

# St Cecilia's Catholic School

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2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2021

*Dear St Cecilia's Families,*

*It is with much excitement that I write this letter of introduction to you as the new Principal of St Cecilia's Wyong. I can assure you that I share this school community's dedication to caring for our children every day while providing them with a meaningful learning environment. Mrs Yvette Owens and I have worked together closely over the holidays to assist in a smooth transition of leadership at St Cecilia's.*

*I arrive at St Cecilia's as a seasoned educator of Catholic schools and have also worked abroad in London, Malawi, East Timor and Hong Kong. I have worked in a variety of roles in primary schools ranging from; K-6 classroom teacher, Diverse Learners teacher specialising in Gifted Education, Instructional Coach of Numeracy, Inquiry, STEAM and Cultures of Thinking and Assistant Principal. More recently, I served as the Co-Principal of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Forestville. I am looking forward to bringing my skillset as an educational leader to St Cecilia's Wyong and I'm keen to work with you as a partner in education to ensure your child's success.*

*Although I am an educator, I am also a wife and mother to two beautiful children, one of whom will be starting Kindergarten this year. Whilst she's very ready and excited about this new chapter of her life, the mother in me is still coming to terms with her little baby girl growing up too quickly. All those cliché's I heard out there about 'they grow up so soon' or 'they'll be at school before you know it' are all ringing very true right now. To all those other newly appointed Kindergarten parents, I look forward to travelling along this new journey with you in 2021.*

*I am a firm believer that every child can exceed and that the cooperation between home and school builds trust and self esteem in our children, so that they can use their highest potential to shape their future. Consequently, the future of our community and our nation. With the goal of continuing to advance the culture of excellence here at St Cecilia's, I am devoted to continually exploring new ideas to meet the needs of all children and to interact with parents and community members to assist in doing so.*

*I view education as a life-long process and expect that I will continue to learn much about the uniqueness of St Cecilia's this year and in the years to come. I look forward to uniting my faith and educational formation, my openness to learn and my child-centred approach to supporting the children at St Cecilia's. Let us keep our children the primary focus of our work.*

*Please remember that my door is always open to all. I sincerely welcome your conversation and input throughout the year and if you see me around the school, please do not hesitate to come up to introduce yourself and say hello. I look forward to meeting and getting to know everyone.*

*Warmest Regards,*

*Marta Chylewska*  
PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back into 2021. I trust you all had a restful and enjoyable break. The staff and I are all very excited for the return to work and to see all your children this week.

During our start to the school year, teachers have enjoyed working one to one with the children to complete their Mathematical Assessment Interviews (MAI's) or Best Start Assessments (Kindy only). The information gathered at these assessments helps teachers get to know their children a little and consider how they can plan for teaching the children to meet their individual needs.

Thank you to those parents who were able to book in and bring their child to school on the scheduled assessment day. For those who may have missed the assessment day/s their teacher/s will take the children out of class to conduct the assessment in the upcoming few weeks. We aim to have all assessments completed by the end of week 3.

### **Kindergarten Welcome**

It was a delight to welcome our new 2021 Kindergarten children this week. These inquisitive, gorgeous little people filled our space with smiles, excitement, questions and perhaps a few hidden nerves. Nevertheless, any nerves were quickly forgotten as the children began exploring their new school environment, meeting their buddies and being introduced to some other teachers and leaders from around the school.

It was also lovely to meet some of the Kindergarten parents at the Tea and Tissue session this afternoon. School can be a very social time for both children and their families where you will make friendships that will probably last a lifetime, so it was great to see so many families joining us for a cuppa and getting involved in the community. Apologies to the Kindergarten Blue parents who I missed at the morning Tea and Tissue session due to being at my own daughter's first day of Kindergarten. I am sure there will be many more opportunities for us to connect throughout the year.

### **New Staff and Families**

There are several new staff and children we introduced at assembly who I would like to welcome to the community:

- Mrs Emily Adcock who joins us from St Brendan's, Lake Munmorah in 4 Blue
- Mrs Anastasia Cattabriga who joins us from St Mary's, Toukley in 4 Gold
- Mr Bill Townsend, one day a week in 2 Blue (Thursdays) and Mr Townsend is also teaching at OLOR, The Entrance on his other work days.

We also welcome back Mrs Lianna Jones from maternity leave. Mrs Jones will be joining us as the head of Learning Support.

