

School Newsletter

Term Four | Week Ten

2020



St Bernard's
Warrina St
Berowra Heights 2082
Phone 9456 2104
Email us: sbb@dbb.org.au
Visit our [Website](#)

Ku-ring-gai Chase Catholic Parish

Fr Shaju John Parish Priest

Fr Joy Thomas Assistant Priest

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

[St Bernard's Berowra Heights](#)

[St Patrick's Asquith](#)

Due to social distancing, please call the Parish Office 9456 2450 to reserve a seat at Mass.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the Guringai people,
and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community.
We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

From the Principal



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that this is our final newsletter of the year and what a year it has been! I recently reflected on the year that has just gone by in order to make my Principal's report to the P&F at the Annual General Meeting. To say this has been an unusual year is an understatement and it is no small task to reflect individually on how we each have been affected by the pandemic. I try to always be a glass 'half full' sort of person rather than 'half empty' - I have really tried to live by this simple mantra all year but another word 'Courage', has slipped from my lips in prayer on rather more occasions this year than is normal.

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It was after all, an unexpected start to my first Principal position. As you are very aware on Monday of week 7, Term 1, I was making provision to effectively close the school to all but the children of essential workers, as Australia and the world went into lockdown - I shall never forget Sunday 14 and Monday 15th March 2020....what will our education offering look like and what provisions do we have to make it succeed during a pandemic? Few of us had worked with Zoom at this stage, Zoom - what's zoom? We were quickly making decisions and learning as we went. On reflection there was one advantage to this drama, I was quickly learning the gifts and skills of each of my team and we supported each other. We became a close team far quicker than normal after a new Principal arrives at a school.

So HBL, Home Based Learning, a phrase none of us was aware of before the 15th March was born. Teachers stepped up, and most importantly the kids stepped up.

My biggest challenge I remember was that there was never any warning, for changes in rules and restrictions (and there still isn't) and I soon realised I had a new best friend - Gladys - who, I quickly noted, had a habit of making announcements at 8am - just before the children were due to arrive. By the end of lockdown and our staggered return to Face to Face teaching, I was very proud of my teachers and this community - I know some of my fellow Principals were not so lucky.

Throughout it all we have endeavoured to create as normal and as safe an environment for the children as possible. We are definitely in a 'Covid Normal' space now, with general school operations but would not dare, at this stage, to predict what term one next year will look like. Remember, Gladys still has a tendency to make announcements without warning, and as Melbourne and Adelaide can attest, anything can happen at any time.

Please believe me I am looking forward to 2021. I am personally hoping for less drama, a rebuilding of home and family connections and a clear cut emphasis on our strategic themes and priorities as a school.

No offence to my new best friend Gladys - but I would love to put some distance between us in 2021 - let's call it 'a cooling off period' for the greater good of the community.

Looking to 2021.

Staffing has been finalised for 2021 and transition meetings have taken place for parents with children with an Individual Education Plan. Year 5 for 2021 met Ms Crawford on Wednesday of last week and from the smiles, I would say they are very pleased with their new teacher. The rest of the students met their new teacher formally yesterday in our traditional 'step up' session.

In 2021 we will increase to eight classes. Our 2021 staff are listed below:

Principal: Gill Austin

A.P/HUB & Literacy Coach: Anne-Marie Hutchins

REC: Jackie Tod

Senior Administration Officer: Karen Britton

Learning Support Teacher: Emma Korth (M-Th)

P.E: Lucinda MacMahon

Music: Caroline Setoudeh

Japanese: Alison McNeill

Learning Support Assistants: Debrah Sparks & Raelene Boyle

Canteen: Melissa Jose

KB: Kaitlin Quinlan

KM: Madeleine Cottrell

1B: Katelyn Eves

2B: Kristy Barry

3B: Christine Hayman

4B: Fiona Fenning

5B: Kaitlyn Crawford

6B: Jackie Tod (M-W & Fri) & Rebecca Runnalls (Th)

Sports Captains

Elections for Sports Captains took place in week 9.

Congratulations to the following students who were successful and will work with our new School Captains for 2021 (Aniela K, Tom B, Mia H, and Bailey V.) to lead the school in various initiatives next year.

