



Our Vision
An inclusive community committed to high levels of learning for all.

Our Mission
In the spirit of Saint Mary Mackillop, we strive for excellence with love, dignity, integrity and justice.

Dear Families

It has been wonderful to welcome back all our students in person for the official start to the school year this week. We also welcomed our new Prep families to school on Monday for the first time. It has been truly amazing to watch our new students transition to school life over the past week. This almost seamless transition is due mainly to the leadership and compassion displayed by the Glengallan Prep Buddies. This relationship is life long and very much part of the St Patrick's Way of Life.

We look forward to 2022 with much enthusiasm and positivity.

COVID 19 Updates

In order to provide the safest transition for our students on their return to school and to maintain the highest possible standard of face-to-face teaching and learning, St Patrick's School has implemented the following COVID-safe measures as per Queensland Government directives from 7 February until 4 March, 2022. With this Newsletter, the school has also attached a COVID-19 FAQ's for Parents fact sheet from TCSO. Please see the following key points for your information:

- **If your child is sick, please do not send them to school.** Any students who are sick will be sent home.
- Students of all ages are still able to attend school regardless of their [vaccination status](#). We cannot stress this fact enough. **St Patrick's School is open to all students regardless of their vaccination status.**
- All staff, volunteers and contract workers who work at St Patrick's School are expected to be fully vaccinated. **All adults on site must wear a mask and register using the Check In Qld app.**
- Limited visitors on school sites. Whilst all parents are welcome regardless of their vaccination status, only parents and carers of students experiencing vulnerability, and students in Prep or Year 1 will be allowed access to on-site classrooms.
- **All adults on site must wear a mask and register using the Check In Qld app.** Please email the school or your child's teacher if you have any other questions or queries.
- **No school camps, excursions, assemblies and large gatherings** will take place until further notice.

Feeling Safe

Our School Student Protection Contacts are:

**Ms Donnelly
Mr Blaikie
Mrs Jennifer Fenn**

Reminders

Uniform Days Sports

Wednesday, Friday.

Formal

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday.

Summer Uniform

Please remember that we are a...

'Nut Aware' School.

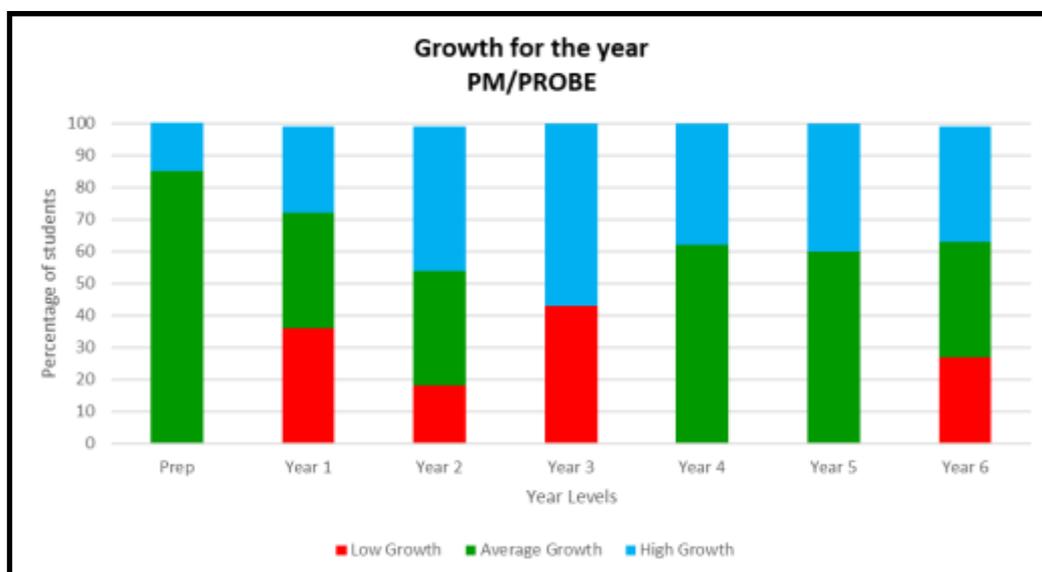
Church Times - Celebrations are up and running again with social distancing measures in place. Times for Masses are as follows:

**1st Sunday - 9am
2nd and 3rd Sunday - 5.30pm**

4th & 5th Sunday Liturgy of the Word with Communion - 9am

St Patrick's School Allora—End of Year Data Summary 2021

It is with a great deal of pride that the school can share with its community, the results of our End of Year Reading Data Summary. As a school, we are certainly moving in the right direction in terms of individual student growth. 83% of students at St Patrick's were at or above typical growth. At a Diocesan level, students at or above typical growth was 78%. With this data in mind, we are so fortunate to have Mrs. Lucas as the school's Enrichment Teacher as she will specifically target students in the low growth area. Please keep in mind that we have low numbers of children in each cohort compared to other schools.





