

St Joseph's Primary School

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Parent Information



“With Love and a Gentle Spirit”
(1 Cor 6:2)

I am
SAFE



I am **VALUED,**
RESPECTED
and **CARED**
for



I am a
LEARNER



CURRENT STAFF

Fr Barry Leech Parish Priest

Mrs Cherie Yates Principal

Mrs Jacqueline Wait Assistant Principal / Leader of Pedagogy

Mrs Cathy Donnelly Religious Education Co-ordinator & Stage 1 Teacher

Ms Fiona McDonald Kindergarten Teacher

Mrs Lyn Warburton Stage 1 Teacher

Mrs Brodee Boyd Stage 1 Teacher

Mrs Sarah Townes Stage 1 Support Teacher

Ms Jenny Koch Stage 1 Support Teacher

Mr Mark Hurtz Stage 2 Teacher / Inclusion Support Teacher

Ms Megan Flynn Stage 2 Teacher

Mr Matthew Paton Stage 3 Teacher /MaST Teacher

Ms Christine Sonego Stage 3 Teacher

Mrs Wendy Kings RFF Teacher

Mrs Emily Murphy RFF Teacher

Mrs Lisa Greenhill Education Assistant

Mrs Melissa Miller Education Assistant

Mrs Jo Rose Education Assistant / IT

Miss Lisa Ainsworth Education Assistant / Library

Mrs Annette Vasta Admin Manager

Mrs Lyn Ainsworth Secretary

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, TENTERFIELD

MISSION STATEMENT

St Joseph's School was established by the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart as their first foundation in the Armidale Diocese, reflecting the concern to provide quality Catholic education in rural areas of Australia.

Accordingly, at St Joseph's School:

We are committed to the Spiritual, Social, Cognitive, Physical, Cultural and Aesthetic development of all children.

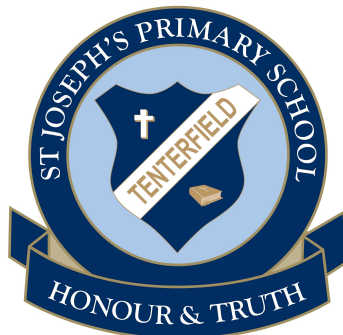
Our philosophy is based on the teachings and values of Jesus Christ and the traditions handed down by the Catholic Church.

We recognise the work initiated by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the Sisters of St Joseph and endeavours to continue their work of bringing the Good News of Jesus to all people.

We strive to strengthen the relationship between family, school, parish and the wider community and we share in the evangelizing mission of the Church.

We aim at equipping the children with guidelines for Christian living in today's society.

We provide quality teaching to ensure that each child's full potential is reached.



HISTORY

Tenterfield is situated on the Northern New England Tablelands, twenty kilometres from the Queensland border.

In 1880 Bishop Torreggiani wrote to Blessed Mary MacKillop, inviting the Sisters of St Joseph to come to the Armidale Diocese from Queensland. It was to Tenterfield that the first three Sisters of St Joseph came on 17th April, 1880. Mother Mary MacKillop visited the first Convent in June 1880. In July 1914, the now School Staff Centre, was blessed and dedicated as the new Convent.

The first school was the lower storey of the first Convent, until the building of the school on the present site in 1914. In 1966 further additions and alterations were made to the school. A demountable classroom was added in the late 1970s.

The Parish of Tenterfield farewelled the Sisters of St Joseph on 12th December 1992.

St Joseph's is now a Primary co-educational school catering for students from Kindergarten to Year Six. The current enrolments are 120 pupils.

St Joseph's prides itself on being actively involved in a variety of community events and activities in our local area while reaching out to the wider community. There is an emphasis on religious education and pastoral care of all students.

There is a close link between the Parish and the School and the students are encouraged to participate in the life of the parish. The school has many communication avenues with the parents who are encouraged to take an active presence in the school in various forms. Reporting to parents takes place in the form of interviews, information sessions and portfolios.

