

# School Newsletter

## THE POPE'S PARAGRAPHS



**Learning Quote: "I like to listen. I have learned a great deal from listening carefully. Most people never listen." Ernest Hemingway**

**The 2020 school year has begun in a very positive way.** It has been wonderful to see so many smiling faces returning to school. It has been great to see you all again and I hope you had a tremendous holiday. So many boys and girls have come back with outstanding attitudes and beautiful manners and already many teachers have commented about how impressed they are with our students. Our Kindergarten students are being assessed through 'Best Start' and most are very excited to start officially next Tuesday. We welcome them and wish them all the best for their school career, which starts now in 2020 and ends in Year 12 in the year 2031. It has been lovely catching up with many of our new and previous parents for the new school year. I noticed many of you were smiling too. (Not sure why.. maybe it is more peaceful at home at the moment.) Our teachers are busily getting prepared for the year ahead and are coming up with ways to get to know their students and to provide an engaging and caring learning environment. Their passion and commitment for the year ahead already impresses me. I look forward to working with you all again throughout the year.

Currently students are in holding classes where they will most likely remain, however, there could be slight changes as we try and accommodate many new students and check that those who are currently absent are returning soon.

Don't forget there are many things you can do as a parent and carer to promote learning and success at school both academically and socially – **in fact you are your child's first, longest running and most important teacher and your positive influence is vital.**

- Promote school as important. Try and get your child here regularly and on time;
- Work with your child's teacher and school – be positive about school and the importance of learning;
- Encourage your child to be polite and respectful and friendly to others;
- Teach your child to be positive and to bounce back from problems and to try again (we all learn from our mistakes and are usually better the second or third time around);
- Tell your child to have a go, to try their best and praise their efforts (it's good to hear and build on what you do well and to only have one or two things to improve on at a time. This makes learning new skills more manageable);
- Try and get your child to read every day. Promote reading as fun. Read together. Reading in the long term makes a difference to results and knowledge.

### Jokes for kids

Waiter, this soup tastes funny .... Why aren't you laughing at it then?



What do sea monsters eat for lunch?

Potato ships....



What did the dog say when he sat on sandpaper?

Rough, rough



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## NEW STAFF 2020

Our new staff are Mrs Heather Lockhart who has been appointed to our school as a permanent Assistant Principal. Mrs Lockhart comes to us from Douglas Park PS and prior to that Belmore. Mrs Lockhart is supervising Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4) for 2020. Both Miss Maddie Grant and Miss Chamali Silva are new classroom teachers at TAPS with Miss Grant taking Year 1 and Miss Silva taking year 4.

**Connect Meetings: TBA in coming soon** - Parent/carers are encouraged to come up to school to meet their child's teacher with their child to meet with their teacher. This will be a great chance for us to get to know one another, build a partnership and for your child to share knowledge with the teacher and take greater responsibility for their own learning.

**Your Child's Safety:** Teachers commence supervision from 8:25 am so please do not send your child to school before 8:25am. If you send your child to school before this time please be aware that no direct supervision is provided and we cannot ensure for their care. The local YWCA and other before school groups are available to care for your children and you will need to arrange for this if your child needs to be at school before 8.25am.

### **Safety and the staff car park & parking out the front:**

Parents and students should not be using or walking through the car park at any time of the day. This is a safety issue. Please ensure you or your children don't use this as we don't want to encourage students to use this as an access. Please be aware that many of the spaces out the front are no standing and that police may be patrolling this to ensure all drivers are obeying the road rules and speed limit too.

**Please assist your child's school:** A voluntary contribution is requested from parents to support your child's education. The amount requested at Thomas acres PS is \$25 per student (which covers \$300 worth of resourcing – so great value – for more information see our School Voluntary contribution note). This money will be used to purchase educational equipment and the resources, which are identified by teaching staff as useful in helping them provide your children with the education that we feel all children deserve. We appreciate any contributions and request that they be sent to the school office.

**School Website:** Our school's website is a wonderful resource for you to keep up-to date with events and information about our school. Our website address is: <https://thomasacres-ps.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

**School leaders:** In 2019 as a school we elected our school captains, vice captains and AECG leaders. This Friday House captains will be elected. In week 4 on Monday 17.2.20 from 9am The school will hold a Student Leadership assembly where our student leaders will receive their badges. Parents and carers are welcome to attend.

**P&C Meeting:** Our first P&C meeting (AGM) will be held next week on Wednesday 12.2.20 at 3.10pm in the staffroom. Our first meeting will be a chance to find out some information about the school and our plans as well as learning about the P&C and how they support the school and your children. All parents and community members are welcome to attend. To vote or run for positions at our next and future meetings you must be a financial member.

**Breakfast Club:** Breakfast Club provides a free service to students each morning. Breakfast Club is also a great opportunity for your child to connect with others while enjoying a healthy breakfast to start their day. The breakfast that is provided includes: cereal and/or toast. This wonderful initiative is funded by Lomandra with donations given to the school. The program is gratefully organised by Miss Tuerlings and supported by year 6 students and school staff. We look forward to seeing your children or you there. Breakfast is the perfect way to prepare for concentration and learning at school ... so, breakfast at home or school will help with concentration throughout the morning.

**Approaching Our School - Communication:** Your child's teacher is usually the best person to speak to, at least initially if you have a query or concern. However, sometimes you may need to speak to the Assistant Principal who looks after your child's stage or Deputy Principals - Mrs Flamos, Mrs Bryce or myself. Please make an appointment if you would like to discuss a matter. We want to work with you to find a solution to any concerns and would like you to be mindful that teachers are unable to do this while they are supervising a class. Seesaw is also a great means of communication with your child's teacher. This will become available soon but I ask that parents don't expect responses at odd hours or times or over weekends as many teachers may be unavailable due to family or other commitments. More information about Seesaw and its use will be released shortly.

## Getting to know each other, setting expectations and building teamwork and relationships are our goal right now.