Bernard House:

Kyrah Mc.

Levi Mc.

McAuley House:

Sophie R.

Annalise C.

Mercy House:

Georgia W.

Ella H.

P&F News

We recently had our P&F Annual General Meeting, when the current team was re-elected for a fourth year in accordance with section 8 of the constitution. We are still looking for a Vice President to work alongside Melanie Lord for the year and perhaps consider taking over the reins in 2022. So if you are interested please get in touch with either myself or Melanie.

On that note, I would like to sincerely thank Melanie, Sam and Michelle for all the help and support they have given me over the last year. It has been a bit of a ride, but it has been wonderful to know that these ladies always have the best interests of the school at heart. Thanks also to those parents who have stepped in quietly to help families in need with meals etc. as necessary. This is a quiet task but essential and means so much to the grateful recipients. Thank you all

Uniform Shop

I would also like to thank Susan Wallace and Felicity Fisher for all the time they have given to the Uniform Shop this year. Felicity's tireless dedication and commitment certainly helped me with her tremendous organisation of the Kinder Uniforms for 2021. There was much work done behind the scenes and I do appreciate it - Thank you Felicity.

School Fees

Good news! School fees for 2021 will remain the same with no increase and Covid Relief will also remain - further information regarding this will be issued separately via Compass.

Extra Curricular Corner


Over the last year I have become increasingly aware of some amazing things our children have done outside of school and which also make us very proud here at school. As an end of year celebration I would just like to mention a few things that have come to my attention which are a little bit special.

Kieran and Tristan P, in Year 3 and Year 1 were involved in the 'Kids Giving Back' charity that provides meaningful, hands-on experiences for children and young people to give back to others. The charity wrote to me acknowledging their enthusiasm for the cause, well done boys!

Harry W. in Year 5 was awarded 'The Grey Wolf Award' from Scouts NSW. This award is the highest achievement for a Cub, and one that not all Cubs are able to obtain. I am sure it took a lot of dedication and commitment to earn such an award. Well done Harry, we are very proud of you.

Jack W, Marek C. and Harry F. were selected for the Northern Tigers representative football team in their respective age group for the 2021 season. Well done boys, we are very proud of you.

From the REC (Jackie Tod)


 For
 God
 So loved
 The world
 That he gave
 His only Son
 That whoever believes
 In him should not perish
 But have eternal life
 John
 3:16

As the end of the year fast approaches, it is the perfect time to spend a moment feeling proud and humbled looking back on the year that we have had. From bushfires to pandemics to home based learning and everything in between. A year that no one saw coming but as a school community we faced with courage, determination and most importantly, with solidarity. I hope this Christmas break offers an opportunity to recharge, to spend the most precious commodity - time - with loved ones and to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

Graduation Liturgy - Wednesday 16th December

On Wednesday 16th December at 6pm, the Year 6 children and their parents had their Graduation Liturgy at St Bernard's Church. Last year, this would have seemed like a very ordinary sentence, but this year the meaning behind this sentence is very extraordinary!

When I reflect back to all of the meetings we had planning this special occasion I remember the first one just 9 weeks ago, where we were planning to Zoom from our school hall at an early afternoon time so that the rest of the school could join in. The next meeting, after the easing of restrictions, we discussed the possibility of having a liturgy at St Patrick's Church where just the students and parents could be present. From this, the liturgy, Year 6 movement and all plans were developed.

Then, to our excitement, with yet another easing of restrictions, we found ourselves in the beautiful position that we could fit all Year 6 children and their parents in our very own St Bernard's Church for this celebration. What a blessing! This occasion I marks a significant milestone in the lives of these children and their families and I pray that they will look back on St Bernard's with the same fondness that we will remember each and every one of them. May God bless our resilient, vibrant and amazing Year 6 students of 2020!

End of Year Mass - Friday 18th December 10am

Our End of Year Mass will take place on Friday 18th December at 10am. It will be Zoomed from the school hall with the Year 5 and 6 students in attendance. All other classes will join virtually from their classrooms. We will begin with our traditional handover of Captains, Vice Captains and Sports Captains and will then join together in a beautiful Mass thanking God for the year of learning and friendship we have had. Andrew Chinn has kindly given us permission to use his music in this liturgy which we are very grateful for.

