



ST CATHERINE OF SIENA NEWSLETTER

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

Term 4, Week 3 23rd October 2026

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LUNCH ORDERS COMING SOON!!

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to this week's newsletter!

We have been blessed with some glorious warm weather and as we enjoy the sunshine, I would like to remind families of the importance of ensuring children are dressed appropriately for the warmer conditions.

A reminder of our summer uniform expectations:

- **Full summer uniform** should be worn.
- **School sun hat** must be worn outdoors. Beanies are not appropriate for warm weather.
- **Slip, Slop, Slap!** Please ensure your child has sunscreen applied on warm, sunny days.

Today, we experienced an influx of students visiting sick bay due to overheating. Some students were wearing their winter uniform and did not have a hat. This can become a serious health and safety concern, particularly as temperatures rise. I ask all families to please check that children come to school dressed for the weather and equipped with their school sun hat.

Staffing Update – Year 5

This week, we welcome **Ms Linda Denman**, who will be taking over the teaching responsibilities in 5A while **Mr Mark Warren** takes Long Service Leave. Mark is scheduled to return on Monday, 30th November. During this time, **Ms Shanthi Di Falco** will take on the role of Year 5 Team Leader, while **Ms Leanne Sharpe** will assume Year 4 Team Leadership.

I have every confidence that Linda, Shanthi and Leanne will do a wonderful job in their respective roles. Thank you to each of them for their flexibility and commitment to supporting our students and staff during this time.

Looking Ahead to 2027 – Our Specialist Program

In 2027, we will introduce **Science as a sixth specialist subject** at St Catherine of Siena. This decision reflects our commitment to broadening learning opportunities for students and strengthening our focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Mr Brendan Coleiro will continue to teach ICT and Digital Technologies, while a dedicated Science teacher will deliver our Science program. I am currently in the process of interviewing a preferred candidate for this position and look forward to sharing further news once the appointment has been finalised.

Our specialist program for 2027 will include:

- Physical Education
- Auslan
- Digital Technologies
- Science
- Performing Arts
- Visual Arts

We are excited about the opportunities this expanded program will provide for our students and the ways in which it will enrich their learning experiences.

Farewell and Best Wishes to Nathan Galea

In other news, our much-valued Physical Education teacher, **Mr Nathan Galea**, will be taking on a new role at Christ the King Primary School in Braybrook in 2027. This is an exciting opportunity for Nathan to pursue his professional goals and we wish him every success as he begins this next chapter in his career.

Nathan has made a wonderful contribution to Physical Education at St Catherine of Siena, bringing passion, enthusiasm and expertise to his work with our students. He has helped raise the bar in our PE program and we are grateful for the energy and commitment he has brought to our school community. While we will certainly miss his passion and expertise, we are excited for Nathan and wish him all the very best for the future.

You Asked, We Listened, We Delivered!

One of the wonderful things about our school community is the way our students' voices can lead to positive change! Yesterday, we welcomed Greg Dawson from **TK Tuckshop** to St Catherine of Siena to meet with some of our Year 6 students who have dedicated their passion project to exploring the introduction of a school canteen. Our students had the opportunity to sample a range of hot and cold food options available on the TK Tuckshop menu and learn more about how the service operates.

So, how will it work?

TK Tuckshop is an off-site food service that allows families to order their child's lunch online for delivery to school. Simply download the Spriggy Schools app, browse the menu and place your order! We are excited to share that online ordering will be available in the coming week, with the first deliveries commencing on **Wednesday, 4 November**. For the remainder of 2026, TK Tuckshop will offer cold food options, with warm food options planned to be introduced in 2027.

Further information about accessing the app, ordering and delivery arrangements will be shared with families shortly.

We are delighted to see our students' ideas and initiative helping to shape opportunities within our school community. A big thank you to our Year 6 students for their passion and to Greg and the TK Tuckshop team for working with us to bring this idea to life!

Have a great weekend,
Go gently
Lisa

Prep 2027 Transition Program

The final Transition session for Prep 2027 is on

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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Important Dates

As our Year 3 students continue their sacramental journey, we invite our school community to join together in supporting them through prayer and presence.

Please take note of the following upcoming dates for the Sacrament of Reconciliation:

- Presentation & Commitment Mass: Saturday, 24th October at 6:00pm at St Catherine of Siena Church
- Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday, 5th November 2026 at 6:00pm at St Catherine of Siena Church

We ask our entire school community to keep our Year 3 candidates in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare to take this meaningful next step in their faith journey.

Whole School Colour Fun Run

A big congratulations to Class 3B, who enjoyed a well-deserved icy pole reward today for having the most student profiles created in the school!