Explicit Vocabulary Instruction - The Cold Hard Facts

Did you know:

- The average primary school aged child watches 21-23 hours of television per week (not including videos). Most children spend more hours watching television than any other activity, besides sleeping and going to school. Research shows that electronic entertainment does not encourage good communication skills and is one of the leading causes of declining vocabulary (AC Neilson Company).
- Students used to come to school with 4000-6000 words. Now it's averaging closer to 2000-3000 words (Hart and Risley 1995).
- Year 1 – Orally tested vocabulary was a proficient predictor of reading comprehension ten years later (Cunningham and Stanovich, 1997).
- Without explicit vocabulary instruction, the gap in word knowledge persists through the elementary years into high school. (White, Graves, & Slater, 1990).

As a whole school focus and under the guidance of our school literacy coach, Mrs. Sue Keefer, staff have identified the necessity to improve the explicit teaching of vocabulary which will further support the improvement of the literacy levels of each student.

Teachers will use the following core principles of explicit vocabulary instruction to develop a whole school approach:

- Words are not just words –they are packages of concepts
- Words are the building blocks of comprehension
- We get good at what we practice!

If I can read and understand it, I can use it in my day-to-day language. If I can use it in my day-to-day language, I can incorporate it into my writing.

Staff Movements—2022

It is with great sadness that Mrs. Amanda McCosker tendered her resignation this week effective from Friday 11 February. Mrs. McCosker has managed to secure fulltime employment in Warwick. On behalf of the students and staff of St Patrick's School Allora, we would like to extend our most sincere thanks to Amanda for her valuable contribution to the early years education of our students over the past two years. We wish her well in her new venture.

Kindest regards

Keith Blaikie—Principal

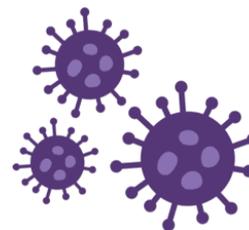


Welcome Preppies to the St Patrick's Way of Life!

DATE CLAIMERS

Term 1—2022

- 10 February—CD Sport (AGM) Nobby S.S.
- 17 February—Mr Savage (TCSO) to visit
- 18 February—State Census Day (Day 8)
- 23 February—Newsletter 3pm
- 1 March—Shrove Tuesday
- 2 March—Ash Wednesday
- 3 March—School Photos (Summer Uniform)
- 4 March—Assembly at 2:30pm
- 4 March—Current COVID safe plan ends
- 7 to 10 March—Parent Teacher Interviews
- 18 March— School Leaders Liturgy at 9am



Here are all your burning questions answered about what to expect heading back to school during the Covid-19 era.

1. Does my child need to wear a mask?

All high school students, including those under 12 years of age, will have to wear a mask at school.

They can take the masks off when seated, or when they're social distancing.

Students in Years 3 to 6 will be strongly encouraged to wear them if social distancing isn't possible. The school has a limited supply of masks if needed.

Students with specific medical conditions or disabilities will be exempt.

2. What happens if my child has Covid-19 symptoms?

If your child has symptoms at home, they should avoid school and should get tested at their earliest convenience. If they start developing symptoms at school, they'll have access to free RAT from the school or given priority at testing clinics if the school uses its supply.

Parents and carers will need to collect their child immediately, collect the RAT and do the test at home.

3. What do I do if my child brings Covid-19 home? Does the whole household have to isolate?

If your child tests positive and is isolating at home, then household members will have to follow the close contact rules. This means if you've spent more than four hours in a house or other accommodation together you will need to isolate unless you've had Covid-19 in the past four weeks. If you start to develop symptoms, you'll need to get tested.

4. If my child tests positive, do they need a negative test result before being allowed back to school?

If your child tests positive, they will have to follow the government guidelines for positive cases. This means they don't require a negative test if they have completed the full seven days isolation period and they no longer have a fever, sore throat, runny nose, or a cough that is bad or getting worse, on the last day of isolation.

5. What if my child's teacher or classmate tests positive for Covid-19 and was infectious in the class? Does my child have to be tested or isolate?

Schools will inform students and parents if there is a positive case in the school, while keeping the specific information confidential. However, students will only be asked to monitor for symptoms and to stay home and get tested if unwell.

6. What happens if there's an outbreak of cases?

If there's more than one case, schools will work with the Public Health Unit over any requirements to shut.

A two-step precautionary clean will also take place at the school if that's the case. It is the "last resort" for a school to close.

7. What if my child is medically vulnerable?

Students who can't go to school for medical reasons will be supported by their schools, just like in the case of an extended medical absence and they can access learning from home resources.

Those who are immunosuppressed will continue to take advice from their doctor and can be incorporated into their individual health plans.

8. What are Covid-19 symptoms like in children?

In most cases the SARS-CoV-2 virus causes mild or moderate symptoms, which can include fever and cough, but also milder cases of pneumonia. Some children may require hospitalisation but severe complications in children are uncommon.

