Welcome to
St. Patrick’s School
Holbrook

Pray, Live and Learn as we grow in the love of God

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YOUR NEW SCHOOL

At St. Patrick’s School, each child is seen as a unique and precious human being who is encouraged to grow into a wise, curious and confident adult.

Our school motto - pray, live and learn in Christ - summarises our belief in developing children with strong Christian values. We want to educate the whole child: spiritual, intellectual, social and emotional. We aim to provide a nurturing and challenging environment that allows each child to achieve their very best.

Our school undertakes to provide a high quality education program to include the seven Key Learning Areas. Staff continuously upgrade their teaching and learning skills to help our students to be critical and creative thinkers and to collaborate and communicate in the connected globalised world.

School Hours are:-

- **School Day Begins**: 9.00am
  (Fruit 10.00am)
- **1st Break**: 11.00am to 11.30am
- **2nd Break**: 1.00pm to 1.40pm
- **School Day Ends**: 3.10pm

Supervision of children is between 8.45am and 3.30pm
Children should not be on school grounds before 8.45am
HISTORY

As early as 1877 Holbrook (then known as Germanton) had a Catholic School with 27 pupils, the teacher being a Miss Prendergast. The foundation stone for the Church was laid in 1885 and the completed church was blessed by Fr. (later Bishop) Gallagher on 8th May, 1887. In 1955 the church was remodelled, the position of the altar changed and a new wing built on. The first Presbytery was commenced in 1882 and completed the following year. The present Presbytery was built in 1959.

In 1892 sisters from the Order of St. Joseph arrived in Germanton and as the convent was not completed, they resided in the Presbytery. The new convent, when completed, was enclosed by a high galvanised iron fence and a brick wall, on top of which broken bottles had been cemented. The nuns taught school in the church. The Sisters of St. Joseph left Holbrook at the end of 1985 and since then the school has been staffed by lay teachers.

Additions were completed on the convent in 1952 and the convent is now used as a business centre. A new boundary fence was erected in 2009.

Our oldest school building was blessed and opened on 13th May, 1917. Another wing was commenced in the early 60’s and the administration and tuckshop area was added in 1984. In 1990, a new kindergarten classroom was built along with new toilets and wet weather walking areas.

These were replaced in 2009/2010 by three new classrooms and a COLA and the older building converted back to a hall. In 2011 the front fence was replaced.
BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Our school buildings consist of a mixture of the old and the new.

Our first building was the hall built in 1916/17. This was converted to three rooms by the addition of interior dividing walls sometime prior to World War 2. This building is heritage listed by Greater Hume Shire Council. In 2010 the building was completed refurbished and returned to use as a hall. It now boasts new flooring, curtains, toilets and kitchen.

An additional classroom and storage area was added in the 1950’s; administration block in 1984; a purpose built kindergarten classroom in 1991. In 2010 three new classrooms, canteen and storage rooms were added.

Our classrooms are now state of the art learning centres. They boast modern learning aides required for today’s ever changing world, including Interactive whiteboards in the rooms; and an IT device for each child. Each room also contains furniture which allows students to choose a favourite learning position e.g. floor, sitting, standing etc.

All rooms are large and airy with cooling for the summer months and natural gas heating for the winter months. The kinder classroom has toilets attached.

We have a well equipped range of free play sporting equipment that students are able to use in the large open space playground. A large covered outdoor learning area (COLA) provides the opportunity for work and play protected from the extremes of weather.
# 2017 Term Dates - NSW Catholic Schools

## Term 1
- **27th January (Friday)**: Staff Planning Day
- **30th January (Monday)**: Years 1-6 commence
- **31st January (Tuesday)**: Kindergarten commence
- **7th April (Friday)**: End Term 1

### Easter
- **14th April (Friday)**: Good Friday
- **15th April (Saturday)**: Holy Saturday
- **16th April (Sunday)**: Easter Sunday
- **17th April (Monday)**: Easter Monday

## Term 2
- **26th April (Wednesday)**: Students return for Term 2
- **12th June (Monday)**: Queen's Birthday public holiday
- **30th June (Friday)**: End Term 2

## Term 3
- **17th July (Monday)**: Students return for Term 3
- **22nd September (Friday)**: End Term 3

## Term 4
- **9th October (Monday)**: Students return for Term 4
- **15th December (Wednesday)**: Last day 2017 school year for students

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**Kinder Rest Days - 1st February, 8th February**

**15th February and 22nd February**
GENERAL GUIDELINES

School Telephone Number: 02-6036 2288
School Email: sph-info@ww.catholic.edu.au
Web site: www.sphww.catholic.edu.au

Parents are asked to use the school telephone number in cases of emergency. All other matters such as reasons for absence, change of routine etc. should be communicated to the class teacher as soon as possible in writing.
* Please note that planned absences over 5 days require approval of the School Principal in writing beforehand.

