Dear Foundation Families,

Welcome to Foundation Stage!
It is wonderful getting to know your children and watching them settle into the school routine.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead and working with you.

**Dates for your diary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13th &amp; Tuesday 14th March</td>
<td>SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 1st March</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Mass 9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 16th February</td>
<td>Meet the Teacher Students finish at 1.50 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 10th February</td>
<td>Start of Year Mass 9.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 28th February</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday Breakfast 7.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 31st March</td>
<td>LAST DAY OF TERM 1! Mass 9.15am</td>
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<td>Students Dismissed 1.50pm</td>
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# Foundation Timetable for Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Sport (Sports Uniform)</td>
<td>Italian with Mrs Sirianni</td>
<td>P.E with Mrs Allen (Sports Uniform)</td>
<td>Library FG + FI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly at 2.55pm (Finish at 3.30pm)</td>
<td>Visual Art with Mrs Poulter</td>
<td>Music Mrs Bouras</td>
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ART – Art Smocks are left at school throughout the year.
LIBRARY- Please bring back your library bag and books to change.

## Faith Life

We aim to develop the children’s ‘life-long’ learning skills through our Faith Life topic.

This term our topic is “Who Am I?” and we will be investigating our own individual place within our home, church and school community. We will be looking at how we can develop our values of faith, care, respect and compassion for ourselves and others, within our community.

We will also develop our knowledge and skills, show respect and concern for others, and become familiar with our classroom and school rules.
Literacy

In Foundation, we have a daily literacy block and during this time we focus on oral language, phonics, reading and writing knowledge and skills.

Phonics - Our main focus in Term 1 will be the introduction, development and consolidation of letters and sounds. The children will take part in daily activities to support their understanding of how to use phonetics in their reading, writing and spelling.

Reading at home is a very important way to consolidate and practise literacy learning that has occurred at school and is important for effective reading habits. Favourite stories from home, home readers and library books from school are encouraged to be regularly read together. Discuss the book and encourage your child to develop their ideas and opinions from the text. Most of all, enjoy this time together. You are your child’s first and best model for reading practice, and sharing a love of reading is a great gift you can give your child.

More information and suggestions will be available during our Foundation Parent Information Night.

We will also be working on basic communication conventions, such as good listening, facing the speaker, taking turns, listening without interrupting and asking questions when appropriate. Please support your child by practising this at home.

CAFÉ reading at St Finbar’s

In our classroom we will use the structure of CAFÉ to focus on reading strategies. Our CAFÉ board will show the four strategies we will focus on.

C - Comprehension
A - Accuracy
F - Fluency
E - Exploring Vocabulary

As we learn skills for each strategy, we will add them to our CAFÉ chart.

The children all have their own CAFÉ reading book boxes in their lockers. These boxes have books that your child has selected including interest books from the library, ‘good fit’ books which they can read independently and favourite books from home. The children will practise to read quietly every day using books from their CAFÉ book box. They will also practise with a partner sharing the information from a text, expanding their vocabulary and improving their comprehension.
Mathematics

This term we will be exploring many concepts related to number and counting.

Number activities will include:
The children will connect number names, record numerals and estimate and count quantities initially up to 10 and then beyond.
They will match individual objects with counting sequences up to and back from 20.
They will use counting strategies to solve problems that involve comparing, combining and separating sets of objects to 10/20.

Measurement & Geometry
The children will connect days of the week and months of the year to sequence familiar events.
We will be developing their understanding of the language of time based on days of the week and months of the year.

Statistics & Probability
The children will sort familiar categorical data into sets and use these to answer yes / no questions and make simple true / false statements about the data.

During our Mathematic lessons students are encouraged to use concrete materials and work independently, in pairs or small groups to solve open ended mathematical problems, this encourages discussion and collaborative thinking, which allows for the consolidation of understanding of concepts and the development of vocabulary.

