Welcome
A special warm welcome to all our new Kindergarten students and their families who commenced today. We trust you will settle in quickly to the various routines and enjoy your time with us in our St Ed’s community.

Family Masses
Our Family Masses have become an important part of our school culture over the past few years and these are usually held on the third Sunday of every month of the school term. Therefore our Family Masses for this term will be held on Sunday 22nd February (Years 3 & 6) and Sunday 22nd March (Years 2 & 5) at Mary Help of Christians Church at 9.00am. These Masses are an opportunity for our school community to come together with our parish community to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word and to share a ‘cuppa’ and morning tea afterwards. Each grade will be allocated a Mass throughout the year, where the families in that grade will be responsible for providing and serving morning tea.

Beginning of Year School Mass
Our Beginning of Year School Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 10th February at 9.30am in Mary Help of Christians Church. Years 1 – 6 will be attending. We hope that many parents and friends will be able to join us for this special celebration.

Community Spirit - Carlos IGA
It was with pleasure that I accepted a cheque for our school from Peter, Manager of the Carlos Robert Street IGA, on Friday. They have donated $500 to our school and in return could I ask parents and friends of St Ed’s to support this local business which has gone out of its way to support our school. A big thank you to Peter and Carlo’s IGA in Robert Street.

Edition 2: 2nd February 2015

A Prayer for School Children
Father of all mercies
We ask that you would bless the youngest and littlest of learners, the most helpless and powerless of persons, with Your infinite and loving mercy, granting them the strength to learn, concentrate, and act in love towards their teachers and fellow students.
We also ask that You would watch over them, at home and at school, and grant them proper direction so that they may learn of Your wonderful virtues.
We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.
Amen
(David Bennett)

Uniform Change for all PRIMARY Students – this Wednesday 4th February
PLEASE NOTE: Due to the swimming carnival trials being held this Wednesday 4th February, uniform requirements as follows for all Primary children:
Wednesday 4th Feb: Sports uniform
Friday 6th Feb: Normal summer uniform
All Infants students (K – 2) wear sports uniform as normal this Friday. Any Year 2 children attending the swimming trials on Wednesday are requested to wear their sports uniform and again on Friday.

Mrs Gippel is also desperately seeking parent helpers to assist with the swimming trials this Wednesday 4th February (9.00am-1.00pm). If you are able to help in any way, please call the Primary Campus on 6765 7847 and leave your name or alternatively send a note into your child’s class teacher.

Swimming Carnival Absences
Our School Twilight Swimming Carnival will be held on Thursday 12th February from 3.30pm till 8.00pm. The swimming carnival is part of our school sports program and ALL Primary children are required to attend the carnival. Infants children who are turning 8 this year and can swim 50m, are encouraged to attend and compete. The Twilight Swimming Carnival is classed as a normal school day in lieu of Friday 13th February. Class rolls will be marked for the Friday and if any Primary children are absent from the carnival a written explanation must be provided from parents within 7 working days, otherwise the absence will be classed as unexplained. Infants children are not required to provide an absent note.

PUPIL FREE DAY – Friday 13th February
Due to the Twilight Swimming Carnival on Thursday 12th February, please note that ALL children from Kinder to Year 6 DO NOT ATTEND school on Friday 13th February 2015.

IMPORTANT Information for Parents – Grade Nights
In the coming weeks we will be holding Grade Information Nights for parents covering important information about your child’s education. We strongly encourage all parents to attend.

PRIMARY Grade Night – Monday 9th February
5.00pm – Year 3 parents – Room 4 (Mr Millman’s Room)
5.45pm – Year 4 parents – Room 7 (Mrs Pearson’s Room)
6.30pm – Year 5 parents – Room 10 (Miss Mace’s Room)
7.15pm – Year 6 parents – Room 3 (Mrs Clarke’s Room)

INFANTS Grade Night – Wednesday 11th February
5.45pm – 6.30pm – Year 2 parents – Room 11 (Miss Elliott’s Room)
6.30pm – 7.15pm – Kindergarten parents – Room 5 (Mrs Barry-Cuples’ Room)
7.15pm – 8.00pm – Year 1 parents – Room 1 (Miss Pilgrim’s Room)
Parent/Teacher Interviews

Also in the coming weeks all parents will have the opportunity for an individual interview with your child’s class teacher. A note will go home to parents regarding interview timeslots and you will be required to indicate your preferred preferences. We have scheduled these interviews early in the school year so parents have the opportunity to share valuable information about their children with class teachers. Please note due to time constraints, these interviews are strictly limited to 15 minutes only. We encourage all parents to attend.

