



Principal's Message

Head of Campus

Religious Education

Kindy News

Digital Technology



## Year 6 Award Winners

#MakingADifferenceEveryday

# Contents



3

TERM 4  
CALENDAR

4

FROM THE  
PRINCIPAL

10

HEAD OF  
CAMPUS

14

RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION

16

KINDY

18

DIGITAL  
TECHNOLOGY

19

SOCIAL  
WORKER  
NEWS



## TERM 4 2023 - Mel Maria

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	9 Oct PUPIL FREE	10 OCT Students Commence	11 OCT Kindy Incursion – Farmyard on Wheels	12 OCT	13 OCT Senior Athletics Track & Field Carnival Y3-6 Yr 2 Bracks Library Excursion	14 OCT	15 OCT
2	16 OCT PN Housekeeping Assembly Merit Awards	17 OCT Yr 2's SJP & PN Excursion Kings Park	18 OCT Yr 5 Mass 9am PN & SJP	19 OCT LOUD SOCK DAY	20 OCT	21 OCT	22 OCT SJP First Holy Communion 11am
3	23 OCT SJP Housekeeping Assembly Merit Awards Yr 5 & 6 Incursion	24 OCT Yr 3 BYOD Night 6pm PN Library	25 OCT Grandparent's Day PP Grandparents Mass 9am SJP Kindy -Better Beginnings	26 OCT Interschool Athletics	27 OCT World Teachers' Day	28 OCT	29 OCT
4	30 OCT	31 OCT	1 NOV All Saints Mass 9am  PN Kindy -Better Beginnings	2 NOV All Souls Day	3 NOV	4 NOV	5 NOV
5	6 NOV PN Yr 4 Cathedral Excursion	7 NOV SAC Meeting 6pm P&F 7pm PN Yr 4 SJP Excursion	8 NOV PN Yr3 Mass	9 NOV Yr 1 PN Bunning Excursion	10 NOV Coffee Cart Conversations SJP Pre-K to PP@PN 9am  Remembrance Day Service 11am	11 NOV Remembrance Day	12 NOV St Joseph Pignatelli Celebrations
6	13 NOV PN & SJP House Keeping Assembly 9am	14 NOV	15 NOV Yr 1 PN Assembly 9am Coffee Cart Conversations Yr 1 PN @SJP 10am  SJP Festival of the Boot  Pre-Kindy/Kindy Parent Night 6.30pm	16 NOV	17 NOV Yr 1 SJP Assembly 9am  Orientation PP-Year 6 9.15am New Families  PN Festival of the Boot	18 NOV	19 NOV Christ the King Feast Day
7	20 NOV Coffee Cart Conversations Yr 2 PN @SJP 9am PN Yr 6 Transperth Incursion	21 NOV PN Kindy Playdate 9.30am  ACM 6pm (PN Hall)	22 NOV SJP Kindy Playdate 9.30am  SJP Yr 3 Mass 9am	23 NOV	24 NOV Mel Maria Christmas Markets	25 NOV.	26 NOV Advent Commences
8	27 NOV SJP Pre-Kindy 9.15-10am	28 NOV PN PP Assembly 9am Music Recital PN	29 NOV SJP Kindy Concert SJP Festival of the Boot PN Kindy Concert	30 NOV Music Recital SJP	1 DEC SJP PP Assembly 9am PN Festival of the Boot	2 DEC	3 DEC
9	4 DEC SJP Graduation 6pm PN Housekeeping Assembly	5 DEC PN Graduation 6pm	6 DEC End of Year Mass Transition Day Kindy SUPERSONIC Science Incursion	7 DEC Yr 6 Fun Day Yr 5 Excursion SJP PP SUPERSONIC SCIENCE incursion	8 DEC LAST DAY OF TERM FOR STUDENTS Assembly @PN 9.30am PN PP SUPERSONIC SCIENCE incursion	9 DEC	10 DEC
10	11 DEC	12 DEC	13 DEC	14 DEC	15 DEC LAST DAY OF TERM FOR STAFF	16 DEC	17 DEC

# Principal's Message



## Week Eight Term Four

Dear Parents and Carers,

As media advertising and the shop displays remind us, the season of Christmas and gift buying is fast approaching.

How well do we prepare our children for a season of giving rather than receiving, of showing thankfulness for what they have and of generosity towards those who are not as fortunate?

It is normal and natural for young children to believe everyone in the world exists exclusively for their benefit. Thankfulness is just not part of their job description. Part of our role as parents, is to lead our children out of their internal gazing and continually prompt them into a "concern for others" attitude towards the people around them.

