The first day of school had an air of excitement and anticipation. There were many bright, cheerful faces, beautiful school uniforms and finally St Francis of Assisi felt like a school. All it needed was the buzz of students' voices.

**Beginning of the School Year Mass**

You are invited to attend our beginning of the School Year Mass on *Tuesday 14th February at 9.30am.*

It will be held at St Francis of Assisi, in our shared learning area. You are all most welcome!

**Parking arrangements**

Congratulations to all the parents who dropped off students or parked in the car park. The drop-off was managed very well and students left the cars very safely. I spent some time with students who were being picked up today to show them where to stand and wait. If parents are dropping off students and staying, they will need to drive along Fairview Parade and into Manna Gum Drive and enter the school parking area via the gate at the corner. There will be bollards put in place for Tuesday to remind parents about that procedure. Well done to the families who parked outside of the school and came in through the pedestrian gate and used the crossing near the front door.

**Arriving at school**

External classroom doors will be open at *8.40am.* Please use these entrances to avoid congestion in the foyer area. In our initial weeks of school we will be gathering for prayer and school news from *8.50am—9.00am* in our shared learning area.

**Specialist Timetable**

The Specialist areas being taught are Italian, The Arts and Physical Education. Specialist classes will begin on:

*Tuesday 7th February.*

All students will need to wear their Sports Uniform every Tuesday.
**Make me a channel of your peace;**

Where there is darkness, let me bring light.

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Students will need to bring their school hats **each day.**

Even though during the first two weeks of school there will be an indoor program, students still need to wear their hats for Physical Education Lessons.

**What do the students need to bring?**

Students need to bring the following items to school:

- A box of tissues (for a shared supply during year)
- An art smock (please make sure it is labelled with your child’s name and grade).
- **Preps** please bring a spare pair of underwear that can be kept in each child’s school bag.

**Uniform Shop**

The Uniform shop is open every **Tuesday, from 8am—10am.** They are set up in Learning Space 1 (Opposite the 1/2 Learning space).

**Brain Food**

At approximately 10.00am children are allowed to have a snack of food items such as a piece of fruit or vegetable, dried fruit or cheese. This needs to be packed **separately in a small container or placed in gladwrap.**

Children may have a drink of **water** from a water bottle. There is a water fountain at school for children to refill their water bottles.

Please note that St Francis is a NUT FREE school.

**Thanksgiving program**

Letters/envelopes have been sent home with children today. Many thanks for supporting the work of the parish in this way. If your child does not bring a letter/envelope home, please contact the school office for the necessary forms.

**It is an expectation that each family supports the life of the parish through the Thanksgiving program.**

**EMA and School Start Bonus**

Health Care Card holders are eligible to claim a benefit to support education costs for children. Prep students are entitled to a further benefit. The forms need to be collected from Margaret at the front office and returned by **Friday 17th February** at the latest.

Please see the note on our school website if you need further information to check your eligibility to claim.

**Contact Details**

The school’s contact details:

45 Fairview Parade, Tarneit
9731 6004

www.sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au
info@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au
principal@sfatarneit.catholic.edu.au

**Concluding Comment**

It’s a privilege to work in partnership with you.

May God bless us abundantly as we step forward to create a positive, caring culture that enables each of us to grow in confidence and learn effectively every day.