



ST. JOSEPHS



St. Joseph's Parish School

THE EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY
OF ST JAMES' PARISH IN PEAK HILL

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Guided by the love of Jesus Christ, St. Joseph's Parish School strives to provide an inclusive, nurturing environment where individuals are encouraged to be resilient, empowered learners who contribute positively to the wider community.

Term 1 Week 3, 9 February 2026

Dear families & friends,

Welcome to the 2026 school year. In particular we welcome our eight Kindergarten students and Ken in Yr 3. We look forward to working with all our families to provide the best opportunities for the students. We are celebrating having three classes (K/1, 2/3 and 4/5/6) and starting the year with 36 enrolled students. The focus this week will be for teachers to set up class routines and expectations.

Tomorrow when we welcome our new Kindergarten students we invite the families to join us straight after assembly for a cuppa and a chance to connect with other parents.

This year, we have decided to have a focus on improving student attendance. Students are expected to be at school every day unless they are too unwell to attend. Please try to make appointments and trips outside of school hours. Students who maintain 95% attendance or higher during the term will be invited to a special long lunch hosted by the Principal. Lunch and games will be provided as a celebration of their commitment to attending school. Students who maintain 95% attendance or higher throughout the school year will be eligible to attend a full-day reward excursion.

Please ensure that your child is in the correct uniform each day with a school hat.

Home reading will begin next week. Further information will be included in next week's newsletter and in the children's home reading kits.



Follow us on facebook! www.facebook.com/stjoeyspeakhill
Check out our website <https://peakhill.wf.catholic.edu.au/>



Parish News

ST JAMES' CATHOLIC PARISH

Caswell St, Peak Hill

Join us at 9.30am
each Sunday

Mass 2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday

Liturgy 1st & 3rd Sunday each month

Important dates

10 February

Memorial: St Scholastica

14 February

Memorial: St's Cyril & Methodius

18 February

Ash Wednesday

22 February

1st Sunday of Lent

27 February

Memorial: St Polycarp

PARISH COUNCIL

Have you considered nominating for the Parish Council?

Anyone wishing to Nominate for Parish Council must have nomination in writing to the secretary, David Laming, by 22 February 2026. If you have any questions please see Cliff George.

AGM of Parish Council will take place on Sunday 1 March after the Liturgy.

We warmly invite all families to attend our Parent Information and Welcome BBQ on Tuesday, 17th February. This event will include important information about our school routines and this year's key areas of focus. It's also a wonderful opportunity to connect as a school community and to welcome our new families. A free sausage sizzle will be provided.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are here to support you and your child throughout the year.

Wishing you all a wonderful start to the school year.

Best wishes, **Mrs Regina Goodridge** Principal

NEED ANOTHER SPORTS SHIRT?

Our shirts are custom made and not available to buy in Parkes with the rest of our uniform. We have a supply of shirts at school in various sizes. **Shirts are \$35 each.** If you would like to purchase a sports shirt, please contact the school office.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MESSAGES

Miss Brooke Hanns

Welcome Back!

As we begin the school year, we are guided by our new Catholic Education Wilcannia-Forbes spiritual theme for 2026 – Peace in our Hearts, Peace in the World. This theme calls us to embrace peace as a way of life – nurturing peace within our hearts, fostering peace in our relationships and making a difference in creating a more peaceful world. Through our shared focus, we aim to become living examples of peace in action – not only in the words we speak but in the choices we make and the way we treat one another. May God's loving presence guide and strengthen us as we journey together this year.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Mass is on 18 February at 5 pm with Distribution of Ashes for those who wish to attend.



LENTEN GROUP

Our Lenten group will commence on 23 February. Please place your name on the sheet at the back of the church if you wish to take part. More info to come.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

There are many items at the back of the church for all to read and to stay informed about what's happening in our Diocese.

If you require a copy to take home, please let Jan or a Parish Council member know.

HEALING / ANOINTING MASS

Mass will take place on Sunday 22 March at 9.30 am.

PEACE IN OUR HEARTS, PEACE IN THE WORLD



"Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God."

