Dear Parents and Carers,

One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element of the growing plant and the soul of the child.’ Carl Jung

Our staff members are currently in planning mode for next year. Their thoughts are being occupied by class placements. I know from having spoken to many parents this year, and in previous years, that you understand the complexity of the task. I thought however it may be of interest to you to outline the factors that are taken into consideration when placing children into class groupings.

- **Gender:** We aim to achieve an even split of boys and girls (this is made easier by the fact that our school does not lose boys in great numbers to single sex schools in the Primary Years).

- **Ability:** We believe that children learn from each other and that applies to the more and less abled child. Classes operate most effectively when children learn cooperatively from each other, the learning may not just include academic areas but social growth as well.

- **Friendship Groupings:** This is always problematic because Primary-aged children move in and out of groups on a regular basis, and as you know from adult life mutual friendships can sometimes be one way on occasions.

- **Self-Control:** Is a huge issue because if a child finds it difficult to control their anger, actions or thoughts it does have a significant impact on their classmates’ learning.

An additional layer of complexity in this process is the placement of teachers on grade levels. Our teachers work in teams so it is crucial to have the right mix of team members on each year level. Once again we aim to spread the experience and gender of staff across the grades. We also take into consideration the preferred teaching levels of staff and a need to keep staff fresh by moving them regularly across different grade levels.

As in previous years the children will be placed in their new grade groupings on the Wednesday of the final week of term. We will then forward home a copy of the new class lists with your child as confirmation.

In short putting classes together is somewhat of a giant jigsaw puzzle but at the heart of the jigsaw must remain the needs of the child. Our staff appreciates the huge trust that you place in them to get the jigsaw right!

May God bless your family

Graham Pollard
Principal
To be together ......

**Home Readers:** We have a number of outstanding books that have not been returned to school. If you have any home readers at home, please return them to school as soon as possible as we are undertaking our end of year audit next week.

**Leaving Students:** If your child/ren will not be returning to Good Shepherd in 2015, please notify the school as soon as possible. Please also indicate where your child/ren will be attending school next year. This information is needed for our census details.

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**Religious Education News**

**Advent and Christmas**

This coming Sunday, we begin the season of Advent! The gospel from this weekend reminds us to be prepared and be ready for the coming of Jesus. We can often, in this very busy world of ours, get caught up with our work, problems in our lives and other things. Jesus invites us to be ready for him and to be alert.

In this season of Advent let us be ready through daily prayer to receive Jesus at Christmas.

The Advent family activity will be sent home this Friday to all families so that we can all prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

The activities and prayers will be focused on the Jesse Tree symbols which represent how God has fulfilled his promise to give us a king, Jesus.

Each week there will be a new prayer and activity to help each family prepare for Christmas.

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**Upcoming Events**

Below are our Prayer Celebrations for this term.

Each prayer celebration begins at 9:15am unless stated below.

- **Friday, 25 November**
  - Review of the Year of Mercy (whole school) at 2pm

- **Friday, 9 December**
  - Kinder Nativity Celebration

All are invited to join us in prayer as we near the end of this extraordinary Year of Mercy.

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**Class Masses**

- **1 December: Year 1**
- **15 December: Year 2**

All parents and members of our School Community are invited to attend and celebrate Mass with the children.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Term begins</th>
<th>Term ends</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Monday, 30 January</td>
<td>Friday, 7 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>Monday, 24 April</td>
<td>Friday, 30 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>Monday, 17 July</td>
<td>Friday, 22 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>Monday, 10 October</td>
<td>Wednesday, 15 December</td>
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Through his victory, Jesus has opened to us his kingdom. But it is for us to enter into it, beginning with our life now—his kingdom begins now—by being close in concrete ways to our brothers and sisters who ask for bread, clothing, acceptance, solidarity, catechesis. If we truly love them, we will be willing to share with them what is most precious to us, Jesus himself and his Gospel.

Homily, 23 November 2014
Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel