

Wednesday 5th February

Beginning of the Year Whole school mass 9.15-10.00am Church

Thursday 6th February

Uniform shop open 9.00-9.30am

Friday 7th February

Whole School Swimming Carnival 9.00am-3.20pm.

Preps dismissed from Gisborne Aquatic Centre at 1.30pm all other students dismissed from Aquatic Centre at 3.20pm

Sunday 9th February

Parish picnic and staff Commissioning mass 10.30am-12.30
St Patricks church Macedon

Monday 10th February

Preps commence full days 8.50 - 3.20pm

Wednesday 12th February

No School for preps

Middle BG mass 9.15am church

Thursday 13th February

Welcome BBQ 6.00-8.00pm
With Footsteps Dance Company presentation

Friday 14th February

Assembly run by Senior AB 2.45-3.20pm hall

Monday 17th February

Preps in 8.50am - 3.20pm (each day except Wednesday)

Wednesday 19th February

No School for preps

Middle SK Mass 9.15am church

Friday 21st February

Assembly Auskick AFL Victoria visit - Run by Senior MP 2.45pm hall

Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year. Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me. Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends. Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year.

Amen

Welcome

Welcome to 2020 and the beginning of a new school year. I pray that everyone has had a refreshing and safe break and you are feeling excited about the coming year.

A special welcome to our new Prep families and to those who join us in other levels. I know that our caring community will be extending a warm welcome to each and every one.

We also welcome new staff members - Nicole Lunn (Junior), Stephanie Briggs (Middle), Tracey Hartshorne (Junior ESO) and Liam Burley (Grounds Maintenance)

We will also be working on a regular basis with Vanessa Willis and look forward to working together and building on our excellent student directed learning.

Our mantra for 2020 is - **Ignite the Passion**, which once again comes from our school vision.

It is so exciting to be starting 2020 with new goals, dreams and hopes, so together let us ignite the passion to grow and learn.

Coronavirus

Please see attached letter on page 4 outlining the most recent update; authorised and published by the Victorian Government - Department of Health and Human Services, January 2020.

Continues over the page...



SunSmart Policy

I have attached our most recent Sunsmart Policy which outlines the expectation that students come to school with sunscreen already applied at home. Sunscreen will be available in learning areas for students to reapply before outdoor activities. Any student who needs specific sunscreen due to allergies is to provide it to the homeroom class teacher. Please note recent Catholic Education Office advise that schools are to extend the 'wearing of a hat requirement' to include all of terms 1 and 4, April and September and any other day when the UV level is over 3. Students are therefore required to have their hat at school at all times. The policy also encourages the wearing of sunglasses - which must be labelled with the student's name. To check UV levels you can download the SunSmart App from the App store.

Welcome BBQ and Footsteps Dance Presentation

Come and join us for our beginning of the year *Welcome BBQ and Dance Presentation* Thursday evening February 13th. Sausage sizzle provided.

Parish Feast Day Picnic

Please join us for our Parish Feast Day Picnic and staff commissioning Mass at St Patrick's Macedon on Sunday, February 9th. We will commence with mass at 10:30 am and follow with a sausage sizzle. Staff from St Brigid's and Holy Cross will be attending. Hope you can join us.

Thank You

from the Gisborne Caring Community Foodbank for the wonderful contributions from the St Brigid's Catholic Learning Community at Christmas time.

Blessings to all.

Maree



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Conveyance Allowance - Are you eligible??

The Conveyance Allowance is a form of financial assistance to help families in rural and regional Victoria with the cost of transporting their children to their nearest appropriate school/campus. The Conveyance Allowance is available to eligible students travelling by public transport, private car and private bus. The Conveyance Allowance is also available to eligible students whose nearest school is not serviced by a free school bus.

Eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria varies depending on the type of school attended and where it is located.

Students attending a government or non-government school must:

- * attend their nearest government or non-government school/campus appropriate to their year level at which admission is permissible
- * be enrolled at a school/campus outside Melbourne's metropolitan conveyance boundary
- * reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school/campus attended or bus stop
- * be of school age (5 to 18 years old at time of application) and reside in Victoria.

Students attending a government or non-government specialist school or Department-recognised special setting must:

- * attend their nearest government or non-government specialist school or Department-recognised special setting
- * reside 4.8km or more by the shortest practicable route from that school/campus attended or bus stop
- * reside within the Designated Transport Area (DTA) for the government specialist school attended (applicable to government students only)
- be of school age (5 to 18 years old at time of application) and reside in Victoria.

Payment amounts

Depending on how a student travels to school, an eligible student may be granted a conveyance allowance based on:

- * the least expensive public transport fares; and/or
- * a distance based allowance when travel is by private car and/or private bus.

**Application forms are available from the School Office.
Applications close for Term 1 on Tuesday 3rd March**



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31st January 2020

Dear parents and carers

The safety and care of your children is paramount to me and our school community.