Matthew 5:9



CATHOLIC EDUCATION
WILCANNIA-FORBES

COMING SOON

Tuesday, 10 February

**TERM 1 2026
COMMENCES FOR
KINDERGARTEN**

Tuesday, 17 February

**WELCOME BBQ + FAMILY
INFO MEETING**

Wednesday, 18 February

ASH WEDNESDAY

Friday, 20 February

**CLUSTER SWIMMING
CARNIVAL @ WARREN**

Tuesday, 24 February

**JUMP INTO JOEYS
KINDER TRANSITION
COMMENCES**

Thursday, 26 February

**LEADERS INDUCTION
SCHOOL MASS @ 9AM**

Friday, 6 March

**DIOCESAN SWIMMING
CARNIVAL @ PARKES**

Tuesday, 17 March

HARMONY DAY

Sunday, 29 March

PALM SUNDAY

Thursday, 2 April

END OF TERM 1

Friday, 3 April

GOOD FRIDAY

Sunday, 5 April

EASTER SUNDAY

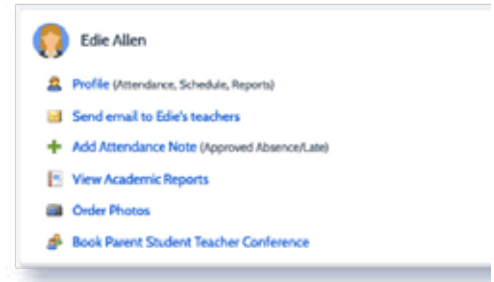
HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Compass tips

Entering an Attendance Note

- From the Compass home screen (or from your student's profile), click the [Add Attendance Note](#) item.
- From the pop-up window
- Select the reason
- Enter a description of the absence
- Select the start and finish time
- Click the 'Save' button
- Where possible, attendance notes should be entered prior to the absence/lateness occurring.

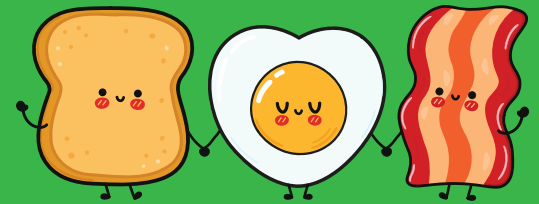


For more tips, check out www.compass.education/guide#section-06

Wednesday breakfast club

Breakfast is a great way to give the body the refuelling it needs.

Kids who eat breakfast tend to eat healthier overall and are more likely to be physically active.



Skipping breakfast can make kids feel tired, restless, or irritable.

BREAKFAST IS SERVED FREE-OF-CHARGE AT ST JOEY'S FROM 8.30AM EVERY WEDNESDAY.

Student attendance

Student attendance is recorded each day. As a parent or caregiver you are responsible for ensuring your child attends school every day unless your child:

- has an unavoidable medical or dental appointment
- is required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- is required to attend an exceptional or urgent family circumstance (such as attending a funeral)
- is sick, or has an infectious illness.



If your child has to be absent from school for any reason, please update this within 7 days on the Compass Parent Portal or explain the reason by phone, e-mail or written note as soon as possible.

Late arrivals and/or early departures can only be entered via the Compass Kiosk at the office.

After 7 days, the absence will remain as 'Unexplained' and cannot be changed (NSW Education Act 1990).



St Joseph's Parish School
Peak Hill

Acknowledgement

Each morning at St Joe's we begin our assembly by reciting our very own Acknowledgement of Country.

We are proud to have our own Acknowledgement which reflects our shared values, respect and gratitude.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We gather here at
St Joseph's today,
To learn and laugh,
to work and play.
On Wiradjuri land,
so strong and true,
We say thank you
for all you do.

We promise to listen,
to walk with care.
To show respect everywhere.
Together we grow,
with heart and hand,
As one
with this beautiful land.



Crunch&Sip®

St Joey's is proud to be part of the nation-wide Crunch & Sip® program.

Each day students need to bring fruit or vegetables that they can quickly eat at 12:30, along with a sip of water.

This program assists physical and mental performance and concentration in the classroom and allows students to "refuel".

HERE ARE SOME IDEAS

A bottle of plain, tap water

A whole piece of fruit or a vegetable such as a whole carrot, apple, mandarin or banana.

Vegetable sticks such as cucumber, capsicum, carrot or celery.