In 2002 the Convent building was generously given to the School, by the Parish, as a Staff Centre. This allows for office space, staff facilities and storage.

Two large shelters, funded mainly by the Diocesan Capital Support Program and the Department of Sport and Recreation, were erected in the playground in 2003 giving much needed shelter. In 2004 the pupil's toilet blocks were refurbished, again with the support of the Diocesan Capital Support Program, and finance raised by the Parents and Friends Association.

In 2008 refurbishment of the existing buildings made room for a library and teachers resource room. Existing classroom was also refurbished and two offices were incorporated into the building. The school was also connected to the convent building at this time. Five new classrooms were also built. All of this was made possible by a Grant from the Federal Government.

In 2011 the Federal Government, through the 'Building the Education Revolution', funded the building of a school hall. With the contribution of the school, another classroom was also built at this time.

St Joseph's School Board is a very supportive, advisory body assisting in the administration of the school. The Parents and Friends Association is an active group whose main functions include fundraising, organising social activities and conducting a canteen for the school.



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ABSENCES

Children who are absent from school must provide a note from a parent or guardian informing the class teacher of the reason for the absence. This is a legal requirement. Phone call, email or Compass notification are also acceptable. An SMS will be forwarded to your mobile phone when your child's absence is recorded. Failure to inform school results in "unexplained absence" being recorded.

All holiday leave is at the discretion of the principal. Please ensure the principal has notification of the leave **prior** to it being taken. This should be in writing/email.

LATE ARRIVALS / EARLY DEPARTURES

If children are picked up early or taken from school during school hours, please inform the school secretary and sign them out on the Compass Kiosk.

Children who arrive late to school are to report to the office and collect a 'Late Note' which is to be given to their class teacher. Parents should accompany their child to the office and sign them in on the Compass Kiosk. Children are not to be taken directly to the classroom by parents.

ASSEMBLY

Assemblies are held throughout the year, generally on a fortnightly basis in the school hall. Please read the school newsletter for dates during the term. Parents are encouraged to attend.

ACCIDENT POLICY

Should an accident occur during school hours the procedure is as follows:

Minor Injury - the injury will be treated. It is important that the school is informed of any medical condition that requires consideration when an injury is to be treated.

Major Injury - the school is a member of the NSW Ambulance Service which entitles free service to any child who is injured at school. Should it be considered that a child's injury warrants medical attention the Ambulance Service will be called. The parents/emergency contact will be informed of the accident and nature of the injury.

AWARDS

Awards are presented at the School Assembly. Some suggested criteria for receipt of one of these awards is: positive behaviour in the classroom, extra effort with work, competence in a particular key learning area etc. Teachers have their own classroom system for the attainment of these awards.

BOOK CLUB

The school is a member of the Scholastic Book Club. Periodically, the children are given a leaflet advertising books available at reasonable prices. All ordering and payment is done online direct to Scholastic. Participating in the Book Club helps the school to earn points for purchase of books for the library and classrooms.

CANTEEN

The canteen operates on Monday and Friday and is staffed by volunteer parents. A roster is compiled at the end of each term and sent home ready for the following term.

*** Lunch orders should be written clearly on a paper bag with the student's name and class.

*** A list of available items with prices is available through the Compass app and also on our website.

If you are able to assist in the Canteen please let us know through the school office. All help is appreciated. Children are not permitted in the canteen.

CURRICULUM

The Curriculum offered is based around the seven Key Learning Areas (K.L.A's) of:-

Religious Education

Mathematics

English

Science & Technology

Human Society & Its Environment (HSIE) – Semester 1 History, Semester 2 Geography

Personal Development, Health & Physical Education (PDHPE)

Creative Arts

At every year level, children are involved in developmental and sequential programs in each of these K.L.A.'s. We endeavour to cater for the different ability levels of the children within the context of the classroom.

LIVING WELL, LEARNING WELL

Our school uses the student support framework of Living Well, Learning Well as part of the Diocese of Armidale.

A universal and unconditional positive regard for children and young people, and a high regard for the collective capacity of a school staff team to increase learning, wellbeing, life-opportunity outcomes for children and young people.