I am writing to you following new advice from the Australian and Victorian governments regarding the novel coronavirus.

All children who have travelled to Hubei Province of China, are advised to stay at home and avoid public settings, including attendance at schools and early learning centres, until 14 days after last being in Hubei province, China. This applies to any and all students even if they do not show any symptoms of the virus.

Children who are well and have travelled to other provinces in China, or any other areas where there have been reported cases, are **NOT** recommended to be excluded from schools unless the following applies:

- The person is a confirmed case of novel coronavirus
- The person is a close contact with a confirmed case of novel coronavirus in the past 14 days

If you think your child is showing any relevant symptoms of the novel corona virus, please call the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to discuss further actions on 1300 651 160.

This advice is also being provided to teachers and other school staff to ensure we mitigate any risks associated with the spread of the virus.

Attached is a factsheet provided by the Victorian Government providing advice and information about the novel coronavirus, including what actions to take if your child is feeling unwell following travel to the Hubei province, and practical steps to avoid the spread of the virus.

You can also access further information and updates from the following websites:

- For Victorian updates to the current incident, go to: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/novelcoronavirus>
- For national updates: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/latest-information-about-novel-coronavirus>
- For international updates: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>
- WHO resources <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

In circumstances like these, there can understandably be a lot of concern and uncertainty about the safety of your child. Please know that I am available to discuss your concerns with you, and will provide any revised advice to you as soon as it becomes available.

Regards
Maree Morris



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Last updated 29 January 2020

An outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was detected in Wuhan, China in late December 2019. Cases have been reported predominantly in the city of Wuhan, in the Hubei province of China, as well as some other Chinese cities and countries, including two confirmed cases in Victoria, Australia.

What is this virus?

Coronaviruses can make humans and animals sick. Some coronaviruses can cause illness similar to the common cold and others can cause more serious diseases, including Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

The virus seen in Hubei Province, China is called 'novel' because it is new. It has not been detected before this outbreak. Most people infected live in, or travelled to, Hubei Province, China. There have been cases of 2019-nCoV reported in other Chinese provinces and other countries. It is likely that the virus originally came from an animal, and there is now evidence that it can spread from person-to-person.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms can include fever, cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath. Symptoms can take up to 14 days to develop.

What if my child is well, and returning to school after being in Hubei province, China or other countries with cases in the last 14 days?

All students and staff members who have travelled to Hubei Province, China, are advised to stay at home and avoid public settings, including attendance at schools and early learning centres, until 14 days after last being in Hubei province, China.

Children and staff who are well and have travelled to **other provinces in China, or any other areas where there have been reported cases, are NOT recommended to be excluded from schools and child care services unless the following applies:**

- The person is a confirmed case of novel coronavirus
- The person is a close contact with a confirmed case of novel coronavirus in the past 14 days



What if my child feels sick now or within 14 days of being in Hubei Province, China or another part of China?

- If your child has a cough, sore throat or shortness of breath, they must be excluded from school and be reviewed by a doctor.
- Seek medical attention but first place a mask on the student if you have one and call the doctor or hospital before you attend. Tell them your child has been in Hubei province, China, or the location of travel within China.
- When you get to the hospital or doctor's clinic, tell them where your child has travelled in China and whether this included Hubei Province. Ensure a mask is placed on your child before or as soon as you arrive at the medical facility.

If your child has severe symptoms, such as shortness of breath:

- Call 000 and request an ambulance, and
- Inform the paramedics where your child has been in China.

How can I help prevent the spread of 2019-nCoV?

Practising good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defence. The most important actions are:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow

Where can I get more information?

For Victorian updates to the current incident, go to: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/novelcoronavirus>

For national updates: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/latest-information-about-novel-coronavirus>

For international updates: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

WHO resources <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>



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Version 0.2	Date of Next Review: <u>September 2021</u>	

Sun Smart

Rationale:

St Brigid's Primary School Gisborne accepts its responsibility for ensuring a school environment that is Sun Smart. This is a broad ranging responsibility including education of students, parents and staff about the many ways that sun protection can be achieved, developed and promoted throughout the school. The school recognises that it is essential to develop positive, lifelong attitudes towards sun protection at an early age.

A healthy balance of ultra violet radiation (UV) exposure is important for health. Too much of the sun's UV can cause sunburn, skin damage and skin cancer. Over exposure to UV during childhood and adolescence is a major factor in determining future skin cancer risk. Too little UV from the sun can lead to low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is necessary for the development and maintenance of healthy bones and muscles, and for general health.

Aims:


The aim of the Sun Smart Policy is to provide procedures which will enhance the knowledge of the sun's effect on our lives, and the practices that assist in a healthy lifestyle when exposed to the effect of the sun.

