

St Mary MacKillop School NEWSLETTER

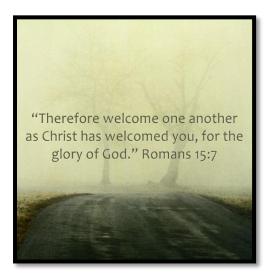
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Wednesday, 10th February, 2021 (Term 1, Week 3)

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

"Come and Stay"

As a school community, we welcome the difference, we welcome the stranger, we welcome the guest, and focus deeply on the non-judgemental perspective.



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of SMMS,

In the last week we have experienced our school settling into a regular routine for the term.

At the end of last week classes had "opportunities to celebrate success" (a school value) with various Connection activities. This followed on from our two weeks focus on social, emotional and spiritual learning.

Week 3 at SMM School started in such a special way with our Commissioning Mass at Kadina. Beautifully celebrated for us by Fr Matthew who emphasised the importance of this 'commissioning' of our staff to serve our school community. We were blessed with the Holy Spirit to live out our vision and mission grace this year.

IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY

Wed 10th Meet and Greet evening Tue 16th Shrove Tuesday Finance meeting 7.00pm School Board meeting 7.30pm Wed 17th Ash Wednesday Liturgy 11.40am Sun 21st 1st Sunday of Lent Fri 26th Year 6/7 Assembly 9.00am Sun 28th 2nd Sunday of Lent

MARCH

Sun 7th3rd Sunday of LentMon 8thPublic HolidayTue 9thP & F meeting 7.00pmSun 14th4th Sunday of LentTue 16thSchool Board AGMWed 17thSt Patrick's DaySports DaySt Joseph's DayFri 19thSt Joseph's DaySun 21st5th Sunday of Lent
Harmony DayWeek 9Parent/Teacher InterviewsSun 28thPalm SundayWeek 10Holy Week

Parish Weekend Mass Times

Sacred Heart, Kadina Saturday 6.00pm

St. Francis of Assisi, Moonta Sunday 8.30am

Sacred Heart, Kadina Sunday 10.00am

RAISING HEARTS AND MINDS

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Following days have seen us settling into our more regular rhythm and routines of:

- Reading and Numeracy groups
- Student Support with teachers Annette and Francesca
- Piano with Michele
- Dance with Karen
- Mentoring with Michael and Fr Matthew
- Excellent teaching and learning in classrooms
- Playing well with each other in the yard

These are just some of the many examples of offering opportunities to our students to "encounter life in all its richness."

Staff and I have appreciated parents and caregivers making times with us to discuss the social, emotional, spiritual and learning needs of your children. The students are at the centre of what we do and we are always happy to make time to meet or speak with you.

OUR MEET AND GREET EVENING

We invite you to attend our 'Meet and Greet' evening being held tonight, 10th February.

5.00pm	Drinks and nibbles in the MPLA – for adults
5.15-5.30pm	Michelle welcome all R/1 class parents/caregivers (MPLA)
5.30-5.55pm	R/1 class session
5.50-6.00pm	Michelle welcome 2 & 2/3 class parents/caregivers (MPLA)
6.00-6.25pm	2 & 2/3 class session
6.20-6.30pm	Michelle welcome 4/5, 5/6 & 6/7 class parents/caregivers
6.30-7.00pm	4/5, 5/6 and 6/7 session together

Reminder: Students are welcome to come and will have supervised play on the oval while you attend meetings.

You will have the opportunity to meet the class teacher in the classroom, see how the learning environment has been set up, hear about class routines, practices and about the ways in which your children can best be supported at school.

Research the world over, confirms that when parents and the school are in partnership in a child's education, children stay at school longer, their wellbeing and achievement levels are improved. Be aware and interested in what your child is learning, what they are learning, what their projects are and how they are going with them and most importantly, how they feel about themselves as a learner.

Class teachers and myself are always available for a conversation, please do not hesitate to make a time to meet when needed. Good communication between home and the school is vital to create and sustain a relationship that supports excellent learning. Parents and caregivers, are the first educators and first source of their child's affirmation. Children will believe what the people they love and trust believe. Be positive about school and what happens here and always keep communication open.