Modelling thankfulness to our children is an important way to have them learn about living with and for others. We might need to project an attitude of thankfulness with our possessions, our clothes and appearance. Do we see the bigger world of need around us or is our focus simply on ourselves?

As parents, we might hope that our children will learn to be thankful for the way we live our lives. We can tell them how thankful we are to have them in our lives. We can spend more time with them instead of buying them more toys and games and so teach them the value of relationships over material gifts.

Thankfulness, and caring for others is a major part of wellbeing as it creates an inner harmony. When our inner harmony is missing, we are not complete. We can be sure that there is no place for feeling miserable in a thankful heart.

Therefore, as we come to the end of another very busy school year, I take the opportunity to make mention and THANK several people for their commitment and effort throughout the 2023 school year.

This year has, once again, proven to be very eventful and productive for all associated with Mel Maria Catholic School. I would sincerely like to thank each staff member –

- Our Leadership Team
- Our Teachers and Education Assistants
- Our Office Staff and Administrative staff
- Our Grounds staff
- Canteen & Uniform Shop staff

For all their contributions and efforts throughout 2023.

Time after time, the staff go beyond what is expected and required of them as staff members within this school. We are very blessed to have such a wonderful group of people who love working at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School.



I thank the parents of the school for their support and efforts throughout the year. It is terrific to have this level of interest displayed in the growth of both the children and the school as a whole.

At this time of the year, we also say 'farewell' to the families who are leaving Mel Maria Catholic Primary School at the end of the term, particularly those families who have had a long association with the school. We hope that each of you have many happy memories of your time here, the people you have met, the many friends both you and your children have made and the various activities you have been involved in during your time at the school. We pray that your futures are filled with many blessings.

## Christmas Carols and Night Markets

What an extraordinary evening we had last Friday, filled with the enchantment of Christmas Carols and Night Markets, marking a truly splendid celebration of our 50th Anniversary. The collective effort of each class showcased an astounding display of creativity and dedication at their stalls, raising funds for additional resources that will benefit our school immensely. A heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to Nadia Gibellini for assistance with the coordination of the Night Markets, and to the [entire staff](#) whose exceptional and tireless efforts contributed to the success of their respective stalls. Well done to all!



The festivities continued with the Christmas Carol segment, featuring a delightful appearance by Father Christmas and his two elves, bringing joy to the children and spreading the festive spirit. A special mention to the School Choir for keeping the crowd enthralled with their beautiful singing to commence the musical part of the evening.

Led by the talented Mrs. Greta Scheggia and Mrs. Irene Windsor, our Carols, featuring students from Pre-Primary to Year Three, were nothing short of enchanting. Witnessing parents join in the joyous singing added to the magic of the evening. The impressive turnout of over fifteen hundred people spoke volumes about the remarkable 'Community Spirit' at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School. The abundance of positive comments received about the evening makes it a tough act to follow, but, as always, we remain committed to 'striving for excellence' here at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School.

The climax of the evening was the 50th Anniversary Musical, expertly coordinated and directed by Mrs. Joanne Scouler. Our heartfelt thanks go to Joanne for her adept coordination and direction of the musical, along with Mrs. Gennie Sumich and Mrs. Trish Spencer, who not only led the choir but also played various pieces of music throughout the evening.

We also thank all the Teachers and Staff who dedicated themselves to preparing the students for this musical extravaganza. The entire evening radiated with a sense of enjoyment, fun, and unity.



A resounding Congratulations and Thank You to everyone involved in making our Golden Jubilee Year concert an outstanding success.

## ACM Meeting

Thank you to the parents and staff who attended the ACM meeting last Tuesday. At this meeting I shared an insight as to what Mel Maria Catholic Primary School will look like as we transitioned to 2025. I thank the members of the community who have nominated for a position on either the School Advisory Council or the P&F Executive. It is tremendous to see this level of enthusiasm and confidence in our school, having parents who want to have a positive impact on our future direction.

### New School Advisory Council Members

Mrs Monique Strauss (re-nominated)  
Mr Ivan Dzeba

### New P & F Executive Committee

President - Mrs Emma-Lee Boyle  
Secretary - Mrs Holly Tickner  
Committee Member - Mrs Sarah Nofal  
Committee Member - Mrs Laura Harvey

### Graduation

Our Year 6 Graduation Masses will be held on:

- Monday 4 December Year 6 St Joseph Pignatelli students
- Tuesday 5 December Year 6 Pater Noster students.

Both groups will celebrate the end of their primary school education with a Graduation Mass commencing at 6pm with supper to follow at 7pm. At 7.30pm we will begin the formal presentation part of the evening. This is a very significant occasion for the Year 6 students, and we invite everyone in the school community to keep our Year 6 students in their prayers.

### Reports

Semester Two student reports will be distributed to all students on Friday, 8 December. This report provides parents with an overview of how their child has progressed, across the entire year, in relation to the end of year Achievement Standard for each learning area for their year level. The grade provided is taking into account the curriculum which has been taught and assessed across the entire year, not just Semester 2.

Students are commended on their efforts throughout the semester, and we thank the parents who have supported us by ensuring that students are continuing in their learning and development as a whole person. We encourage parents to take the time to discuss the Semester Two Report with their child/children and, if there are areas of concern, to make an appointment to see the class teacher.

### The Advent Wreath

Advent is a season with its own special mood, colours, sounds, words and joys. The colours of advent are violet, mauve or magenta. An Advent Wreath is a circle, usually of evergreen branches, with four candles placed in or around it (usually three purple and one rose), one for each of the four Sundays of the season. The circular wreath is a sign of God's loving and never-ending care.

During Advent, one candle is lit every week.

- The purple candles are for the sorrow we feel for not loving Jesus enough.
- The rose candle is for the joy surrounding the impending birth of Jesus.
- The evergreen symbolises God is with us always and will never change.
- The circle symbolises that God is eternal, with no beginning and no end.



We can make our classrooms and our homes look and feel like Advent. Even though our shopping malls are decorated for Christmas, and Christmas carols are being played and sung, we can try to make Advent a time of simple living, remembering the first coming of Jesus, and reflecting on how Jesus continues to come to us in our everyday lives

### 2024 Term Dates

Please find below the listed Term Dates for Mel Maria School for 2024. Included in these are the scheduled Pupil Free Days for the year.

### Term Dates 2024

Term 1	Wednesday 31 January – Thursday 28 March
Term 2	Monday 15 April – Friday 28 June
Term 3	Monday 15 July – Thursday 19 September
Term 4	Tuesday 8 October – Friday 6 December

### Pupil Free Days 2024

Monday 11 March	Dr Justin Coulson Parent Information Night
Tuesday 4 June	Pupil Free Day
Friday 16 August	Pupil Free Day
Friday 20 September	Pupil Free Day
Monday 7 October	Pupil Free Day

## **Pre-Kindy and Kindergarten Information Evening**

It was wonderful to see such a large representation last Wednesday evening at the Early Childhood Information Night. This year we change the format of the information sessions held for parents by combining the Pre-Kindergarten with the Kindergarten Information Night.

This proved to be most successful as there was a large group of parents present, each filled with hope and anticipation of what lies before their children as they commence their journey at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School. It was wonderful to meet the many new families who will be commencing at Mel Maria in 2024. We hope that your time at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School is filled with many blessings and rewards.

## **From My Readings . . .**

### **Don't Let a Sibling Corner a Market**

Michael Grose

Some kids will define themselves with a word or two. "I'm the smart/funny/dumb kid in the family." So, when they are told by siblings that they are smart, dumb, cute etc, or just reminded through the way they are treated (e.g. by giving responsibility to responsible kids and withholding it from kids who struggle with it), they start to form their "I belong" statement. That is "I belong in my family because I am the smart kid/the problem child/the helpful child".

The trick to parenting is such kids is not to let them corner the market on any personality trait, characteristic or role in a family.

An eight-year-old once described himself to me using one word. "Dumb!" Actually, he book-ended that with some other words. He said, "I'm the dumb one in my family." He'd always been told in subtle ways by his parents that he didn't quite measure up and was constantly reminded by his siblings how he was struggling with school. His elder brother felt he was better at most things at his age. His younger sister was starting to overtake him in the academic stakes. Her success was a reminder that he was 'dumb'. Never mind that her gender gave her a head-start.

Many children fall into the habit of cornering the market on one attribute or characteristic. "I'm the smart/dumb/cute/funny/favoured, sporty/spoilt kid in the family!"

Of course, children are the sum of many parts, but their view of the world is very subjective. Children are good observers, but lousy interpreters of what others say.

All this happens in latency – the period of life before adolescence. It's a time when kids are trying work out who they are and how they fit into their various groups. And of course, since their family is the first group they belong to, their place in their family also shapes their role in other groups. That's why kids' birth order and family constellation is so powerful. The trick is to not let kids corner the market on any one attribute.



Yes, a child may struggle at school compared to their siblings but he or she may also be creative,

generous, sporty, funny and a whole bunch of other characteristics to boot.

Just how you get these notions across to kids is a parenting challenge. Start by not labelling any sibling as the 'funny' or 'smart' one, or the family clown! Then:

### **Treat kids uniquely, not equally**

Many parents make the mistake of treating siblings equally. You can't! Instead treat them in their own special way. Respond to their strengths, and don't get sucked into focusing on what they can't do. See them as whole people, not as labels or as kids playing roles. This holds true for special needs kids. See past the disorder to focus on the whole child and all their abilities, interests and quirks.

### **Treat them as you want them to be, not as they are**

Want a child to be responsible? Then give them responsibility (for their toys, packing their own school lunch, feeding the pet) and allow them to mess up and experience what not being responsible feels like. It should feel rotten because they have let others down. 'I-messages' work well at these times, as they are non-judgemental. Look ahead realistically at how you want your kids to be (friendly, smart, studious, etc.) and start seeing them through that lens.

### **You are not wonderful or woeful**

Being the wonderful kid is a lousy role to play. It can be so limiting and exhausting to have to constantly live up to the expectations of parents. But that is exactly what wonderful kids often do. Putting kids on the wonderful/great/the good one pedestal is as bad as putting kids in the woeful basket.

Don't let kids corner the market on one attribute or characteristic.

If you have a child who defines him or herself in one or two words, then help them scratch the surface to reveal the full splendour of the gem that lies beneath their single-minded exterior.

### **Prayer for the Week**

This Advent we once again prepare for Christmas. While we look forward to remembering and celebrating the birth of Jesus, we also take this time to prepare our hearts and minds as we wait for the coming of the Christ Child. Just as we all look forward to the end of the school year; we also look towards Christ's coming with excitement and with joy.



Heavenly Father,

We remember Joseph and Mary as they awaited the birth of their child and prepared for the journey to Bethlehem. May we learn to trust in God like Mary and Joseph.

We recognise that people of different nations, cultures and religious traditions will come together to search out new ways of living in peace built on justice.

We ask for your guidance as we learn to wait and listen for the good news of the birth of our Saviour this Advent.

We offer this prayer through Jesus Christ your Son and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

### **Thought for the Week**

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

Kind Regards

**Paul Hille**  
**Principal**

**#MakingADifferenceEVERYDAY**





**ATTENTION!**

**School Transition Day**  
Kindergarten to Year 5  
Wednesday, 6th December 2023  
11.00am

Meet and Greet 2024 Teacher  
(where possible)  
Students get a snapshot of what it is like in the year above.

CELEBRATING  
50  
ANNIVERSARY  
YEARS  
MEL MARIA  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Why are transitions Important?

Transition days are important for children as they provide a buffer between different stages in their lives, like transitioning from one grade to another.

These days allow children to familiarise themselves with new surroundings, meet peers and teachers, and adjust emotionally to the upcoming changes, helping them feel more comfortable and confident in their new environment.

## Private Music Lessons in 2024

Private Music Tuition is offered during school hours at Mel Maria in the disciplines of guitar, piano and voice for students from Years 3 - 6. Drum lessons are taught by Reggie D'Souza for children from Year 1 - 6. Children below Year 3 who have already been learning guitar and piano outside of school may be considered for lessons if there is space.

Private Music lessons is an extra-curricular activity supported by the school but not run or organised by the school. The school provides a facility for music tutors to conduct their lessons during school hours. Parents communicate directly with the music teacher/s and the school is not responsible for lessons missed, nor does the school take responsibility any for make-up lessons.

Parents should email their music tutor directly regarding any absentee information or when a child will not be available for their lesson/s.

Please contact the school office for a form. Vacancies are limited.



MEL MARIA  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Head of Campus News

Joanne Scouler and Ros Nichols

## Jubilee Celebrations





MEL MARIA  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Head of Campus News

Joanne Scouler and Ros Nichols





# Head of Campus News

Joanne Scouler and Ros Nichols

MEL MARIA  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Religious Education



## What does Advent mean?

Advent derives from the Latin *adventus* meaning 'arrival' or 'approach'. For thousands of years the world waited for the coming of the Messiah to redeem and to save the human race, restoring mankind's relationship to God.

