Dear Parents and families,

Firstly I am very pleased to inform you that Bishop Paul has appointed Fr Glynn as Parish Administrator until 2020. We look forward to working with Fr Glynn throughout the year. I will be meeting with Fr Glynn tomorrow regarding dates for this term. I am hopeful that our Beginning of School Year Mass will be on Sunday 3rd March. This date and time will be confirmed in next week’s newsletter but can I ask all families to please ‘claim the date’ now in their diaries and home calendars. All families are expected to attend this Mass. More details next week!

Last Sunday was the Forth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, in the church’s liturgical year. The second reading from Mass was a beautiful reading from First Corinthians which celebrates love as the ideal gift from God and the gift we should strive for beyond all others. In part the reading proclaims “Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people’s sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes……. In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.”

When we hear this litany of adjectives describing love, it may seem unattainable in light of our human failings, yet we are told love never fails. This reading is probably one of the best known of the readings attributed to Paul. Love should be at the heart of each person’s ministry. Love enhances all other gifts. Even the grandest of gifts are nothing without love.

Office closed
Please note the office will be CLOSED on Wednesday 13th February as Julie will be attending an Admin workshop. Any items for the newsletter must be in by 11am on Tuesday so the newsletter can be prepared for Wednesday.

Wishing you all a wonderful week! Cynthia
Water Fun Day
Our Water Fun Day will be held on Friday 22nd February. We really rely on parent helpers to run this day. If you are able to help out, please fill in the reply slip and return to school. Students will leave school and walk to the pool at 11:30am. There will be a BBQ lunch for sale - $1 for a sausage in bread with all proceeds going to Project Compassion. Students will need to bring their own snacks and plenty to drink. Students will be dismissed from the pool at the end of the Water Fun Day if their parents are there to take them or if a written note has been received from parents to say they can go with another parent or walk home. Any students not dismissed from the pool will walk back to school with the teachers. We look forward to a great day!
**We ask that toddlers stay out of the little pool during the Water Fun Day.

Clearing Sale catering
A big thank you again to all parents who helped out with the catering sale last Friday. It is early days yet with some expenses still to be paid but at this stage it's looking like a profit of over $1,000; great job team!

Southern Mallee Lakes Swimming carnival
This carnival will take place on Friday 15th February at the Hopetoun Pool, commencing at 10am. Nominations for this are being finalised. Students come to school as normal, in their sports uniform, and we will walk to the pool at 9:30am. Please ensure your child has a couple of drink bottles and plenty of lunch and snacks for the day. Please note that there is a $2 entry fee for all adults. This money goes towards the running costs of our sports association and ribbons that are awarded to students and will give you a program of events for the day. Permission notes for those attending will be sent home Friday. We will need parents to assist with timekeeping or handing out ribbons at this carnival. If you can help out, please fill in the reply slip which will be attached to the permission note Friday.
**We ask that toddlers stay out of the little pool during the carnival.

Fresh Fruit Friday
Thanks to parents for their prompt response to Fresh Fruit Friday. The roster is attached today.

Wanted Corks
If anyone has any bottle corks can you please send them to school for our Water Fun Day.

Pool Fees
The Hopetoun Swimming Pool Committee charges students who have not paid an annual membership to the pool. The charge is $10 per student. If you have a membership already, could you please let the school office know. If you are not a member could you please forward $10 per student to school as soon as possible.

Evacuation Drill
Next week we will practise our first Evacuation Drill for the year. Evacuation and Lockdown drills are part of our usual practise for ensuring everyone knows what to do in the unexpected case of an emergency.
Student Absences from School
If your child is absent from school we ask that you contact the school via phone or email informing of their absence by 10am on the day of their absence. Alternatively, if you know ahead of time that your child will be absent we ask that you send in a note informing us. If your child is absent and we have not heard from you by 10am we will be contacting you to ensure you are aware that your child is not at school. Thank you for your assistance with this.

School calendar
The calendar on our website www.sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au has important dates on it for the upcoming school year. Please check this regularly.

Newsletters
The weekly school newsletter will be forwarded home to families each Wednesday. Please send newsletter items to the office no later than 9am Wednesdays.
If you would prefer your newsletter to be emailed to you each week, please contact the office with your email address admin@sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au
NB: it is not always possible to email attachments so please continue to check your child’s bag for notes.

Lunch Orders
Our lunches will be supplied through the Bow Bakery this year. Attached to the newsletter is a current lunch order price list. Orders can be placed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays.

10am Fruit Snack
A reminder of our 10am fruit snack each day. It is hoped that the break will revitalize and energise students and the fruit will hold off the hunger pangs that hit mid-morning, therefore maintaining student’s concentration. Students are asked to bring fresh or dried fruit or raw vegetables e.g. carrot sticks, to eat during this snack time. Please be aware that it will only be 3 minutes so it needs to be something small that can be eaten quickly, there will not be time to go to the community room to cut up fruit. We look forward to your cooperation with ensuring your child has fresh or dried fruit to eat during the snack time.

Nude Food Day
St Joseph’s School promotes Nude Food Day every Thursday. Nude Food Day is all about promoting the nude food message in schools, which is healthy bodies + a healthy planet. Nude Food Day is an initiative developed to encourage kids to eat well and live well, and eliminate all unnecessary packaging and wrapping that comes to school. Essentially, kids bring their food nude! That means without packaging. This will reduce the amount of rubbish that goes into the bins, that goes into the ground, that pollutes our planet. Package free foods are often healthier options, such as a piece of fruit or carrot or celery sticks.