STUDENT AGENCY AND LEADERSHIP

Our senior Year 6 and 7 students have such an important role in our school, setting an example, being role models for our younger students and growing in their leadership. Many wonderful examples of this are already being shown this year, the Year 6 and 7 students in particular are taking this very seriously. This year will be unique as both our Year 6 and 7 students will be graduating from Primary school at the end of this year. We are committed to ensuring that both year levels have the same leadership experiences culminating their primary school years.

In class with Ms Caffyn, Mrs Woodforde and Miss Cotter, the Year 6 and 7 students have been reflecting on what it means to be a leader and have written leadership speeches. This afternoon the students all met in their House teams; Tappeiner (red), Woods (green), MacKillop (blue) to vote for their House Captains for 2021. The students who chose to, presented their speeches, which were well written and well delivered. It's not an easy thing to do, to get up and speak about yourself in front of a large group and the students are to be congratulated for the way they did this. All would be most worthy House Captains, however a decision must be made by private vote. Following time to tally the votes, our House Captains will be announced tomorrow.

Four House Captains will be elected per team, which is a change from previous years and to allow proportional representation of Year 6 and 7 students.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Our Year 6 and 7 students are also working on and negotiating their designs for their own unique Senior jumpers.

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Yesterday, 9th February was acknowledged as Internet Safety Day. On **Safer Internet Day** the world comes together with a shared vision of making online experiences better for everyone. With this Newsletter find some resources to assist parents with this important responsibility of supporting children to become safe and responsible users of the internet.

BABY CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Sally and Lauren Tetlow on the arrival of their baby girl Isabelle Charlotte. Oliver (Reception) is a very proud big brother!

7-9 DEVELOPMENT

I love that our building project is so visible to everyone, we will be able to watch the progress with interest and excitement.

As you will see the builders site offices and facilities have arrived and been placed on the staff car park area. The children have watched these arrive with great excitement, declaring "Ms Miller the building's here!" Well, not quite, a bit more to go. The excitement of children is just so delightful and certainly keeps me going.

In the coming weeks we will see demolition and preparation of the site, and "the earth turned' for the first time. As I mentioned at our P & F meeting last night, as well as the physical building, we are working on the Education Plan: curriculum, timetabling, staffing, furniture, equipment and fittings that will complement curriculum offerings; developing our 7-9 prospectus, uniform and hundreds of other areas of details.

With today's Newsletter is our 7-9 Development February Newsletter.



SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL LEARNING

During our focus weeks at the beginning of this term, teachers introduced or revised our student action plan for dealing with bullying and harassment. Following is a copy of the plan for your reference. If your child speaks with you about a concern, you may use the same language and SAFE steps to assist them.

It is important to discuss with your child / children the difference between bullying and being mean, unkind or just not reading a social situation.

Bullying can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records).

Bullying of any form or for any reason can have immediate, medium and long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders.

Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

Bullying is not:

- single episodes of social rejection or dislike
- single episode acts of nastiness or spite
- random acts of aggression or intimidation
- mutual arguments, disagreements or fights.

These actions can cause great distress. However, they do not fit the definition of bullying and they're not examples of bullying unless someone is deliberately and repeatedly doing them.

It is essential that school and family are in partnership, supporting each other in difficult times encompassing these times of relationship breakdown. Excellent communication, time, understanding and listening, along with our Restorative Practices come to the fore at these times.

Blessings for the week ahead, Michelle Miller Principal



STUDENT ACTION PLAN for Dealing with Bullying and Harassment:

Be S.A.F.E ACTION PLAN

STEPS	ACTION	EXPLANATION
Step 1	S = Speak up	Show that it does not affect you - the behaviour may stop.
S	lgnore it or speak to the person.	Or tell them that their actions are not ok and you want it to stop. Let them know you will tell a teacher if they do not stop.
		If it does not stop
Step 2	A = Ask a friend to support you Discuss it with someone.	Continue to try to ignore the behaviour and tell the person to stop the behaviour. Ask a friend to be with you when you do this. Talk to a trusted friend, teacher or parents, they may be able to help and offer other ways of dealing with the behaviour.
		If it does not stop
Step 3	F = Find a teacher and report it Report the matter to a staff member.	Report the matter to a teacher/ESO or staff member and discuss with them any further action that might take place. Remember to tell the teacher EVERYTHING you have done and EVERYTHING the other person has done.
		If it does not stop
Step 4	E = Extra help – go to the Principal Go to the Principal and report what has happened.	Discuss what has happened with the Principal and a decision will be made about further action to stop the bullying from occurring.