We, too, experience this same longing for the coming of Christ. Spiritually, we long for the coming of Christ into our hearts as the Holy Spirit draws us into an ever deepening relationship with Him; we also long for Christ in his Second Coming, when he will return physically to earth—as He promised—to restore all things to Himself.

Therefore, the Advent season has these characteristics:

It is a season of:

- 1) Hopeful longing,
- 2) Joyful expectation,
- 3) Prayerful penance, and
- 4) Spiritual preparation.

It looks to:

- 1) Salvation history of the past,
- 2) Our present redemption being accomplished, and
- 3) the future coming of Christ.

Advent connects us spiritually with God's whole plan of redemption through Jesus Christ.

## When does Advent begin?

Advent is the liturgical season we celebrate as the precursor to the Christmas season. It's there for a reason.

Advent begins on the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (November 30th) and ends on December 24th. Christmas begins December 25th at midnight and continues until the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus.

Advent is our liturgically built-in time of spiritual preparation for Christmas

**Jesse Tree:** the Jesse Tree (named after the father of King David, the ancestor of Jesus, as mentioned in Isaiah 11) is a fun biblical activity during the Advent season which prepares for the birth of Christ and his mission. It's fun for kids and great catechesis. It goes through the ancestry of Jesus and how all his ancestors played a role in salvation history. The tree created can then be used as a holiday decoration.

**Advent Penance Services:** Advent is known as the "little Lent" and is therefore a time for penitential practices. Many Catholic parishes have special penance services for Advent. Confession is an important part of preparing room for the coming of Christ into our hearts, that is, allowing Him to draw us into deeper conversion.

# Religious Education



**Small Sacrifices for the Christ Child:** Because Advent is known as the “little Lent,” prayer, alms, and sacrifices are also a part of Advent season. Just as the Magi laboured through a long journey to worship and gave precious gifts to the Christ Child, so we can do the same; we can give the Baby Jesus our sacrifices during the Advent season.

Adults can do this alone, but with kids a visual aid goes along well with the practice. Two popular ways are Jesus Stockings and a Baby Jesus creche. For the stocking, small sacrifices are written on little slips of paper and placed into the stocking; for the creche, a piece of straw is added for each good deed. These add up each day of Advent as birthday presents for the newborn King. When Jesus is born, and the baby Jesus is placed in the creche, the prayers and sacrifices have prepared Him room in our hearts. A beautiful visual! See also A Great Tradition for Kids! Making Small Sacrifices for the Baby Jesus During Advent.

**Almsgiving:** Good deeds and generosity have always been an important part of preparation for Christmas. Advent is a great time to practice spiritual and corporeal acts of mercy such as Christmas gifts for disadvantaged children, volunteering at a nursing home or soup kitchen, visiting the sick in a hospital, or simply inviting people into your home who may have no friends or family of their own to celebrate with. If you can't find something to be a part of in your parish or local community, be an organiser for a cause you're passionate about and get others involved.



## Kindy Class News

As the season of Advent is fast approaching, the children have been immersed in the true meaning of Christmas. We have read the Nativity Story several times, and they have been role playing the birth of Baby Jesus.

The children have been excitedly preparing for the Christmas Markets. They have made Reindeer Food to sell and some delicious Chocolate Bark.

They have also been busy practising for our Kindy Concert and can't wait to show their families how talented they are and enjoy a shared morning tea together.

It is such an exciting time of the year and as the year draws to a close, we reflect on the Year 2023. We will sure miss these delightful children when they move up to Pre-Primary next year!



# Kindy SJP News



## Kindy Class News

What an amazing term in Kindy we have had! Full of fun, friendship and adventures. We have been so busy the past few weeks practising songs and actions for our end of year concert. We are so excited to perform for our family and friends! We are also getting ready for new adventures in Pre-Primary. We have had visits to the classrooms and a wonderful lesson in the Library with Mrs Windsor. We learnt some songs in Noongar, how to borrow a book and the most exciting part was we get to take a book home when we are in Pre-Primary!

It is so hard to believe it's nearly time to say goodbye, but we will treasure the memories we have made together for a lifetime.





## Year 3 BYOD Program 2024



Children in Year 3 are required to bring their own iPad to school. It is essential that this iPad has the required specifications. - **iPad 9th or 10th generation, WI-FI only. We recommend 256GB of storage**, however, 64GB is sufficient as long as students monitor the space available on their device. All students have access to 500gb of storage in their personal OneDrive account. This is part of the Office 365 suite provided to all staff and students by the Catholic Education Office Western Australia.