To all our new families, a big warm welcome to you all. I am sure we all share some similar and special reasons as to why we chose to come to St Cecilia's. There is definitely a strong sense of community and devotion to the school, among the families I have already met. I look forward to forming connections with families and becoming part of the St Cecilia's story.

### **Staggered Afternoon pick-up**

We will be returning to staggered afternoon pick up times as of tomorrow (3<sup>rd</sup> February)

K-2 students and siblings will finish at 2.55pm.

Years 3 – 6 will finish at 3.05pm.

Parents enter the school through the back gate and follow the fenceline, leading down under the hall via a path between our neighbour's fence and the hall.

You then follow the tape around underneath the hall to a pickup area. Students will be waiting in the middle. You then continue on back up the driveway and exit via the back gate.

**Buses are running as normal.**

### **Goal Setting**

Our goal setting meetings will still be taking place this term. Further information about this will come out later this week.

### **Mobile Phones**

While we understand that some parents require their children to have mobile phones for security reasons, we would like to remind you all that they are not to be used at school. This includes phone watches for anything other than telling the time.

### **School Uniform**

It is lovely to see all our students so well presented in their full school uniform. A reminder that all children should wear black leather shoes with their school uniform and not joggers please. Also, a reminder that children should not wear jewellery to school. Both for safety reasons and to eliminate the risk of children getting upset due to loss of valuable and special items.

### **In Our Prayers**

Please keep Mr Brinley and Mrs Daniel in your thoughts and prayers. Sadly, over the school holidays they both experienced unexpected loss of a dear loved one in their immediate family. Also, for all those members in our community who remember or were taught by our ex colleague Mr Jerome McSweeney, please keep him your heart and minds as he is currently unwell and needs our prayers.

### **Together we pray...**

*O God, who brought us to birth, and in whose arms we die, in our grief and shock, contain and comfort us; embrace us with your love, give us hope in our confusion and grace to let go into new life; through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### **Covid Update**

We are still bound by some COVID restrictions upon the children's return to school, however for weeks one and two, our Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2 parents are permitted to bring their child into the school grounds whilst maintaining social distancing protocols and leaving the playground directly when the bell goes, as children are lining up for assembly.

All other older grades (3-6) I respectfully ask that parents consider their child's needs carefully and if you can drop them at the gate, please do so without entering the school playground.

We will continue to update the community on COVID updates as weekly changes are still coming through but the access to information is available to all on the Diocesan website. [Covid-19 Guidelines for Returning to School - Catholic Schools \(csodbb.catholic.edu.au\)](https://www.csodbb.catholic.edu.au)

Peace and Blessings

**Mrs Marta Chylewska**  
**Principal**

## ***From the REC***

### **2021 Opening School & Ash Wednesday Mass**

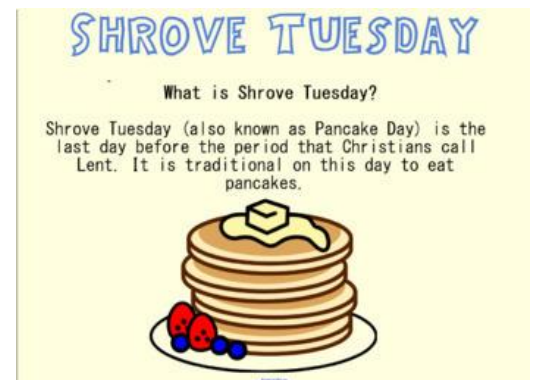
Father Raul will be celebrating our special Opening School and Ash Wednesday Mass. During the Mass the school leader commissioning will take place and the blessing of Kindergarten students by their buddies.



**Please join us in prayer via live streaming at our  
Opening School and Ash Wednesday Mass.  
This will be celebrated on Wednesday,  
the 17th of February, at 10:00am.  
A secure link will be sent prior to the Mass**

### **Term 1 Upcoming Events**

- **Shrove Tuesday** Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February  
Pancakes at recess, please bring a gold coin donation for Caritas Australia
- **Opening School & Ash Wednesday Mass**  
*via live streaming*  
Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February,



### **Parish Mass Times for St Cecilia's Parish**

#### **St Cecilia's Wyong**

Saturday Vigil 5pm  
Sunday 7.30am and 9.30am

#### **St John Fisher, Tumbi Umbi**

Saturday Vigil 5pm  
Sunday 8.30am & 5pm

God Bless

*Mrs Jamie Dowling*

**Religious Education Coordinator**

**Wyong Catholic Parish**  
**St Cecilia's Church & St John Fisher Mass Ctr**  
**Under the Pastoral Care of the**  
**Society of Our Lady of The Most Holy Trinity (SOLT)**

*Vision The Wyong Catholic Parish is a welcoming, caring dynamic community*  
*Mission Statement We will live and proclaim the message of the Gospel:*  
*Engage, Participate, Reach out and Transform*

***Please read the information below from our Wyong Parish Coordinator, Jo Helm***

**Invitation to participate?**

Are you or anyone you know interested in exploring the Catholic Church as your church home?

