Dear Parents, Carers and Students,
Welcome to the 2016 school year. It was great to see our students return, healthy, happy and excited to see their teachers and classmates. I offer a special welcome to the new staff and students at our school.

A number of our existing families have children starting in Foundation this year. Welcome to Eli, Will, Elysia, Annasia, Latisha, Evelyn, Sirat, Clarissa, Wavely, Aalyha, Mackenzie, Kaiden, Harsimran, Claire, Kenzie, Layla, Harley, and Lilly. This Friday morning there will be a ‘cuppa’ after drop-off time in the morning prepared by the school leaders. Please stay around to meet other parents and say hello.

School Canteen
This year we would like to continue having lunch orders provided on Friday’s however this is reliant upon parental assistance. Due to trialling an earlier lunch at 11.35 pm this term, parents will only need to commit to 3 ½ hours in the morning. Please contact the admin staff or Mrs Stacey Hunter (new co-ordinator) on 0429690273 if you are interested in assisting or prepared to go on the canteen roster.

School Magazines
There are a number of 2015 magazines available for $18 in the front office, please see Bernie.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS
Year of Mercy: At the beginning of 2015, Pope Francis announced an Extraordinary Jubilee Year in 2016 that would focus on the mercy of God. This Holy Year of Mercy looks to engage us with the words of Luke’s Gospel, where Jesus challenges each of us to “be merciful, as God is merciful.” We have been encouraged to use the symbol of the Holy Door and explore different ways of showing compassion, kindness, welcome and forgiveness in our daily lives. So you may notice a distinctive theme of Mercy (forgiveness) in our prayers and discussion throughout this year.

A warm welcome to the New Year and best wishes has been extended to our community from our Bishop of the Port Pirie Diocese, Gregory O’Kelly SJ and Ms Brenda Keenan our Director of Catholic Education, Port Pirie.

A prayer for the Year of Mercy
Give us willing feet and gentle hands
Bless us with listening ears and searching eyes.
Endow us with understanding minds and compassionate hearts.
In our acts and in our words make us vessels of your mercy.
To reach out to the broken.
Help us lift your people in body and spirit.
And so make every year a year of Mercy.
Amen.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Please let the Front Office know if you are available to assist from 9am-12.30pm
Thank You.
Beginning School Mass – ASH WEDNESDAY
Ash Wednesday falls early this year on **10th February** and the Our Lady of the River parish community invites all families to attend the Ash Wednesday celebration at 6pm in St Mary’s Church. This is a Feast Day for all Catholics and it will also be our Presentation of Sacrament children for 2016, beginning year celebration and welcome to all our new families. It is very important that families who would like their child to receive a Sacrament in 2016 to please return the form handed out on Monday. After Mass the congregation is invited to purchase ‘fish and chips’ from Gudge’s Fish and Chip van and enjoy a picnic tea on the lawn areas of the school. Feel free to bring along your own refreshments, chairs and blankets.

SHROVE TUESDAY
Tuesday 9th February the students will celebrate ‘Pancake’ Tuesday in preparation for the season of Lent in the Catholic Church. The children will have the opportunity to have a pancake at lunch, prepared by our senior students. If your child has any allergies to egg or diary products, could you please advise your child’s class teacher through the student diary.

**Assemblies and Masses**
This year the school Masses will be held on Thursday mornings at 9.00 am in St Mary’s Church approximately once a fortnight unless there is Holy day of obligation or important feast day to be celebrated. School class assemblies will be held on Friday afternoons to conclude the day, approximately every fortnight in the school gym/hall. These will begin at 2.45 pm. Please refer to the school calendar sent home Monday for planned dates and celebrations for this Term.

**Traffic Reminders**
I would like to draw your attention to some important issues that were highlighted last year. Our school parking Kiss and Drop procedures and general movement of traffic around the school has worked well over the course of many years and it is important that we maintain a high degree of safety awareness particularly in the mornings and afternoons. Please enter and leave the school using the correct parking procedures for Kiss and Drop as well as parallel parking on Verran Terrace. Parents can choose to pick-up and drop off in the Church car park; however this area is not supervised by staff.