The Zoom link for this event will come home via Compass early next week.

Dates for Term 4:

Friday 18th December	10am	End of Year Mass
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CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES and HOW TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT

St. Patrick's, Asquith

Christmas Eve—Thursday 24 December

6pm	Children's Vigil Mass
9pm	Youth Vigil Mass
12 midnight	Midnight Mass

Christmas Day—Friday 25 December

8am	St Patrick's Mass
10am	St Patrick's Mass

St Bernard's, Berowra Heights

Christmas Eve—Thursday 24 December

5pm	Children's outdoor Vigil Mass (in courtyard of St Bernard's Primary School)
7pm	Christmas Vigil Mass

Christmas Day—Friday 25 December

9am	St Bernard's Mass
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No evening Mass at either church on Christmas Day

RESERVATIONS are ESSENTIAL for ALL Christmas Masses

and **MUST** be made **DIRECTLY** with the **PARISH OFFICE**

Preferred booking by email to parishkccp@bbcatholic.org.au using **"Christmas Mass"** as subject.

YOU MUST include the name and contact number for each person requiring a reservation.

Alternatively, call the Parish Office on 9456 2450—Monday to Friday 9am to 3.30pm,

Please note that the children's Gospel Nativity will not be held at St Bernard's this year. Instead, Fr Shaju invites the children to dress up as angels, shepherds etc. when they attend the Family Mass on Christmas eve at St Bernard's.

Broken Bay News

The December 2020 issue of Broken Bay News is now online! Featured in the December Christmas edition is Bishop Anthony's Pastoral Letter, Celebrating Vocations with three diaconate ordinations, a new look for Catholic Schools Broken Bay and much more!

https://issuu.com/bbcatholic/docs/broken_bay_news_december_2020_issue_208



St Bernard's Award

What is the award?

The St Bernard's award is awarded to students who 'go above and beyond' in regards to following our PBL rules or displaying our school values.

How often is it awarded?

It is awarded twice a year. One student in infants (K-2) and one student in primary (3-6) will receive the award.

Congratulations to all students who have been nominated for semester 2, 2020

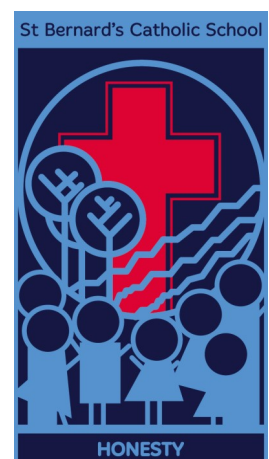
Infants:

Kindergarten	Year 1	Year 2
Olivia Finnigan Liam	Lachlan M Elouise Thomas Martha Piper Lachlan L	Alex Otis Penny Sophie

Primary:

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Ava D Zane Ava P Sophia C Katya Jack Archie Carys Elise	Verity Madeline Tahlia Eleanor William F Henry P	Tom Kyras Luka Mia Ella Bailey Anelia Georgia	Jake Alena Liam Harry Abby Suzie

We look forward to announcing the recipient of the St Bernard's award in Week 10.



From the AP (Anne-Marie Hutchins)

BYODD - *Bring Your Own Designated Device* for 2021

Since the last newsletter, families from Yr 1-5 were sent via the Compass App the updated Parent Information Booklet for BYODD that has details on the device, school procedures and expectations in regard to our BYODD program.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- It's optional for Years 2-6
- Only new iPads purchased need to be the **minimum** specification 7th Generation iPad - wifi only (minimum 32GB)
- if your child has been using an iPad this year, their device will continue to be supported in 2021.
- new iPads purchased over the holidays can be brought in any day from **Thursday 4th February** for school wifi connection.