Have you been sitting in the pew next to your Catholic spouse for years wondering what you have to do to become Catholic?

Statistics show that most people respond to a personal invitation. So this is that ***personal invitation*** and a challenge to all of you who might know someone who fits the categories above, invite that person.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults [RCIA] is the faith-stirring process by which adults seek a deeper knowledge and relationship with Jesus Christ and decide whether to commit themselves to the Catholic faith.

If you are: *Interested in becoming Catholic*

*Never baptised or*

*Baptised in another Christian denomination*

Come and join us. For further information, please contact the Parish Office 43 521011, Jo 0424 763 734 or speak to Fr Raul or Fr Alex after Mass.

**Please remember when coming to Mass that:**

- If you have a temperature or a cold, please do not attend.
- You must sanitise your hands before entry into the church.
- **You must wear a mask during attendance at places of worship.**
- For Weekend/Weekday Masses you Must either check-in with the Services NSW using the QR code or make sure you have your name and contact details recorded on the attendance sheet as you come into the church.
- Individuals (not families) are asked to respect the 1.5m distancing from each other obligation.
- Boxes for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Collections are inside the church/mass ctr.

May God bless you and keep you and your loved ones safe.

**Jo Helm**

Parish Coordinator

Wyong Catholic Parish

0424 763 734

## ***From the FLO***

Dear Parents,

A very big welcome back to all our families particularly our kindergarten and new families. I sincerely hope that you all had a well earned and restful break. As restrictions begin to ease you may soon be able to join me for a cuppa, have a chat and meet new friends. I missed catching up with families so much last year. I am also keen to organise and facilitate some parent education including the "No Scaredy Cats" three week workshop that aims to reduce anxiety and build resilience in children.

I am available at the school on Tuesdays and Fridays and can offer individual support and resources if you have concerns that you may like to discuss. These may include family difficulties, anxiety, sickness or death in families to name a few. I am also a Early Childhood Nurse and love to assist with any issues.

At times we have families going through difficult times and St Cecilia's has always been a most loving and generous community providing meals and groceries if needed.

Many have enjoyed a walk to Pioneer Dairy, where we meet at the Dairy. The Dairy has two lovely walks which are suitable for little children in strollers and prams. I will organise a day when it gets cooler and it would be nice to catch up and have some of our new families join us.

The following is an article by Michael Grose from Parenting Ideas which reaffirms that parents must certainly look after their own wellbeing as we bring up our children.

[Succeeding at the parenting long game - Parenting Ideas](#)

Looking forward to seeing you all,

**Mrs Bernadette Daniel**  
**Family Liaison Officer**

## ***Canteen News***

Dear Parents,

St Cecilia's School canteen offers fresh, fun, healthy and delicious food options that are good value for money with the added convenience of online ordering via Qkr! by Mastercard.

Lunch orders are available online using Qkr! by Mastercard which offers a quick, secure and cashless method to organise your child's lunch. Please see "How to" instructions included in this newsletter.

### ***Cut off time for lunch orders is 8.30am Wednesday and Friday***

Recess snacks will be sold to children at the canteen counter with cash. Lunch treats will also be sold at the canteen counter.

The school canteen is coordinated by a canteen manager and is school run. We rely on volunteers to operate and look forward to welcoming new families to our school community. The canteen is a great way to be involved in your child's school in a social environment.

We are open for Recess and Lunch every Wednesday and Friday (commencing Week 3 this term **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February**).

