



St Aidan's Primary School

1—5 Adelaide Street, Rooty Hill

Ph: 02 88869800 E: staidans@parra.catholic.edu.au

Web: www.staidansrootyhill.catholic.edu.au



Term 3 Week 9

Friday 15th September 2017

**Take any teacher
Place them with only 10 students
In a room full of technology
With plenty of extra resources....
Wouldn't that be lovely !!**

**However, it doesn't matter.....
Because if the teacher is of poor quality.....
The learning will also be of poor quality....
IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE TEACHER**

**Therefore, we spend enormous time and resources on
Professional Learning to ensure our
St Aidan's teachers
are of the highest possible quality.**

TEA  HER

takes a hand
opens a mind
touches a heart
shapes the future
THANK YOU



Over the last term, staff members have been involved in ongoing and intensive learning about:

- ♦ Multiplicative Thinking (numeracy)
- ♦ Naplan Online
- ♦ Digital Technology
- ♦ Theology and Scriptures
- ♦ 1st Aid
- ♦ Project Based Learning
- ♦ Wellbeing
- ♦ Literacy
- ♦ Religious Education
- ♦ EMU (Extending Mathematical Understanding) intervention
- ♦ WHS (Work, Health and Safety)
- ♦ Plus other learning priority areas.

It is essential we continue to learn professionally and personally (some staff are doing their Masters) to become the very best possible teachers for your child.

We are extremely blessed to have talented, dedicated and generous staff who place such a priority on learning here at St Aidan's !!



Dance Fever Challenge Tonight

We have about 70 students from Years 3-6 plus a big group of teachers attending the challenge at Homebush tonight.

It is a great opportunity to showcase our talented students who have been very enthusiastic and excited about competing in dance.





Pastoral letter on the same-sex marriage postal survey

Dear sisters and brothers,

As I write to you, the national debate on same-sex civil marriage is in full swing. It is an issue that many feel passionate about and hence, it has potential to polarise the community. I appeal to all Catholics in the Diocese of Parramatta to conduct this dialogue with a deep sense of respect for all concerned, and for the opinion and decision that each person is free to make.

It is important to remember from the very outset that the postal survey is about whether or not Australians want the legal definition of civil marriage changed to include same-sex couples. It is not a referendum on sacramental marriage as understood by the Catholic Church.

Many years ago, divorce was legalised in Australia; but this change did not alter the law of the Church. Therefore, whatever the outcome of the survey or the eventual legislation by the government, the Church will continue to hold that marriage is a natural institution established by God to be a permanent union between one man and one woman, directed both to mutual companionship and to the formation of a family in which children are born and nurtured.

For many Catholics, the issue of same-sex marriage is not simply theoretical but deeply personal. These may be same-sex attracted people themselves or that may be the case with their relatives and friends. In such cases, they are torn between their love for the Church and their love for their same-sex attracted child, grandchild, sibling, cousin, friend or neighbour.

As your bishop, I wish to reiterate the commitment I made at my installation: "I am committed to make the church in Parramatta the house for all peoples, a church where there is less an experience of exclusion but more an encounter of radical love, inclusiveness and solidarity." As a community of disciples, we seek to accommodate, accompany and care for one another irrespective of sexual orientation, marital status and situation.

I invite all Catholics in our Diocese to exercise our responsibility as citizens to engage in this community discernment. It should not be a matter of a simple answer Yes or No to the postal survey. It should be an opportunity for us to witness to our deep commitment to the ideal of Christian marriage. But it should also be an opportunity for us to listen to what the Spirit is saying through the signs of the times.

Throughout much of history, our gay and lesbian (or LGBTI) brothers and sisters have often not been treated with respect, sensitivity and compassion. Regrettably, the Church has not always been a place where they have felt welcomed, accepted and loved. Thus, regardless of the outcome of the survey, we must commit ourselves to the task of reaching out to our LGBTI brothers and sisters, affirming their dignity and accompanying them on our common journey towards the fullness of life and love in God.

Let us pray, discern and act with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Catholics, in keeping with the tradition of the Church, are asked to exercise their consciences, ensuring that they are informed as they come to exercise their democratic rights in the coming postal survey.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Vincent Long Van Nguyen', with a cross symbol to the left.

