Friday, 5th December 2025

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Transition Day 1 – A Wonderful Start

This week our students participated in the first of our two Transition Days for 2026 and I want to congratulate every child on the positive, enthusiastic and mature way they embraced the experience. Transition can bring a mix of excitement and uncertainty, yet what we witnessed across the school was a genuine willingness to engage, meet new classmates, connect with their 2026 teachers and step confidently into the next stage of their learning journey.

The atmosphere throughout the morning was one of curiosity, kindness and optimism. Students explored their new learning spaces, began forming new relationships and showed the resilience and adaptability we continue to be so proud of at St Catherine's. Their willingness to give things a go, even when feeling a little unsure, speaks volumes about their growth.

Supporting Children to Sit with Emotional Discomfort: A Pathway to Growth

It is also, at this time of year, completely natural for children to experience a wide range of emotions about their class placement for the coming school year. As mentioned in my introduction, transition can bring a mix of excitement, curiosity, uncertainty, disappointment, all of these feelings are real, valid and part of being human. As adults who care deeply about our children, our first instinct is often to remove or minimise their discomfort. We want them to feel safe, happy and settled.

However, one of the greatest gifts we can give our children is the ability to sit with emotional discomfort, not alone, not without support, but with us by their side, guiding them through it.

When we allow children to experience and work through challenging emotions, something important happens:

They learn resilience.

Children begin to understand that uncomfortable feelings do pass, that they can adapt, that they can navigate new situations and that they are capable of far more than they realise. These moments become powerful opportunities for emotional growth, strengthening their confidence and broadening their capacity to cope with the unexpected.

Class placement changes, new classmates, unfamiliar teachers — while these may feel overwhelming at first, they also create fresh opportunities for children to develop new friendships, learn from different teaching styles and step into new aspects of their learning and social world.

As parents and carers, your calm, reassuring presence plays a vital role. Your words — and especially your tone — help shape how your child interprets a new situation. When you acknowledge their feelings, assure them that it's okay to be unsure and gently encourage them to give their new class an opportunity, you help them form the mindset that "I can do hard things."

At school, we will walk alongside them too. Our teachers are deeply committed to creating welcoming, safe and positive learning environments where every child feels seen, known and supported.

Over the coming weeks, your child may need extra reassurance, a listening ear, or simply time. All of this is completely normal. But in allowing them to sit with and work through these emotions, we are helping them build the skills that will serve them not only next year, but throughout their entire lives.

Together, we can help our children step confidently into 2026 with resilience, hope and a growing belief in themselves.

Warm regards,

Des Noack
Principal



Prep Excursion – A Day at the Animal Farm

Our Prep students enjoyed a truly wonderful excursion to the Diggers Rest Animal Farm this week. It was a day filled with wide eyes, joyful laughter and unforgettable hands-on experiences as the children explored life on the farm.



From gently patting guineapigs, rabbits and lambs, to brushing and even riding a pony, our youngest learners embraced every moment with enthusiasm and curiosity. One of the highlights was watching the children feed the ducks by hand — a simple yet magical experience that sparked delight and plenty of excited storytelling on the bus ride home.



We are incredibly proud of the way our Preps represented St Catherine's. Their kindness toward the animals, their confidence in trying new things and their readiness to listen and learn made the day a truly memorable one for all involved.



A very special thank you to our Prep teachers, support staff and parent helpers whose care and organisation ensured a safe, engaging and joy-filled farm adventure.



Year 6 Camp – Waratah Beach



Last week, our Year 6 students enjoyed a fantastic three-day adventure at Waratah Beach Camp. Throughout the camp, students challenged themselves with a range of activities that encouraged teamwork, resilience and leadership.



Whether they were tackling group initiatives, participating in outdoor challenges, or supporting their peers, our students consistently demonstrated cooperation and a willingness to step outside their comfort zones.



