NEW AND RETURNED FACES
We welcome Connor and Riley Hoskin along with their parents Paul and Kim as well as Jaxon and Asia Brand along with their parents Jo and Scott. We also welcome back Mrs Ellie Stacey to St Joey's after spending 2015 on maternity leave. We pray that all of these people and everyone else who has returned achieve their goals for 2016.

A VERY BIG THANKYOU TO:
Ian Harslett for mowing the ovals prior to the start of school.
To our Working Bee Crew—Russell, Miranda, Isaac, Keira and Layla Willsmore, Jason, Kristy, Blake, and Emma Hanley, Scott, Jo, Jaxon and Asia Brand, Ashlee and Iysha Cunningham, Jo Harslett, Leah, Flynn and Kalan Hayes and Sharon Norgren. Thankyou all for giving up part of your Sunday to help get a few jobs done around our school before the start of the year. It was very much appreciated.

SCHOOL PAINTED
Over the School Holidays, in very trying conditions, the outside of the school (the new buildings) were painted by Phil Bruno. He has done a fantastic job. The remainder of the outside and the inside of the school will be painted throughout this year.

RELIGIOUS IDENTITY NEWS
BEGINNING OF THE YEAR SCHOOL MASS
We will be having a school Mass this Friday 5th Feb. at 9:00am to welcome everyone back and to begin the school year. Following this, the P&F will be putting on scones and tea and coffee for anyone who would like to hang around for a catch up with other parents.

COMMISSIONING MASS—7TH FEB.
At the Parish Mass this weekend, Sunday 7th February 9.30am, there will be a Commissioning of all involved in roles in the Parish and School i.e. staff, School Board members, P & F members, ministers of the Eucharist, cleaners, counters, altar, servers and readers. There are many roles we undertake to help out in our Parish and School, we will receive a blessing to do these well.

SHROVE TUESDAY—9TH FEB.
Children will receive pancakes for recess, cooked by Mrs Stacey and the Yr. 7s.

ASH WEDNESDAY—10TH FEB.
There will be a school Mass at 9:00am in the Church.

Lord God,
May everything we do begin with your inspiration and continue to help, so that all our prayers and works may begin with you and by you be happily ended.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen
PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT  
Tuesday 9th February
This is a compulsory night for all families.

We have decided to do our Parent Information Night a bit different this year. We will start the night at 6:00pm for a combined sausage sizzle (please fill in the form included with this newsletter for catering purposes).

At 6:30pm we will invite the whole school to move into the breakout space where the children will sit with their parents. During this time the whole school will be addressed by different members of the staff. After this time teachers will go to their classrooms for an informal “chat” with any parents who would like to speak with them—it’s not a requirement that parents go to their child’s classroom.

SCHOOL ORGANISATION
To support the safety of children and school organisation the following issues need to be communicated:  

Drop off/Collection: Please farewell and pick-up children on the playground side of the school as bus transportation on West Terrace has priority.

Sign in: All adults must sign in at the office and receive a “Visitors Badge” if remaining on site for longer periods during normal school hours. This is not just a school rule, but a directive from the Catholic Education Office, due to Child Protection Legislation.

School Fees: Statements for all families have been included with today’s newsletter. Outstanding 2015 fees must be paid immediately or contact the Principal regarding this matter within the next 7 days. Fee collection timelines otherwise exist:
- Term 1: Week 1 Fee statement is issued to all families
- Term 2: Week 2 Outstanding accounts sent out.
- Term 3: Week 2 Final account sent out for outstanding fees.

Tissues: Each child is required to bring a box of tissues for their classroom.

Please present these to the front office for labelling.

Mobile Phones: The use of mobile phones/devices by students for personal usage is not permitted on school property. If your child is in need of a mobile phone/device for parental contact after they have left the school grounds or school instruction, the phone must be turned off and kept in their school bag or given to their class teacher and only used when permitted.

Labels: Please label all clothing and school items belonging to your child. The beginning of a school year means many new items all look the same to the children if they are not labelled

Uniforms: Our school uniform gives the children a strong sense of identity and adds to their positive self-esteem as they take pride in their appearance. Please ensure your child is in correct school uniform at all times. SHOES TO BE PREDOMINATELY WHITE, SHORTS MUST BE ONES BOUGHT FROM FRONT OFFICE.

Annual Forms 2016: A big thankyou to all families who have already returned their completed 2016 annual forms. If you have not done this could you please return them at you earliest convenience. If you have any questions please contact Pat in the front office.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS
Term 1:
Board Members will be contacted to arrange a time for our first meeting.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETINGS
Our Parents and Friends Committee do an amazing job of so generously volunteering their time to fundraise and build community spirit. It is a great opportunity for you to be a part of your child’s school. If you can spare a few hours each term to attend meetings we would love to see you there. The date for the first meeting for 2016 will be communicated soon.

PIANO LESSONS
Heidi Crawford will be continuing piano lessons this Term only (due to a maternity break). Lessons will take place on Tuesdays starting in week 2.

DRUM LESSONS
Paul Gibson will be continuing drum lessons this term. Lessons will take place on Mondays

- 2016 Drum Lessons •

Enquiries are being taken for new students wishing to learn the drums in term 1 2016.

Lessons are delivered in school time on a weekly basis.

Paul Gibson is an experienced teacher, teaching at 6 different schools in the Mid North per week.

Please contact Paul for any further information, limited spaces are available.

Paul 0417 873 016 email: paulgibson.drums@yahoo.com.au

Joey’s for Juniors
We extend an invitation for all parents of non-school aged children to come to our playgroup/coffee mornings. You do not have to have children at St Joseph’s. These will be held every second Friday starting 12th Feb. from 9:30am — 11:00am.

Parents must stay with their child and please bring a healthy snack for your child to eat.

Joey’s for Juniors will be coordinated by Mrs Jo Harslett.

If anyone has any suitable toys/objects that would be suitable for our playgroup and you would like to donate them, please speak to Jo.

READY/SET/OFF
As part of this playgroup time, Mrs Harslett, our Key Literacy teacher, will take the “older children” for some introduction to school activities.

We call this “Ready Set Go”