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta

*Given at Parramatta on 13 September A.D. 2017,
Memorial of St John Chrysostom*

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL
Bishop of Parramatta

Level 2, 12 Victoria Rd, Parramatta NSW 2150 | PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW 1750
T: 02 8838 3400 F: 02 9630 4813 E: bishop@parra.catholic.org.au W: www.parracatholic.org

Freaky Friday Disco

Friday 13th October

Infants Disco: 4:30pm to 6:00pm

Primary Disco: 6:30pm to 8:00pm

Come dressed up in your **spookiest** costume!

Prices will be advertised next week.



CAN YOU HELP US?

We are looking for parents who can help with:

- Prepping and Cooking Sausages from 2pm onwards.**
- Selling snacks at the disco (Infants or primary)**
- Setting up the disco from 3:30pm.**
- Cleaning up after the disco.**

Any assistance would be greatly appreciated!! There is no obligation to assist with both discos.

**If you are able to help out please let Mrs Lance know-
plance@parra.catholic.edu.au**

Or...

Fill in the form below.

<https://goo.gl/forms/HtL5Tt7uqKqINIOZ2>



Upcoming Events

Friday 22nd September

* 10:15am to 10:45am Dance Fever presentation in the hall

* 11:30am to 2:30pm Infant's Tabloid Sports

* Last day of term 3



TERM 4

Monday 9th October

* Staff Professional Learning Day (pupil free day)

Tuesday 10th October

* First day of term 4—8:40am

Wednesday 11th Oct

* Kindergarten children for 2018 start their transition 8:45am to 10:30am in the hall

Friday 13th October

Freaky Friday Disco

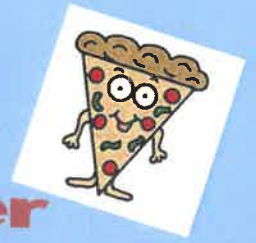
Staff Professional Learning day coming up.

Please remember that the first day of next term,

Monday October 9th

is a pupil free day (no classes) as staff learn more strategies and activities to increase the focus on the learner.

Each individual at St Aidan's comes with unique interests, challenges, strengths, learning preferences and passions. Our intense focus on every learner will ensure that absolutely every child and their specific learning needs will be better catered for each and every day.



10c Challenge

11th-22nd September

A fundraising Challenge for St Aidan's with a literacy and Numeracy Focus.

Bring in as many 5c or 10c coins as you can!

At the end of the fundraiser the class with the most money will win a class pizza party!!



Baby News

Congratulations to Ayaan Patel in 3Blue and his family on the birth of a baby girl this week named—Aaryah.

Summer Uniform

Please dress your child according to the weather next week i.e. Winter uniform if it's cold or Summer Uniform if it's hot.

Summer uniform begins officially on the first day of term 4—Tuesday 10th October.

National Literacy and Numeracy Week

September 4th- 10th

A huge thank you to all the children who had a go at the Catch a reader challenge and the Ted's Train challenge.

We appreciate the support of all parents who assisted the children to complete the challenge.

Congratulations to the winners of the above challenges. Each child won a Hoyts Movie Ticket.

Infants Reader: Ryan Ereira
Primary Reader: Liam Robinson

Early Stage 1: Kathlyn Bency
Stage 1: Sanja Surkic
Stage 2: Katrina Knezevic
Stage 3: Dora Abicic
Multiplicative Thinking Award: Allegra Trimboli



Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Facebook: St Aidan's Primary School

Twitter: @StAidansRH

New Phone Number

St Aidan's Primary new main number is **8886 9800** replacing **9625 3181**, this is a new digital number provided by Telstra.

At no cost to St Aidan's Primary a call redirection will be in place for **18 months**.

Redirection Plan

- ♦ First 6 months **no** announcement redirection **(14/08/2017)**
- ♦ Incoming call rings schools number then Telstra redirects to the new 8886 9800
- ♦ Second 6 months - redirection with announcement **(14/02/2018)** Incoming call rings schools number then Telstra announces the number has changed and redirects to new 8886 9800 number
- ♦ Third 6 months - announcement with number and line cut **(14/08/2018)**

Telstra announces the new 8886 9800 number with no redirect to old and ceases the call.