BEFORE RETURNING TO SCHOOL:

- Please check the information booklet to ensure your child has the required current apps on their device and that they are fully downloaded.
- Removed old photos and videos (including on apps such as clips, iMovie) and removed/ uploaded work sitting on apps. *This is important as the wifi connection will not be as effective and slow down with over-crowded apps, photos and videos.*
- Have their name on their device and a hard cover case
- **Have you checked the apps on your child's device lately?** We encourage parents to be vigilant with the safe use of internet and social media platforms with their child during the holidays. Below are helpful links with recommended ages for use of certain apps and some guidelines.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/skills-advice/online-safety-basics>

<https://www.familyzone.com/au/families/blog/what-age-for-social-media>

What's been happening in **the learning hub?**



HAVE YOU?

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Events

For upcoming events, please refer to the Google Calendar on the News and Events page of the school website:

<https://www.sbbdbb.catholic.edu.au/news-events/google-calendar/>



Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is open on selected Fridays from 8.30—9.30.

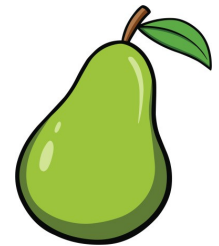
To order please use the QKR app.



Canteen

Lunch orders on Wednesday and Friday only.

To order please use the QKR app.



Community

Dance Classes in Hornsby

enquiries@industrypa.com.au
www.industrypa.com.au

0416 243 755
or
0425 683 911

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present...

Carols Under the Star

Featuring bands, School performances and special guest...

Colin Buchanan

Join us **VIRTUALLY!**

Scan code to get virtual link

17 December 2020,
7:30pm

Carols Under the Star 2020
#berowracarols2020

HORNSBY SHIRE LIBRARIES SUMMER READING CLUB



'MYTHS, FAIRY TALES AND LEGENDS'

3 Dec 2020 – 27 Jan 2021

Participate in the SRC online via Beanstack to be in the draw to win fantastic prizes. For children aged 0–14 years.



To sign up, visit
hornsby.nsw.gov.au/libraryevents

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

DECEMBER/JANUARY EVENTS



SUMMER READING CLUB LAUNCH WITH SUZY SPINDOLL

Give your children incentive to read these school holidays and the opportunity to win great prizes by signing up for the Summer Reading Club! For our launch this week, we invite you to join Suzy Spindoll as she teaches circus tricks that will amaze - using normal household items!

Hornsby Shire Libraries Facebook
Monday 30 November – Friday 4 December

Ages: 0–14 years

Watch online at
facebook.com/HornsbyShireLibraries



CHRISTMAS STORYTIME WITH ELLENI AND LANI

Join us for Christmas stories and songs in a very special storytime. Come in to the library to collect your holiday craft from Monday December 7.

Hornsby Shire Libraries Facebook
10am, Thursday 10 December

Watch online at
facebook.com/HornsbyShireLibraries



CHRISTMAS BUBS 'N' BOOKS

Sing Christmas songs with Elleni, Lani and special guest Jodie in a very festive Bubs 'n' Books.

Hornsby Shire Libraries Facebook
10am, Tuesday 15 December

Watch online at
facebook.com/HornsbyShireLibraries



CHRISTMAS STORYTIME WITH PENNY AND CATH

Join us for Christmas stories and songs in a very special storytime. Come in to the library to collect your holiday craft from Monday December 7.

Hornsby Shire Libraries Facebook
10am, Thursday 17 December

Watch online at
facebook.com/HornsbyShireLibraries



SUMMER READING CLUB FINALE WITH SUZY SPINDOLL

Suzy Spindoll is back for the end of Summer Reading Club to teach you tips and tricks to help you become a juggling super-star!

Hornsby Shire Libraries Facebook
Monday 25 January – Friday 29 January

Ages: 0–14 years

Watch online at
facebook.com/HornsbyShireLibraries



For booking details and further information
on these events and more events in your library visit
hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library

FOR COUNCIL EVENTS AND LOCAL NEWS JOIN US:





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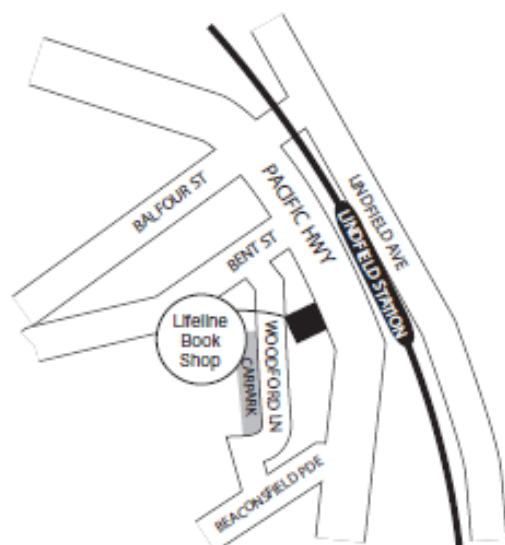
**Tues–Sat 10am–4pm
Sun 10am–2pm**

**20 George St
HORNSBY**
(next to railway overpass)

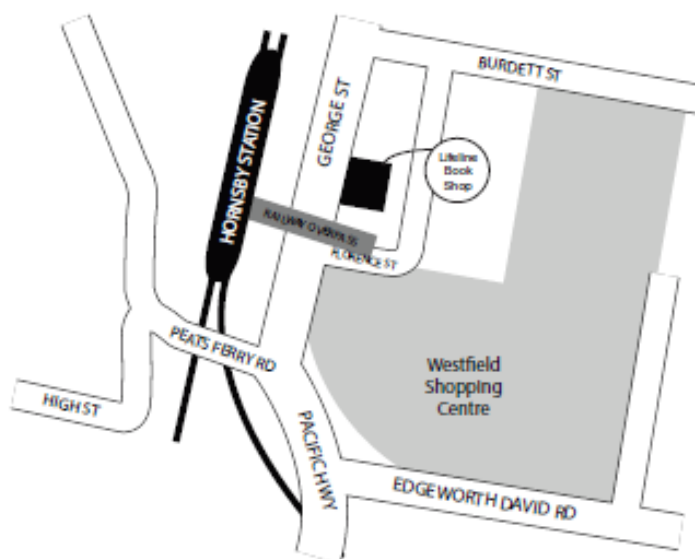
Tues–Sat 10am–4pm

Book donations cannot be accepted in store

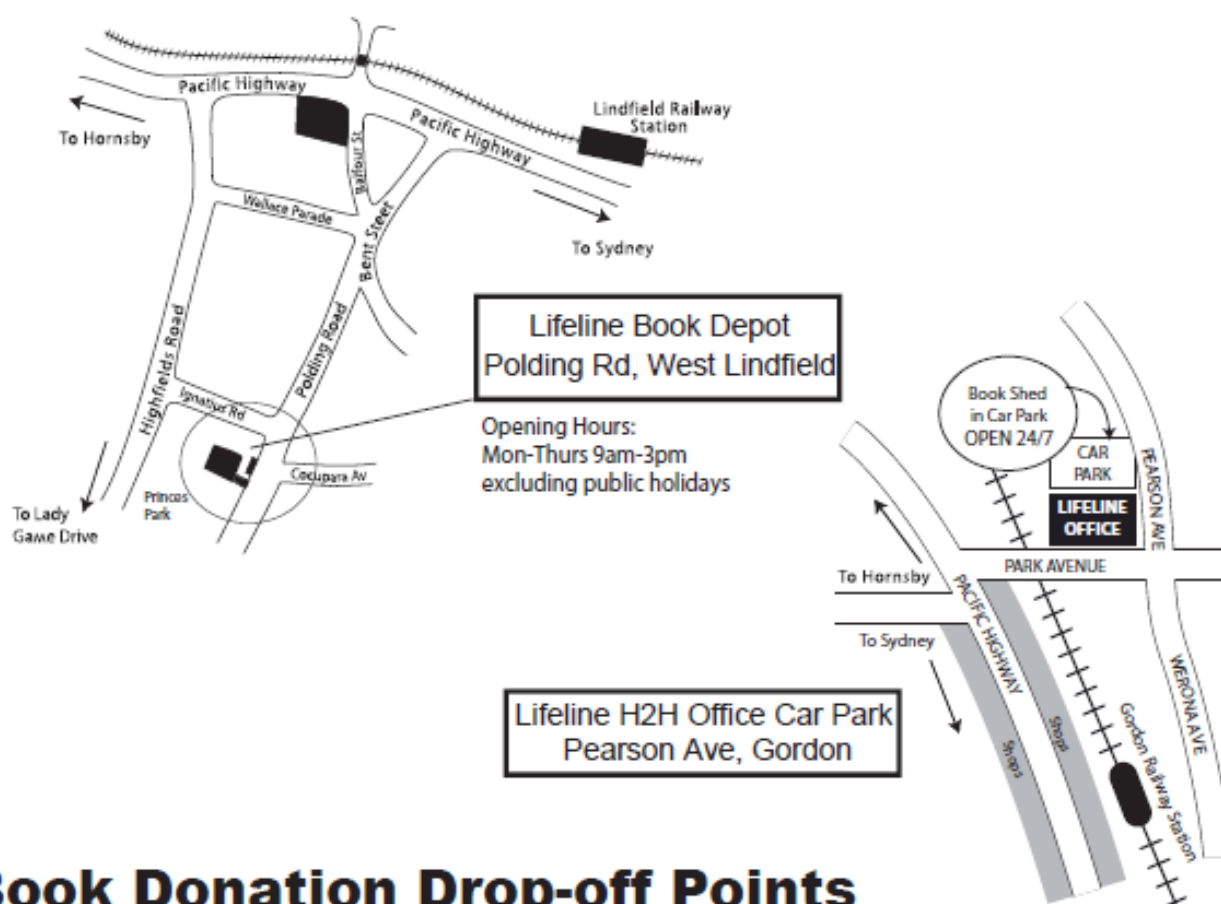
Lindfield



Hornsby



How to Find OUR BOOK SHOPS



Book Donation Drop-off Points

Road safety



Driving safely near school buses

There is a 40km/h speed limit for traffic passing a school bus that is setting down or picking up school children. This speed limit is for all traffic travelling in the same direction as the bus, whether the bus is stationary or moving.

Lights will flash on the front and back of the bus reminding drivers that there may be children crossing or about to cross the road.

Buses can't stop quickly because they are large and heavy vehicles. So, remember:

- Reduce speed to 40km/h when bus lights are flashing
- Give way to buses
- Watch out for children crossing
- Never park in or near a bus stop or bus zone.

Informal school bus stops

Informal bus stops are not sign posted and are usually found in rural areas. They may be at the front of a property, or on the side of the road, which may make children difficult to see.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on [safetytown.com.au](https://www.safetytown.com.au)



Lives lost on NSW roads.
Our goal is zero.



Road safety

Helping children on and off the bus safely

Your children are most at risk in the minutes after getting off the bus. Here are some ways you can reduce this risk:

- Always meet your child at the bus stop. Never meet them on the opposite side of the road and call them across.