Learning in a 21st Century Classroom
Many children now start school technologically literate. They can use a keyboard and are familiar with tablet technology and smartphones. Learning and teaching in the 21st century puts an emphasis on collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and communication. Students will become equipped with the capacity to think, solve problems and respond to and thrive within a changing society.
Teachers now pose the questions, provide the tools and research methods, as well as delivering subject content and guidance for problem-solving in a collaborative environment.
At St. Patrick’s School we value the knowledge that students acquire outside of school and use these experiences to make learning relevant.
Each student has access to an individual Chromebook and each classroom is equipped with an electronic Smartboard.

Banking
Various school banking options are available at school. Please see the School Administration Officer for more information.

Book Levy
A book levy is set for the whole year and is a per child levy, charged in conjunction with tuition fees. This levy covers equipment provided for your child e.g. exercise books, pens, pencils, art/craft supplies etc.
Building Fund
A building fund levy is charged at the beginning of Term 2 and is a charge per family. This levy covers a variety of school commitments including the school insurance premium. This is a tax deductible levy and official receipts are issued at 30th June each year.

Cleaner
The school employs a cleaner who is responsible for vacuuming each room weekly and the daily cleaning of the toilets.

Homework
In line with Contemporary Learning and 21st Century practices and pedagogy, St. Patrick’s School does not support Homework in its ‘traditional’ format.

The introduction of ‘i’ time – inspirational, inventive, informative, inquiry, investigative, ipad, independent, individual, interesting…. itime replaces traditional homework.

The Mastery learning component done at school (via the online tools - Mathletics and Reading Eggs) is now encouraged at home, along with reading every night. It is self-paced, self-correcting, tracks progress, prints certificates of achievement, provides immediate feedback and so on. Importantly, what is done at home will now directly reinforce, compliment, support and revise what is ‘actually’ done in the classroom. It is important to note that itime is not mandatory - if children choose/want to do it, it is available. Teachers will not set tasks, monitor progress or assess completed work.
GOOD HEALTH PLAYS AN IMPORTANT PART IN SCHOOL PROGRESS

Our school has a fruit break for all students about 10.00am each day. Parents are asked to provide their child with a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable each day.

Exclusion from School in case of the common diseases of childhood:

**Chicken Pox:** Child excluded till fully recovered or at least five days after the eruption first appears. Any child with immune deficiency e.g. leukaemia or receiving chemotherapy to be excluded for own protection.

**Impetigo (school sores):** Child excluded until appropriate treatment has commenced and visible sores are covered with a dressing.

**Measles:** Child is excluded from school for at least four days from the appearance of the rash. Immunised contacts not excluded. Non immunised contacts to be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case.

**Mumps:** Child excluded for at least nine days after onset of symptoms. Contacts not excluded.

**Ringworm, Scabies, Lice:** Child excluded until day after treatment has commenced. Contacts not excluded.

**Rubella (German Measles):** Child excluded until fully recovered or at least four days after onset of rash.

**Whooping Cough:** Child excluded for five days after starting antibiotic treatment.
Extra Curricular Activities
From time to time additional costs will be incurred for extra curricular activities such as excursions, concerts, sporting activities, special testing etc. You will be advised by note and through the Newsletter of planned activities. A permission note is signed for each activity.

Fundraising
Our school community is involved in a number of fundraising activities during the year. Some catering and the major activity of operating a food stall at Henty Machinery Field Days in September form the nucleus of this. As well as being a way of keeping our fees down, these activities are also a chance for our school community to come together. All parents are actively encouraged to join in.

Lunch
Lunch may be ordered from tuckshop on Monday; a volunteer roster is drawn up for each term. Please wrap your child’s afternoon recess separately to his/her lunch and use your discretion as to the amount of lunch you prepare, as sometimes there is a large amount of waste. Parents are urged to encourage children to eat healthy meals e.g. sandwiches/rolls, fruit etc. and to limit the amount of sweets, chips etc.

Tuckshop
The tuckshop is an amenity provided by the School Council. It is supervised and staffed by parent volunteers and is open each Monday. The Tuckshop is always looking for willing helpers and your child loves to see you there. The tuckshop provides lunch and afternoon recess. Orders for lunch should be written on a paper bag with child’s name and class; correct (if possible) money should be placed inside and the bag sealed. Children come to the counter to purchase items and afternoon recess. Tuckshop menu and prices are regularly attached to the Newsletter.
Music
Children attending St. Patrick’s have the opportunity to undertake private music lessons from the Murray Conservatory of Music (Albury) staff who visit our school weekly. This is by parental arrangement with the Conservatory.