**School Uniform**
Our school uniform is also an important consideration as it represents the pride and identity of our school. Most families have updated their polo-shirts to the new fabric which is designed to last longer. The emblems on the shorts are also better this year. Please let me know if you have any concerns with school uniform products. Could all families please check that they have labelled their uniform items clearly. We are also looking for good quality second hand uniforms that can be brought to the front office.

**Newsletter**
The school newsletter is available via email and through the SchoolStream app for touch phone and tablet devices. Only a few families have asked for a hard copy as they do not have access to the internet at home. Consent forms, calendars and reply slips will be sent home as a hard copy.

**OLOR’s 80th Birthday**
On Australia Day, 26th January, Our Lady of the River School celebrated 80 years of education in Berri. To mark this special occasion we are planning a ‘fiesta like’ weekend on Friday 15th – 17th April called the ‘Old Scholars Benefit’, encouraging all those associated with the school in the past, to attend. We are looking for interested parents/parishioners from our school community to be involved in a committee to organise this event. **If you are interested could you please come to a special evening meeting on Monday 8th February at 6.30pm in the Multi-purpose room at Our Lady of the River School.**

**2015 RE News**
Fr. Paul Bourke: 85821894
Fr. John Stuart James: 85882452 ~ 0419176514

**MASSES TERM 1**
**Thursdays 9.00 am**
St Mary’s Church

10th February - Ash Wednesday
@ 6pm St Mary’s Church
17th March – St Patrick’s Day
19th March – St Joseph’s Day
24th March – Holy Thursday
25th March – Good Friday
28th March – Easter Monday

**SPECIAL NEWS**
**IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION**
**Please update your diaries**

**SCHOOL PHOTOS**
**Monday 15th February**
Information for orders will be sent our next week.

**New School Timetable**
8.30: Children arrive at school
8.50: Classes begin & Fitness
11.35: Early Lunch (10mins)
11.45: Lunch Play
12.15: Classes resume
1.45: Afternoon Break (10mins)
1.55: Afternoon Play
2.15: Classes resume
3.00: Pack-up/clean-up
3.15: Dismissed

Feedback from parents/students about the new timetable would be appreciated by emailing roates@olor.catholic.edu.au
Welcome to our New Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Parent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latesha Darvill</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>– Karen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aalyha Mundy</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>– Annette &amp; Adrian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harsimran Singh</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>– Sarabjit &amp; Hardial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claire Strong</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>– Emily &amp; Craig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenzie Sweet</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>– Nicole &amp; Jeremy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harley Verrall</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>– Tammy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilly White</td>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>– Daulina &amp; Kevin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Cross</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>– Roger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ross Shearer</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>– Michael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuljeet Bhatti</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>– Amrik &amp; Navraj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranveer Singh</td>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>– Amrik &amp; Navraj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathasha Jayasuriya</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>– Devika &amp; Senarath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lekiesha Ware</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>– Stephanie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenniesha Ware</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>– Stephanie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Greek School enrolments will be held this Thursday 4th of February 2016 at Glossop Primary School from 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm.

Please come along on this night to enrol your child/children.

Please enroll your children this week as lessons will start the following Thursday 11th of February 2016.

Thank you,
Athina Papametis

Unwanted Items we can use at school

- Toys in good condition
- Second-hand uniforms, especially girl’s skorts in all sizes and polo t-shirts.
- Egg cartons, small boxes/containers for art construction
- Small timber offcuts for junior primary construction area, Costumes, Car tyres for garden plots
- Appropriate magazines

Handouts this week

- Term Calendar, Teacher letters, SAPSASA Sports, Choir and School Band Reply Slip
Notice of AGM

Berri Junior Netball Club
Saturday morning competition
(FROM 5-13 YEARS OF AGE)

Will be holding their
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 16\textsuperscript{th} February 7pm
At the Big River Tavern

\textit{All positions are vacant - Committee of 8 - 12 required}

All interested parents are encouraged to attend

Berri Junior Netball Club is registered to accept the Sports Vouchers
Issued by the Government of SA.
www.sportsvouchers.sa.gov.au

Enquiries to berrijuniornetball@gmail.com