### Setup

To ensure your new iPad is properly configured for school use, please follow these steps:

- **Before Initial Setup:** After purchasing the new iPad, bring it to school. The school's Mobile Device Management (MDM) system will be linked to the device. This step is essential to ensure that all school-related requirements are correctly installed, including Wi-Fi settings and all necessary school apps.
- **School Profile Integration:** By linking the iPad with the school's MDM, it will be initially configured with the school profile. This configuration provides additional functions that benefit both students and parents. For instance, it allows for easy passcode resets, the ability to disable app installation and removal, management of app usage, application of restrictions, activation of "Lost Mode" in case the iPad is misplaced or stolen and more. This setup also provides access to the full range of functions available in Jamf Parent, enabling parents to set restrictions and apply rules to their child's iPad.
- **Existing iPads:** If your child already owns an iPad, please backup the photos and documents and wipe the iPad (Restore to factory settings) before bringing it to school. Once the school profile is installed, apps and content can be copied to the device. This will ensure the iPad works perfectly at school and you will have full access to 'Jamf Parent' app to apply restrictions to your child's device.

The full BYOD booklet can be found [here](#).

## Understanding and teaching friendship skills according to children's developmental levels.

The research literature on the concept of friendship indicates there are four levels between early childhood and adolescence. The four levels are summarised as follows, but individual factors in every child are acknowledged.

**Level 1:** Approximately 3 to 6 years - The child recognises that games and activities cannot happen unless there is an element of turn taking but there is an egocentric or simple conceptualisation of friendship in terms of defining a friend as someone who gives you things or someone you play with. Friendship is based on proximity and physical attributes and when asked Why is \_\_\_\_ your friend? The typical response is He lives next door.

**Level 2:** Approximately 6 to 9 years - There is an increasing understanding of the concepts of reciprocity and mutual rather than one-way assistance. The likes and dislikes of the other person are more likely to be considered with friendship based on how closely each friend matches their self interest, for example, in liking similar games. There is also a new awareness of the motives, thoughts and feelings of others. When asked Why is \_\_\_\_ your friend? the typical response is He lets me play the games I want to, Because she comes to my party and I go to hers or She's nice to me.

**Level 3:** Approximately 9 to 13 years - The child is more aware of other people's opinions of them and how their words and actions affect the feelings of others. They are more careful in what they say and do because it may be hurtful to someone. Friendship can be based on shared experience or common interests and helping becomes more valued than simply playing together. There is a greater selectivity in choosing friends, a gender split and a greater durability in the relationship. There is increased value placed on personal attributes such as trust, loyalty and keeping rather than breaking promises. When asked Why is \_\_\_\_ your friend, the typical response is He sticks up for me and helps me with my maths homework, She enjoys doing the things I like to do or I can talk to them and they listen.

**Level 4:** Adolescence to adult - Peer group acceptance becomes more important than the opinions of parents, there is a greater depth and breadth of self-disclosure, desire to be understood by friends and recognition that there are different types of friendship - from acquaintances to close friends with autonomous interdependence. When asked Why is \_\_\_\_ your friend, the typical response is Because we think the same way about things.

A suggested checklist of friendship skills for children's key social behaviours is as follows: These may guide the intervention strategies of teachers and parents.

**Entry Skills:** How the child joins a group of children and the welcome they provide for children who want to be included in their activity.

**Assistance:** Recognising when and how to provide assistance as well as seeking assistance from others.

**Compliments:** Providing compliments at appropriate times and knowing how to respond to a friend's compliment.

**Criticism:** Knowing when criticism is appropriate and inappropriate, how it is given and the ability to tolerate criticism.

**Accepting Suggestions:** Incorporating the ideas of others in the activity.

**Reciprocity and Sharing:** An equitable distribution of conversation, direction and resources.

**Conflict Resolution:** Managing disagreement with compromise, and recognising the opinions of others. Knowing not to respond with aggression or immature mechanisms.

**Monitoring and Listening:** Regularly observing the other person to monitor their contribution to the activity and body language. Their own body language indicating interest in the other person.

**Empathy:** Recognising when appropriate comments and actions are required in response to the other person's circumstances and the positive and negative feelings of others.

**Avoiding and Ending:** The appropriate behaviour and comments to maintain solitude or end the interaction.



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**'We strive to create happy and successful children who we are proud of... we are more than a school, we are a community, united by our motto, 'Unity is Strength.'**

## Contact Us

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