



Whitsunday Anglican School

3 February 2022

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of the Junior School

Welcome to the 2022 school year to all our returning Whitsunday Anglican School Junior School families and to our new families. The year ahead is one full of hope, excitement, fun, hard work, challenges and persistence for us all and I look forward to enjoying the journey with you.

For the commencement of the 2022 School year, we will be welcoming over a hundred new students into the Junior School. I have every confidence that these new students, and their families, will be welcomed and feel very much a part of the School.

We have new staff members in the Junior School for the start of 2022. Welcome to:

Miss Ebony Bills – Preparatory Year
Mrs Janeen Mathews – Year 1
Miss Cathleen Thompson – Year 6
Mrs Jeannie Lockyer – Teacher Assistant
Mrs Rhonda Brown – Kindergarten Teacher Assistant
Miss Leanne Reeves – OSHC Coordinator
Mrs Marianne Boisard Heimel – LEC Assistant

We also welcome returning staff:

Mrs Megan Larkan – Year 2
Mrs Melanie Wendler – Teacher Assistant
Ms Tanya Thomas – Year 3
Mrs Stephanie Baumgarten – Coordinator LEC

Junior School Deans

Mrs Juanita Steyn – Junior School Dean: Curriculum & Pedagogy K-3
Mrs Yvette Iturbe – Junior School Dean: Curriculum & Pedagogy 4-6
Mr Adam Shield – Junior School Dean: Pastoral Care 7 Events

After a busy commencement week for staff, our teachers and Teacher Assistants are prepared and readied for the school year ahead.

Reminders for Junior School Families:

- ✓ **Anticipated Back-to-School (Monday 7 February, 2022)**
School is anticipated to commence on Monday 7 February for all students. The first period of the day will begin at 8.25am. Students will need to be at school no later than 8.20am, ready to start the day. Students are asked to go to their classrooms, new students to check-in at the Junior School Office. **All students in Years 1-6 should attend school in their formal uniform for this first day back.**
- ✓ **Kindergarten commencement**
Children in **Group A & Group C** will continue their attendance from **Monday 7 February**, while children in **Groups B/C** will attend from **Thursday 11 February**. There is of course Before Kindergarten Care from 7.30am.
- ✓ **Outside School Hours Care (OSHC)**
OSHC will continue to operate as usual.



- ✓ **Junior School Kindergarten-Year Six Year Level Information Evening**
This year's Junior School and Year Level Information Evening has been postponed to a date to be advised. The Junior School Handbook is available on the School website for your perusal.
- ✓ **Dismissal and Pick-up**
All classes, including Kindergarten, will be dismissed at 3:00pm; pick-up will be from the Junior School entry (apart from Preparatory and Kindergarten). Please adhere to our previous communique requesting parents to reconsider their visits into the school.
- ✓ **Books and Stationery**
A reminder that, as notified, parents will not need to purchase books and stationery for their child in Kindergarten to Year 6. For new families, there may be some items required; however, for returning students all requirements will be in classrooms on the first day.
- ✓ **Play-gyms**
Playing on the play-gym following dismissal at the end of the School day is discouraged; students who remain with their parents in the School grounds must always be supervised by their parents. Otherwise, following dismissal, all students will be expected to move to the Junior School entry, OSHC or be collected by their parents.
- ✓ **Car Park**
Please take all due care and be considerate of ALL the users of the Junior School car park (i.e. note that the Drop-Off area is just that – parents are not to leave vehicles unattended in the Drop-Off area).
- ✓ **Communication in the Junior School**
Ask questions! There are many avenues for communication at Whitsunday Anglican School and I believe we do a great job in disseminating information through these avenues. However, there will be occasions where the 'gremlins' will do their best to confound us and I apologise in advance of these few occasions. If you have questions or concerns then please ask your child's teacher, staff members, Junior School Secretary – Mrs. Leanne Clout, Junior School Deans or the Head of Junior School. We are all here on the same journey and we need to be of assistance to each other.
- ✓ **Student Attendance**
It is important for your child's academic progress that they attend school on a consistent basis. However, if your child will be absent due to illness or other unforeseen circumstances, please let the School know before 9.00am via attendance@was.qld.edu.au or alternatively, contact Mrs Leanne Clout, 49692038.
- ✓ **Junior School Assembly**
P-6 assemblies are generally scheduled for each Friday of Week 2 of the timetable. These are held in the Ron Bourne Hall from 2.00pm.
- ✓ **Preparatory Year-Year 6 Tutoring Program**
Beginning the week of Monday 21 February, the Junior School teachers will have invited students from their class groups to attend specific and targeted tutoring sessions each week. This program will occur each term, with teachers utilising the data they have gathered from their students to structure explicit tutoring programs to run for 2 half hour sessions (either a 7.30am or 3.10pm start) for 6 weeks of each term. The essence of this program is to offer intensive remediation or extension support to identified students, before or after school.



- ✓ **Homework and Tutorial Scheme (HATS Years 5&6)**
Students in Years 5&6 are encouraged to be involved in this optional internal homework support program. The teaching staff drive this program by committing to providing a minimum of one hour of their time per week, after school, every Tuesday to Thursday, to further support the students.
- ✓ **Student Diary**
The Diary is a wonderful communication tool between home and School; please make use of the Diary in the expected and appropriate manner. The Diary contains School expectations in regard to behaviour, manners, uniform along with general information that is pertinent to the Preparatory Year to Year 3 and Year 4 to Year 6 cohorts. Please take time to peruse this supportive text with your child.
- ✓ **Uniform**
Please ensure you assist your child in supporting the Junior School Staff and the Whitsunday Anglican School 'expectations' in terms of 'uniforms' and general 'dress & demeanour'. These are clearly outlined in the Student Diary: if you have any queries then do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. Of particular note is the appropriate shoes to be worn with the formal uniform (Years 1-6): fully enclosed, black leather lace-up shoes. A reminder that the formal grey hat is to be worn by students (Years 1-6) to and from School with the red bucket hat to remain at School.
- ✓ **Parent Events and Payments**
All parents have access to their own Parent Lounge account. For log-in difficulties, please contact the Junior School Secretary, Mrs Leanne Clout, on 4969 2038 or email lco@was.qld.edu.au For upcoming excursions and incursions, parents are required to give permission for their child's participation and make payment (if applicable) through 'Events and Payments' in Parent Lounge. Notification of an upcoming excursion or incursion will be provided by email to parents.

In advance, may I thank you all for your support and assistance throughout this first school term of 2022; it certainly is an unusual start to a school year. The Junior School presents a vibrant, challenging and busy environment and everyone is certainly welcome to participate in any way they are able. Take the time to chat with your child's teacher or other parents to see how you may support our School and students.

If you have any concerns that have not been satisfied through the expected protocol, then please do not hesitate to arrange a time to see me through Mrs. Leanne Clout in the Junior School Office. Please be assured that my door is open at all (appropriate) times.

All of the information in this letter is to be considered in respect of the latest COVID-19 recommendations from Queensland Health.

Regards and welcome once again


Mick Martin
Head of Junior School