Dear Parents/Carers and Members of St Joseph’s Community,

**WELCOME TO 2016**

Today, we commenced our journey into the 2016 school year. I warmly welcome all students, families and staff to a year of learning, fun and busyness. I trust that all our families were able to have a restful break. We are looking forward to many new challenges, learnings and experiences this year. As a school we strive to provide our students with the best possible opportunities to learn about themselves, their world and their God. In partnership with families we will always endeavour to put the child at the centre of all we do, so that each child can experience success and is challenged in their learning and development.

As we look forward to our year together it is important to welcome not only all those students who are new to our school but also new staff members who will share their talents, skills and wisdom with us this year.

We welcome:

- Miss Olivia Holmes (Prep),
- Ms Megan Housden (Yr 1),
- Mr Bill Mulcahy (Year 4) and
- Mrs Tracey Gerrard (APRE).

Welcome ladies and Bill, we are thrilled to have you with us.

We also wish Mrs Kerry Dunn and Mrs Karen Pickford all the best as they embark on some Long Service Leave.

We welcome our new Prep children and new students, and it is only when you see so many happy, yet anxious faces that you know the journey of a new year has begun and how rewarding it is to be part of their lives.

This term St Joseph’s will be trialing a change during our lunches. Our children will be playing for the first 15 mins at morning tea and the first 20 mins of lunch. The children will then eat for 15 mins after both play times. We will also supply our children with two fruit breaks throughout the day. One being in the first session and one during the second session.

The beginning of the school year is a good time to ask for your support for our important procedures that we have in place at St Joseph’s:

**Communication** is an important vehicle between the family and the school and I ask that you take the time to read the fortnightly newsletter and the correspondence sent home from your child’s teacher. These forms of communication are our main means of keeping you informed with what is happening around the school.

If you have an issue or a concern, please know that we will try and deal with this together. If you need to discuss a concern with the teacher please take the time to make an appointment as the mornings and afternoons can be busy for teachers. It is also important to know that the teacher is the first point of contact in dealing with your concerns. You are always welcome to speak with a member of the leadership team after speaking with your child’s teacher.
Principal’s message continued

School begins at 8.40am with morning duty commencing at 8.10am. We ask that children place their bags in the port racks provided outside their classroom and wait until 8.10am before commencing play. If you are late or need to pick up your child from school early you are required to call into the office to sign your child in or out. All visitors to the school are required to sign in/out at the office whenever they are in the school grounds. This can seem an onerous task, however this procedure allows us to be aware of who is on the school grounds at all times.

Supervised Crossing: We are very fortunate at St Joseph’s to have a safe environment provided by the Department of Transport to help our community members cross the road safely. It has been noted, however, that a number of parents, sometimes with young children, do not use the crossing or cross before the supervisor has time to instigate the proper procedure. Parents are encouraged, for their own safety and the safety of their children, and as a good example to others, to use the crossing correctly.

Uniform: Many thanks to all those families who have ensured that the children have started the year with us, fully decked out in school uniforms, neat and tidy. Please keep supporting us in ensuring that all students present to school in correct uniform, shoes, haircuts etc. Please send a note if any temporary change to Uniform is required.

St Joseph’s is on Facebook

St Joseph’s Primary School Murgon has now joined Social Media in the form of FACEBOOK with a Group page for everyone to be able to follow what is happening at the school.

If you look up – FIND GROUPS St Joseph’s Primary School Murgon you should then be able to request permission to join the group.

This group page has been set up for the purpose of parents, carers and families of students at St Joseph’s, being able to be kept up to date with what is happening at school.

We ask that you respect that this is not a form of communication with the office or teachers and if you have any concerns you would contact the office or teachers to discuss any issues.

Facebook will provide the community of St Joseph’s with a valuable tool of communication.

**Wondai Art Gallery**

During the month of February,

St Joseph's students, from 2015 are exhibiting works of art.

Families are welcome to attend the opening night on Friday 5th February.

Students are free and adults cost $5.00 which includes a hot and cold supper.

A local winery will be operating on the night.

All welcome

Next Friday

February 5th at 9.30am

Whole School Mass

All very welcome

TUCKSHOP

Mondays

Begins on 1st February

See Menu attached

Have a great start to the school year everyone,

Greg Oram

Principal