Primary School Nurse Program
The Primary School Nursing Program (PSNP) is a free service offered by the Department of Education and Training to all children attending primary schools in Victoria. Primary School Nurses visit schools throughout the year to provide health assessments, predominately for Foundation students. A parent questionnaire has been sent home today with Foundation students. Could these please be completed and returned to school by February 21st.

No School for Foundation students on Wednesdays
A reminder to parents of Foundation students that they do not attend school on Wednesdays until after the long weekend.

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS?

Room 1
Week one is done and as a class we have talked about safety and our class norms, allowing all the students to know they are to feel safe in the classroom and school and to also treat everyone with respect. This also links to our bucket filler reward system we use in the classroom.

We have started swimming and everyone is having a go, some are conquering fears and everyone is enjoying himself or herself. The end of the week came with many tired students and one very sleepy teacher!

Our take home reader program has started, and this will include filling out a reading diary every night. Feel free to comment and communicate with me through these diaries if you wish, as I will check them every day. Homework will start soon and this will include looking at sight words and a few homework sheets to be completed and handed back by Friday morning. These worksheets will not be too difficult but will link to the topics we are learning in our lessons.

We have started to focus more on our classroom routines and have begun our more structured class timetable, this includes jobs that each student will be in charge of for the week in class, such as cleaning jobs, greeting job and even line leaders.

In our literacy block, we have started our reading groups and recounts are being written about weekends and holidays. Foundation students are beginning their Jolly Phonic journey and learning about new sounds and letters. Our Religion program has started and our topic we are focusing on is ‘Belonging’; we have focused so far on what is belonging, how do we know we belong and where do we belong.

Have a lovely week,

Miss Rowles

Room 2
It’s been great to see all the students come back to school eager and ready to learn. Swimming has started and been going well with all the students organised and eager to participate.

Students have been learning about writing recounts by writing about their holidays which have all been interesting to read.

In Religion we are looking at the concept of belonging.

Chinese will begin next week.

Later in the week I will be introducing ClassDojo to encourage the students in important skills for example participation, working hard, perseverance. I will also use it as one way to communicate with you: send you messages, updates and photos from the class. It’s an easy way for you to see how your child is doing in class. I will be sending home letters with a link later in the week with how you can join and sign into our class dojo. If you have any questions don’t hesitate to ask. You can contact me at: pflower@sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au

Ms Flower

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING
Congratulations to the following students who received awards at assembly last Friday:

**Room 1:**
- **Kryzun:** for showing leadership skills
- **Toby:** for showing leadership skills
- **Lawson:** for showing leadership skills

**Room 2:**
- **Lana:** for being very helpful to teachers and fellow students
- **Max:** for giving his best effort and having a go

**Playground raffle winners:**
- **Ellerdy:** for being active in the playground
- **Louie:** for being active in the playground

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**My Family:** Mum, dad, Isabelle & Jakob

**My Pets:** Flower the cat, Darnya the dog & our horses

**My Favourite Food:** Lettuce & tomato

**Hobbies:** Playing with my Barbies

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**Star of the Week:** Cheyanne

**My Friends:** Mia, Lola, Emily & Popi

**When I grow up I want to be:** an office girl
**Vision Statement**
St. Joseph’s School is an inclusive community of faith and learning with Christ at its centre. St Joseph’s School will educate its students to be of service to society in the Catholic tradition of love, faith and hope.

**Mission Statement**
As a Christ centred school we celebrate our Catholic beliefs, values, practices and traditions.
As an educational institution we:
- Will support the development of the whole person.
- Will provide a comprehensive curriculum, which challenges all students in their pursuit of success.
- Will cater for the varied learning styles of our students.
- Will be a child safe school by providing a physical and online environment that is happy, safe and welcoming.
- Will respect the dignity of the individual and value the participation and contribution of all.
- Will work in partnership with parents, the parish and the wider community.
- Will encourage our students to make a difference in the local, national and global communities in which they live.

**HOUSEKEEPING!!**

**Student Absence from School**
A reminder that it is a legal requirement for parents to explain absences from school. We do not need to know ‘nitty gritty’ details, simply sickness, doctor’s appointment or family reasons will suffice. **Please remember to email or phone the school prior to 10am on the day of absence otherwise you will be contacted, or if a scheduled absence in advance.** Thank you.

**Sunscreen**
Sunscreen is provided by the school for our students, however we do encourage the children to bring their own sunscreen to school to assist with sun protection. Students are regularly encouraged by teachers to apply sunscreen throughout the day.

**Hats**
School hats MUST be worn at all times when students are outdoors, except for extremely windy days where hats blow over the fence. School Hats are now $15.00.

**Signing out**
Please remember to sign out your child at the office if you need to take them from school during the day. This is not only a legal requirement but also an important part of our emergency management plan.

**P & F docket**
A reminder that any purchases for P & F from IGA must be put on the P & F account (not school account). Dockets then need to be sent to school please.

**Pie warmer containers**
A reminder that students can bring lunch to school wrapped in foil or in a foil container to be heated in the pie warmer.

Pie warmer containers are available from the office for $10.00 for 50 containers.

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*Grounds Roster February: N Seipolt & M Webster*
Wills & Powers of Attorney
Information Session

The Murray Mallee Community Legal Service is delivering a general information session to the local community covering:

- Wills
- Powers of Attorney
- Medical Treatment Decision Makers
- Advance Care Directives

The session will cover brief information about wills with the focus being on Powers of Attorney and changes to legislation in March 2018 regarding Medical Treatment Decision Makers and Advance Care Directives.

Please join us to learn more about planning for your future

Wednesday 27th February
5pm
Hopetoun & District Neighbourhood House

Please RSVP to Cindy by Monday 25th February
Ph: 5083 3408 or email info@hopehouse.org.au

Please note: Individual legal advice cannot be given at the session.