
School Newsletter

Announcement!

Notification of Student Absences using SMS

From Term 2, parents will be informed by mobile phone message (SMS) each time their child is away from school.

At Grace Lutheran College, student attendance is a high priority.

We know that students who attend regularly are more likely to be successful and safe at school.

To improve our attendance procedures, we will be informing parents / caregivers about any unexplained absences for their child.

The school expects parents / caregiver to contact the school by 9:00AM if they know their child is to be absent.

From Monday 4th of April, an SMS text message will be automatically sent to the mobile phones of parents explaining that our records show that your child is absent from school.

The message will read as follows:

GLC 08A records show JOHN SMITH is absent today, 99/99/99. Pls provide reason by preferably SMS or ph 3897 2183.

The message will arrive on the phone displaying the number, **"0427 016 268"**. Parents should store this number in their mobile phone under **"Grace Lutheran College"** so that when the message arrives, the parent is aware the message has come from the school.

Parents can then reply using SMS, by phoning the school office or by sending a diary note with their child on return.

If your child is absent and a reason has been provided, then Parents will not receive an SMS.

SMS has become more than a fun way for kids to communicate. It's become a powerful messaging system that is increasingly being used by government and business around the world.

There are many advantages for both Parents and the Schools to adopt this system and they include:

- **Improved ability to reach Parents** – At times, it can be difficult to reach parents. Important voice messages are left on answering machines at home, at work or on mobile phones. Parents can be at work, in meetings, travelling or simply not able to take a call from the school. Email messages are hard to receive unless Parents have continuous access to a Computer. *It can take a long time before Parents are informed to call the school.*
- **Faster communication** – It takes a long time for the school staff to individually make phone calls to each parent.
- **Personal, Confidential & Discrete** – For a Parent, receiving a message on your phone regarding your child is private, discrete and less disruptive than any other form of communication. Unlike other forms of communication, messages are not left for others to find out about.
- **Expense** – It's expensive, both from a monetary and time perspective for school staff to call parents. With SMS messaging it's cheaper for Parents to contact the school, as we will have the ability to receive SMS messages at the school as well. The school would prefer to use the savings on better education and facilities for all students rather than on communication expense!

Updating Parent Mobile Phone number data

As part of the process of implementing this exciting new system, the school is seeking your assistance. We already has an extensive list of parents mobile numbers, however we would like to make sure our records are fully up-to-date.

Thank you for your assistance and co-operation. We look forward to making this exciting transition, and look forward to improving our communication to you.