



# ST CATHERINE OF SIENA NEWSLETTER

*"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world ablaze"*

Term 1, Week 3 13th February 2026

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## *Principal's Message*

### **Welcome to our very first 2026 Newsletter**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It has been an absolute pleasure meeting you and your families so far this year. I have been truly humbled by the strong sense of community at St Catherine of Siena and by the commitment our staff demonstrate each day in supporting your children's academic, social, and emotional growth.

In Week 5 (commencing the week of 23 February), we will be holding our Parent-Teacher Getting to Know You Chats. Mrs Giordimaina will send further information by the end of this week outlining how to book these meetings. By this time, your child's teacher will have had approximately three weeks to get to know your child and begin building a positive and supportive learning relationship. These conversations provide a valuable opportunity to share insights and strengthen our home-school partnership.

Thank you to those who have expressed interest in joining the School Advisory Council. We have an existing council; however, there are a couple of positions to be filled. Once I have reviewed the expressions of interest, I will contact applicants individually to discuss the next steps.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. I look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year.

Warm regards,

Lisa Black

Principal

*St Catherine of Siena Primary School*



# 2026 Specialist Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AUSLAN	4B, 4A, 5C, 5A, 5B	3A, 3B, 3C, 2A, 2B	2C	1A, 1B, 1C, Prep A, Prep B	6C, 6A, 4C, Prep C, 6B
STEM	4C, 4B, 4A, 5B, 5C	3B, 3C, 2A, 2B, 2C	5A	1B, 1C, Prep A, Prep B, Prep C	6B, 3A, 6C, 1A, 6A
Performing Arts	5A, 4C, 4B, 5C, 4A	3C, 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A	5B	1C, Prep A, Prep B, Prep C, 1A	6A, 3B, 6B, 6C, 1B
Physical Education	5B, 5A, 4C, 4A, 4B	2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B	5C	Prep A, Prep B, Prep C, 1A, 1B	3C, 6C, 6A, 6B, 1C
Visual Arts	5C, 5B, 5A, 4B, 4C	2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 3C	2A, 4A	Prep B, Prep C, 1A, 1B, 1C	6B, Prep A, 6A, 6C

## Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club begins on

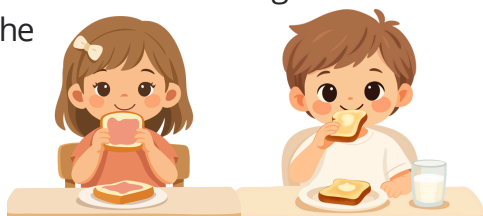
**Tuesday, 17th February 2026.**

Parents and carers wishing for their child to participate in this program are asked to discuss this with their child and respond to the consent form via Compass.

Without permission your child can not participate.

The Breakfast Club will be available to students from 8.15am till 8.40am. It's a sit-down affair rather than grab & run. Please note that we will be unable to serve students arriving after 8.40am due to class starting times.

Access to the Breakfast Club is through the external doors that lead to the children's foyer.



## Assembly / Newsletter Schedule

School assemblies will be held every second Wednesday on even weeks. Assemblies begin at **2:15pm in the school hall** and parents are warmly welcome to attend.

Our school newsletter will be sent out on **Fridays of alternate weeks (odd weeks)** via Compass.

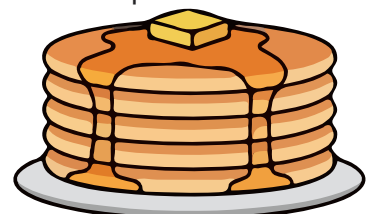
## Shrove Tuesday

This year students have the opportunity to participate in our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Activity on

**Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Parents and carers wishing for their child to participate in the Pancake Activity are asked to respond to the consent form via Compass.

Without permission your child can not participate.



# *It's Time to Setup Your Compass Account!*

All parents and carers have now been sent their login details to set up a Compass account.