#### **Recess Snacks**

- Frozen fruit pops
- Mini juice, yogurt and milk cups
- Popcorn
- Choc Brownie Slice

#### **Lunch Treats**

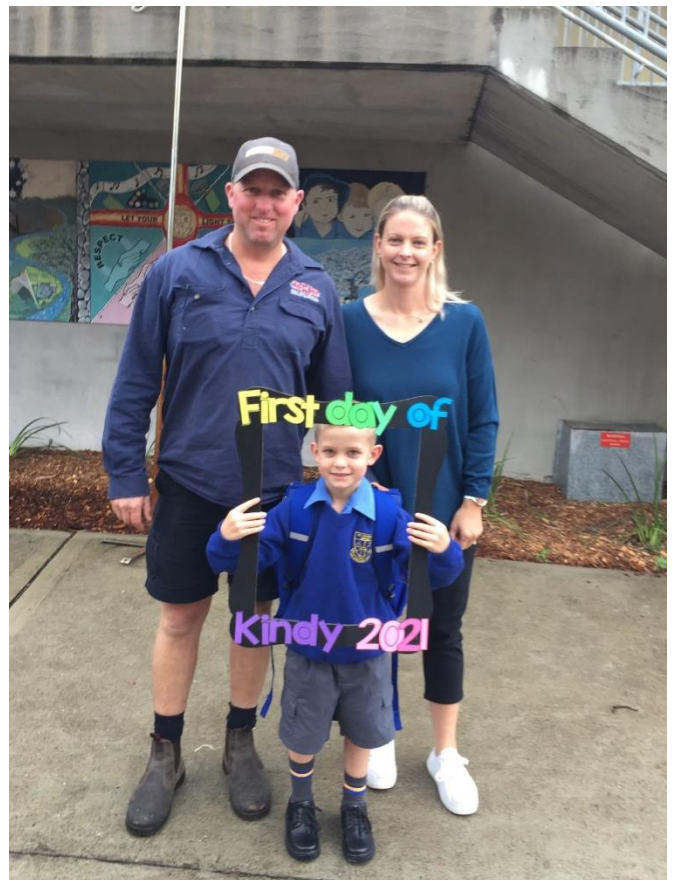
- Ice Blocks
- Honey Soy Chips

Looking forward to serving your children this year,

**Catherine Berry,  
Canteen Manager**



# First Day of Kinder 2021







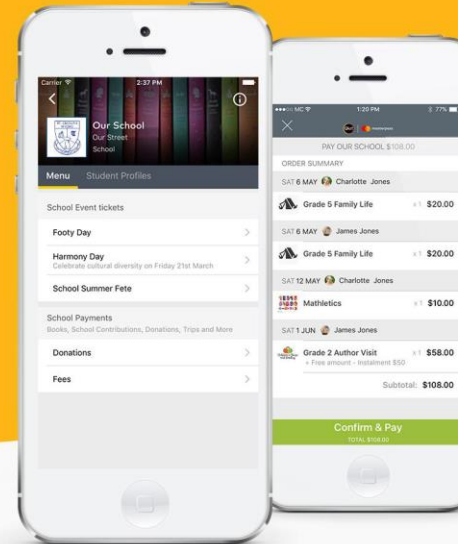
masterpass

For quicker, hassle-free school payments, try Qkr! today

Introducing Qkr! (pronounced 'quicker') by Mastercard, the secure and easy way to order and pay for school items from your phone at a time and place that suits you.

With Qkr you can:

- Order and pay for your child's lunches, reducing the need to bring cash to school;
- Pay for a variety of school items;
- See your receipts on the app and get them sent by email if required.



## Getting started is easy - try it yourself today

### Step 1 Download Qkr!

on your Android phone or iPhone. iPad users can download iPhone app



### Step 2 Register

Select your Country of Residence as 'Australia' and follow the steps to register

### Step 3 Find our school

Our school will appear in 'Nearby Locations' if you're within 10kms of the school, or search for our school by name.