The Vine

WHOLE SCHOOL OPENING MASS

The whole school gathered last Thursday, Week 2, for the Opening School Mass with the intentional focus and celebration of ... Hospitality of the Open Heart and Mind – Come and Stay…The whole school participated in the

Mass, the central liturgy of Catholic Sacramental Tradition, through joining in communal prayer and singing response and songs and participating physically in the form of the Mass.

Fr. Matthew blessed each decorated class and group candle. Fr. Matthew and Ms Miller then presented them. The lit candles represent the understanding that Jesus and his message is the light that leads us to God and helps us to live our life well.



COMMISSIONING MASS

Last Sunday our staff members gathered at Sacred Heart Church, Kadina for 10:00am Parish Mass. While they were standing at the front of the altar, before the parish community, Fr. Matthew commissioned the staff members through prayer, the ritual of "Laying on of Hands" and a special blessing to live courageously, and to bring to our community, the message of Jesus who shows us the way to experience and know God.

SACRAMENTS

The sacraments of the Church are rituals and actions of strengthening our personal connection with God. They are symbols of the action of God in our life. The celebration of Sacraments uses everyday symbols which point to

deeper meaning and sharing in the grace and action of God, through personal relationship with God.

The invitation, for those who are baptised in Christian Baptism, to engage with the sacraments of the Church, is always on offer in our parish, either through the school or through the parish itself. For those who want to know more about the Catholic sacraments, our school offers an invitation into conversation, connection and understanding.





Families are most welcome to contact Bernie Thomson here at school, 88232549, with any enquiries about the celebration of the sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, as well as Confirmation every second year (2022) for senior students who have celebrated the sacraments mentioned above.

Baptised students from Year 3 are invited to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation; students from Year 4 and 5 are invited to celebrate First Eucharist; senior students are invited to celebrate Confirmation (2022).



If applicable, please fill out and return the Sacraments form in this Newsletter, indicating that you would like your child/ren to be involved in the Sacraments preparation programme this year. Alternatively, please email me, <u>bthomson@stmm.catholic.edu.au</u>



ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL APOLOGY TO AUSTRALIA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

We acknowledge the National Apology to Australia's Indigenous People which took place on 13 February 2008. It was delivered by the then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd on behalf of the Australian Government in recognition of policies of past governments.

Besides an apology to the First Peoples, its intention is to achieve reconciliation, leading the Australian community and our major institutions towards understanding and acknowledgement of the wrongs of the past and the understanding of their effects. RECONCILIATION

AUSTRALIA The term 'Stolen Generations' refers to those children who were removed on the basis of their race (proof of neglect was often not required). The predominant aim of the forced removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families was to absorb or assimilate children with mixed ancestry into the non-Indigenous community.

SHROVE TUESDAY – Help Please!

Shrove / Pancake Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday takes place next week, Tuesday, 16th February. In popular culture, this particular Tuesday before Ash Wednesday took on a number of traditions from medieval cultures which persist today. The celebration of "Mardi Gras" (French meaning 'fat Tuesday') was the last opportunity for feasting and celebration before the Lenten personal sacrifice and self-denial practices of prayer, fasting and giving to others. According to British tradition, people would prepare for the hardships of Lent by using up all of their meat, eggs and butter and milk in the cooking and eating of pancakes. Meat, eggs and butter and milk would not be consumed again until Easter.

Shrove / Pancake Tuesday is highly anticipated by the students – we cook them pancakes between 10:00am - 11:00am!

Pancake mix and toppings needed! Thank you!

Families are invited to donate some 'Pancake Shake Mix bottles' or some toppings such as jam, maple syrup, lemon juice or sugar.

