



Monday, 15th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As this is our final newsletter for the year, I write with a deep sense of gratitude as I share my last official communication with you as Principal of St Catherine of Siena.

Serving this community over the past two years has been an absolute privilege. From the moment I arrived, I was welcomed with warmth, trust and genuine partnership—qualities that define the spirit of our school. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated successes and continued to strengthen a learning environment where every child is known, valued and supported.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge **Lisa McCallin**, who has been successful in her appointment to the new position of **Deputy Principal – Learning & Teaching at Oscar Romero Primary School, Tarneit**. This role is a wonderful opportunity for Lisa to continue to grow her skills, knowledge and leadership capabilities. She has made an extraordinary contribution to our school and to the wider Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools community. While we will miss her greatly, we celebrate this next chapter in her leadership journey and wish her every blessing as she takes on this significant role.

Before I conclude my time as Principal, I would also like to share, on behalf of our incoming Principal **Lisa Black**, the leadership structure that will guide St Catherine of Siena into 2026 and beyond.

2026 Leadership Team

- **Principal** – *Lisa Black*
- **Deputy Principal (Catholic Mission & Identity / Daily Organisation)** – *Angela Giordimaina*
- **Deputy Principal (Vision for Instruction)** – *To be appointed in 2026*
- **Learning Diversity & Inclusion Leader** – *Nadine Barnes*
- **Wellbeing Leader** – *Mel Anderson*

- **Literacy Leader & Coach** – *Ingrid Hopkins*
- **Numeracy Leader & Coach** – *Matt Galea*

We are delighted to congratulate **Angela Giordimaina** and **Ingrid Hopkins** on their appointments to new leadership roles for 2026. Their dedication, expertise and deep commitment to the wellbeing and learning of our students will continue to enrich our community.



As I retire from the principalship, I do so with confidence and great hope. St Catherine of Siena is blessed with exceptional staff, a strong leadership team and a new Principal who will lead the school with wisdom, care and vision. It has been an honour to help prepare the school for this next chapter.

I am profoundly grateful to you—our parents and carers—for the encouragement you have shown me personally and for your unwavering support of our school. Your partnership has been instrumental in shaping the positive culture we share today.

Most importantly, I thank you for the privilege of working with your children. Their energy, curiosity and kindness have been a daily source of joy.

As we move toward Christmas, may the season bring peace to your homes, joy to your families and the gift of rest after a year of learning and growth. I leave with a full heart and deep appreciation for all we have achieved together.

With heartfelt thanks and warmest regards,

Des Noack

Principal (Retiring)





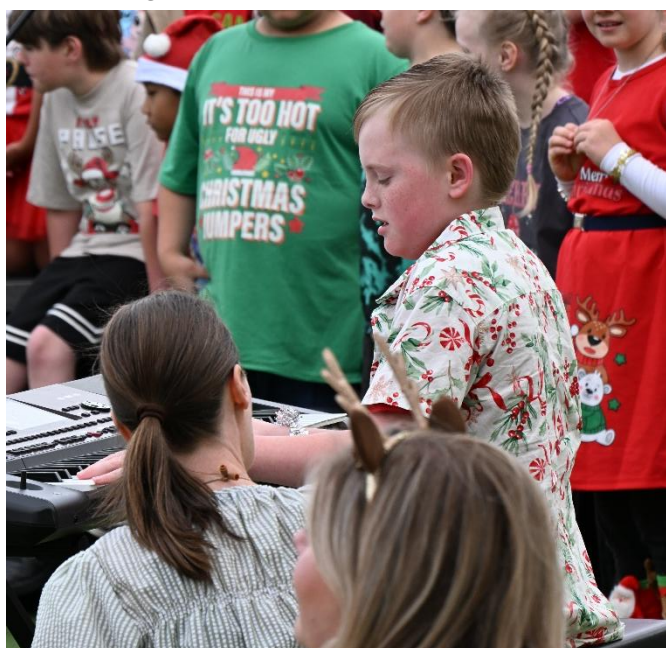
Family Christmas Carols Night

Our Family Christmas Carols Night was a great success, bringing together students, families and friends for a joyful evening of music and community spirit. The atmosphere was filled with festive cheer as our students shone on stage, sharing the songs they have been preparing with such enthusiasm.

A huge thank you to the Prep team for kicking off the night with a special presentation of the Nativity, beautifully performed by our Prep students. Your efforts set a warm and meaningful tone for the evening.

A special thank you goes to our Performing Arts Teacher, Miss Lauren Jamieson, who coordinated the Christmas Carols and ensured students were well prepared and ready to perform, making the night truly memorable.

It was a wonderful night shared between families and friends highlighting the strong sense of community we are so proud of at St Catherine of Siena. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event, your presence helped make the evening so special.