Notes
All absences from school must be covered by a note to the class teacher briefly explaining the reason for the absence.
Also a note must be brought to school by the child if a variation to regular routine is occurring e.g. not going home regular way, leaving early, etc.
No child will be given permission to leave the school ground at morning recess or lunch without a written permission note from parents.

School Buses
Children are eligible to travel to school by bus for free if:-
- They are enrolled in Kinder, Year 1 or Year 2 regardless of distance from school.
- If not an infant student, they must reside more than 1.6km from school.

Private Vehicle Subsidy
If parents drive a student more than 1.6km to the nearest bus pick up point, they may be eligible for this subsidy. Please see the School Administration Officer.

School Council
The School Council exists to offer advice and assistance to the Principal in administration of the school.
Members consist of: Parish Priest, Principal, one staff member, nominated Parish Council member, and members who are parents at the school.
Elections are held annually for parent representatives.
School Counsellor
Centacare provides our school with a professional counsellor. The services of the Counsellor are available to both parents and students at no cost. Requests for appointments can be made through the Principal.

School Fees
An account is issued to each family at the beginning of Terms 1, 2 and 3. This may be paid weekly, monthly or by term, or at the beginning of the school year. We accept direct credit from all financial institutions.

School Newsletter
A weekly Newsletter informing parents of events at school is emailed to every family each Thursday fortnight. A paper copy is provided if parent does not have Internet access. This Newsletter is a valuable source of communication between school and parents. It is also available on-line at www.sphww.catholic.edu.au

School Facebook
The school has a Facebook Page which is regularly updated by the Principal.

Supervision of children
The supervision of students begins at 8.45am and ceases at 3.30pm each day. Children should not be on the school grounds before or after these times unless prior arrangement has been made with the Principal.

School Mass and Assembly
A whole school assembly is held once per term. A small assembly is held each Monday morning. All children attend School Mass when held. Each class is rostered to participate in the liturgy at school mass and also lead the assembly. Parents are encouraged to attend school masses and assemblies.

Volunteer helpers
From time to time a school working bee is organised. All help is most appreciated.
**School Uniform**
Our school uniform is a matter of pride for our school. Each child is expected to wear the uniform each day, with each item being labelled for easy identification. All children are expected to have neat and tidy hair. Hair over the collar is to be tied back.

**School Hats** are to be worn by the children in Terms 1 and 4. The rule is - *no hat, play in the shade.* Hats may be purchased through the school. Please see the School Secretary.

**Summer Uniforms:**
- **Girls:** Blue tartan dress with peter pan collar OR blue tartan culottes with white blouse and tartan highlight on sleeve, navy socks, black shoes. Sandals may be worn and should be white or navy.
- **Boys:** Grey shorts, light blue open necked shirt, grey socks, black Shoes. Sandals may be worn and should be black or brown.

**Winter uniforms:**
- **Girls:** Blue tartan tunic OR tartan pants, light blue long-sleeve shirt, navy tie, navy V-neck jumper, navy tights or navy socks, black shoes.
- **Boys:** Grey trousers, light blue long-sleeve shirt, navy tie, navy V-neck jumper, grey socks, black shoes.

*** Girls winter and summer uniform are available from the school office.

- Coats may be worn in cold weather and, if possible, should be blue.
- Gum boots may be worn in cold, wet weather with slippers to change into in the classroom. A navy school beanie is also available from the office.

**Sport uniforms:**
- **Girls:** Red polo shirt with school logo, navy blue shorts, white socks, runners. Tracksuit with school logo for cold weather.
- **Boys:** Red polo shirt with school logo, navy blue shorts, white socks, runners. Tracksuit with school logo for cold weather.
* Red polo shirts, navy blue shorts, tracksuits, school hats and girls summer and winter dresses may be purchased from the school office.

** The school also operates a clothing pool where second-hand uniform items may be purchased at a small cost.

**Jewellery:**
Jewellery is not allowed at school except sleepers or stud earrings, signet rings and watches. Nail polish must not be worn. No jewellery or earrings should be worn when playing sport for safety reasons.
**Enrolments for Kindergarten are taken during September.**

All parents/guardians are required to sign the application form and agree to its contents before enrolments can be accepted. Documentary evidence of date of birth must be provided. An Immunisation Certificate is also required. Immunisation is recommended but not compulsory. Non-immunised children may be excluded from school at times of outbreak of some diseases.

All known information about your child regarding physical, medical or learning needs must be disclosed at the time of application.

Children commencing at our school the next year will be invited to St. Patrick’s to spend some time with the Kindergarten class. Children will need to bring their recess food during this orientation visit. Uniforms are not necessary for this day. Children commencing Years 1 to 6 will be taken on a tour of the school by the Principal.

It is a big change for a five year old to pass from the intimacy of the family circle to school, even if he/she has attended pre-school. Here are some practical ways in which you can help this transition.