SPORTS NEWS

Parramatta Diocesan Gymnastics Competition 2017

The Parramatta Diocesan Gymnastics Competition will be held on Friday 3rd November 2017 (Term 4, Week 4). The competition is open to Boys and Girls of any age.

All competitors are required to perform the following:

Floor Routine:

>>>Cartwheel, Backward roll, Jump half-turn, (2x) Cartwheels,
<<<Handstand, Dive-Forward-roll, Forward roll step-out, cartwheel.

Mini-Tramp:

(1)Jump Straddle. (2) Jump Pike (this is the change in 2016)

Short Vault – 60cm high:

4 step run, low hurdle onto mini tramp, straight jump to box, immediate rebound tuck jump from box to crashmat. (Show clear rebound)

Static Series:

Arabesque, stand, squat, jump to front support (hold 2 secs), turn to rear support (hold 2 secs), "L" sit, dish (hold 2 secs), roll to front dish (hold 2 secs), roll to back dish, candle (not held), roll to stand (no hands). (It should be a flowing movement)

If your child can perform all of the requirements above and is interesting in attending this event can you please contact me by **3PM WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER.**

No entries will be accepted past this date.

Miss Jessica Chetcuti (Sports Coordinator)

INFANT'S TABLOID SPORTS CARNIVAL

The infant's Tabloid Sports Carnival will take place on



Friday 22nd September 2017. It will run from
11:30am until 2:30pm at Kimberley Park.

Prior to the carnival, from 10:15am until 10:45am, there will be an
infant's Dance Fever presentation in the hall.

Parents and family members are welcome to come along for the day.

Feel free to join your children at recess and/or lunch,
you may even bring a picnic!



I hope to see you there!

Miss Jessica Chetcuti (Sports Coordinator)





Being on Time:

Attendance is not just about being at school but also about being on time. Being late 5 minutes a day equals 25 minutes over a week, 250 minutes a term or 4 hours per term, or the equivalent of 3-4 days per year and over the schooling years is equivalent to one whole term of missed learning time. When a student arrives late they have often missed the introduction to a lesson and they have missed time socialising with their peers.

EVERY LEARNER, EVERY DAY is our school slogan for 2017. It is our combined responsibility **to have our children at school every day and on time.**

Attendance is a major focus for St Aidan's this year.

Week 1 attendance level is 79.4%

Week 2 attendance level is 80.0%

Week 3 attendance level is 79.8%

Week 4 attendance level is 74.6%

Week 5 attendance level is 75.4%

Week 6 attendance level is 76.9%

Week 7 attendance level is 78.9%

Week 8 attendance level is 78.7%

Week 9 attendance level is 76.8%

Attendance level target for all

Diocesan schools is 90%

COME ON ST AIDAN'S WE CAN GET TO 90%!



Week	Transition Date	Children's Activities	Parents
1	Wed Oct 11 8:50-10:30am	Playgroup style activities . School tours. SETTLING IN.	Attend
2	Wed Oct 18 8:50-10:30am	Lessening Playgroup activities. More instructional activity. School tours. Literacy focus.	Attend
3	Wed Oct 25 8:50-10:30am	More structured. More instructional activity. School tours. Numeracy focus.	Attend
4	Wed 1 Nov 8:50-10:30am	Transition ready. Work with Kinder teachers.	Leave children. Pick up at 10:30am
5	Wed 8 Nov 8:50-10:30am	Work with Kinder teachers.	Leave children. Pick up at 10:30am
6	Wed 15 Nov 8:50-10:30am	Work with Kinder teachers.	Leave children. Pick up at 10:30am
7	Wed 22 Nov 8:50-10:30am	Work with Kinder teachers.	Parent Meeting Questions. Ted / Christine.

Is your child returning to

St Aidan's Primary School in 2018???

Please advise the school office if your child is **NOT** returning to St Aidan's in 2018. *(We know that yr 6 students will not return.)*

Please advise the leaving date and the name of the new school for our records before **FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER 2017.**

If you are building a new house in another suburb and you are unsure if your child will be returning to St Aidan's, please let the office know of this possibility. *Thank you.*

Skoolbag App

Download the "Skoolbag App" then search for
'St Aidan's, Rooty Hill'

Make sure you are kept in the loop with upcoming alerts,
information and events at St Aidan's.