Social and Emotional Learning:

This term the children in Foundation will be introduced to a resilience program called ‘Bounce Back’. This program is taught throughout the school. We will be focusing on strategies that the children can use to ‘Bounce Back’ from any difficulties.

This Term we will be focusing on ‘Relationships’. This unit will have an emphasis on:
  * Getting along well with others and making new friends
  * Thinking about other people’s feelings
  * Playing fairly
  * Having good friends and being good friends
  * Finding solutions to problems.

We would encourage you to use this language at home and discuss this program with your child.

Kids Matter
Australian Primary Schools Mental Health Initiative

KidsMatter Primary is a flexible, whole-school approach to children’s mental health and wellbeing for primary schools. It works both on its own and as an umbrella under which our existing programs can comfortably fit. KidsMatter Primary provides the proven methods, tools and support to help schools, parents and carers, health services and the wider community nurture happy and balanced kids.
Routines and Punctuality

Routines:
- We welcome your support and assistance at both home and school. Please continue to establish and develop a routine at home, which will help your child settle into school life, such as, going to bed at the appropriate time and packing their own school bag in the morning.
- Please encourage your child to carry their own bag and put their bag on the line when they arrive at school. Please remind your child to bring their reading pouch each day and to hand in their reading diary on their allocated morning.
- Lunches: As there are children who have specific food allergies in our classrooms, it is necessary to note that we aspire for our classrooms to be Nut, Nut Product, Seafood and Fish Free.
- DRINKS AND BRAIN FOOD: Your child needs to bring a labelled drink bottle to school everyday for frequent hydration. This is most important on Sport Days, and we ask that water is provided in drink bottles. We encourage all children to have a small named container of ‘Brain Food’ (cut up fruit or vegetables ONLY) to help them focus during class time.
- Tuckshop orders – if your child is ordering a lunch from the tuck shop please encourage him/her to place their order in the tub in the classroom.

Punctuality
- It is imperative that your child arrives at school by 8:45am. Meditation begins at 8.50am and if your child is late please go to the office to receive a late slip.
- If your child is absent from school, an email or phone call to the office and the classroom teacher is required that day
- Our school policy is that students who arrive prior to 8:30am are to be booked into OSHC.
- If for any reason you need to collect your child early from school, please sign out an ‘early leave pass’ at the office.

Star of the Week
Each week a child from the class will be chosen as our class “Star of the Week”. Their name will be published in the newsletter the week before. Your child will be acknowledged at assembly on Monday afternoon. Please join us to celebrate this achievement.
Things to remember…

**SCHOOL UNIFORM** – Full correct school uniform to be worn each day, except on Sports Day.

**Clothing/Belongings**
- Please label hats, jumpers and all clothing clearly with your child’s name. All lunch boxes/water bottles are to be labelled (including the very small boxes and their lids that go inside the lunch boxes).
- In case of an accident, please have a spare pair of underwear in a labelled zip-lock bag in your child’s school bag.

**SUNSCREEN** – Each child needs to apply their own daily if required.

**HAIR** – Please ensure long hair is tied back each day using navy clip and hair ties only. Please continue to check your child’s hair frequently for nits/lice.

**BIRTHDAYS** – If your child is celebrating a birthday and you would like to provide treats for the children in your child’s class, we suggest lemonade icy poles or a fruit platter. Birthday invitations should be emailed or handed directly to parents to avoid disappointment.

**PARENT HELPERS**: As of Term 2 we will be starting PMP on Monday mornings and would love as many helpers as possible. A roster will be sent home at the end of Term 1. Classroom helpers will begin towards the end of Term 2 – more information to follow.

Please ensure that you have given your valid Working with Children information to Yvette at the School Office.

Please feel free to contact us either via email or by making an appointment to meet with us if you have any questions or queries. Please note that we will be unavailable to meet on a Tuesday afternoon due to staff meeting.

*igreenway@sfbrightoneast.catholic.edu.au*

*cireland@sfbrightoneast.catholic.edu.au*

We look forward to working with you and your children throughout this term.

Charlotte and Irene