Chopped, bite-sized pieces of fruit or vegetables such as watermelon, pear, broccoli or cauliflower.

Several whole pieces of smaller fruit or vegetables such as cherry tomatoes, cooked corn, mushrooms, grapes or strawberries.

Add a variety of fruit and vegetables.

You can use Crunch&Sip® to help children try new fruit and vegetables.

Try other options when fresh fruit and vegetables are not available.

Choose canned or frozen fruit and vegetables when fresh ones are hard to find. If your child would like to have dried fruit, they can choose to eat it at recess or lunch.

Child safe schools & supportive environments Information for parents

We take our responsibility to protect children seriously. All staff are expected to promote child safety by having a clear understanding of their legal child protection responsibilities and act in accordance with those responsibilities.

In particular the school will:

- Maintain professionalism in our interactions with children at all times by exercising appropriate duty of care and maintaining professional boundaries.
- Follow an established process to address allegations of inappropriate behaviour by staff towards children.
- Ensure all people working in our school who are required to undertake a Working With Children Check have a valid clearance.
- Respond appropriately when we suspect a child is at risk of significant harm due to possible abuse or neglect by a parent/carer or other adult.

St Joseph's Parish School Peak Hill

Norms of Behaviour

- 1 We are respectful and listen to each other.
- 2 We are ready to learn and on task to do our best.
- 3 We share and play fairly in a calm environment.
- 4 We are happy and helpful.
If we are not happy we know how to ask for help.
- 5 We are kind and we celebrate each other's success.
- 6 We are positive and learn from our mistakes.



Responding to risk of harm

All school staff are mandatory reporters. This means that if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is at risk of 'significant harm' from abuse or neglect, then a report must be made to the Department of Communities & Justice Child Protection Helpline (CP Helpline).

School staff are to inform the Principal if they are concerned that a child may be at risk. It is the role of the Principal to make the report to the CP Helpline.

In making a report the Principal will consider all of the information and seek appropriate advice from the Catholic Education Office. Any information about a child at risk is kept confidentially by the Principal.

In situations where a child is considered to be at risk, the school will work with the child and family to assist them as much as possible.

If you have any concerns about a child who you consider may be at risk, please discuss your concerns with the Principal as soon as possible and maintain confidentiality.



TUCKERBOX SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

COLD FOOD	COLD DRINKS
• Vegemite or jam sandwich \$2.50	• Flavoured milk, 300ml \$2.50
• Chicken/ham/cheese/ham sandwich \$4.50	• Tap & Go, 200ml \$2.00
• Ham/cheese/ham/ham sandwich \$4.50	• Popcorn, 200ml \$2.00
• Baked sandwich or wrap \$3.00	• Juice, 200ml \$3.00
• Baked loaf \$4.00	• Water, 600ml \$2.00
• Chicken or ham salad box \$4.00	• Made with chocolate \$3.50
HOT FOOD	COLD TREATS
• Cheese burger \$5.00	• Milk ice cream cone \$2.00
• Beef pasta, tomato, sauce \$5.00	• Fudge pop \$2.50
• Chicken burger \$5.00	• Ice block \$1.50
• Chicken, tomato, meat \$5.00	• Raspberry Pops \$1.50
• Chicken burger with salad \$5.00	• Calzone ice block \$3.00
• Sweet chili chicken wrap \$4.00	• Danish \$2.00
• 2 Wraps & salad \$4.00	• Jelly \$4.00
• Lasagne & garlic bread \$5.00	• Cornstarch \$1.50
• Beef & onion \$5.00	• Toppings \$1.00
• Pie & sauce \$5.00	
• Sausage roll & sauce \$4.00	SNACKS
• Dino nuggets (3) & sauce \$2.00	• Chips or popcorn \$3.00
• Dino nuggets (6) & sauce \$4.50	• Muffin \$3.00
• Doubled chicken nuggets (6) \$4.50	
Extra sauce - tomato or bbq \$0.4	

✔ **Gluten free options available**
✔ **And also in a sensitive choice**
✔ **Gluten-free wraps & bread available**



From 27 February

CANTEEN LUNCH ON FRIDAYS!

St Joelys is lucky to be able to order from Peak Hill Central School canteen on Fridays.