We are also calling for generous volunteers to help cook and flip pancakes on the school barbecue on 16th February. If you have a DCSI check, which Karen Westlake has seen, and you would like to help us out, then we would be most grateful to welcome you! It is always lots of fun!

If you would like to do this please come along at 9:15am, QR check in and sign in, then go over to the verandah outside the hall where the barbecue and serving area will be located. Please fill out and return the slip below if you are able to give us a little time. If you receive this Newsletter electronically, please phone Karen in the Front Office with your offer of help.

We gratefully accept any help offered!

LENT – ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of Lent, will be marked on Wednesday, 17th February, with a Prayer Liturgy here at school in the MPLA at 11.40am. We may have up to 30 parents join us for the Litugry. Ash Wednesday occurs 46 days before Easter, but Lent itself is forty days from the First Sunday of Lent until Holy Thursday. During this Liturgy students from Year 4-7 and adults will be sprinkled with ash, derived from palms left over from last year's Palm Sunday, and mixed with the special blessed Oil of Catechumen. This is a sign of our promise to bring about a change of heart, be more open to authentic hospitality and forgiveness, in relation to oneself, in relation to others and in relation to God.











The Vine

LENT – EASTER Hospitality of the Heart - Come and Stay!

We are now approaching a very important part of the Church Liturgical Year. The celebration of Easter takes place on the weekend of the end of Week 10.

Before we reach Easter, we have a period of six weeks during which time the major Christian spiritual and life focus is our own personal and community preparation for Easter, through caring for, and being just with, others. We are invited to act with hospitality and non-judgmental welcome towards those people in our world, far removed from us and our reasonably comfortable lifestyle (especially under current world health conditions). This preparation time is known as **Lent**.

During Lent, our school community supports Project Compassion, a social justice annual fundraising and awareness-raising appeal organised by the international Australian Catholic Charity, Caritas.

Caritas Australia's purpose is to link thousands of Australians in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity in the most vulnerable communities.

Small family donation Caritas support boxes will come home next week. Students are invited to return them at the start of Week 10.

CHAPLAINCY - PASTORAL SUPPORT AND CARE

The beginning of a new year always brings its own challenges for students and families. Last year was a very different year for us all, with many ongoing challenges and changes to deal with in a considered and calm way. Even the way we had fun during our Christmas holidays was very different.

School experiences vary for each student depending on the situations or the personal connections. Some are happy and nurturing, but others may be challenging, for a variety of reasons. Settling in, fears, changes in structure and daily routines all can contribute to a variety of personal challenges which may arise. Support is always available to students and families, but especially at the beginning of the year! Chats are always welcome, especially if I am not in a class!

Bernie Thomson

APRIM and Pastoral Care Support

Cooking pancakes!

Thank you for your help. It is most appreciated!



------ is able to help with the cooking and serving of pancakes from 9:15am

on Tuesday, 16th February.

Signed _____







Last night we had a great meeting, with thanks to a dedicated group of parents who attended: Miranda, Debbie, Erin, Harry, Emma, Emily, Alicia, Taya, Sam.

We celebrated what we achieved last year in a very difficult year and made plans for a great year ahead. This responsibility does not rest with 9 dedicated people, it is everyone's responsibility and we can all make a contribution – big or small!

TERM 1 P & F EVENTS:

Our Parents and Friends is just what it says, a group of parents, carers and friends who contribute to ideas, fundraising and social opportunities that build and improve our school community.

Recently we purchased new iPads and Lenovo laptops for student use, if your child is in Reception, Year 1, 2 or 3, they will benefit from this increased number of devices. P & F fundraising contributes towards the purchase of these devices. The P & F have purchased 'Literacy Buddy' kits for all Reception students (Term 3 2020 intake and Term 1 2021 intake). The Literacy kits are a great, fun, attractive and compact resource for promoting literacy with your child. They can use the magnetic letters the little whiteboard to practice sounds and word-making.

The senior students look forward to the privilege of having their own unique jumpers at the end of their primary school years, this will include Year 6 and 7 students this year. The students contribute to the design and really have ownership of their special jumper. There is a collaborative process that they are involved in. The P & F are committed to ensuring that the jumpers are affordable for every family and use their fundraising money to subsidise the cost of each Year 6 and 7 student's jumper by \$20. This is the true commitment of our P & F and true to our Josephite charism of equity and access for all.

