



ST CATHERINE OF SIENA NEWSLETTER

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

Term 4, Week 1 9th October 2026

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WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Whole School Colour Fun Run

Get ready to run wild with Monty! It's here - Monty the Monstar Fun Run **Friday, 13th November!**

Jump in now! Set up your child's [My Profile Page](#) – it's quick, easy and super fun.

We also have some amazing bonuses up for grabs:

- Every student gets rainbow sunglasses and a headband!
- The class with the most profiles at the end of week one will win an ice block party!
- Receive donations on four different days and go into the draw to Slime a teacher!

Together, we can achieve amazing results for our school!



Save the Date...

Annual Art Show Opening Night Wednesday, 4th November 4:00pm – 6:00pm

We are excited to invite our school community to celebrate the creative talents of our students at our upcoming Art Show Opening Night! Come along to view the incredible artwork on display and support our young artists.

To stay up to date with all other Term 4 events and important dates, please refer to the school calendar in our newsletter on the school website or check your Compass portal regularly.

Year 6 Graduation Photo

A reminder that the Graduation Photo for all Year 6 students will be taken on Monday, 12th October. All students are required to wear their full summer uniform.



Prep 2027 Transition Program

Students starting school at St Catherine of Siena in 2027 are invited to 3 transition days.

Thursday, 15th October 9:00am - 10:30am

Please bring a recent photo of your child for our Welcome to School display.

Friday, 23rd October 9:00am - 10:30am

Tuesday, 27th October 9:00am - 10:30am

Teddy Bears' Picnic Session - please have your child bring along a teddy bear, small snack and water bottle.

Parent/carer information sessions about school policies, programs and transition will run at the same time as transition sessions.



Swimming Program

Students in Year 1 and Year 2 will be participating in swimming lessons during Term 4 at BlueFit Bacchus Marsh. These 30-minute sessions focus on essential stroke development and water safety skills in accordance with Victorian Curriculum and Health & Physical Education guidelines.

The swimming schedule for Term 4 is as follows:

- Year 1: Week 3
- Year 2: Week 4



Please complete the permission form on Compass prior to the commencement of the program. All students are expected to participate.

School Hats Required

A reminder that all students are required to wear a **school hat** during Term 4. Hats must be worn whilst outside during recess, sport or other outside activities. Students without a hat will be required to stay under sheltered areas.



Term 4, 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12 Week 2 Year 6 Graduation Photo 	13	14 Year 6 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am Whole School Assembly @ 2:15pm 	15 Prep 2027 Transition Session 1 @ 9am – 10:30am	16 	17	18
19 Week 3 Year 1 Swimming Program	20 Year 1 Swimming Program	21 Year 4 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am Year 1 Swimming Program Reconciliation Family Night @ 6:30pm	22 Year 1 Swimming Program	23 Year 1 Swimming Program Prep 2027 Transition Session 2 @ 9am – 10:30am	24 Reconciliation and Presentation Mass @ 6:00pm	25
26 Week 4 Year 2 Swimming Program Prep Firefighter Incursion – Session 1	27 Year 2 Swimming Program Prep 2027 Transition Session 3 @ 9am – 10:30am	28 Year 2 Swimming Program Year 5 Life Saving Excursion Assembly @ 2:15pm 2027 Sacrament Enrolment Night @ 7:00pm	29 Year 2 Swimming Program	30 Year 2 Swimming Program Year 1 Excursion to Fairy Park	31	1 November
2 Week 5 School Closure Day	3 Melbourne Cup	4 Whole School Mass – All Saints & Souls @ 9:15am Prep Firefighter Incursion – Session 2 Art Show Opening	5 Sacrament of Reconciliation @ 6:00pm	6	7	8
9 Week 6	10 *Pre-Prep 2027 Testing Day	11 Year 3 Reconciliation Retreat Day *Assembly @ 2:15pm *Pre-Prep 2027 Testing Day	12 Year 6 ASPIRE Incursion	13 	14	15
16 Week 7 	17	18 *Year 1 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am 	19 Term 4 PSG Meetings	20 Term 4 PSG Meetings	21	22
23 Week 8 Term 4 PSG Meetings	24 Term 4 PSG Meetings	25 Term 4 PSG Meetings Year 4 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am	26 Term 4 PSG Meetings	27	28	29
30 Week 9 *2027 Student Transition Session 1 (Prep – Year 5) *Year 6 Life Saving Excursion	1 December Term 4 PSG Meetings Whole School Carols by Candlelight @ 6pm	2 Year 5 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am Semester 2 Reports Released on Compass	3 Year 6 Big Day Out	4 Parent Helper Afternoon Tea	5	6

Child Safe Standard 8

"Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training."