Our fundraising is off to a flying start, but it's definitely not too late to join in. You can still create your child's profile online at myprofilepage.com.au and start raising funds. There are awesome prizes up for grabs - raising just \$10 is all it takes to score your very first reward or choose to donate to a great cause. **All students who raise \$20 or more will go into the draw to SLIME a teacher!!!!**



Every bit helps support our school, so keep making those profiles and sharing your fundraising links!

#MontytheMonstar #MontytheMonstarFunRun #AustralianFundraising

School Closure Days

Monday, 2nd November 2026 - School Closed

Tuesday, 3rd November 2026 - Melbourne Cup

2027 Sacrament Enrolment Night

St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School invites families to enrol their Catholic-baptized children in the upcoming 2027 Sacramental Program. This essential faith journey encompasses key milestones in your child's spiritual development, including:

- Year 3: Sacrament of Reconciliation / Penance
- Year 4: Sacrament of First Eucharist
- Year 6: Sacrament of Confirmation

Parish Priest Fr Alex Clemente and Assistant Priest Fr Jeffery Salvador will lead an Information and Enrolment Session where at least one parent or guardian from each participating family is required to attend.

- **Date:** Wednesday, 28th October, 2026
- **Time:** 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- **Location:** Multi Purpose Hall
- **Compass Event RSVP due:** Tuesday, 27th October, 2026

Please look out for the Sacrament Enrolment Form being sent home with your child. Completed forms must be brought to the meeting on Wednesday, 28th October.

Full participation in the preparation process—including the Enrollment Evening, Family Faith Evening, Commitment Mass, and Classroom Religious Education Program—is required to ensure children and families are fully supported.

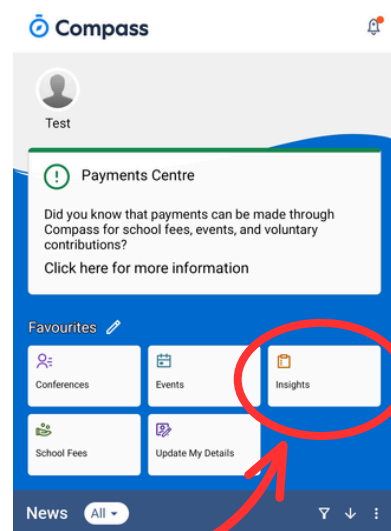
Thank you for your ongoing commitment to nurturing your child's faith journey!

Re-Enrolment for 2027

In order to assist our planning of classes for 2027, we would be grateful if you could indicate your intentions for next year with regards to the enrolment of your child/ren at St Catherine of Siena Primary School. Please note that we need this information URGENTLY, as places for 2027 are very limited and we are continuing to receive a lot of enquiries for enrolments. If we have no response from you, we cannot guarantee that a place will be kept for your child/ren.

Click [here](#) to complete the Compass Insight form or find it in your Compass Portal by opening the Insights module.

Thank you for your co-operation. Please complete the questions as soon as possible.



Year 2 Swimming Program

A reminder that the Year 2 Swimming Program will take place next week Monday, 26th October - Friday, 30th October. Please ensure your child's Compass event permission has been signed.

It is important for your child to come to school well prepared for the program with a towel, underwear, a plastic bag for wet clothes and thongs/slides to wear to and from the pool (school shoes and socks will remain at school). If your child requires goggles or a swimming cap they can bring them also.

2027 School Fees

Next year we will be entering a Tiered Family Fee.

As a result, St Catherine of Siena's School Family Fee for 2027 is as follows:

1 Child	\$1,850
2 Children	\$1,950
3 Children	\$2,050
4 Children	\$2,150
5 Children	\$2,250
6 Children	\$2,350

Each family will pay a Capital Levy of \$300, which provides funds for future capital improvement projects.

Student Curriculum Levy

The Student Levy of \$600 per child (Prep to Year 6), reflects the individual costs associated in engaging each child in their learning experiences and activities. The Student Levy specifically covers costs associated with book lists, curriculum and excursion expenses for each child.

Camping Program

The cost of the 2027 Camping Program is as follows:

Year 3: \$400 Camp Sunnystones, 16th – 17th September, 2027

Year 4: \$400 Lady Northcote - Dates to be Advised

Year 5: \$560 Campaspe Downs ~ The Great Aussie Bush Camp, 13th – 15th October, 2027

Year 6: \$560 YMCA Anglesea, 17th – 19th February, 2027

Swimming Program

The cost of the Swimming Program is inclusive of transport costs and is as follows:

Prep:	\$120 (5 session program)
Year 1:	\$120 (5 session program)
Year 2:	\$120 (5 session program)
Year 3 & 4:	\$0 (onsite program)
Year 5	\$70 (2 day program)
Year 6	\$70 (2 day program)

Technology Fee

The cost of the Technology Resourcing Program is as follows:

Prep:	\$110
Year 1:	\$110
Year 2:	\$110
Year 3:	\$110
Year 4:	\$110
Year 5	\$110
Year 6	\$110

2026 ART SHOW

Please join us in Celebrating our students Art Work at St Catherine of Siena

This years theme is 'We are all just Travellers here'.