Farewell and Welcome

As we approach the conclusion of the 2025 school year, we take time to reflect with gratitude on the many people who have contributed so richly to the life of our St Catherine of Siena community. This is a moment of both farewell and welcome—honouring those who are concluding their time with us and warmly embracing those who will be joining our community in 2026.

Farewell and Sincere Appreciation

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following staff members who will be finishing at St Catherine of Siena at the end of this year:

Leadership

- **Mr Des Noack – Principal**
- **Ms Lisa McCallin – Deputy Principal**
- **Mrs Sharni Thomas – Growth Coach**
- **Mrs Kylie Hoey – Literacy Leader & Coach**

Classroom Teachers

- **Ms Melissa Crisostomo – Year 5A**
- **Ms Holly Phillips – 3B**
- **Ms Monique Cassar – Year 3A**
- **Mr Caleb Walker – Year 1C**
- **Ms Tayla Giordimaina – Prep C**
- **Ms Isabella Audino – Prep A**

Learning Support Officers

- **Ms Bridget Henthorn**
- **Mrs Tracey Taylor**
- **Ms Afe (Heather) Petelo Sauvao**

Each of these staff members has made a valued and lasting contribution to our students, families and colleagues through their dedication, professionalism and care. We thank them sincerely and wish them every success and happiness in the next chapter of their lives.

Special Acknowledgement

–Mrs Sharni Thomas

We offer a very special note of appreciation to **Mrs Sharni Thomas**, who has served the St Catherine of Siena community with distinction for over **16 years** in the roles of both teacher and leader. Sharni's deep commitment to student growth, staff development and the values of our school has left a significant and enduring legacy. We are deeply grateful for her service, leadership and generosity of spirit, and we wish her every blessing in her future endeavours.

A Warm Welcome to Our New Staff

We are delighted to welcome the following staff members who will be joining St Catherine of Siena in 2026. We look forward to the knowledge, enthusiasm and care they will bring to our learning community:

Leadership

- **Mrs Lisa Black – Principal**
- **Mrs Ingrid Hopkins – Literacy Leader & Coach**

Teachers

- **Ms Renee Clapton – Year 1A**
- **Ms Mia Rappazzo – Year 3B**
- **Ms Catherine Woodhouse – Year 5C**
- **Ms Jessica Camilleri – Year 6C**
- **Ms Tara Watson – Teacher Release**
- **Ms Melissa Balzan – Teacher Release**

Learning Support Officers

- **Ms Joanne O'Brien**
- **Ms Miriam Dordevic**
- **Ms Cassandra Pryor**

We warmly welcome each of these staff members to St Catherine of Siena and look forward to the contributions they will make as they become part of our community.

Maternity Leave

We also note that **Ms Mandy May** will be commencing maternity leave from the beginning of 2026. We extend our very best wishes to Mandy and her family during this special and exciting time.

As we close this chapter and prepare for the year ahead, we give thanks for the people who make St Catherine of Siena such a vibrant, caring, and faith-filled community. We farewell our departing staff with gratitude and welcome our new staff with optimism and confidence for the future.



Year 6 Graduation

The Year 6 Graduation will be held at St Catherine of Siena Church on Tuesday, 16th December. Mass will begin at 6:00pm and all family members are welcome to join us for this celebration. Students are required to be neatly presented in full summer uniform.



Beginning of the Year Learning Assessment

At the commencement of the 2026 school year St Catherine of Siena Primary School will be conducting individualised beginning-of-year assessments for all students. These assessments will take place on Wednesday, 28th January, Thursday 29th January and Friday 30th January 2026.

Each child has been allocated a specific appointment time. These individual sessions allow teachers to gather important information about each student's current learning profile and ensure that each student is set up for success from day one.

Parents and carers are required to remain onsite for the duration of the assessment and take children home once their session has concluded.

Further information regarding your child's learning assessment, including date, time and duration, has been sent home with students last week and can be found inside your child's report envelope.

It is important that students attend their scheduled appointment time to ensure a smooth and efficient start to the school year for everyone.



2026 Sacrament Dates

All students at St Catherine of Siena who have received the Sacrament of Baptism and have formally enrolled into the Sacramental Program will have the opportunity to celebrate three sacraments during their primary school years.

These are:

- The Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation (Year 3)
- The Sacrament of First Eucharist (Year 4)
- The Sacrament of Confirmation (Year 6)

Next year's (2026) Sacrament dates have been confirmed and outlined below.