It was wonderful to see them grow in confidence, build stronger friendships and develop important skills that they will carry with them into Year 7 and beyond. We are incredibly proud of the positive attitude and enthusiasm they displayed throughout the entire experience.

Our Grade 6 camp at Waratah Bay Beach Camp was so much fun! Even though the four-hour bus ride felt really long, everyone was excited to be with their friends. As soon as we arrived, the activities



began. The Giant Swing and Flying Fish were favourites. The students loved choosing how high they wanted to go, even if it made their stomach drop. Nitro Crossing and Caterpillar Crawl made us work together, while Treasure Island had us concentrating hard so we didn't step on the wrong "island." Dolphin Dodge (Ga-Ga Ball) and Aeroball were fast, energetic and full of laughs. We also loved cooling off in the heated saltwater pool and playing games like water polo.



The food at camp was okay, but lots of students still went back for seconds because we were always hungry after activities. We also really enjoyed the beach walk and melting marshmallows around the campfire.

By the time we got back on the bus to head home, everyone was completely exhausted and the ride back to school was much quieter with lots of sleepy students.

By Mia M and Charlie P



Social Media Age Restrictions

The Australian Government is protecting young Australians at a critical stage of their development, through world-first social media age restrictions.

From 10 December 2025, age-restricted social media platforms will have to take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under the age of 16 from creating or keeping an account.

The restrictions aim to protect young Australians from pressures and risks that users can be exposed to while logged in to social media accounts. These come from design features that encourage them to spend more time on screens, while also serving up content that can harm their health and wellbeing.

As of 21 November 2025, it is eSafety's view that Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, Twitch, X, YouTube, Kick and Reddit are age-restricted platforms. This list will continue to be updated prior to 10 December. Find the latest details about which platforms are age-restricted.
More generally, age restrictions will apply to social media platforms that meet three specific conditions, unless they are excluded based on criteria set out in legislative rules made by the Minister for Communications in July 2025.
The conditions for age restriction are:

- the sole purpose, or a significant purpose, of the service is to enable online social interaction between two or more end-users
- the service allows end-users to link to, or interact with, some or all of the other end-users
- the service allows end-users to post material on the service.

Online gaming and standalone messaging apps are among a number of types of services that have been excluded under the legislative rules. However, messaging services that have social-media style features which allow users to interact in other ways apart from messaging may be included in the age restrictions, as well as messaging features accessed through age-restricted social media accounts.







2026 Day 2 Transition Timetable

Day 2- Monday, 8th December

11.30 -11.40am

- Grade 6 students move directly to the oval (hall if poor weather) and are supervised by leaving staff

Movement of classes proceeds with attention to the following:

- Prior to moving to hall ensure that students take drink bottles to new classes
- Move to hall and line up as shown on projected new 2026 seating map

11.45 – 11.55am
Affirmation of students as they move to their new classrooms.

- Teachers and students move to their classrooms (PBL focus - moving safely)

11.55 – 1.00pm
Orientation activities occur in new classes

- Commence with prayer
- Activities to focus on peer connectivity & establishment of classroom culture

1.00pm
All students and teachers move back to their existing assembly spaces.

- Teachers and students return to normal yard assembly points (PBL focus - moving safely)
- Teachers to provide feedback via email to leadership regarding any concerns observed during transition session for follow up

1.00pm
New teachers and teachers covering for classes that currently do not have a teacher allocated gather in the Planning Room

- To debrief and opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback



Year 2 Immigration Museum Excursion: Cultural Storytelling

The Grade Twos have been writing about their excursion experience to the Melbourne Immigration Museum. At the museum, each class participated in a workshop to explore how people's experiences are expressed through different storytelling methods. Here are a few student writing pieces.