Wednesday 4th November
4pm to 6pm

The opening speeches will be held in the hall at 4pm



Artwork displayed throughout the main building.
Tea & Coffee will be served in the Atrium.

Term 4, 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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 TK Tuckshop Begins Whole School Mass – All Saints & Souls @ 9:15am Prep Firefighter Incursion – Session 2 Art Show Opening	5 Year 4 Intersection Excursion 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 Library Closed for Stocktake	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 Prep attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am	3 Term 4 PSG Meetings	4 Term 4 PSG Meetings	5	6
7 Week 10 *2027 Student Transition Session 2 (Prep – Year 5)	8	9 Year 5 attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am Semester 2 Reports Released on Compass	10 Year 6 Big Day Out	11 Parent Helper Afternoon Tea	12	13
14 Week 11 Year 6 Graduation & Presentation @ 6:00pm	15 Whole School End of Year Mass @ 9:15am Last Day of Term 4 Students Dismissed @ 3:15pm	16 School Closure Day	17 School Closed	18 School Closed	19	20



Parent/Carer Newsletter

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Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

Working together for Child Safety

Child Safe Standard 9

"Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed."

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 creating and maintaining safe physical spaces and responsible online environments where children can learn, play, and connect with confidence. This means thoughtfully designing school spaces, supervising activities, and using digital technologies in ways that protect children's dignity, privacy, and wellbeing.

By actively identifying and reducing risks in both physical and online settings, our schools foster environments where children feel safe, supported, and able to thrive. Child safety is not only reflected in policies, but in everyday practices, supervision, and decision-making across the school community.

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.

As Pope Francis reminds us, "Safeguarding minors and vulnerable persons must be a priority for everyone in the Church" (May 5, 2023). Child Safe Standard 9 reflects this call by emphasising that children are safest when the environments around them, both physical and online, are intentionally designed to protect and support them. Grounded in our Catholic mission, this standard invites us to act with care, vigilance, and responsibility, so that every child experiences school as a place of safety, dignity, and belonging.

Why are safe physical and online environments important?

Children spend a significant part of their lives at school and online. When school spaces, and digital platforms, are well designed, appropriately supervised, and used responsibly, risks are reduced and wellbeing is strengthened.

Safe environments help prevent harm before it occurs and ensure children feel secure, respected, and confident to participate fully in learning and relationships. This includes balancing safety with children's rights to privacy, access to information, social connection, and learning opportunities.

Working together for Child Safety



Why is it important to identify and manage risks?

Proactively identifying and managing risks helps schools respond early to potential concerns and prevent unsafe situations from developing. When risks are recognised and addressed thoughtfully, children are better protected and supported, and families can trust that safety is a priority.

Spotlight on Child Safe Standard 9

"Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed."

Child Safe Standard 9 focuses on how school environments; classrooms, playgrounds, excursions, camps, and digital spaces - are designed, supervised, and used. When schools take a proactive approach to safety in all environments, children feel secure, confident, and supported to learn and grow.

What does this look like?

- **Safe physical spaces:** School buildings, playgrounds and facilities are designed and maintained to reduce risks and promote wellbeing.
- **Appropriate supervision:** Staff actively supervise students during school activities, breaks, excursions and events.
- **Responsible use of technology:** Clear expectations guide the safe and respectful use of online platforms and digital tools.
- **Risk management planning:** Schools identify and manage risks linked to activities, settings and environments.
- **Working with others safely:** When schools engage third-party providers or facilities, child safety is prioritised through clear procurement and safety requirements.

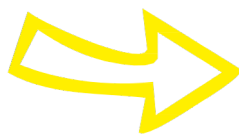


How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved:

Child Safe Standard 9 works best when schools, families, and staff work together to ensure children's safety.

Families can help by:

- **Talking with your child:** Encourage conversations about school, friendships, and online experiences.
- **Supporting safe online behaviour:** Discuss digital safety, privacy, and respectful online communication at home.
- **Raising concerns early:** Contact the school if you notice anything that may affect your child's safety or wellbeing.
- **Partnering with the school:** Work collaboratively with staff to support safe environments for all children.



Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we support child safety, please contact your school directly. More information about the Child Safe Standards is available through the [Commission for Children and Young People \(CCYP\)](#).

Additional Resources

The e-Safety Commission has a huge amount of resources designed to support and assist parents with issues related to online safety, including Webinars, toolkits, FAQs about Social Media, Gaming and many many more, these can be found here:

[e-Safety Commission - Parents Resources](#)

The Australian Government Signals Directorate also provides a significant amount of information and guidance for parents regarding cyber safety; these resources can be found here:

[ASD: Protect your Family](#)