Please note, there will be no canteen on February 13 or 20.

Orders should be written on a paper bag or envelope with the correct money enclosed.

Students are responsible for placing their orders in the Joey's cool bags at the beginning of the day.

IMPORTANT!

There are new prices and menu items – please check the new menu, attached, **before ordering.**

PHCS CANTEEN HAS REQUESTED

All orders must be placed no later than 9.30am, preferably with orders written on bags and money enclosed.

At the end of last term a lot of families were ringing through with very late orders.

PHCS Canteen can't guarantee that food will be available at such late notice and students may miss out on their lunch orders.

2026 SCHOOL FEES

The cost for 1 student \$1,747.28.

Fees are comprised of a tuition fee of \$1,175.63, resource fee of \$180.87 & Chromebook levy of \$178.

A Building and Maintenance Levy of \$212.78 per family is also applied.

Families with 2 children receive a 10% discount.
Families with 3 children receive a 20% discount.

OUR FEES ARE ALL INCLUSIVE!

Our students receive all of their learning resources, excursions, incursions, sport, chromebooks which they get to keep and lots more.

Fees can be paid through your Compass app or via BPay monthly, fortnightly or weekly.



Sun Safety at St Joey's

At St Joseph's, we're embracing the sunshine while staying safe and healthy!

Here are some quick tips to help our community stay SunSmart, hydrated and ready for fun in the sun:

STAY HYDRATED

- Encourage your child to drink plenty of water – avoid sugary drinks.
- Pack an insulated water bottle to keep drinks cool.
- Snack on hydrating fruits like watermelon and oranges.
- Watch for signs of overheating, like tiredness or flushed cheeks, and take breaks in the shade.

BE SUNSMART

Australia's high UV levels mean sun protection is a must!
Help your child:

- Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek, Slide!
Wear protective clothing, sunscreen (reapplied every 2 hours), a hat, sunglasses, and seek shade.
- Check UV levels (3 or higher) and model good sun-safe habits.

BEAT THE HEAT

- Take regular breaks from outdoor activities.
- Keep energised with nutritious meals and plenty of water.

Let's enjoy the summer safely and shine brightly together!

Drop and pick up routines and reminders

Morning Drop-Off (8:25–8:50 AM)

- Drive along Caswell Street in the bus zone and stop at the front gate.
- Parents should remain in their vehicles. A staff member will assist children exiting from the curbside. Please position children on this side of the car where possible.
- If for some reason you need to get out of the vehicle, please park out of the bus zone and hold your child's hand to walk along this high traffic area.
- Buses have the right of way; please wait for them to depart before proceeding.
- Parents walking children to school should enter at the front gate and should not enter the staff car park.
- Gates will close at 8:50 am as teachers prepare for morning assembly. Please arrive before this time. If you are late, walk your child to the front office and sign them in.

Afternoon Pick-Up (3:15 PM)

- Children who are being picked up by car will line up and walk down to the front of the school with the bus line children.
- Bus children will be loaded first.
- For car pick-up, please line up starting at the end of the bus zone on Caswell Street, extending toward the church. Do not park in the bus zone.
- Parents should remain in their vehicles. A teacher will assist the children in getting into cars. Please ensure children can fasten their seatbelts before pulling away.
- Cars will move forward as the previous car departs.
- If you are walking home with your children, please wait outside the bus zone. For safety reasons, these children will exit last.

Delivery of medication to the school

Wherever possible medication should be provided to the school by parents on a daily basis. If the parent is unable to deliver the medication to the school it is advisable that a responsible person nominated by the parent to deliver it. If a student is given the responsibility of delivering the medication to the designated area, a proper assessment of the risk will be conducted. Factors to be taken into account when assessing the risk are:

- the maturity and capacity of the student
- parental consent
- any additional safety issue

Self-administration

Parents/Guardians need to inform the school regarding students taking medication at school.

With the exception of the use of asthma relievers self-administration of medication by Primary aged school students is not appropriate.



