

# SOCKTOBER 2021

## Teacher Briefing Document

### WHAT is Socktober?

Socktober invites our school to engage with mission in a holistic way within the **head, heart, hands** model: encouraging a learning mind, an open heart and hands for action.

With the world game of soccer at a basis of connection, our students can learn about life in mission countries and be moved to act in solidarity. Socktober provides children with the opportunity lead in mission by sharing their story of support with their family and friends.

One of the most popular elements of Socktober encourages children to create their own recycled 'sockball' – a replica of the type of ball thousands of children around the world play with each day. A step-by-step video guide and more resources can be found at [socktober.org.au](https://www.socktober.org.au).

Our own school page can be found at <https://www.socktober.org.au/event/socktober/donate-to-a-fundraiser>.

### WHO is participating in Socktober?

This year, our [school/year groups/classes] is/are participating in Socktober. The program consists of a suite of online resources that bring mission into the classroom or the home and allow students to continue their commitment to social justice throughout terms 3 and 4. We are taking part in the online platform at [socktober.org.au](https://www.socktober.org.au) with our unique school page already set-up (click on Find School/Club).

The Socktober Challenge is a six-week program of learning and engagement that we can deliver in class, but which can also be enjoyed at home with the family. The Challenge is made up of six themed modules, called Mission Packs, filled with activities, resources and material that cover off a range of curriculum areas, including the core mission component. As the students work through the goals set out in each Mission Pack, they seek sponsorship from friends, family and the community, which supports the very children and communities they are learning about.

We are inviting [insert parents, parish priest etc.] to help make Socktober a success at our school. [Explain who guest goalies will be and other helpers on the day].



## SOCKTOBER - Engaging parents in mission & justice

We are inviting parents to register their children on the platform—a quick, easy, and secure process—and then joining their School House/Class competing as ‘teams’ on the platform.

The online parent journey has been carefully designed over several years by Catholic Mission to provide an immersive experience for parents and children to deepen their understanding of mission and social justice issues. Parents will receive links to the Mission Packs with videos, resources and reflections for their children along the Socktober journey.

### WHEN are the key dates?

**Online Registration:** by September 3, 2021.

It is important that our parents sign up their children as soon as possible, so they can keep up with what their children are learning about and to also begin supporting their journey with family and friends.

Please ensure you are promoting online registration in your classroom from early in Term 3, 2021.

To assist, please provide the attached flyer in our [class], [homeroom] and encourage each child to ask their parent register them online. We will issue an email to parents encouraging them to do this. You may like to print some additional handouts for your classroom, as a reminder for students to register. Please remind students about the School House competition if you are running one.

**Socktober Event Day:** [Insert date]

Depending on restrictions, we will aim to have our Socktober Event Day in Term 4. This is a chance for the students and the community to come together in a celebration of global mission and all of our efforts to support the promotion of full life for children around the world.

Our Socktober Event Day takes place in our school and will [commence/finish] with a liturgy. It may also include workshops and interactive activities like 360-degree virtual reality. A big part of the day will be the Socktober Shootout, a penalty shootout-style activity where our students will take turns to shoot goals with soccer balls, including one shot with our handmade ‘sockballs’, which we will create in class. We may invite our parish priest or other community members, including parents, to be guest goalkeepers for this activity.

### HOW do we best support Socktober in our school?

1. Ensure all students are encouraged to register for Socktober. Our email template is a great way to ask parents to register.
2. Consider running a competition for the first class, homeroom or school house to fully register.
3. We will have teams for each class/house/homeroom linked to our school [optional]. Make sure your team has all of its “players” registered.



4. Implement the **Socktober Challenge** into your lesson plans. It has been designed by a team of experienced educators and each week includes a wealth of resources and activities, with embedded Catholic Social Teaching and themes including Creation, Inclusion & Diversity, and Living Mission.
5. Allocate tasks to teachers and student leaders for our **Socktober Event Day**, we encourage your teachers and leaders to volunteer for tasks as set out in the detailed Run Sheet on the Socktober website.
6. Ask house captains or senior students to act as officials for the **Socktober Shootout**. Tally the goals and add them to your house competition if you are running one.
7. Think about people you would like to involve on the day. One of the best community engagement options is the opportunity to be a guest goalkeeper for the day. Invite your parish priest, mayor, school principal, religious education co-ordinator or local sport star to participate on the day. Download the How to Play sheet for further details.
8. Set aside some time with your classes to make sockballs. This is covered in Week 1 of the Socktober Challenge, with a step-by-step guide on how to make them.
9. Set aside time after the penalty shootout for debriefing with each group of students around their experience of playing with their Sockball.

**Let's kick some goals for kids in need!**