SPORTS DAY – Wednesday 17th March

The P & F assist with drinks snacks and lunch on the day.

Due to the uncertainty with pre-orders, this year there will be no pre-ordering for the barbecue lunch. A large number of orders will be cooked and available on the day. Once these items are sold there will be no more available.

Items available will be sausages, chicken burgers, bread, onion, coleslaw, drinks (soft drink, water, fruit boxes), coffee van.

Families are advised to bring their own healthy snacks for themselves and their children participating in the Sports Day.

We will be holding a trading table, so we are looking for your donations towards this. More information will come regarding suitable donations.

To ensure an equitable support all families will be rostered on to assist with a short time slot, helping with the barbecue, serving lunch and drink sales and trading table.

It will be your responsibility to help out for a very short time or find someone to fill in for you if you can't.

In previous years there have been parents who have served on stalls for the whole of sports day, forgoing seeing their own children compete. It is time for everyone to help out, this is part of everyone's commitment to justice and fairness for all in our community.

You will receive a notification of your allotted time to help out. If you will not be attending Sports Day, please notify the Front Office.

Parents are also asked to assist on the day with setting up, marshalling and running of events, and packing up. Please complete the return slip in the Newsletter if you are able to assist.

EASTER RAFFLE

The most recent raffle that we held was the Christmas raffle, which raised \$1429.45

We are asking for donations of Easter eggs for our Easter raffle. All raffle books to be returned and donations to be received by Wednesday, 24th March. The raffle will be drawn on Monday 29th March. Raffle books will be sent home with our Week 5 Newsletter (in a fortnight time).

SUBWAY LUNCHES – FRIDAY 9TH APRIL (last day of Term 1)

Orders to be placed no later than Thursday 1st April. Subway envelopes will be sent home with Week 5 Newsletter.

Thank you for your support.

School Fee invoices have been raised and distributed to families via Australia Post. Please look out for your invoice in your letter/post box over the next couple of days.

Families who indicated their payment choice as option 1 (pay full fee prior to 1 March) will see an 'Early Payment Discount' already applied to their account.

Families who have indicated they are applying for the School Card Scheme this year will see a 'Lower Income Discount' applied to their account. Any families deemed ineligible by the School Card Scheme will receive an adjustment/reversal of this discount.

Sibling discount has been applied as normal practice. The bus levy and school camp/excursions will be billed as required during the year.

Please find following a reminder of the payment options and required payments per options for 2021:



Option 1: Annual payment in full prior to 1 March

This option will include a 5% discount on the total school fees if paid by cash, cheque, credit card or ectly into the school's bank account prior to 1 March.

Option 2: Three equal payments due by the last day of March, June and September

By mutual agreement with the School. This option can be paid via cash, cheque, credit card or BPay/EFT

directly into the school's bank account. Failure to remit by the required payment day may result in a request for



Option 3: Regular payment plan as calculated and confirmed by the School's Bursar

By mutual agreeance with the School, this payment option can be on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis, to be finalised by the last school day of the year (17 December). These payments can be made via cash, cheque, credit card, Centrepay Scheme or BPay/EFT directly into the school's bank account.

Full Fee F	aumont	Dlan	2021
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full payment.

No. of	Total Family	Pay in Full	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly	Quarterly
Children per	School Fees	(Prior 1 March	(40 Weeks)	(20 Fortnights)	(11 Months)	(March, June,
Family	2021	for 5% Discount)				September)
1 st Child	\$1,790	\$1,700	\$45	\$90	\$163	\$597
2 nd Child	\$3,311	\$3,145	\$83	\$166	\$301	\$1,103
3 rd Child	\$4,653	\$4,420	\$116	\$232	\$423	\$1,550
4 th Child	\$5,995	\$5,695	\$150	\$300	\$545	\$1,998