DOWNLOAD ST AIDAN'S SKOOLBAG APP STRAIGHT TO YOUR SMARTPHONE OR TABLET DEVICE

Following these instructions:

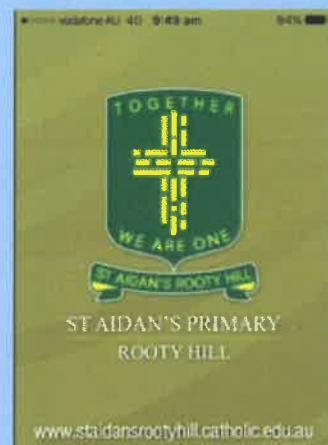
For iPhone and iPad users:

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "install".
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps", your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "install".
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

For Android users:

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.



HOW CLASSROOMS HAVE EVOLVED BEYOND A BLACKBOARD AND ROWS OF DESKS

Bruce McDougall, Wentworth Courier
September 12, 2017 12:00am



AT PROGRESSIVE and innovative schools across NSW the future already has arrived.

Students as young as nine are turning traditional notions of education on their head, taking charge of their learning from the start by designing their own classrooms.

At the coalface of change, Principal Michael Tonnet says the hands-on involvement by Year 4 children building their own learning spaces is a lesson in itself.

“There is a lot of mathematics, collaboration, communication and critical thinking happening to select the most appropriate furniture,” says the Principal of St Andrews Primary School, Marayong.

So heavily involved are the primary students in the fitout of the new classrooms at their school that they email principal Tonnet requesting budget details.



Jack Hunter, 5, at the new school Anzac Park Public School, in Cammeray, in June.
Picture: Justin Lloyd

It now accepted that the days of the traditional “box-like” school classroom with students sitting at desks neatly arranged in rows with a single teacher at the front of the room are over.

Schooling across all of the education sectors — independent, Catholic and government — is being turned upside down as educators embrace technology and new ways of engaging children.

The head of Catholic schools in the Parramatta diocese Greg Whitby, says the real education revolution is all about “agile learning” and making learning spaces much more flexible.

Change has come not just to what is taught but to where learning happens.

Cafe-style work booths, soft lounges, wave chairs, cube chairs, amphitheatres and even stand-up learning are rapidly becoming the norm in new and renovated schools.

“Borderless learning” is changing the way that students work and creating a template for others across the state.



Kids at St Catherine's College Waverley.

Their classroom is not set out like a traditional classroom.

Some classrooms now look more like the *Star Trek* ship Enterprise than a traditional school setting, allowing children freedom to move around and morph into smaller and larger groups depending on the learning activity.

Unlike traditional classrooms, flexible spaces allow students to work on individual activities at their own pace or in small groups.

They can accommodate large numbers of students of all levels of ability and several teachers.

It is redesigning education around children’s passion and engagement, according to one principal. But the new spaces catering for up to 100 students at a time are nothing like the barn-like “open” classrooms of the 1970s.

In the digital world teachers have the ability to personalise learning for every student.



Keira Renshaw, 7, and Subhmita Dasgupta, 6, in the new garden at Anzac Park Public School.

Many educators are now well advanced in evolving modern-age learning set-ups which include new classroom layouts and furniture to go with the tablets, laptops and electronic smart boards.

The new school designs are emerging across the independent and government school sectors.

At St Catherine's School, Waverley, Year 4 teacher Katharyn Reid describes her students' learning space as more like a "lab" than a classroom.

There is no teacher's desk and the children do not have assigned seats or name tags.

Instead, there is flexible seating that can include stand-up desks and white-board tables. "Everything in and around the classroom is there to spark interest, encourage questions and empower students to think differently and creatively," Ms Reid says.