KINDER ONLY (Week 4): Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February

PRIMAR YRS 3 - 6 (Week 6): Monday 2nd March – Friday 6th March

YRS 1 & 2 (Week 7): Monday 9th March – Friday 13th March

P & F Annual General Meeting & St Edward’s School Board Annual General Meeting

The combined AGM of the St Edward’s School Board and Parent Association will be held on Wednesday 25th February commencing at 7.30pm in the Primary Library. Several positions will become vacant on the School Board and the P & F. If you would like to nominate for a position, or you know of someone who would like to be nominated on the School Board, please collect a Nomination Form from either school office. The closing date for School Board nominations is Tuesday 24th February at 9.00am. P & F nominations will be accepted on the night. All teaching staff will be in attendance and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

First Aid Policy

In response to the needs of our students we have adopted a policy of harm minimisation in regard to food allergies. This specifically relates to peanuts and nut products. An allergy to these foods is life threatening and can be triggered by touch alone. The policy outlined below, is the most responsible course of action.

- NO peanut butter, nutella, or products containing nuts will be sold through our Canteen.
- No child can bring these products to school in any of their forms, these items are totally banned!
- We recognise parental choice in determining their children’s diets, however we stress that this allergy is LIFE THREATENING and therefore requires a strong and dedicated strategy to minimise the risk.

We urge all parents who have identified their child as having an allergy of any type to clarify with their child’s teacher the exact nature and severity of their allergy. We also ask that you provide clear information regarding any or all treatment protocols, particularly if an antihistamine or other medication may need to be administered at school. In the coming weeks, Medical Action Plans will be sent home from the administrative staff to all families who have children with Asthma, Seizures, Diabetes and Anaphylaxis. Parents are asked to check/update these forms and where necessary, signed by their doctor.

We continue to evolve in our understanding of the changing needs of the children in our care and policies such as these are vital. We thank you for your support in assisting us to keep all of the children in our school safe and happy.

Infants’ Carpark – OUT OF BOUNDS

Infants’ parents are reminded to not walk through the Staff Car Park when dropping off or leaving the school with your child/children. The pedestrian gate and yellow path is to be used at ALL times.

Cars – Pick Up and Drop Off (INFANTS)

Children at the Infants who come to school by car should be dropped off and picked up in Thompson Crescent or David Street. Cars are not allowed in the school car park as it interrupts the flow of traffic in Robert Street, as well as being dangerous to the children. Staff cars only are allowed. The Eastern Side (near Hall) of David Street is a “No Standing Zone” which means children can only be dropped off and picked up in David Street on the school side.

If you park in Robert Street, please set a good example to your children and use the pedestrian crossing at all times. A parking bay exists in Thompson Crescent. This bay is to enable parents to pick up and drop off children. You are allowed to reverse angle park only in the lined spaces provided for a period of 15 minutes during the school zone time, 8.00am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 4.00pm. As a safety precaution, please alight from the car when parked and then assist your child out of the car and ensure that they are safely on school grounds. When leaving the pick-up area, you are requested to turn left only and proceed around Thompson Crescent.

Picking Up Children from Classroom (INFANTS)

Parents are permitted to pick up children under the following conditions:

1. Parents are not to go directly to the classroom to collect children early, i.e. appointment etc. Please report to the front office and your child will be called from class to the office;
2. On wet days parents are encouraged to collect their child at 2.45pm to lessen congestion. You do not have to report to the Office, just collect your child from the classroom. This only applies for wet days and should not be normal practice;
3. Children are picked up from the quadrangle immediately on dismissal at 3.00pm. Please do not wait on the classroom verandahs or look in the windows as this is distracting to the children;
4. Parents picking up are not permitted to park their cars in the staff car park, school grounds or in designated bus zones in Robert St;
5. Parents must accompany their child through the main entrance of the school and if crossing Robert St are required to cross at the supervised crossing;
6. No child will be permitted to leave and cross the road unaccompanied to be collected by a car in the streets outside the school. This is a serious safety issue;
7. Children or parents are not to leave the grounds through the staff car park. This is for safety and insurance reasons.