TUCKERBOX

SCHOOL LUNCH MENU

COLD FOOD

- Vegemite sandwich \$2.50
- Chicken + mayo sandwich \$4.50
- Ham + cheese sandwich \$4.50
- Ham/cheese/tomato sandwich \$5.00
- Salad sandwich or wrap \$5.00
- Salad box \$5.00
- Chicken or ham salad box \$6.50

HOT FOOD

- Cheese burger
beef pattie, cheese, sauce \$6.00
- Chicken burger
chicken, cheese, mayo \$5.50
- Chicken or beef burger
with salad/cheese \$7.50
- Sweet chilli chicken wrap
2 tenders & salad \$7.00
- Lasagne & garlic bread \$6.00
- Garlic bread half piece \$1.50
- Garlic bread full piece \$2.50
- Pizza \$4.00
- Pie & sauce \$5.50
- Sausage roll & sauce \$5.00
- Dino nuggets (3) & sauce \$2.50
- Dino nuggets (6) & sauce \$4.50

Extra sauce - tomato or bbq 50¢

COLD DRINKS

- Flavoured milk, 300ml \$3.00
- Flavoured milk, 500ml \$4.50
- Up & Go, 250ml \$3.00
- Popper, 200ml \$2.00
- Juice, 500ml \$4.50
- Juice bomb, 250ml \$3.00
- Water, 600ml \$2.00
- Nippy iced chocolate \$4.50

COLD TREATS

- Paddle pop \$2.50
- Zopper Dooper \$1.00
- Kabluey/TNT \$2.00
- Snap Stix \$1.50
- Jelly \$1.00
- Custard \$1.00
- Yoghurt \$1.00

SNACKS

- Chips small or popcorn \$2.00
- Chips large \$2.50
- Muffin \$3.50

Green is an everyday choice

Amber is a sometimes choice

Gluten-free wraps + bread available



Attendance Information for Parents

Compliance with Catholic Education Wilcannia-Forbes (CEWF) Attendance policies and procedures allow schools, students and parents to meet their obligations under the NSW Education Act 1990.

As stated in CEWF's Attendance Policy parents are required to explain the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven days to the school. An explanation for absence must be provided to the school **within 7 days** of the first day of any period of absence.

If details regarding the explanation for absences are insufficient, principals may register the absence as unjustified.

It is most important that parents provide details for an absence of their child when using the Compass Parent Portal or when sending in a note to the school.

In Compass, parents have the following absence reasons to select from when entering an absence via the Parent Portal:

- Medical Illness - to be used for sickness, medical and dental treatment
- Medical appointment - appointments with medical professionals, dental practitioners
- Travel - student does not attend school due to a student/family holiday
- Other Explained Absence - school has received a satisfactory explanation for a student's absence. Includes: misadventure or unforeseen event, participation in non-school events, domestic necessity such as serious illness of an immediate family member, attendance at funerals, recognised religious festivals
- Natural Disaster - a student is unable to attend school due to an extreme weather event or other natural disaster. Includes: bushfire, flood or storm events

Please note that when selecting a reason for the absence, parents MUST also fill in the Details/Comment section in the Parent Portal. Examples as follows:

- Medical illness - details 'has a stomach bug'
- Medical appointment - details 'doctor's appointment'
- Travel - details 'family holiday to the Gold Coast'
- Other Explained Absence - details 'attending funeral of a relative'

Whole day/s absences can be entered via the Compass Parent Portal however **late arrivals and/or early departures** are to be entered via the Kiosk Lite at the school office.

Should you have any questions regarding the use of absence codes, please do not hesitate to contact your school principal for further information.

You're invited to the
St Joseph's School 2026

PARENT MEETING +

*Welcome
BBQ*



Tuesday, 17 February
from 5pm

Free sausage sizzle



**FREE
no cost!**

**Kinder
Transition
Program**



**TERM 1
TO
TERM 4**

**EVERY
Tuesday from
9am-3pm**

**Play
+ Social
skills**

**FREE
shirt + hat
for every
child**

**Gross +
Fine Motor
Skills**

**Literacy
+
Numeracy**

Kindergarten transition 2026



St Joey's kindergarten transition will be commencing on Tuesday, 24 February 2026.

Give your child the best preparation to be ready for Kinder.

Jump into Joey's is open to all children starting Kindergarten in 2027.

Register your interest now. Call the school office on 6869 1452 or sms us on 0439 477 646.

Come & try St Joey's!