This is founded in evidence-based high impact approaches to improving conditions of learning, teaching, well being and faith development for children and young people.

Our school supports positive, productive behaviour and high expectations with an emphasis on learning. We have a shared goal that all children are safe, valued, respected and cared for, and esteemed and supported as learners.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

The classroom teachers manage classroom behaviour. Should a child need assistance with their behaviour the Assistant Principal or Principal are contacted. The child will be redirected back to their learning and may be required to attend a session for 'Thinking Time' as a consequence for their behaviour.

If Misbehaviour Continues:

The child is sent to the Principal and further follow-up is made with the parents. Consequences will be determined by the Assistant Principal and the Principal.

PLAYGROUND BEHAVIOUR

Children at St Joseph's are asked to treat each other with respect. We have a 'Hands Off' rule for the safety of all children. Playground behaviour is the responsibility of the teacher on duty. In general children misbehaving on the playground will be spoken to and if the behaviour continues they will be asked to attend a session for 'Thinking Time' to discuss how their behaviour is affecting others and relevant consequences for their behaviour.

Important points for parents: It is unacceptable for a parent to independently take the correction of another child into their own hands. Parents are not permitted to use corporal punishment at the school or whilst supervising students.

Under no circumstances is a child physically reprimanded. This is against all school policies and procedures.



Living Well, Learning Well

Families as Partners in Catholic School Communities

In choosing a Catholic school, parents enter a partnership with the school in which there is shared privilege and responsibility for the child's faith formation, learning and wellbeing. There is a shared goal that all children and young people in Armidale Diocesan schools are safe, valued, respected and cared for, and esteemed and supported as learners.

Families strengthen the partnership by:

I am SAFE

- * Supporting policies, practices and protocols that keep people safe
- * Quickly informing the school when aware of a risk to safety
- * Supporting and teaching help-seeking strategies to children and young people
- * Assisting children and young people in the replacement of unsafe behaviours



I am VALUED, RESPECTED and CARED for

- * Supporting policies, practices and protocols that ensure people are valued, respected and cared for
- * Quickly informing the school when aware of a risk to a child/young person's sense of being valued, respected and cared for
- * Modelling in the family the ways people are valued, respected and cared for
- * Supporting and facilitating positive relationships with school staff and other families in the school community
- * Recognising and supporting the link between strong school attendance and connection to school
- * Understanding how family engagement in schooling contributes positively to the learning, wellbeing, faith development and life opportunities of children and young people



I am a LEARNER

- * Supporting policies, practices and protocols that enhance student learning
- * Recognising and supporting the link between strong school attendance and successful learning
- * Engaging in ongoing, productive conversations about learning with students, teachers and school leaders
- * Recognising high family regard for learning, a literacy-rich home environment and a high regard for the work of the school as powerful positive influences on student learning and wellbeing outcomes



Our Diocesan Schools:

Recognise that the partnership between family and school centres on the child/young person, who has voice in the partnership and whose learning, wellbeing and spiritual development are the reason for the partnership - as taught and modelled by Jesus, our children and young people are at the heart of the Kingdom of God (Luke 18: 16).

Our Families:

Recognise that positive partnerships between families and school strengthen the school community and improve learning, wellbeing, faith development and life opportunities for all children/young people in the school.



Catholic Schools Office
Diocese of Armidale

EVACUATION / LOCKDOWN

In the event of a serious incident in the school, either the evacuation siren or lockdown siren will sound indicating the need to evacuate all classrooms and buildings, or remain in lockdown. Staff members will be responsible for ensuring the children remain calm and that appropriate procedures are followed. No staff or students are to endanger themselves or others in an attempt to save any personal or school resources. The principal or appointed staff member is responsible for contacting the appropriate emergency services. Evacuation procedure will be practised at selected times during the year.