Sacrament of Reconciliation

In preparation for this Sacrament families must attend and participate in:

- Penance Family Night - Wednesday, 21st October 2026 at 6:30pm
- Penance Presentation and Commitment Mass - Saturday, 24th October 2026 at 6:00pm
- Sacrament of Penance - Thursday, 5th November 2026 at 6:00pm



Sacrament of First Eucharist

- First Eucharist Family Night – Wednesday, 6th May 2026 at 6:30pm
- First Eucharist Retreat Day – Wednesday, 20th May 2026
- First Eucharist Presentation and Commitment Mass – Saturday, 23rd May 2026 at 6:00pm
- Sacrament of First Eucharist – Saturday, 30th May 2026



Sacrament of Confirmation

- Confirmation Family Night – Tuesday, 4th August 2026 at 6:30pm
- Confirmation Retreat Day – Wednesday, 5th August 2026
- Confirmation Presentation and Commitment Mass – Saturday, 8th August 2026 at 6:00pm
- Sacrament of Confirmation – Saturday, 15th August 2026



Australian Air League Presentation Night 27th November

By Taylah D in 3A

On the 27th of November after school I went with my family to the Air League Niddrie Squadron presentation night. My squadron is Niddrie squadron. We were setting up chairs with reserved tags on the special officers' chairs. After, I helped set the flags up they were the squadron flag, Australian flag and Victoria state flag. Then we got set up, we marched outside and turned and stopped, we marched together and marched through the aisle and then turned to face the front. We sat down 5 to 10 minutes later. Mr Camilery put the presentation video on. Then they did an action for a massive R.C plane. After, they did the raffle I got a prize and it is a R.C Rocket Racers set. Then, they got sum food out and I got 4 runs of food. Lukas my 16 year old friend said goat cheese is the best cheese in the whole wide universe. I know it's weird, he said this "Oh Taylah you have to try it!" I didn't like it. It was a fun night, I loved it. Then we went home.



As we begin to wrap up the school year, we are delighted to celebrate another successful year of Breakfast Club. The program has now finished for 2025 and we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made it possible.

A very special thank you goes to the volunteers from St Vincent de Paul whose dedication and generosity ensured our students were welcomed each week with a warm, nourishing start to their day.

We would also like to acknowledge the St Catherine's staff members who supported the program each week maintaining consistency for our students.

Breakfast Club will resume in 2026.

End of Year Awards Assembly

Our annual End of Year Awards Assembly will be held on Wednesday, 17th December in the school hall at 1:30pm. There will be several awards presented to students from all year levels and we would be delighted to see families join us to celebrate the achievements of these students.

Please allow extra time for parking prior to the start of the assembly. The staff carpark will remain closed to minimise any risk to students and families walking through the car park at the end of the day.



Prep A

Kyrac B - For your enthusiastic and excellent participation at our Prep excursion to the farm last week. Superstar!

Julia B - For your excellent participation at our Prep excursion to the Farm last week. Great job!

Prep B

Remy C - For your amazing growth and confidence during dictation. Keep up the great work

Enid F - For always being a role model around your classmates showing our PBL values at all times. Keep it up.

Prep C

Aiden B - For consistently being a superstar learner this year! You should be so proud of the confidence you have built and the growth you have made academically. We are so proud of you!

Athena W - For making great growth on your grapheme-phoneme correspondence screener and using that knowledge to read consonant/vowel/consonant words! We are so proud of you!

Year 1A

Achan B - For being a calm and gentle member of 1A.

Cyrus T - For demonstrating impressive learning growth in Literacy and Mathematics. We are proud of you Cyrus.

Year 1B

Tyson L - For listening to and following teachers instructions respectfully and for treating others with kindness.

Madelyn F - For always being a kind, friendly & positive class member & always following our class routines.

Year 1C

Jake A - For dancing through the Christmas season with joy and laughter! Your positive attitude brings smiles to everyone around you.

Connor M - For ALL of your growth this year! You now face challenges with confidence and a sense of calm, while maintaining a positive mindset!

Year 2A

Oskar S - For trying your best to finish your work independently. We are so proud of your great effort Oskar!

Aluel A - For being a wonderful role model in 2A this year and for always trying your best to show kindness. Well done, Aluel!

Year 2B

Oscar J - For being a responsible learner who follows staff directions, listens actively, and consistently shows excellent learning. Your positive attitude makes our classroom a better place. Well done!

Scarlette R - For showing great dedication to your learning and trying your hardest every day. Your effort shines in everything you do. Keep up the positive attitude!

Year 2C

Genevieve J - For showing responsibility for learning by using initiative and working hard to achieve your goals. We are proud of your amazing efforts this year.

2C - For showing kindness, respect and a positive attitude to learning every day. You have grown to be so independent and PBL superstars. Excellent work.

Year 3A

William Mc - for showing incredible growth in resilience throughout the year and becoming a responsible learner. I am so proud of all your achievements this year. Well done!