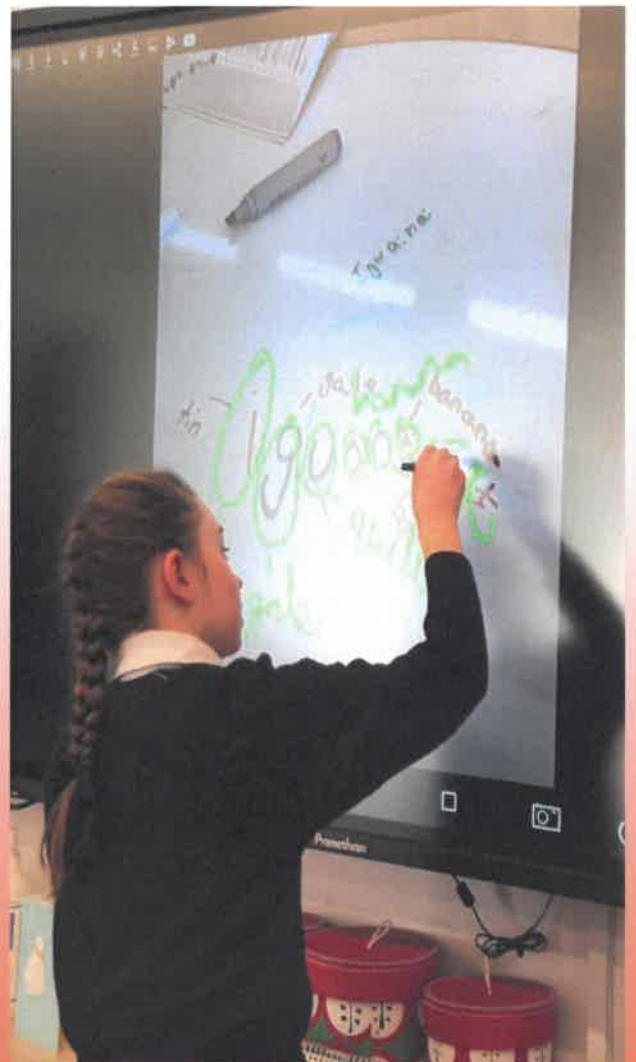
There is no more chance of scratching fingernails down a blackboard at St Catherine's College in Waverley.

A 3D fish tank sets the tone for the room — tranquil and calm.

Most of walls are floor-to-ceiling glass allowing in natural light and the room is dominated by a huge glass cabinet filled with artefacts including vintage books and Edward de Bono's thinking hats.

Ms Reid says: "All work on display is the students' work and every item in the room is a step in their thinking process.

"Their ideas are documented using post-it notes and visual representations.





An old style classroom. Picture: AFP Photo/
Fred Tanneau

“As their teacher it is my responsibility to set up their thinking space and design their learning experiences in a way that is relevant and meaningful to them, constantly considering the world in which they are growing up.”

Not everyone likes the idea of turning classrooms into “creative learning hubs” and some critics have expressed concern about noise and students’ concentration levels in the larger spaces.

But educators allay parents’ fears, saying modern teaching and student management techniques will ensure they work.

They say children are better motivated by learning in more varied and enjoyable surroundings.

Primary schools that have banished traditional desks and chairs and remodelled classrooms around beanbags and booths report a dramatic lift in academic results.

International education guru Stephen Heppell has been in Australia helping to reshape schools with the aim of producing a new generation of smart students who are creative and critical thinkers.

Professor Heppell, a global expert in learning spaces, has written a manual for the new arrangements: spaces that offer privacy but not secrecy with the intentional absence of traditional corridors, rows of identical desks and chairs, a teacher zone and closed doors.



Eleanor Vincent, Wes Brughuis and Kristin Hodson in a new style classroom at the The Lakes College in Queensland. Picture: Chris Higgins

Walls and even the teacher's desk have disappeared in some cases.

In many schools, according to Prof. Heppell, they have been spectacularly successful with greater

engagement, better learning, improved results and more enjoyment.

He says: "If you want to know the secret of discipline then give kids tasks that are engaging and make them want to learn. I have never seen a kid on holiday reading while sitting upright on a chair like those they had in schools."

Protocols for the learning spaces are laid down covering the purpose of each zone and the behaviour required.

Educators say these work more effectively when the students are a "major part of the conversation".



Year four student William Garimort learning in the "agile learning" spaces at St Pauls Lutheran Primary School, Caboolture last year. Picture: Patria Jannides

In science spaces students may start a project exploring the ambient temperature, light and sound levels and other aspects of the environment.