EXCURSIONS

Excursions form part of the education program through the school. We try to keep costs to a minimum. On some occasions the school or our generous P&F Association or Canteen Committee meets the costs, and on some occasions parents are asked to contribute to the costs. The school accepts responsibility for the children during school approved excursions. This responsibility is accepted by the supervising teacher who will exercise care and provide close supervision under the guidelines of a pre-written risk assessment..

Parents will be informed of the nature of the excursion, details concerning travel, precautions which might be reasonable and necessary and the duration of the excursion. A child will not participate in an excursion without prior parental approval.

There are occasions when parents are called upon for assistance with transport. The question of liability is sometimes raised. If a teacher or parent transports a child to a school function the driver is liable for any action taken by the child if the latter is injured by reason of the negligence of the driver. This is the primary liability of the driver of a car when carrying a passenger at any time.

Third Party Insurance policies indemnify the driver in respect of the claims against them for personal injuries to a child passenger. The motorist's "comprehensive" insurance policy would cover the driver against claims for any property loss.

School excursions will be pre-planned as best as possible so as not to coincide with other arranged events.

Year 5/6 participate in a week-long Camp (every two years)

FRUIT BREAK

Each class has a daily morning fruit break. Children snack on fresh fruit or vegetables brought from home. When you are packing this for them please ensure it is cut into small manageable portions.

HOMEWORK

Through the provision of suitable and appropriate homework we look to develop and reinforce skills learnt at school, develop personal responsibility and independence. We aim to:

- develop self-discipline in work
- develop skills in time and task management
- enhance home/school partnership
- give children the opportunity to develop independent thinking skills

Procedures:

- Homereading will usually be set for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.
(The home reader diary must be signed each night by an adult)
- Contract homework may be given
- Research homework for projects is considered suitable
- Activities set should be for consolidation of skills and enjoyment
- Reading homework must be submitted on Fridays
- All homework will be checked by the teacher
- Home Talk is provided for children to talk about and prepare for the next days "Big Write"

INFECTIOUS DISEASE POLICY

The school abides by the Infectious Diseases guidelines approved by the National Health and Medical Research Council. The guidelines have been drawn up on the premise that children who have been ill with an infectious disease will not return to school until they have fully recovered. The only exception to this rule is that children with certain skin diseases may return once appropriate treatment has commenced as per Appendix 1. The NSW Public Health Act now requires that parents must present a complete Immunisation Certificate at the time of a child's school enrolment. Students not immunised must be removed from the school if there is an outbreak of an Infectious Disease.

LIBRARY POLICY

Reading as a leisure activity is promoted and encouraged by the school. Children are expected to borrow from the school library on a weekly basis. Each child requires a library bag. As they move through the classes the children are taught the necessary skills to enable them to carry out research and leisure book selection. Parents will be notified through the Newsletter of their child's library day.

MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

Arising from the duty of care that schools owe to their students, there will be occasions when the administration of medication is necessary to support students during the course of a normal school day or in school activities outside of normal school hours.

No medication will be given to a child without the written permission of a parent/guardian. Medication must be supplied by parents in the original container, clearly marked with the student's name, the name of the drug, dosage, frequency of administration and prescribing doctor's name. The appropriate permission form is available through the Compass app or printable from our website and must be completed before any medication will be administered to a student.

NEWSLETTERS / NOTES / COMPASS APP

A Newsletter is sent home each Wednesday via Compass. It is also available on the website. It is important that the Newsletters are given your attention as they contain information, important dates and student events.

Our school also sends out notes and information via the Compass App. This can be accessed on your PC or you can download the App onto your Mobile Phone. A password will be issued to you when you enrol.

It is preferred that Student Absences be entered directly into the Compass App, or you can contact the school via Phone or Email to advise of your child's absence.

School Reports are received and accessed by families on the Compass App. Printed copies are not sent home.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT / INTERVIEWS

Parents are welcome at the school at any time and are encouraged to be part of all Masses, Liturgies and celebrations. If a parent desires a formal interview with a teacher it is necessary to make an appointment by phoning the office. Please do not approach the teacher before school unless a meeting has been formally requested. It is also advantageous to notify the reason for the meeting being requested.