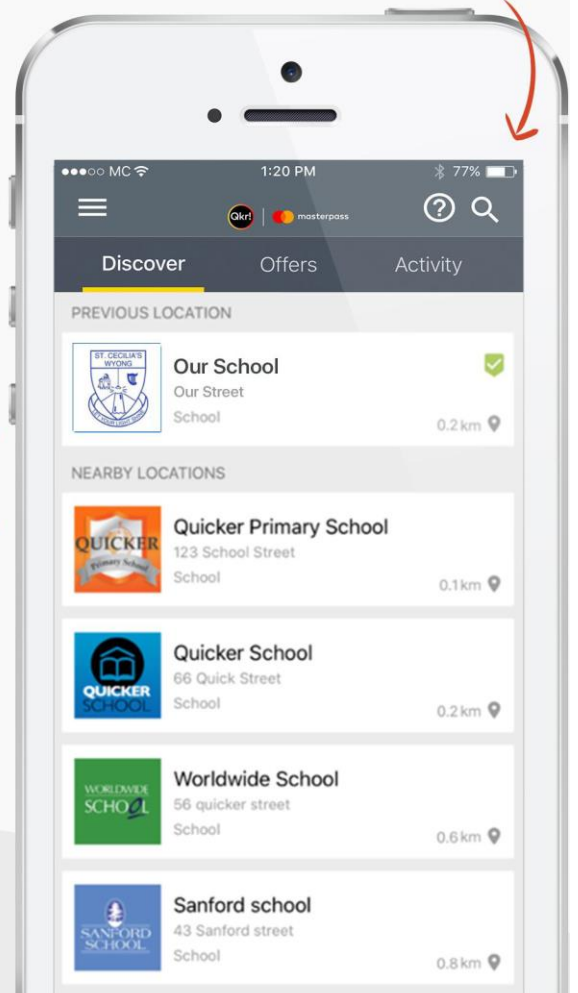
### Step 4 Register your children

When first accessing our school you will be prompted to add a student profile for your child. This allows you to make orders and payments for them.

Search for our school name

If you have made a purchase you can select our school from 'Previous Location'

If you're within 10 kms of the school, you can select our school from 'Nearby Locations'

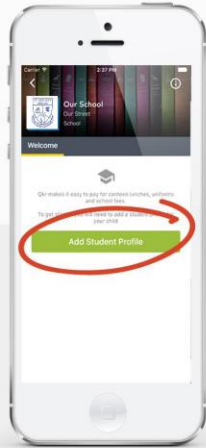




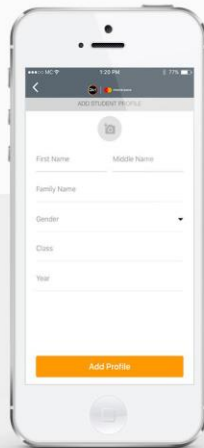
masterpass

## Add your children's details in Student Profiles

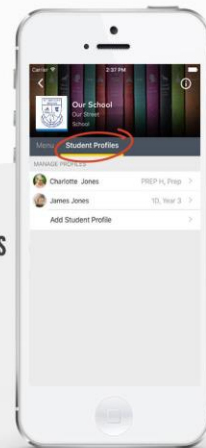
Select  
'Add student profile'



Add each  
child's details

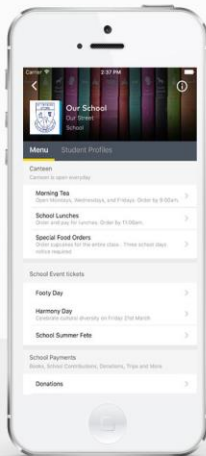


Manage each  
child's details in  
Student Profiles



## Order meals

Select a menu  
from our canteen



Tap the green  
box to view  
your receipt  
or to cancel  
an order



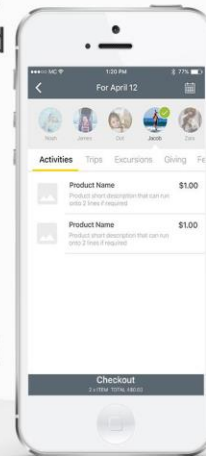
Select a date  
for a child and  
order a meal

Tap 'Repeat  
order' to  
copy all paid  
orders from  
one week to  
the next

Tap to change  
the date you  
are ordering for

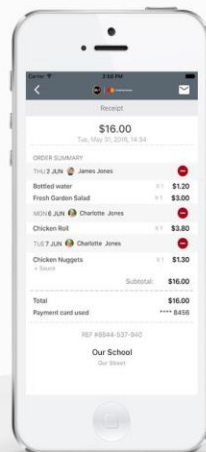
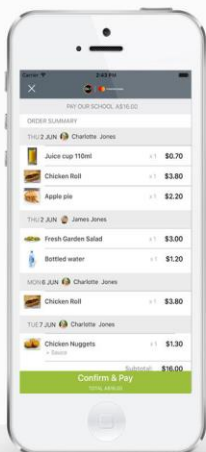
Tap to change  
the child you are  
ordering for

Tap 'Checkout'  
then confirm and pay



## Making payments

Add up to 5 cards to your wallet



At checkout select which card to  
pay with.

Pay with any cards accepted  
by the school.

Once your payment is approved you  
can continue to the home page, or  
view your receipt.