A Recount by William G, 2B

Hello, my name is William from 2B! Today, I will be explaining about my experience of the Melbourne Immigration Museum. Firstly, we got into groups of 6. I was with Grace, Zemichael, Dylan G, Axel, Faith and Oscar! We learnt about different cultures. Me and my group got a Possum Skin Cloak from the aboriginal people! The task we were given was to find the stuff on the inside of the cloak. We found fish, emus, soldiers and eagles! We found out that the aboriginal people owned the land for 65,000 years! Next, we went out to see all of the ancient artifacts. We found guns from the 1987's and even more cool items! I learnt a lot of knowledge from this excursion. I hope I can go there again when I grow up!



A

Recount by Mathew P, 2C

On Tuesday the 25th, the year 2s went on an excursion to the immigration museum. We went on a bus to the city. After getting to the museum we put our stuff away and went to a room with different objects and found out if it's an immigration story or if it was a first peoples story. After that we went upstairs and split into different colour groups. I started in the red group which was a movie. After the movie we started writing how the movie made us feel. If we finished early we were allowed to look at the stuff on display. Some of the stuff on display were a military helmet and a compass which is to see which way is north, south, west and east. In one of the groups we had to write what we will pack in our suitcases if we immigrate to a different country. In the end I learned about people emigrate because of war or natural disasters.



A Persuasive Text by Daniel W, 2A.

Hello, my name is Daniel from 2A.
Firstly, I think the Immigration Museum is a great place to visit because you can have fun and look at interesting things.
Secondly, it is a great museum for people all over the world to visit. You can also learn about timelines there.
Thirdly you should visit it because you can learn things even when world wars were in motion.
In conclusion, I believe you should visit the immigration museum because of all the cool important things there that will teach you all about the history of immigrants and the first peoples.



Prep A

Taylor T - For your amazing efforts and growth in your learning this Term. Amazing work!

Alayna P - For your amazing reading during our prep nativity play practise. Great Job!

Prep B

Luca C - For your amazing effort with your sound recognition during dictation. Amazing work!

Elizabeth E - For always demonstrating the PBL values and being an amazing role model for those around you. You're amazing!

Prep C

Stevie H - For your confidence and amazing growth in your decoding and comprehension skills this year! We are so proud of you!

Antonio T - For independently writing fantastic sentences using picture prompts that include adjectives and our non-negotiables. Excellent effort!

Year 1A

Akoi M - For showing kindness to others. We are proud of you Akoi!

Frazer A - For always demonstrating the St Catherine's of Siena PBL values and being a role model for others. You are a pleasure to teach Frazer.

Year 1B

Marilyn A - For being a kind and caring classmate, by always offering to help in times of need.

Thomas B - For all the amazing effort you have put into improving your learning. Keep it up!

Year 1C

Tomi J - For being a kind and helpful classmate. Your thoughtfulness amazes us.

Aluel A - For great growth this year and consistently being ready to learn!

Year 2A

Serah A - For using high modality words, exclamation and question sentences in your persuasive letter to prove the Big Bad Wolf was innocent!

Daniel W - For being a consistent and dedicated reader every week and achieving 244 reading nights! Outstanding effort Daniel!

Year 2B

Dakota S - For being a positive role model in 2B and lending a hand when your peers need help.

Zac K - For always coming to school with a smile on your face and having a positive attitude towards your learning!

Year 2C

Aluel M - For your progress in your writing this semester. Great work editing your syntax and experimenting with different vocabulary in your writing.

Jason P - For your progress in maths this year. We are so proud of you and all your hard work.

Year 3A

Chout M - For always showing the PBL value of Kindness by helping others, spreading positivity, and bringing uplifting energy to our classroom each day.

Leshaye M - For always giving everything a go with enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Your willingness to try new things and your cheerful energy inspire others to do their best.

Year 3B

Sanaya D - For demonstrating a positive attitude during learning time and consistently demonstrating our school expectations and values. Well done!

Mateo L - For consistently applying the spelling generalisations learnt in the lessons during our Literacy Daily Review. Well done!