Lower Income Fee Payment Plan 2021

No. of Children per	Total Family School Fees	Pay in Full (Prior 1 March	Weekly (40 Weeks)	Fortnightly (20 Fortnights)	Monthly (11 Months)	Quarterly (March, June,
Family 1 st Child	2021 \$1,074	for 5% Discount) \$1,020	\$27	\$54	\$98	September) \$358
2 nd Child	\$1,986	\$1,888	\$50	\$100	\$180	\$662
3 rd Child	\$2,791	\$2,652	\$70	\$140	\$254	\$930
4 th Child	\$3,596	\$3,417	\$90	\$180	\$327	\$1,119

STUDENT BORROWING

By now all students would have visited and borrowed from the Library. Our school has a fabulous range of books and resources available to students and we encourage students borrow weekly. Please feel free to pop in and have a look around. I am always open to suggestions about books that interest the students and welcome any feedback or offers of assistance with book covering etc.

St Mary Mackillop School are strong supporters of the Premiers Reading Challenge and will be completing the challenge again this year. More information to follow in the coming weeks in regards to this.

We also has a collection of "Parent Help" books from various authors which are available for parents / carers to borrow anytime. Parents / Carers may borrow the books under their child's name for a two week period. Please do not hesitate to ask about these if you are interested.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB

Please find included in this week's Newsletter envelope, Issue 1 of the Scholastic Book Club catalogue.

All orders are very much appreciated as they earn reward points for the school and enable us to purchase new books for the library. If you would like to make an order from the catalogue please return with payment to the front office of school by Friday, 19th February, or you can order online by following the instructions on the order form.

Sharon Steer

Library Technician



It was a beautiful morning at Mini Macs Playgroup yesterday. Thank you to Agatka for coordinating yesterday. Mini Macs Playgroup meets every Tuesday at 9:00am in our hall. We will commence next week – Week 2. The group caters for children birth-5 years for a weekly play and a lovely catch-up for the families! Come along and try!



OSHC & Vacation Care News

Vacation Care went well over the December and January Holidays. All the children enjoyed themselves with various activities and excursions. Some of the children's favorites were Croc's Play Centre, The Amazing Race, Port Pirie Aquatic Centre, and Master Chef cooking day. The children loved having the opportunity to go on excursions again.

Great start to Term 1 for 2021 at OSHC. Children have loved playing group games, getting crafty and having fun with friends.

OSHC and Vacation Care will be introducing an app called Early Works. This app will be used mainly for OSHC educators to upload photos and learning observations to begin with. Each parent/caregiver will be able to access their own child/ren's profile on the app. Today's Newsletter contains a consent form for the use of Early Works for each child.

If your child is booked into OSHC and then does not need to attend for some reason, or is absent from school, you need to inform OSHC staff before 1.00pm or you may be charged. You can either call or send a TXT to 0437 659 137. Thank you.

Lísa Cooper OSHC Director - 0437 659 137















NEWSLETTER INSERTS/ ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Scholastic Book Club catalogue
- Early Works Progam consent form (if applicable)
- 3. 7-9 Development update
- 4. Safer Internet articles
- 5. Return slips

If you have not received any of the above handouts, please write a note in your child's diary for a copy to be sent home.

Community News

WALLAROO NETBALL CLUB NEEDS YOU: WANTED: Coaches and players for the 2021 season. REGISTRATION DAY (at the clubrooms) Thursday, 4^{TH} February, 4.30pm-6.30pm. If unable to attend contact Lynelle Bodie – 0417 884 474 or wallaroonetball@gmail.com

February Webinars for Parents and Caregivers with Kirrilie Smout



To join the Webinar on the night you need to ensure you have downloaded Zoom.

Zoom Meeting Link;

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87486114180?pwd=czNuMER4Tk1xdEh6YXUwZW1leTk4UT09

Meeting ID: 874 8611 4180 Passcode: 819527

In this free webinar, psychologist and author Kirrilie Smout will cover:

- The 6 emotional and social learning challenges and needs for children as they start school.
- Helping children tell us more about their school days and experiences (without pressuring them).
- Helping children manage friendships and social relationships.
- Helping children become independent and responsible learners.
- Helping children manage worry and frustration about school experiences.
- Working together with teachers and other school staff.