Objectives:

This Sun Smart Policy has been developed to:

- Ensure all students and staff get some UV for vitamin D
- Encourage the entire school community to use a combination of sun protection measures whenever UV Index levels reach 3 and above to minimise skin and eye damage and skin cancer risk
- Work towards a safe school environment that provides shade for students, staff and the school community at appropriate times
- Assist students to be responsible for their own sun protection
- Ensure that families and new staff are informed of the school's SunSmart policy. Staff are encouraged to access the SunSmart UV Alert at www.sunsmart.com.au from September to April in Victoria.




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Implementation:

When average UV Index levels reach 3 and above, a combination of sun protection measures are used whenever outdoors

- Promote Sun Smart initiatives throughout the school community.
- Make the wearing of Legionnaires hats, bucket style or broad brimmed hats that shade the face, neck and ears from September to the end of April, compulsory.
- Students who do not have appropriate hats or outdoor clothing are asked to play in the shade or a suitable area protected from the sun. **'No hat - No play'**
- Implement a uniform policy that recognises sun protection factors.
- Sun protective clothing is included in our school uniform, dress code and sports uniform. School clothing is cool, loose fitting and made of densely woven fabric. It includes shirts with collars and longer sleeves, longer style dresses and shorts and rash vests or t shirts for outdoor swimming.
- All parents are encouraged to apply or have their child apply sunscreen prior to coming to school and teach their children the correct way to reapply sunscreen during the day
- The school will provide access to SPF 30 + sunscreen for members of the school community when at school or on school activities. Those students with allergies to sunscreen must provide their own sunscreen if the one provided is not suitable for their use.
- Expect staff and parents to comply with school Sun Protection initiatives when working with the children
- Where possible, schedule outdoor activities in shaded areas and at times that are low Ultraviolet Radiation (UVR)
- Provide natural and artificial shading for children in a variety of areas around the school.
- The availability of shade is considered when planning excursions and all other outdoor activities
- Students are encouraged to use available areas of shade when outside
- Provide alternative indoor play areas on days of extreme heat at the direction of the principal/deputy. Therefore, no school outdoor PE on those days and the hall is used as an alternative
- On days of extreme heat, the children will not be permitted to play outside for long periods of time. An Extreme Weather Program will be called and children will stay indoors wherever possible



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- Families and visitors are encouraged to use a combination of sun protection measures (sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and shade) when participating in and attending outdoor school activities
- Regularly reinforce Sun Smart behaviours in a positive way through newsletters, excursion planning as well as student and teacher activities.
- Ensure that the Sun Smart policy is reflected in the planning of all outdoor events (e.g. camps, excursions, sporting events)
- *Sunglasses [optional]*

Students and staff are encouraged to wear close fitting, wrap-around sunglasses that meet the Australian Standard 1067 (Sunglasses: Category 2, 3 or 4) and cover as much of the eye area as possible

- SunSmart behaviour is regularly reinforced and promoted to the whole school community through newsletters, staff meetings, school assemblies, student and teacher activities and on student enrolment

Staff WHS and role modelling:

As part of WHS UV risk controls and role modelling staff

Wear sun protective hats, clothing and sunglasses when outside

Apply SPF 30+ broad spectrum, water resistant sunscreen

Seek shade wherever possible

When average UV Index levels are below 3, sun protection measures are not used from May until August unless outside for extended periods.

Budget:

Money will be provided to ensure that sunscreen is in the First Aid room and that shaded areas, natural and artificial, can be provided and repaired, replaced when necessary.

Staff regularly monitor and review the effectiveness of the SunSmart Policy (at least once every three years) and revise the policy when required. As a part of this process they will evaluate and

- Review the Sun Smart behaviours of students, staff, parents, and visitors and make recommendations for improvement where appropriate
- Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for improvements where necessary
- Update and promote curriculum material relevant to Sun Smart activities
- Assess shade provision and usage and make recommendations for improvements where necessary



Green House

Thank you to Emma Barker, Pete and Summer Connors and Brendan, Sarah-Jane, Eleni and Lucinda Schneider for all your work in commencing construction on our new green house. Stay tuned for further details about this exciting development.



PFA News

On behalf of the PFA, we would like to acknowledge and thank the following people for their time spent over the last 6 weeks in making sure our goal of “getting grass” was fulfilled.

Brad & Beth Addison
Brendan Schneider
Maree Morris
Annie Irwin
Mick Harkin and
Bernie Stanchinotti

It's one thing to fundraise, but another HUGE task to “make it happen”. If you see the following people around, take the time to thank and congratulate them for all their efforts. The grass looks fantastic - a long way from where we were 12 months ago!!

Thank you!

PFA Team

Tuckshop

The Tuckshop is currently closed, but keep your eyes peeled for the new menu and opening times.



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WE'VE GOT GRASS!

And it's almost ready to play on 

THANK YOU!

To the school community for your generosity

To PFA for your hard work and dedication to fundraising in 2019



A SMALL SCHOOL
With a big heart



St Brigid's
Catholic Learning Community
With faith, we grow and learn.

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STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES...



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