Cars – Pick Up and Drop Off (PRIMARY)

- Morning – children are dropped off in the driveway at the front of the school. Cars then move out through the road in front of the Church foyer.
- Afternoon – children are picked up in the car park at the rear of the school, not in front of the school as this causes problems with the flow of traffic in Hillvue Road and is very dangerous for our bike riders. Cars are not permitted to go through the church driveway in the afternoon.
- We ask that all cars turn left in the afternoons to reduce traffic flow down Hillvue Road towards Werris Creek Road. No right hand turns please.
- Please drive slowly through the school grounds as the speed limit is 10 k.p.h only.

Picking Up Children from Classroom (PRIMARY)

Parents are permitted to pick up children under the following conditions:

1. Parents are not to go directly to the classroom to collect children early, i.e. appointment etc. Please report to the front office and your child will be called from class;
2. On wet days parents are encouraged to collect their child at 2.45pm to lessen congestion. You do not have to report to the Office, just collect your child from the classroom. This only applies for wet days and should not be normal practice;
3. Children are picked up from outside the front office immediately on dismissal at 3.00pm. Please do not wait on the classroom verandahs or look in the windows as this is distracting to the children;
4. Parents picking up are not permitted to park their cars in the staff car park, the church car park, on church or school grounds, in the bus bay or in a designated bus zone in Hillvue Road;
5. Parents must accompany their child through the main entrance of the school and if crossing Hillvue Road are required to cross at the supervised crossing;
6. No child will be permitted to leave and cross the road unaccompanied to be collected by a car in the streets outside the school. This is a serious safety issue;  
7. Children or parents are not to leave the grounds through the staff car park. This is for safety and insurance reasons.

**St Edward’s has its own Mobile Site**  
You can now access St Edward’s mobile website, from any type of Smartphone. You can instantly access links to Term Dates, Educational Apps, School Community Events and many more useful links or if you cannot find what you need from the new Mobile Site there is also a link to the Full Site.  
Steps to follow:  
1. All you need to do is Google “St Edward’s Tamworth” from your Smartphone.  
2. Once the options appear from the Google search, click on the second option “Welcome to St Edward’s Primary School”.  
3. Click on the link and it will take you straight to the new St Edward’s Mobile Website.  
4. You can also add this page to appear on your home screen, so it is as easy as one click/touch and you are in every time! Adding this page to your Home screen has different instructions for each Smartphone, so look into your phone options to do so.

**Canteen Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Infants</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues 3rd Feb</td>
<td>Kristen Elliott</td>
<td>Kristen Elliott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 4th Feb</td>
<td>Lisa Elliott</td>
<td>Kellie Flanagan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs 5th Feb</td>
<td>Renae Humphris</td>
<td>Melissa Pengilley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 6th Feb</td>
<td>Maree Gambrell</td>
<td>Tania Young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 9th Feb</td>
<td>Jodie Fauchon</td>
<td>Rosalie Uetzmann</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Canteen News**

Parents please note that our school is currently out of stock of the St Ed’s embroidered size 4 & 6 sports shorts and size 6 sports polos. Unfortunately we have been informed there will be a 4 week delay due to overseas supply and delivery. If you are affected by this uniform wait, please see either the Primary or Infants Clothing Pool or alternatively your child is permitted to wear their normal summer uniform on sports day (Friday). We are also experiencing a delay with our school jacket order and supplies will not be arriving until April. We apologise for any inconvenience caused!  

**BAKERS DELIGHT**  
When purchasing any products from Bakers Delight Shopping World Tamworth, all you need to do is tell the staff when making your purchases that you are supporting St Edward’s School and they will kindly donate 5% of your purchase of ANY product back to our school.

