery to St Finbar's is free.

- **Remember** to check your child has a hat and a water bottle each day. If your child is allergic to sunscreen please let us know.



Sport Update

Each term, St Finbar's participates in CEDP Gala Days. These gala days are offered to Stage 2 and 3 students, so students in Kinder and Stage 1 should know that there opportunity to attend these days is not to far away. This term we will be participating in the Basketball and Gymnastics Gala Days. Our intention, for all gala days, is to try and provide students with access to a new experience under the mission of fun and team building. Where possible we will send as many teams as we can to give all students access to these events. On some occasions, we are limited by the number of teams we can send.

This term we will be sending 5 teams to the Basketball Gala Day and a team of 10 gymnasts to the Gymnastics Gala Day. As the Gymnastics Gala Day is conducted for school teams of either 10 or 30, we have had to hold trials for this day. We are only able to send 10 gymnasts and will have a qualified gym coach conducting the trials for us.

Dates To Remember

Monday 29 October Whole School Assembly 2:10pm in the Parish Hall Kinder Presenting	Monday 4 November Open Tour For new enrolment enquiries 9:30am	Monday 11 November Remembrance Day Prayer Service 10:45am
Wednesday 30 October Basketball Gala Day P & F AGM	Friday 8 November Kinder 2020 Orientation 9:15am	Thursday 14 November Gymnastics Gala Day
Friday 1st November 9:15am - All Saints Mass Stage 2	Friday 8 November <u>Bush Dance</u> in the evening	Monday 18 November Whole School Assembly 2:10pm in the Parish Hall

[View School Calendar](#)



Strings Tuition

Expression of Interest for Co-Curricular String Lessons for 2020 - Years 3 to 6 only.

At St Finbar's we offer group strings tuition to Years 3 to 6 with our own highly professional specialist teachers. We are seeking expressions of interest for our 2020 classes.

Lessons are available in groups of 4 to 6. Cost per student per term for a 30 minute lesson each week (minimum of 8 lessons per term) is \$110.00. Tuition Fees will be charged to your School Fee Account.

If your child is interested in attending these classes please complete the attached [form](#) as soon as possible and return it to the school office. We need to have an idea of the number of students interested in Strings lessons before the end of Term.

Thank you
Mrs Denham



Extended Leave Applications for Students

As you know it is very important that children attend school every day. Quite often leave is requested by parents for various reasons. While we understand that this may be necessary sometimes, it is not encouraged as every school day is important for every child.

If you intend taking your child out of school for **five days or more** you must make a formal application in writing to the Principal and fill out an application for extended leave which is available from the school office. Each application will be considered on an individual basis and could depend on circumstances such as the intention for the leave, your child's attendance, and the impact the leave may have on your child's academic progress.

These regulations are in place to make sure that your child achieves to his/her full potential and we know you will understand the reasoning behind them.

Thank you for your understanding. Please contact the office if you require Leave Forms.



COSHC 2020 Enrolment Form

The 2020 Enrolment form for COSHC is now available [here](#). If you require before and after school care for your child, please complete the enrolment form and return it to COSHC **as soon as possible**.

Forms can be returned via email to coshcstfinbars@parra.catholic.edu.au or alternatively they can be dropped into the school office.

The enrolment form needs to be completed and provided with a copy of your child's birth certificate, medical immunisation statement and both parent ID's. If your child has a medical condition, please provide a letter of diagnosis from the relevant Doctor and also a current Action Plan.

Keep in mind that places are limited, so it is a good idea to return your forms early.

Online Safety for Parents and Carers

As parents and carers you know your child better than anyone and have the best opportunity to support and guide them to have safer online experiences.

This guide covers some of the key online safety issues for young people and includes a range of practical tips and advice on what to do if things go wrong. You can also find a list of important services that can offer extra support.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice>

School Office and Parish News

From The Office

Reminder: When returning permission notes for an event, please send money in with the note if applicable.

Reminder: Check your child's jackets, jumpers, hats to ensure they are labelled and that they have their own belongings, not someone else's.

Parish News

[Click this link to read The Parish Barra](#)

Sunday Masses:

Vigil - 5.30pm Saturday evening
7.30am & 9.30am Sunday morning
6pm Family/Youth - First and Third Sunday evenings (except Jan)

Weekday Masses:

Monday: 9am **Tuesday:** 9am **Wednesday:** 8am
Thursday: 9am (except third Thursday - see Anointing Mass)
Friday: 9am
Saturday: 9am

Reconciliation: Saturday evening - 4.45 - 5.15pm, or any time on request

Rosary in Honour of Our Lady: Usually after Wednesday morning Mass.

Anointing Mass: Usually third Thursday of the month at 10am (except January)

Adoration & Benediction: Usually after Friday morning Mass.





Announcements and Services

St Finbar's Playgroup

Attention Parents/Grandparents/Carers

St Finbar's Playgroup for 0-5 year olds meets each Wednesday in the Parish Hall (Levy St) 9:15am till 11:30am during school term dates. Please bring a piece of fruit to share and a gold coin donation. Tea and coffee and morning tea provided. Please come and join us for a play and meet other families. For more information please contact Gabrielle Lynch on 0481150022.



SAVE THE DATE!
FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER

6:00PM TO 8:30PM

REMEMBER TO RSVP VIA THE SKOOLBAG APP

BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

EVERYONE WELCOME!

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



The parents and school staff of St Finbar's Catholic School are encouraged and are most welcome to attend the **Blue Mountains Catholic Community Forum** as part of the **Plenary 2020** process.

This forum is not a repeat of the forums we had last year and early this year but this is a part of the second phase, the listening and discernment phase. We will be using a traditional discernment process in small groups. At the forum we will be considering and discerning the most common responses that made up a large part of the 18,000 responses to the first phase. The object of this forum is to hand on our results to the Plenary Council. Participants will have some choice as to which themes they can reflect upon. The Plenary Council has divided the findings into six overarching themes.

Missionary and Evangelising

Inclusive Participatory and Synodal

Prayerful and Eucharistic

Humble Healing and Merciful

A joyful, hope-filled Servant Community

Open to Conversion, Renewal and Reform



The members of the Catholic school community are considered by the Blue Mountains Deanery as key members of the local Catholic community. Therefore their participation in the discernment process is vital to the future of the Catholic Church reforms in Australia and especially in our diocese.

Our forum will be held on

Sunday 24th November at 2pm at St Thomas School Hall Springwood

"Many lay people are freed and invigorated when they feel we clerics are genuinely listening and are inviting them to participate in an adult way. They love their church and want to be involved and have their say. They have theological and pastoral insights that don't occur to us, the clerics" *Fr Noel Connelly*



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 **Parent Line NSW**
1300 1300 52

[Parentline.org.au](https://parentline.org.au)



Information for Parents of Children Transitioning to Primary or High School

[Transitioning to Primary School Newsletter](#)

[Transitioning to High School Newsletter](#)