Lachie B - For your hard work, dedication, and wonderful achievements have shone through this

year. You always put in your best effort and show a positive attitude every day. Well done!

Year 3B

Audrey K - For your effort in applying the double and double, double strategies in Mathematics. It is great to see you grow in confidence with mental computation strategies.

Zechariah B - For consistently demonstrating the PBL values in our class, by engaging in learning tasks with a positive attitude and demonstrating respect for everyone.

Year 3C

Deng G - For consistently being organised ready to learn and showing strong improvement in Maths this year.

Liam D - For an impressive touch-typing milestone, reaching 20 words in 10 seconds.

Year 4A

Payton R - For your use of emotive language and high modality words in your persuasive text. Amazing!

Godfrey M - For showing the school values of kindness and respect while welcoming your new buddy. Awesome!

Year 4B

Noah L - For demonstrating our school values of responsibility and kindness while supporting his new prep buddy during the transition day. Well done!

Dominic L - For his excellent effort and strong improvement in his recent persuasive paragraph writing. Great job!

Year 4C

Abigail V - For demonstrating our school values of responsibility and kindness while supporting your new prep buddy during the transition day. Amazing work!

Madonna A - For showing kindness and leadership during the Prep Transition. You made your 2026 buddy feel welcomed and supported, amazing work!

Year 5A

Beny P- For showing great enthusiasm and active participation in our new operations unit, especially with your growing confidence in rounding. Keep it up!

Adau D - For consistently using your learning time efficiently and showing a fantastic work ethic in everything, you do. Keep up the amazing effort!

Year 5B

Donovan J - For always following our PBL value of Respect by treating others with kindness. Keep it up Donovan!

Kailen S - Your constant and thoughtful contributions to our classroom discussions. Your ideas enrich our learning. Keep this wonderful habit going next year, Kailen!

Year 5C

Hunter B - For showing outstanding growth in his fractions, decimals and percentages post-test. Well done, Hunter.

Annabell G - For her remarkable dedication across all subjects. Annabell sets a great example for other students by putting in consistent effort and always trying her hardest.

Year 6A

Zara G - For your kindness and being such a valuable member of our classroom. You have made strong, positive friendships and your growing confidence in your learning has been a pleasure to be a part of! Well done!

The whole of 6A - For being the most amazing, spirited, kind-hearted, extraordinarily resilient and most of all, dedicated group of students that I've had the pleasure to teach!

Year 6B

Mia M - For consistently demonstrating our PBL values in everything you do. Your respectful behaviour, responsible choices and positive attitude make you a wonderful role model for our school community. Well done!

Zac F - For showing outstanding improvement in mathematics. Through hard work, persistence, and a willingness to learn, you have made great progress and continue to grow in confidence. Well done!

Year 6C

Alana A - consistently showing what it means to be an upstander and a role model for your classmates. I'm proud of you!

Emma Mc - For your dedication to always giving 100%—in the classroom, on the playground, and with your peers. Your growth this year has been outstanding.



Term 1, 2026 Dates for the Diary

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26 January Week 1 Australia Day	27 School Closure Day	28 Student Testing (Prep - Year 6) By Appointment	29 Student Testing (Prep - Year 6) By Appointment	30 Student Testing (Prep - Year 6) By Appointment
2 February Week 2 All students Return – First Day of Classes Preps first day finish at 1:30pm	3 Preps finish at 1:30pm Parish Staff Mass @ 4pm	4 No Preps at School Whole School Mass – Opening of School Year @ 9:15am	5 Preps finish at 3:15pm	6 Preps finish at 3:15pm
9 Week 3 Preps here till 3:15pm this week	10	11 No Preps at School Class Mass - Year 6 @ 9:15am	12	13 Instalment 1 – Family Fees + Student Levy & Technology Levy Due
16 Week 4 Preps here till 3:15pm this week	17 Shrove Tuesday	18 No Preps at School Whole School Mass – Ash Wednesday @ 9:15am	19	20
23 Week 5 Preps at school for the full week	24	25 Class Mass – Year 5 @ 9:15am	26	27
2 March Week 6 Whole School Photo Day	3	4 Class Mass – Year 4 @ 9:15am	5	6
9 Week 7 Labour Day	10	11 Class Mass – Year 2 @ 9:15am NAPLAN Commences for Year 3 & 5	12	13
16 Week 8 Catholic Education Week: Christ Beside Me	17	18 Class Mass – Year 3 @ 9:15am	19	20 Mass of St Patrick for Schools
23 Week 9	24	25	26	27
30 Week 10	31	1 April Whole School Mass – Easter @ 9:15am	2 Last Day of Term 1	3 Good Friday