- Buy clothing that is easy to fasten
- See that all articles brought to school (shoes, hat, jumper, bag, books, lunch box, drink bottle etc) are marked clearly in a prominent place with the child’s name

If possible teach your child to:

- Tie shoelaces, do up buttons, put on and take off outer clothing without help
- Recognise his/her name among other names
- Repeat his/her name and address
- Use his/her handkerchief and put it away when not in use
- Put away toys, books etc after use
• Wash his/her hands and flush toilet unassisted
• Know how he/she goes home after school
• Open and close his/her school bag
• Listen to stories, look at the pictures and talk about them
• Greet teachers and companions by title and name

However, your child’s greatest asset is the development of a measure of independence. At St. Patrick’s we provide a happy, safe and nurturing environment, not to replace the home, but to complement it. It is most important that home and school work together in partnership for the educational benefit of your child.

**Equipment List**
Generally, we provide all children with paper, scrap books, art materials etc as part of the levy paid. However, on your child’s first day of school they will need to bring the following items to school:

**Kindergarten**
Art smock  
(can be dad’s cotton shirt with shortened sleeves)
Draw string Library bag
Glue stick

**Years 1-6**
Coloured pencils
Ruler, Rubber, Grey Leads,
Sharpener, Glue stick,
Windup crayons/textas,
Safe scissors

All Wednesdays in February are rest days for Kindergarten children.
10 things teachers wished you knew

1. Have a set morning routine
   Kids thrive on routine and a structured morning routine will set your child up for the day, it should always include a nutritious breakfast. If your morning routine includes television, just be aware that children who watch TV in the morning are not in the right frame of mind for school. Instead, give your child age appropriate responsibilities to increase independence, such as packing their own lunch or backpack. Display a list of things they can do for themselves and a morning routine chart.

2. Have a night routine. Write it up display it and sick to it.
   If your child sleeps well, they will be more settled, happy and ready for school the next day. Children aged six to nine need 10-11 hours sleep a night. A bedtime routine is very important so they can wind down, after a big day at school, many of the day’s events and worries are still rattling around in your child’s head. Many school age children sleep talk, talking calmly about the day’s events may reduce night time chatter.

3. Know your child’s timetable
   Your child will feel more comfortable if you are on top of their routine- have a weekly calendar that shows- sports days, tuckshop, library day.

4. Be on time every time
   Respecting bell time is important. It is embarrassing and difficult for children who arrive late to settle into class and often they miss important routines and instructions.

5. Children are not mini-adults. KISS
   At this age, children are still trying to learn everyday things we may take for granted, like how we talk to each other. You may think they are not listening but they are trying to process what was said 5 minutes ago. Think about how you give directions and choices, make sure they simple and give them time to process them.

6. Think about what you share with your child.
   It is important what you share and how you talk to your children “Do you really want me to go, I will miss you so much, will you be OK with the big kids?”. You pass on your anxieties and make it difficult for your children- Speak positively.

7. Keep an open mind
   As kids are not developed mentally enough to take in all perspectives of an event, it is important to keep an open mind when children are telling you about an incident. If it upsets you, ask questions and think about what seems to make the most sense, if you are still unhappy talk to the teacher.

8. Children’s development.

9. What teachers want and what parents expect developmentally may be very different. Teachers want enthusiasm towards learning, solid oral-language skills, the ability to listen, the desire to be independent, able to play well with others, strong fine motor skills, basic letter number recognition. Raising an eager learner is the goal and it can be achieved through play and day to day activities. Talk and read to your children give them words and descriptions, one of the best predictors of later reading success is a well-developed oral vocab. Encourage children to dress themselves and be responsible for their belongings. Teachers don’t want you to drill your kids on academic skills, it is often harder to unlearn incorrect writing styles and pencil grips. All children develop at a different rate, if your child is falling behind in a certain area, it’s important to remember that it is bound to happen at some stage in every child’s education. If your teacher identifies concerns, it means they value your child as an individual and you can work together to help them

9. Lunch times
   If your child’s lunch box is returning home uneaten, it may be that they don’t have time to eat the food before going to play. Again KISS- master chef has a lot to answer for. Try cutting sandwiches into quarters, peel and slice fruit/skewers with cheese and cherry tomatoes, carrot and celery sticks. Label what food is for morning lea and what is for lunch. Remember for a school canteen to operate, they need volunteers. Sometimes children need to be offered a new food 6 – 10 times before they taste it and, eventually eat it.

10. How to manage the school bugs
   Unfortunately creepy crawlies are a part of school life. There are many guides that offer information and advice; this may include Sun care, teeth, growing pains, coughs/colds, nits and worms. The guardian pharmacy offers a great booklet and free advice if you have any concerns. Bedwetting 20% of five year olds wet the bed. Nightmares- up to 50% of children under seven have nightmares.