"Learners love to do this work and are always amazed by what it reveals about their existing learning spaces," Prof Heppell says.

Other areas may include a "family learning table" offering a dozen seats typically embraced by students as a place to work quietly alone.

The guru likens them to a gym “where people work alongside each other without conversation”.

Then there is tiered seating for whole group instruction and important material that the teacher does not want any student to miss.



Grade 2 students enjoying their new classroom at Jells Park Primary School in Melbourne. Picture: Lawrence Pinder

The new, large spaces may also have “attention squares” allowing the teacher to address whole groups, quiet reading zones, collaboration/conversation tables and writeable surfaces on walls, desks or windows so students’ work can be captured as a digital photo and saved for revision. Teachers provide feedback directly onto the wall, desk or window.

Debate rages about pen writing versus new technologies but progressive educators say writing on surfaces and capturing the work digitally with a tablet or smart phone combines both.

One principal says: “The kids find the atmosphere very calming and they are very engaged in their learning. In many ways you have to be even more structured (than in a traditional classroom) ... the students problem-solve, they think about where they work and who they are working with.”

End of article.



Woodcroft Lake Festival

The Woodcroft Lake Festival is an excellent opportunity for the community to gather and celebrate with a wide variety of entertainment and activities for the family. There will be market stalls, activities and plenty of food to enjoy!

Date: Saturday, 23 September 2017

Time: 10 am – 4 pm

Venue: Woodcroft Lake,
Woodcroft Drive, Woodcroft

Website: www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au

Facebook: Blacktown City Council



Splash Out at Mount Druitt Festival

It is time to splash out and enjoy a free day out with the family. There is so much on offer at this year's Festival including meet and greet with your favourite princesses and superheroes, free rides, family games, kids in the garden, craft making workshops, pool inflatables, live performances, market stalls and blacksmith demonstrations. Check out the website for activity times and further details.

Date: Saturday, 30 September 2017

Time: 9 am – 6 pm

Venue: Mount Druitt Swimming Centre,
Ayres Grove, Mount Druitt

Website: www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au

Facebook: Blacktown City Council

CANTEEN MEAL DEALS

**Meal Deals until
Friday 22nd September 2017**

MEAL DEAL 1 (\$5.00)

- ♦ **Ham and cheese sandwich**
- ♦ **Pop top juice**
- ♦ **Cheese stick**



**CHEESE
STICKS
REAL
GOOD
YUP MHHMM!**

MEAL DEAL 2 (\$5.00)

- ♦ **Hot Dog with sauce**
- ♦ **Glee sparkling drink**
- ♦ **Zooper Dooper**





Kids in the garden

Bring your kids along for some outdoor fun and adventure. Come and explore the garden with your kids. There will be a range of self-guided activities to choose from. Make paper pots for seedlings; create an artwork using vegetable stamps, and help to plant some spring flowers.

Cost: FREE, places are limited, bookings are essential:

Blacktown Showground -
<http://bit.ly/gardenkids25sep>

Seven Hills Sustainability Hub -
<http://bit.ly/gardenkids28Sep>

Blacktown Showground

Dates: Monday, 25 September 2017

Time: 10 am - 12 noon

Venue: Blacktown Showground
 Community Garden

Seven Hills Sustainability Hub

Dates: Thursday, 28 September 2017

Time: 9.30 am - 12 noon

Venue: Sustainability Hub,
 71 Seven Hills Road South,
 Seven Hills

Contact: 9839 6055

Website: www.blacktown.nsw.gov.au

Facebook: Blacktown City Council

ELECTRACON **ELECTRICAL**

LED Down lights,
Fans, Powerpoints, TV/
Data/phone
From \$60+gst

AIR CON
Splits, Ducted
From \$1680+gst

SECURITY
Cameras, Alarms, Video
intercoms
From \$550+gst

MARK 0432 221 038

Fully Licenced and Insured lic-239540c



St Aidan's Primary School

1-5 Adelaide St, Rooty Hill NSW 2766

Telephone: 8886 9800

Website <http://www.staidansrootyhill.catholic.edu.au>

Email staidans@parra.catholic.edu.au

Skoolbag App - St Aidan's App in iTunes

Twitter @StAidansRH

Facebook St. Aidan's Primary School, Rooty Hill