From 2026, Compass will be our school's all-in-one communication platform. Through Compass, families will be able to:

- Email classroom teachers
- Report student absences
- Provide consent for excursions, camps and school activities
- View the school calendar and important updates
- Access student reports
- Book parent-teacher learning conversations



Compass will streamline communication and replace multiple platforms such as Operoo, Seesaw and School Interviews, making it easier for families to manage everything in one place.

If you have not yet logged in and updated your child's medical information, please make this a priority. Up-to-date information and permissions ensure that students can participate fully in school activities. It is always disappointing when a child misses out simply because consent has not been provided.

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## *Year 6 Student Leader Badge Presentation*

We are proud to announce that our Year 6 Student Leaders will be officially presented with their leadership badges at our next Whole School Assembly on Wednesday, 18th February at 2:15pm.

This special occasion recognises the responsibility, commitment and positive example these students provide to our school community. We are incredibly proud of the way they have stepped into their leadership roles and look forward to celebrating their achievements.



All parents and families are warmly invited to attend the assembly and join us in congratulating our Year 6 leaders on this important milestone. We hope to see you there!

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## *Whole School Photo Day*

# Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March

All students are required to wear full SUMMER uniform on this day. If your child has Sport on this day they can bring their sports shoes in their schoolbag.

Please keep an eye on your Compass news feed for information about ordering photos.



# *Smile...*

# 2026 School Fees

Statements for 2026 School Fee payments have been emailed and will be sent throughout the year.

The statement will provide further information on all family and student fees for 2026 and payment options.

The school is able to accept payment via credit card/EFTPOS at the school office, bank transfer into the school account, direct debit or via Centrepay.

Families are encouraged to set up payment plans commencing in February with all payments finalised by August.

Forms for direct debit / Centrepay can be collected from the office.

If you have not signed a direct debit / Centrepay form the due dates for payment (by 3 instalments) are:

- Friday, February 13, 2026 – Family Fee \$640.00 + Student Levy [each child] + Technology Levy [each child]
- Friday, May 15, 2026 – Family Fee \$640.00
- Friday, August 14, 2026 – Family Fee \$640.00

All other fees, i.e. Camp, Swim Program are due prior to time of event

If you are paying in one payment, this is due by March 13, 2026 School fees should be paid in-full by the end of August.

If you have a balance from previous year/s, we expect prompt payment of the outstanding account.

## *Debt Collection*

The school reserves the right to engage Debt Collectors if all avenues of communication have been exhausted and unpaid fees are at an excessive level.

This is always a last resort and goes through an approval process with Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools prior to engaging a debt collection agency.

We encourage families to contact the school early and to meet with Lisa Black if they are having difficulties paying fees.

## *CSEF*

If you are in possession of a Health Care Card and have not yet submitted the relevant paperwork for the CSEF we encourage you to apply before the end of March to ensure the rebate is applied to your account early.

Parent applications close June 26, 2026.

If you applied for CSEF last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- new student enrolments: your child has started or changed schools this year.
- changed family circumstances: such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

## *MACS Concessional Fee*

The MACS Concession Program is available to any family that meets any of the below eligibility criteria:

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage
- Hold a Health Care Card and eligible for Camps, Sports, Excursion Fund (CSEF)
- Experiencing genuine financial hardship – **a meeting is required with Lisa Black if you meet this criteria**
- Holding a Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Gold Card
- Identified as refugees and holding an ImmiCard is strongly encouraged to apply for concessional school fees.

The application form can be collected from the school office.

**A payment plan must be in place in order to receive MACS Concession.**

**This form is required to be completed, signed and submitted each year.**



# HARMONY DAY

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March



Wear Orange or Cultural dress. Parade at Assembly at 2.15pm.  
Students to contribute a Easter donation/ Egg for our Raffle.