Parent information evenings are held early in Term 1 to give parents an overview of the year's activities (Covid restrictions permitting). Term overviews are also provided to ensure families are informed and included in their child's learning. Parent/Teacher interviews are held following semester reports.

PASTORAL CARE

The welfare of all students is paramount at St Joseph's. Students who require extra support can access Centacare Counselling with 6 free sessions. See the Principal for information.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our Religious Education Program goes beyond the daily religion lessons. It extends into every facet of school life through the way we relate to each other. It is evident in our school celebrations, our discipline procedures, our liturgical celebrations and in the way the school is run. Our teaching program is based on the Armidale Religious Education Curriculum.

School Masses – Students attend class masses on several occasions throughout the term. School masses are generally on Fridays at 9.30am. Throughout the year the whole school attends Mass on special occasions. Details of Mass will be noted in the Newsletter.

Sacramental Programs - It is current policy for the children to receive the Sacraments (for the first time) in the following classes:

Sacrament of Reconciliation Stage 2 biannually

Sacrament of Eucharist Stage 2 biannually

Sacrament of Confirmation Stage 3 biannually

Children who are not Catholics complete the preparation program and are encouraged to participate in the celebration but do not receive the Sacrament.



SCHOOL BUSES

- Applications to be done online – School Student Transport Scheme
<https://transportnsw.info/school-travel-appy>
- It is an expectation that our students are well behaved on their bus.
- Our school cannot take responsibility for the bus behaviour of children from other schools. Any concerns of that nature needs to be discussed with the bus company.
- Parents who drive their children to catch buses may qualify for government subsidy.



SCHOOL FEES

School Fees are set in November for the following year and sent out from the Catholic Schools Office. Fees are kept as low as possible so they are affordable for parents but still allow the school sufficient funds to provide educational resources, teaching aids, library books, equipment, furniture, maintenance of grounds, building and equipment, insurances and other expenses such as rates, telephone, postage, electricity, office stationery and equipment.

Payment of fees can be made in a lump sum per Term, Weekly, Fortnightly or by Monthly instalments.

Payable by - BPay and EFTPOS is available at the front office.

School Fees per Term for 2023 (updated each year)

1st Child	\$330
2nd Child	\$231
3rd Child	\$165
4th Child	\$82.50

SCHOOL HOURS

8:50 a.m. – 3:05p.m.

Supervision of the playground starts at 8:30am, when the school gates are unlocked. Children who arrive before 8:30am must remain seated in the shelter area until directed by a teacher.

Children are to be dropped off and picked up at the Scott Street gate.

For safety reasons the gates will be locked until children are escorted to their parents in the afternoon.

Recess: 11:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.

Lunch: 1.20pm – 1:55 p.m.

The School Office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily.

SCHOOL RULES

School rules are minimal and are positive in their approach rather than emphasising the negative. Awareness of and concern for others is of utmost importance at all times. Acceptable standards of public behaviour are set and maintained. These standards should help develop the child's respect for himself/herself and for their fellow students and should enable the education program to be carried out in an orderly and pleasant atmosphere.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school uniform can be purchased at Seamlines, 242 Rouse Street, Tenterfield. Ph. 0447919614. Please order early to ensure availability. School hats and badges can be purchased at the school office. Children are encouraged to take pride in their personal appearance. All children are required to wear the correct uniform. If the uniform is incomplete a note of explanation is required.

Students' hair should be clean, tidy and of a reasonable style. Haircuts are to enhance a neat/tidy appearance and are not to make a fashion statement. Hair below shoulder length must be tied back and off the face at all times. Colour dying of hair is unacceptable. All hair accessories must conform to the school colour - blue.

Pupils are not permitted to wear jewellery to school.

The only exceptions are:

- ** Earrings - sleepers/studs, in both ears only - one pair only
- ** Watches - we recommend an inexpensive watch for school
- ** Neck Chains - Christian medals/cross only – worn underneath clothing

Nail polish and makeup are not permitted at school.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Boys Summer Uniform: Short-sleeve open neck sky blue shirt, grey stubbie school shorts, navy blue v neck/collar/polar sloppy-joe with crest, grey school socks, black school shoes.