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven, and legal responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of every student entrusted to our care.

Our commitment to child safety includes equipping all staff and volunteers with the knowledge, skills, and awareness they need to recognise, prevent, and respond to risks of harm. Through ongoing education and training, our school communities foster a culture where safety is central, children's voices are valued, and staff feel confident and capable in promoting wellbeing.

Catholic schools maintain clear policies, procedures, and professional learning programs to support staff and volunteers in their child-safe roles. By embedding child safety knowledge and skills across every aspect of school life, we ensure that children are protected, supported, and nurtured in a safe environment.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they help keep children and young people safe, and how schools governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are prioritising and achieving this.

Overview of the Child Safe Standards:

The Victorian Child Safe Standards are a set of 11 minimum requirements that all organisations working with children must adhere to.

These standards are designed to:

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

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

Child Safe Standard 8 reminds us that children are safest when the adults around them have the right knowledge, skills, and awareness to protect them. As scripture says, "Those with knowledge grow in strength" (Proverbs 24:5). This means that keeping children safe isn't just about having rules or policies, it's about making sure all staff and volunteers receive ongoing training and support. When adults are well-informed and prepared, they can spot risks early, respond appropriately to concerns, and create learning environments where children feel safe, supported, and valued.

Why is it important that staff and volunteers are trained in child safety?

Children are safest when the adults around them know how to recognise risks, respond to concerns, and act in ways that protect their wellbeing. Ongoing training and professional learning help staff and volunteers understand their responsibilities, stay up to date with best practices, and feel confident in keeping children safe. When schools have well-trained staff, they can respond quickly to any concerns, prevent harm before it happens, and build trust with children and families.

Spotlight on Child Safe Standard 8

"Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training."

Child Safe Standard 8 reminds us that keeping children safe depends on adults having the right knowledge, skills, and awareness. Training and ongoing learning help staff and volunteers understand how to recognise risks, respond to concerns, and create safe, supportive environments. When adults are well-prepared, children feel protected, listened to, and valued, and the whole school community grows stronger in keeping safety at the centre of everything we do.

What does this look like?

- **Clear and accessible processes:** We provide simple, child-friendly and family-friendly ways to raise concerns or make complaints, including clear information about who to contact and what to expect.
- **Listening and taking concerns seriously:** All concerns raised by children, parents, carers, staff, or community members are treated with respect and care.
- **Timely and thoughtful responses:** Concerns are responded to promptly and thoroughly, with appropriate action taken to support safety and wellbeing.
- **Appropriate reporting and cooperation:** Where required, concerns are reported to relevant authorities, and the school cooperates fully to ensure children are protected.



How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved:

Child Safe Standard 8 works best when schools, families, and staff work together to ensure children's safety.

Families can help by:

- **Supporting learning at home:** Encourage children to talk about their day, their feelings, and any concerns they may have.
- **Understanding school training initiatives:** Ask about the professional learning programs staff undertake and how they support child safety.
- **Reinforcing safety skills:** Discuss safety and wellbeing practices with your child, helping them recognise trusted adults and safe behaviours.
- **Collaborating with the school:** Engage respectfully with staff, recognising that ongoing training strengthens the school's ability to protect children.

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 resources below to learn more:

The Australian Human Rights Commission offers practical guides, resources and information on how to develop, review and maintain Child Safe Organisations:

[AHRC: Child Safe Organisation Resources](#)

The Federal Government has a National Office for Child Safety; resources on training, education, and implementing child-safe practices under National Principles can be found here:

[National Office for Child Safety](#)

