

Dear Families

Hi everyone! Just scraping in with a quick newsletter before we race into the September/October school holidays. Hope you're loving the warmer weather and wishing you all a happy holiday for the 2 weeks coming up. Please read on for all the latest news 😊

PUPIL FREE DAYS

St Thomas Aquinas will be having pupil free days on 9th and 10th October while the state schools will be operating as normal for those days. Our service will operate before and after school care only on those days.

All the schools we provide service to will hold pupil free days on the last 2 days of the year, 18th and 19th December. Our service will operate vacation care for these 2 days.

END OF YEAR SERVICE DATES

If you're working out your end of year plans, we will be operating vacation care from 18 December – 22 December inclusive. We will then close for 2 weeks and reopen for vacation care from 8 January to the end of the school holidays.

VACATION CARE

We still have some vacancies for the September/October vacation care period. You can download the programme [HERE](#) and make bookings via the portal. We're really looking forward to heading off on the first excursion further afield since pre-covid days, which is to Featherdale Wildlife Park. Judging from the number of bookings already, the children are looking forward to this too. Can't wait for the fun day out!

MARK YOUR CHILD ABSENT VIA THE PORTAL

We need to know ahead of time if your child will be absent when booked. This is especially important in after school care and we take unexpected absence seriously, as we need to ensure all children are safe and where they should be. If your child will be absent from any booked session, please let us know either by:

- Marking him/her absent via the portal (this notifies us and updates our attendance list immediately)
- Emailing us at tanderra@sccc.org.au
- Call us on 4751 5215
- Tell us in person if you're in the centre

We greatly appreciate when you have let us know of your child's absence ahead of time. Thank you.

LOST PROPERTY

The lost property basket is in the front room at the sign out desk. Don't forget to check it as all items will be rehomed at the end of term.

YEAR 6 SPECIAL EVENTS

The older children are loving their year 6 special events – afternoon teas on the town. It's always greatly anticipated and is a valuable part of the transition towards high school. Afternoon tea at the Ori Café was held on 11 September. The next one will be Bubble Tea and chips in the park. Once children start in high school, we welcome them dropping in to say hi and to reach out for support if they need it. It's a great idea to ask your high school child to programme our landline number into their mobile phone for emergencies.

RE-ENROL FOR 2023

We will soon be inviting you to re-enrol your child for 2024. This year, it will be a very simple process, completed via the portal. Look out for your invitation via your Kidsoft Parent Portal account early in term 4.

ENROLLING A CHILD WHO WILL BE STARTING SCHOOL IN 2024

It's also time to enrol your pre-school child who is will be starting in kindergarten in 2024. As a current parent, you simply need to register your interest to enrol you child. Once we approve your request, you can then complete the online enrolment form. Click [HERE](#) for step-by-step guidelines on the process.

2024 KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN CAN ATTEND VACATION CARE

If your child will be starting in kindergarten in 2024, he/she is welcome to attend vacation care in the January school holidays. It's a great way for your child to develop confidence in the school age environment. Bookings for our Summer Vacation Care period will be open from 4 December.

STORYPARK NEWS

Storypark is the best way to see what the children do at Tanderra and your child's participation in the programme. If you're not signed up, please let us know and we'll reissue you an invite.

FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE

We love it when families follow us on Facebook. Our website has our weekly menu, the latest service news, the vacation care programme and our most commonly requested policies. Please let us know if you have any feedback about our service or if there's something else you'd like to see on our website. We always appreciate your ideas.

LUNCH IDEAS FOR BUSY PARENTS

Feeling like you need inspiration to keep your child's lunch box appealing each day? Click [HERE](#) for a great Kidspot resource we've linked on our website.

We also have a healthy eating guide which you can find [HERE](#).

Thanks for reading!

**See you in the holidays and in term 4. From all the Tanderra staff:
Suzanne, Aunty Simone, Brodie, Pheobe, Sharon, Dallas, Callum,
Tom and all our wonderful staff**