Year 3C

Charlotte K - For always working hard to achieve your personal best in all areas of learning.

Grace S - For showing kindness and helping a new student feel welcome during your transition day into Grade 4.

Year 4A

Bailey M - For being a kind and caring classmate and showing great maturity and compassion in your support of your peers during the transition on Monday.

Achillik M - For creating an imaginative hook for your persuasive text about why you should play basketball. Well done!

Year 4B

Tayla F - For demonstrating an excellent example of our core value of kindness by befriending a new student during our transition session. Well done!

Anthony M - For demonstrating an excellent example of our core values of respect and responsibility when getting to know your teachers in our transition session. Great job!

Year 4C

Ellie T - For consistently giving your best effort in class while demonstrating a positive attitude toward learning. Amazing work!

Patrick G - For showing improved focus and growing confidence as we finish Term 4. You continue to be a wonderful role model for 4C. Well done!

Year 5A

Riley D - For actively participating in our maths unit of fractions, decimals and percentages. It's been wonderful to see your confidence grow, especially when converting fractions and decimals into percentages. Well done!

Shahana S - For doing amazing work throughout your learning time and consistently showing our school expectations and values. Amazing!

Year 5B

Jedidiah R - Consistently demonstrating our PBL expectations of kindness, safety, respect and responsibility. Your positive choices make our classroom a wonderful place to be in.

Emma W - For showing responsibility and confidence by stepping in to help with the slides in assembly. You displayed a calm attitude and teamwork!

Year 5C

Chelsea H - For showing outstanding persistence in our last mathematics unit. Your determination to keep trying until you fully understand the concepts is inspiring. Well done, Chelsea!

Angel N - For consistently demonstrating our PBL expectations, especially through your kindness towards others! You lead by example every day. Wonderful work, Angel!

Year 6A

All of 6A - For displaying outstanding enthusiasm and engagement, diving into every activity with energy, curiosity, and a sense of fun, while also showing respectful behaviour and a joyful, positive attitude!

Sabina B - For showing an exceptionally positive attitude, remarkable resilience, and bravely facing your fears while giving your best in every camp activity.

Year 6B

Geu G - For being an excellent helper during your camp group's kitchen duties. You showed responsibility, teamwork and a positive attitude while completing every task. Well done!

Rose M - For putting your best effort into every Year 6 camp activity. Your positive attitude and wonderful behaviour made you a great role model throughout the entire camp. Well done!

Year 6C

Priscilla L - For actively participating during camp, supporting your group members, and following instructions attentively. Well done!

6C - For listening attentively, working collaboratively, and supporting one another—your efforts make me so proud!

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

Family Christmas CAROLS

WEDNESDAY, DEC 10



Come and enjoy a night of Christmas Carols and performances from students across the school.

Picnic starts at 5pm. BYO blanket and/or picnic chairs & picnic dinner. On the St Catherine of Siena Soccer Pitch

Christmas Carols begin at 6pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO

End of Year

PARENT HELPER AFTERNOON TEA

FRIDAY
12 DECEMBER | AT 2.15 PM
ST CATHERINE PRIMARY
SCHOOL ATRIUM

Invitations have already been sent out to our Parent volunteers

RSVP via Seesaw by 8th December 2025



Come and visit our school Nativity. Located opposite the fish tank in the Year 2 foyer.



Term 4 Dates for the Diary

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 Week 10 *2026 Student Transition Day 2	**9**	**10** Whole School Assembly 2:15pm *Carols Night 6:00pm	**11**	**12** *Prep 2026 Transition Session 5 9am - 10am *Semester 2 Reports Sent Home
15 Week 11 *Year 6 Big Day Out	**16** *Year 6 Graduation 6:00pm	**17** Whole School Mass 9:15am End of Year Awards Assembly 2:00pm ***Last Day of Term – Students Dismissed @ 3:15pm**	**18** **School Closure Day**	**19** **School Closure Day**