Girls Summer Uniform: Blue and grey check dress with blue tie, short white socks, navy blue v neck/collar/polar sloppy joe with crest, black school shoes.

Boys Winter Uniform: Sky blue long-sleeve shirt, school tie, long grey trousers, navy blue v neck/collar/polar sloppy joe with crest, grey school socks, black school shoes.

Girls Winter Uniform: Navy blue slacks, long-sleeve sky blue blouse, tab tie, navy blue v neck/collar/polar sloppy joe with crest, white socks, black school shoes.

The above uniform is worn on Tuesdays and Thursdays

Boys Sports Uniform: Blue/Navy sport shirt with collar and school crest, navy blue shorts, navy tracksuit with pale blue stripe, short white socks, sports shoes.

Girls Sports Uniform: Navy blue shorts, navy track suit with pale blue stripe, blue/navy sport shirt with collar and school crest, white short socks, sports shoes.

Sports Uniform is worn on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

NOTE: A pale blue skivvy is acceptable as an under garment in very cold weather.

The wearing of school hats is compulsory at all times when outdoors. These can be purchased from the School Office.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL CLOTHING IS CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME

SUN PROTECTION

It is our duty to ensure that all children attending our school are protected as much as possible from skin damage caused by the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. We implement a number of strategies to promote the sun protection in the school. The most obvious strategy is the wearing of hats. The school has a policy of '**no hat no play**'.



Covid-19 Information

Your child must not attend school if they have any of the following symptoms:

If your child has a negative RAT or PCR test, they may return to school after the following symptoms have ceased.

- Fever (37.5 Degrees or higher)
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Shortness of breath (difficulty breathing)
- Loss of taste
- Loss of smell

What if my child tests positive to Covid-19?

If your child tests positive, they will need to isolate for 7 days from the date of their positive test. Anyone who has been in your household is a close contact and must also quarantine for 7 days.

You need to advise the school if your child is Covid-19 positive.

Should I keep my child home from school if they're a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case?

If your child is a close contact of a Covid-19 positive case, you must advise the school and isolate for 7 days.

You should monitor their symptoms. If your child develops symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath, it is recommended that you conduct a Rapid Antigen Test or attend a medical service for a PCR Test.

The isolation rules around Covid-19 cases and close contacts is ever changing and we recommend in the event of such a situation, that you contact the school to get the current isolation instructions as stipulated by NSW Health.



Use this url to check current guidelines.
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

INFECTIOUS DISEASE EXCLUSION PERIODS

CHICKENPOX	
Common symptoms and how it's spread	Chickenpox causes mild fever and a rash of red, itchy patches. These turn into fluid-filled blisters before they crust over to form scabs and eventually drop off. Chickenpox spreads through close person-to-person contact and droplets in the air (from sneezing and coughing, for example).
Should I keep my child home from school?	Yes, until all blisters have dried, which is usually around 5 days after the rash first appeared.
COLDS	
Common symptoms and how it's spread	Common symptoms of a cold include coughing, low-grade fever, a sore throat, sneezing and a blocked or runny nose. Colds are spread through droplets in the air – from coughs or sneezes, for example – and on surfaces.
Should I keep my child home from school?	No, there is no need to exclude a child with the common cold if they seem well.
CONJUNCTIVITIS	
Common symptoms and how it's spread	Conjunctivitis, or 'pink eye', causes redness and swelling of the outer layer of the eye and inside the eyelid. It can also cause sore and watery eyes, with pus. Conjunctivitis spreads through contact with the discharge from an infected eye, nose or throat.
Should I keep my child home from school?	Yes, until the discharge (pus) from their eyes has stopped — unless otherwise advised by your doctor.
DIARRHOEA	
Common symptoms and how it's spread	Diarrhoea is loose, watery stools occurring more than 3 times in 1 day. It can be caused by a virus, bacteria, parasite, food poisoning, allergy, or other conditions. Stomach cramps, nausea, a fever, headache and loss of appetite are common associated symptoms.
Should I keep my child home from school?	Yes, until they have not had a loose bowel motion or other symptoms for 24 hours and if there is no cause identified. They may need to stay home for 48 hours until the cause has been identified.
GASTROENTERITIS	
Common symptoms and how it's spread	Gastroenteritis, also known as 'gastro', can cause vomiting and diarrhoea, as well as nausea and stomach pains. It spreads easily from having contact with an infected person (or their vomit or stools). It can also spread via contaminated food or water.
Should I keep my child home from school?	Yes, until they have not had a loose bowel motion or other symptoms for 24 hours and if there is no cause identified. They may need to stay home for 48 hours until the cause has been identified.