**RE News**

**The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**  
Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple, recalling the encounter of Jesus with Anna and Simeon 40 days after the birth of Jesus. As Christ is the light to enlighten all nations, candles are blessed during the introductory rites of Mass and carried in the entrance procession.

**Opening School Mass**  
The Opening School Mass will be held at 9.30am next Tuesday 10th February. Years 1 - 6 will be attending. We hope you can join us to celebrate the beginning of a new school year.

**WISE WORDS FOR FAMILIES – “Michael Grose’s 10 Golden Rules for parenting success in 2015”**  
The start of the year is a great time for reflection, and setting new directions and goals. We do so at work and in our personal lives, so why not set some goals to become a better parent in 2015. I’ve listed 10 very different ideas below to guide and inspire you to reinvigorate your parenting this year. Read on and choose one or two ideas to focus on in the coming months.  
1. **Build redundancy into your parenting.** You don’t want your kids living with you when they’re forty so you had better start making yourself redundant right now. Expect kids to help at home without being paid and develop their self-help skills from the earliest possible age. If your kids are dependent on you then start small and work from there.  
2. **Build self-belief in kids.** It is self-belief rather than ability that holds many kids back from really achieving their best. Parents mirror back to their children how they see themselves. If you are naturally negative start by focusing on children’s strengths, let them know how they can improve and give them real responsibilities so they learn that their parents have faith in them.  
3. **Talk less when kids misbehave.** Do you repeat yourself when your kids don’t do as you ask? Perhaps you raise your voice to be heard. Don’t. It leads to parent-deafness. Act rather than repeat yourself or shout. Put the meal on the table rather than remind them to come to dinner. Turn the TV off if they are fighting rather shout for some peace and quiet. This year talk less when kids are less than perfect.  
4. **Choose your battles wisely.** If you always seem to be fighting with one or two of your kids sit back and assess what’s important and what’s not, and then only fight over major stuff. Fighting over minor issues burns up parent energy and damages relationships. Make a list of minor and major issues as a reminder.  
5. **Help kids appreciate what they have.** Some children have a default mechanism that is both negative and self-centred. They are never happy and they always want more. You can change their way of thinking with effort. Start by encouraging him or her to look on the bright side and be thankful for what they have.  
6. **Encourage kids to be self-occupiers.** Parents underestimate the importance of kids being able to keep themselves busy. Spending time on their own encourages self-initiated play, is good for their mental health and is a pre-requisite for success at school. If you are your child’s home entertainment machine then you can change. First, avoid rushing in when children seem bored. Then suggest ideas rather than provide entertainment when they’re bored.  
7. **Don’t fight your children’s battles.** Leave some battles for your kids. Well-meaning parents can sometimes fight too many of their children’s battles, robbing them of opportunities to solve their own problems. If this is you, next time your child experiences some frustration or difficulty at school or at home stand back, offer support and suggestions but don’t solve the problem for him.  
8. **Have at least five family mealtimes a week.** If you want to influence your kids’ thinking then you need to talk with them. Mealtimes provide these opportunities as long as the TV is turned off and you avoid getting into fights about how much they eat. Set a goal of five shared mealtimes as a minimum.  
9. **Encourage a sense of generosity.** Moving kids from thinking ‘me’ to thinking ‘we’ takes work these days as families are small and parenting tends to be child, rather than family-focused. Develop a sense of altruism by encouraging your kids to volunteer, giving some pocket money to charity, and giving away old or unused toys.  
10. **Fast track your own development.** Being a modern parent means you always have to update your parenting skills and knowledge. After 30 years as a parenting educator I know that the most effective parents are those who have a rich repertoire of skills and knowledge at their disposal, which is constantly being updated. So take a course; go deep into an area such as emotional intelligence; confidence-building or resilience development; or develop a relationship with a respected professional who can guide your development.

**Notes Home Today**

- Term 1 Parent Calendar (all families)
- Summer Canteen Menu (all families)
- Canteen Helpers Note (all families)
- Online Canteen Orders Note (all families)
- Social Media Permission Note (new students only)
- 2015 Masses & Celebrations Permission Note (Infants children only)

*Sally Clarke & Amy Elliott*