



ST CATHERINE OF SIENA NEWSLETTER

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

Term 2, Week 1 24th April 2026

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Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A warm welcome to Term 2.

The calm and settled start to the term is a testament to our dedicated students, staff and families and to the ongoing implementation and reinforcement of Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) across our school.

I am pleased to announce that Ingrid Hopkins (previously Literacy Leader) has been appointed as the Learning and Teaching Leader at St Catherine's. Ingrid brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this role and I look forward to her continued contribution to strengthening teaching and learning across the school. I will shortly begin the process of advertising for a new Literacy Leader to continue to guide this important area.

Last term, the School Advisory Council met to discuss a range of school initiatives. I thank the parents who were able to attend. Upon reflection, I understand that daytime meetings are not accessible for all families. Moving forward, meetings will be held in the evening to allow greater participation.

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 18th May from 6:00–7:30pm. I warmly encourage parents particularly in the junior years who are interested in areas such as strategic planning, Religious Education, curriculum, enrolments, school improvement initiatives, resourcing, family partnerships and the Annual Report to the School Community to attend.

A reminder that winter uniform is to be worn from Monday, 4th May. As always, we allow a two-week grace period to support the transition due to changing weather conditions.

Please also note that this Friday, 24th April, is a School Closure Day. OSHC (MACSEYE) will not be operating on this day. I would like to thank families for their support during the transition to our new OSHC provider, MACSEYE. While the transition has been smooth overall, I acknowledge that changes can sometimes be challenging.

On Wednesday, 6th May, we will celebrate a Mother's Day Mass, followed by morning tea. I warmly invite all mothers and special women in our students' lives to attend this special occasion. It is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community.

Our Parents and Friends Association are preparing for the Mother's Day Stall which will be held on Thursday, 7th May. If you are available to assist with preparation or selling on the day, please contact the school via email. Further details have been shared in your COMPASS news feed.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. Together, we are building a strong, connected and faith-filled community for our children to flourish.

Go gently,

Lisa Black

Principal

St Catherine of Siena Primary School



Your voice helps
shape the future
of Catholic
education.

Complete the **MACS
Family Survey**.

This anonymous survey closes on
Wednesday 6 May 2026. It takes 10–15
minutes to complete.

surveymonkey.com/r/MACSFAMILY

E-Scooter Safety Reminder for Families

We would like to remind our school community about important safety and legal requirements regarding the use of e-scooters by students travelling to and from school.

Under Victorian Government road rules, e-scooters are only legal for riders aged 16 years and over. This means that **primary school-aged children are not permitted to ride e-scooters on public roads or paths.**

Penalties apply for non-compliance, including fines for riding under the legal age or riding in prohibited areas.

Given these regulations, students at our school must not ride e-scooters to or from school. This is both a legal requirement and an important measure to ensure the safety of our students and the wider community.

We ask all families to support us by ensuring children travel to and from school using safe and permitted methods, such as walking, cycling (with appropriate safety equipment), or being transported by an adult.



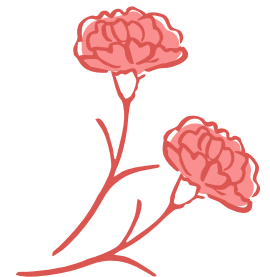
Mother's Day Celebration - Wednesday, 6th May

We warmly invite all mothers and special guests to join us for our Mother's Day celebration on Wednesday, 6th May.

The morning will begin with a Whole School Mass at 9:15am, where we come together in gratitude and reflection to honour the important role mothers and mother figures play in our lives. Following the Mass, guests are invited to the school hall for a special morning tea, providing a lovely opportunity to connect as a community and celebrate together.

To assist us with catering arrangements, we kindly ask families to respond via the Insight Cycle in your Compass account by Friday, 1st May.

We look forward to sharing this meaningful occasion with you and celebrating the wonderful mothers and carers in our school community.



Term 2, 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27 Week 2	28	29 Whole School Mass – Feast of St Catherine @ 9:15am Assembly @ 2:15pm	30	1 May	2	3
4 Week 3	5	6 Whole School Mass – Mother's Day @ 9:15am Eucharist Family Night @ 6:30pm	7 Mother's Day Stall MPSSA District Cross Country	8	9	10
11 Week 4 RACV Road Safety Incursion – Prep	12	13 Year 5 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am Year 3 – 6 Athletics Day Assembly @ 2:15pm	14	15	16	17
18 Week 5 Year 3 Excursion to Melbourne Museum School Advisory Meeting @ 6pm	19	20 Year 4 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am First Eucharist Retreat Day	21	22	23 First Eucharist Presentation & Commitment Mass @ 6:00pm	24
25 Week 6	26	27 Year 3 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am Assembly @ 2:15pm	28	28	30 Sacrament of First Eucharist	31
1 June Week 7	2	3 Year 2 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am	4	5 School Closure Day	6	7
8 Week 8 King's Birthday Day	9 School Closure Day	10 Year 1 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am Whole School Assembly @ 2:15pm	11	12	13	14
15 Week 9	16	17 Year 6 & Prep attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am	18	19	20	21
22 Week 10	23	24 Whole school Mass – Feast of Sacred Heart @ 9:15am	25 End of Term 2	26 School Closure Day	27	28

Child Safe Standard 3

'Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.'

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 Child Safe Standard 3:

To be aligned, schools must support the following:

- Children are informed about all their rights, including safety, information and participation
- The importance of friendship is recognized and support from peers is encouraged
- Where relevant to setting or context, young people are offered access to sexual abuse prevention programs in an age-appropriate way
- Staff are attuned to signs of harm and facilitate child friendly ways for children to express their views, participate in decision making and raise their concerns
- Organisations have strategies to develop a culture that facilitates participation and are responsive to input from children and young people.

The Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards are a set of guidelines that help organisations create safe environments for children and young people.

They make sure that children are protected from harm, listened to, and respected. These standards require organisations to have strong leadership, clear policies, and a culture that puts children first.

As a parent or carer, you can expect organisations to involve families, empower children, train staff properly, and respond to concerns quickly and respectfully.

This standard focuses on empowering children and young people by ensuring they are informed, respected, and actively involved in decisions that affect them. This participation helps build a school culture that is safe for them and values their voice.

What does this look like in a school environment?

- **Creating Opportunities for Student Voice:** We create formal structures such as student councils and leadership programs, but we also include fewer formal opportunities so all students, especially the most vulnerable, can have their voice heard.
- **Acting on Student Feedback:** We listen deeply to what students are telling us and we respond to concerns, suggestions and ideas. This includes making sure students are aware when we have acted on their feedback.
- **Building Staff Capacity:** Our staff receive professional learning, so they understand the importance and benefits of listening to and responding to, student voice. This also includes training for staff regarding how to incorporate student voice, agency and empowerment in their daily interactions and decision making.

How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved!

- **Listen and talk often:** Encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings. Let them know it's always ok to speak up.
- **Talk about rights and safety:** Help your child understand that everyone deserves to feel safe and respected.
- **Be a role model:** Show kindness, respect, and inclusion in everyday life, children learn from what they see.
- **Stay connected with the school:** Take part in conversations or surveys about student wellbeing and safety.
- **Support student voice:** Encourage your child to get involved in school activities where their ideas can make a difference.

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](#).