HAND, FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE	
Common symptoms and how it's spread	The main symptoms of hand, foot and mouth disease are fever and tiny blisters on the cheeks and gums, inside the mouth and on the hands and feet. Children pass it on easily by touching other kids, or toys that other children will play with.
Should I keep my child home from school?	Yes, until all blisters have dried.
HEAD LICE	
Common symptoms and how it's spread	Head lice are tiny insects about the size of a sesame seed that live in the hair of humans. They bite and cause itching of the skin. Lice can be passed between people by close head-to-head contact and sharing personal items, such as combs.
Should I keep my child home from school?	No, as long as effective treatment begins before the next school day.
INFLUENZA	
Common symptoms and how it's spread	Influenza, or 'the flu', commonly causes symptoms such as high fever, dry cough, muscle ache and fatigue. Less common symptoms include sore throat and a runny nose. Children may also have abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. It spreads from person to person through droplets in the air.
Should I keep my child home from school?	Yes, until they are well.
MEASLES	
Common symptoms and how it's spread	Early symptoms of measles include fever, cough, feeling tired, sore throat, runny nose, discomfort when looking at light and sore, watery eyes. A rash appears after 3 to 4 days. The spots (or blotches) are red and slightly raised. Measles spreads through droplets in the air.
Should I keep my child home from school?	Yes, from the onset of symptoms to 4 days after the rash appears.
MUMPS	
Common symptoms and how it's spread	Mumps is recognisable by the painful swellings on the side of the face under the ears. Other symptoms include headache, joint pain and a high temperature. It's spread by close contact or by coughing and sneezing.
RUBELLA	
Common symptoms and how it's spread	Symptoms of rubella, or 'German measles', include a distinctive red-pink skin rash, swollen glands (nodes), and cold-like symptoms such as a mild fever, sore head and runny nose. Rubella is spread through personal contact, or by coughing and sneezing.
Should I keep my child home from school?	Yes, until they have recovered fully, or for at least 4 days after the rash first appeared.

SCABIES	
Common symptoms and how it's spread	Scabies is an infestation of mites (tiny insects) that burrow under the skin causing intense itching and sometimes a rash. Scabies is passed from person to person through close skin contact or the sharing of clothing, towels and bedding. It's not caused by poor personal hygiene.
Should I keep my child home from school?	Yes, until the day after they start appropriate treatment.
THREADWORM	
Common symptoms and how it's spread	Threadworms, or 'pinworms', look like 1cm-long pieces of white thread. The main symptom is itching in the anal area or around the vagina. Kids are often infected by getting threadworm eggs on their hands and then putting their hands in their mouth.
Should I keep my child home from school?	No, exclusion is not necessary.
WHOOPING COUGH	
Common symptoms and how it's spread	Whooping cough, or 'pertussis', usually begins with a persistent dry cough that progresses to intense bouts of coughing, including a 'whooping' noise as the child breathes in. It's passed on through close personal contact, sneezing and coughing.
Should I keep my child home from school?	Yes, until 5 days after they started antibiotics, or for 21 days from the beginning of their cough.
Further information can be obtained from https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/	

“With Love and a Gentle Spirit”
(1 Cor 6:2)

NOTES