Be a Mercy Kid

2023 Term1 Week 2

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our hearts and mind to new friends and new staff. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with all our endeavours and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to our school and children's' needs and requests and let us experience Your presence in our wonderful community.

Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year! Amen

Welcome to the 2023 school year

We are glad that you are here

It's great to see you!

On behalf of the staff, we are most pleased to see you all and to get the year moving! There are many opportunities that await us this year as we continue to work together to ensure all children are safe and happy, ready and willing to learn in a somewhat modified environment.

It has been wonderful to see the children adapt to changes in such a short amount of time! Meeting new staff, working in new classrooms, adjusting to new play spaces all while swimming lessons were held.

It was good to see so many parents and carers at the parent teacher meetings on Wednesday evening. Thank you for demonstrating your support for your children and offering your encouragement to all. We are looking forward to a very happy and successful year full of fun filled learning.

This year the Sisters of Mercy celebrate the very first classes held at St Mary's, 120 years ago, what an extraordinary endeavour. The remarkable impact the Sisters have had in Education in Western Australia continues today. We are looking forward to community celebrations during the year. Our Mercy Values remind us of the goodness we share in all our relationships. Our Be a MERCY Kid approach is a supportive framework and guide for all of our children, founded in the beliefs of Jesus and the Sisters of Mercy. Our theme for this year is *Living a Mercy Life*.

We received sad news on Monday of the sudden death of Mrs Imelda Gane, a past member of staff until 2019, retiring as she became unwell. Mrs Gane joined the Aranmore community as a parent and volunteered for jobs including the P&F over 35 years ago. She worked as a teacher assistant, in the front office and in the library for all the years she was here. A woman of exceptionally strong faith, she was devoted to her family and lived her life to the full; happy when children were flourishing. Imelda tirelessly gave her time to the Aranmore community, and we will be forever thankful for her friendship and collegiality. We offer Imelda's family and friends God's love and strength. May Imelda rest peacefully in the arms of the Lord.

Swimming wrap up from the students' point of view:

Swimming lessons have been fun because we learnt to glide and swim through hoops. Scarlett Pre-Primary

Swimming lessons have been very productive because we have worked on our techniques and distance making us a better swimmer.

Charlotte Year 6

I love swimming lessons because we get to go outside and swim in the deep end. Harriet Year 2

I love swimming lessons, but it has been quite cold in the outdoor pool. Jonah Year 3

Thank you to all staff for going above and beyond during swimming time! Beginning the school year is a big task and to also have swimming, you are appreciated.

From this year, **NAPLAN** will be held in March. Families who have children in years 3 & 5 will receive a flyer from the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority today, explaining NAPLAN and how to assist your child during the testing period. NAPLAN is a snapshot of your child's learning.

We are working towards the tarmacking of the **courts**. As we began works at the beginning of the year, to improve drainage, the builder advised that extra and larger soak wells were required to ensure the flooding problems we have don't return. New soak wells are installed, cracks repaired and new kerbing is in place. The children will be able to play on the new surface almost immediately after the tarmac is dry. Soft fall will be added to the area designated for the natural play space. The courts will be coloured and marked in due course. Drainage works will continue for some time.

Our **Pre-Kindergarten** start has had to be delayed by a week. Our parent meeting and playdate is Monday 20 February, 9:00-10:00am and Pre-Kindy begins Monday 27 February, 8:45am to 2:45pm. We are so excited for the return of this program. If you know of anyone interested enrolling their 3 year old in our play-based, sensory program, please ask them to make their enquiries through the school office.

Accompanying this newsletter are 3 notes for you on the school app:

- 1. Kiss N Ride & Parking
- 2. Aranmore's Communication Procedures
- 3. Revised Term 1 Calendar

Parents and carers received parent/teacher information packs on Wednesday evening via the **Seesaw Family app**. If you haven't subscribed to this app, please do, as a lot of information will be shared with you during the year.

At Aranmore, supervision of students begins at 8:10am and concludes at 3:20pm each day. We ask that parents make use of Gumtrees out of school hours care if you require assistance earlier or later in a day.

The **School app** is another <u>must</u> have. This app is used to quickly inform parents and carers of important information. Don't forget to turn 'notifications' on so that you don't miss a message. Please download from either the App Store or Play Store.

Please refer to the website or the app calendar for the latest term dates.

In the best interests of looking after children safely, the following child protection matter is in place: Bathroom and toilet facilities are available for all visitors to school in the administration area. All adults, siblings and visitors <u>must</u> use the facilities available in the administration area. Parents are not able to accompany their child to student toilets.

Jonnine Lamborne Principal Living a Mercy Life

Important Dates:

Please refer to the school calendar on the website and school app for further information.

14 February
15 February
20 February
21 February
22 February
24 February
27 February
28 February
2 & 3 March

Aranmore Swimming Club

Aranmore Primary Squad swimming is back... join coach Alison and Daniel at 7am every Tuesday at Beatty Park outdoor pool. New swimmers are welcome to have a free trial if level 5 or above in Vacswim levels, just bring your own goggles. Enrolment forms and other hire equipment will be available.

Enquiries to Sara via email rszorsi@icloud.com.