# Term 1, 2026

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

16 Week 4	17 Breakfast Club Begins Shrove Tuesday 	18 Prep Day Off Ash Wednesday Mass @ 9:15am  Assembly @ 2:15pm	19	20	21	22 1st Sunday of Lent
23 Week 5 Prep students commence full time	24	25 Year 5 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am	26	27	28	1 March 2nd Sunday of Lent
2 Week 6 Whole School Photo Day 	3	4 Year 4 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am Assembly @ 2:15pm	5	6 MPSSA Year 6 Lightning Prem	7	8 3rd Sunday of Lent
9 Week 7 Labour Day – School Closed	10	11 NAPLAN commences for Year 3 & Year 5 Year 2 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am	12	13	14	15 4th Sunday of Lent
16 Week 8 Catholic Education Week	17	18 Year 6 Youth Leadership Conference	19	20 Assembly @ 2:15pm Harmony Day 	21	22 5th Sunday of Lent
23 Week 9	24	25	26	27 Year 6 Girls Tech Day	28	29 Palm Sunday 
30 Week 10	31	1 April Whole School Mass @ 9:15am Assembly @ 2:15pm	2 Last Day of Term 1	3 Good Friday 	4 Holy Saturday	5 Easter Sunday 
6 Easter Monday	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19



## Child Safe Standard 1

**"Establish culturally safe environments in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children, young people and students are respected and value"**

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven and legal responsibility to uphold and actively promote the wellbeing and safety of every student entrusted in our care. Our commitment to the protection of students is enabled in nurturing, respectful and safe communities where the uniqueness and sacred dignity of every young person are celebrated, and they can flourish in their learning and development.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they are designed to help keep children and young people safe and what school governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are doing to prioritise and achieve this.

### Overview of the Victorian Child Safe Standards

The Victorian Child Safe Standards are a set of 11 minimum requirements that all organisations working with children must meet. These standards are designed to:

- Prevent child abuse and harm
- Make child safety a shared responsibility
- Support the wellbeing of all children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children with disabilities
- Promote the participation and empowerment of children and young people

These standards apply to all school staff, volunteers, contractors, and anyone working with children in schools.

### Our Commitment

Our commitment to the protection of students is enabled in nurturing, respectful and safe communities where the uniqueness and sacred dignity of every young person are celebrated, and they can flourish in their learning and development.

This vision is driven by the Gospel message of love, justice and abundance, beautifully reflected in the words of John:

**"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full"**

**(Jn 10:10)**

**Note:** The term 'Aboriginal' includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is important to be respectful of how individual children, students, their families and community refer to themselves and use appropriate language when referring to individuals or communities.

## Spotlight on Child Safe Standard 1

### Creating a Culturally Safe Environment for Aboriginal Children

Child Safe Standard 1 relates to children and young people feeling culturally safe, respected, and valued.

#### What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Celebrating culture:** We include and celebrate Aboriginal culture in our classrooms/events e.g. NAIDOC Week, researching stories to share, inviting guest speakers.
- **Taking a stance:** We lead by example against racism and swiftly respond if it is observed.
- **Working together:** We contact and engage with Aboriginal families and communities to make sure our school is welcoming and inclusive. We ask families what they need to feel supported at our school.
- **Ongoing development:** Our staff receive training and knowledge to better understand and support cultural safety.



#### How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

Here's how you can support:

- **Familiarise** yourself with the school's child safety policies and understand how they support student wellbeing.
- **Provide feedback** when you notice something that may impact a child's safety or wellbeing.
- **Support** your child when they express their views and that their opinions are valued and heard.
- **Join in** on school activities, parent committees or forums that promote child safety and wellbeing.



#### Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we're supporting child safety, please get in touch.

More information on the Child Safe Standards can be found via the [Commission for Children and Young People \(CCYP\) website](#).

Check out these additional resources below to learn more!

- [Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation](#)
- [Koori Heritage Trust](#)
- [Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria](#)
- [AIATSIS: Map of Indigenous Australia](#)
- [Yoorrook Justice Commission](#)