- Wait until the bus has gone, then choose a safe place to cross the road. Remember to Stop! Look! Listen! Think!
- If you cannot meet your child, organise for another trusted adult to take your place.
- Wait at the bus stop and stand at least one step back from the edge of the road.
- Always wait until the bus has gone, then use a safe place to cross.
- Buckle up if the bus has seatbelts.

Model safe pedestrian behaviour. Children learn safe road user habits from you and will continue them later on when they are old enough to travel alone.

Until your child is at least eight years old, hold their hand on the footpath, in the carpark and when crossing the road. Up until at least 10 years old, supervise your child very closely, holding their hand when crossing the road.

STOP!
one step back from the kerb

LOOK!
continuously both ways

LISTEN!
for the sounds of approaching traffic

THINK!
whether it is safe to cross and keep checking until safely across

Messages to share with your children in Kindergarten to Year 2

Hold a grown up's hand when:

- you cross the road
- you're on the footpath
- you're in a car park

Messages to share with your children in Years 3 and 4

- Hold an adult's hand when you cross the road
- Use a safe place to cross the road

Messages to share with children in Years 5 and 6

- Stop! Look! Listen! Think! every time you cross the road and keep checking until safely across

Kindergarten to Year 6

- Wait until the bus has gone and then use a safe place to cross

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on safetytown.com.au



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