



Caring for Self, Caring for Others, Caring for the Environment

St Joseph's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

The little school
with a big heart

4-8 Raymond Street
Orbost VIC 3888
<https://www.stjorbost.catholic.edu.au>

Term 4 - 28th November

Issue No. 17



Email: admin@stjorbost.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 03 5154 1289

Student Report— Bree and Winter

In Art, Miss Jenny has been teaching us how to print things on paper using foam templates. It is so cool to do it. In RE we have been doing Liquid pictures, number stories and echo mimes to tell the Christmas story. The year preps, ones and twos have been learning 1d, 2d, and 3d, making hamster maze's, writing poems whilst letting their light shine. Wow they have been busy bees in the classroom and it is so clean. Council members came to talk about the postcards we had written to them. In maths the year 4,5,6s have been doing division. This school is so amazing you should definitely come if u like fun.

Upcoming Reminders

- Tuesday 2nd December, Year 6 students full day transition OCC
- Wednesday 3rd December Foundation Transition 9:00am to 1:40 pm
- Wednesday 3 December Year 6 students full day transition OCC
- Thursday 4th December, Year 6 students full day transition OCC
- Monday 8th December Christmas Concert & Dinner 5.30pm
- Wednesday 10th November Year 6 Graduation Mass 12pm
- Friday 12th December Swim fun day TBC

Reminders

Christmas Concert and BBQ Invites

Please make sure you have returned the invite information by 1st December to Amanda, for our end of year Concert so we can cater accordingly.

Library Books:

Please begin to return all borrowed library books. Mrs Saunders is currently reorganising the library and preparing for another exciting year of reading and learning.



Good afternoon **Parents, Guardians, and Carers,**

As we approach December, it's incredible to reflect on how quickly this year has flown by! In these final weeks, teachers are busy finalising student reports and Seesaw posts, showcasing the incredible progress your child/ren has made throughout the year.

This is an exciting time of year as we begin farewelling our Year 6 students and finalising class configurations and staffing for 2026. We wish our Year 6s all the very best as they prepare for their transition to secondary college with full days at OCC on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

The **Graduation Mass** will take place on **Wednesday 10th December at 12:00 pm**, and we warmly invite everyone to join us for this special celebration. Following the Mass, we will move to the hall for the **Graduates' Farewell Lunch and Presentation**, where we will honor and celebrate the achievements of our graduating students.

Our 2026 student leaders have already submitted their design ideas for the Year 6 T-shirts. We look forward to finalising the design soon and will send out order forms once everything is confirmed.

The wreaths our students created this week were absolutely incredible. The creativity and talent on display were truly impressive, and many students were excited to take their beautiful work home. We certainly have some very gifted young artists at St Joseph's — we could almost take orders!

Our class structures for 2026

- **Mackillop Class**—Years Foundation to Year 3
Classroom teachers: Ms Jill Dunphy and Ms Jenny Miralles (Monday)
- **Francis Class**—Years 4 to Years 6
Classroom teacher: Mrs Christiane Bromilow (visiting the school on 16th December)

Warm regards,

Kirsten Daly
Principal

Awesome news for Bryce— A future in teaching!

Sion House in Warragul, welcomed this week 25 Learning Support Officers (LSOs) from our Catholic schools who are taking a major step towards becoming qualified teachers. The group is the second intake to be selected for our innovative Accelerated Bachelor of Education (Primary) program.

The group attended a welcome and induction event in Warragul where they were greeted by Mr Paul Velten - Executive Director of Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Limited (DOSCEL) and Associate Professor Damien Lyons - Deputy Chair of Education, Swinburne University of Technology.

The three-year Accelerated Bachelor of Education (Primary) program is a DOSCEL sponsored study initiative.

The partnership between DOSCEL and Swinburne University of Technology aims to address the pressing issue of teacher shortages by tailoring a teacher education program specifically for current Education Support staff working in Catholic schools within our Diocese.

This group will commence the program in January 2026. Join us in wishing them well on their study journey. Congratulations Bryce, we are looking forward to supporting you in your journey!



Kitchen Garden - Chow Mein



Mackillop class did a awesome job of preparing the kitchen prep area, cutting up the ingredients and tasting the Chow Mein for lunch, then cleaning up.



Caring for ourselves

Caring for Others

Caring for the environment

Has anyone noticed the 3 new additions to the front of the school wall, they look awesome and help us to remember to Care for Ourselves, Care for others and Care for our Environment every day. Thank you to Matt and Farrah for putting these up for us.

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS ...
Lost minutes mean lost learning!

When your child misses just ...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Prep to Year 12, that is ...
10 minutes a day	50 minutes of learning time each week	Nearly 1½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ year of school
20 minutes a day	1 hour and 40 minutes of learning each week	Nearly 2½ weeks per year	Nearly a year of school
1/2 an hour a day	½ a day of learning each week	4 weeks a year	Nearly 1½ years of learning of learning
1 hour a day	1 whole day of learning each week	8 weeks per year or nearly a term a year	Over 2½ years of learning

Your child's best learning time is at the beginning of the day...

School starts at 9.00 AM
DON'T BE LATE!

Good time keeping means making sure that your child is at school and ready to learn BEFORE the school bell rings!





SPECIAL REPORT: Embracing Change & New Beginnings



Periods of change are an inevitable part of growing up. Whether it's the start of a new school year, moving between year levels, or stepping beyond the school gates for the final time, each transition presents both opportunities and challenges. These moments often require young people to use and strengthen the skills needed to manage uncertainty, adjust to new environments and build resilience. While some may embrace change with enthusiasm, others can find it unsettling and disruptive to their sense of routine and security.

Research consistently shows that transitions can be stress points, often linked to heightened anxiety, reduced academic engagement and changes in peer connections. For families, these times can also place additional pressure on communication, expectations and emotional regulation. Understanding the psychological and emotional impact of change allows parents, caregivers and educators to better support young people as they adjust.

The ability to manage change is closely tied to resilience. Developing this capacity doesn't happen overnight; it is built over time through consistent guidance, clear boundaries and access to supportive adults. When we work together to create a shared understanding of how to support transitions, students are more likely to feel confident, connected and capable.

Change can be challenging, but it also offers valuable opportunities for growth. By normalising these experiences and keeping the lines of communication open, young people can feel more secure during times of transition. When schools and families work together to provide encouragement, reassurance and structure, it creates a strong foundation that helps students not only adapt to new beginnings but approach them with confidence and curiosity.

Christmas Wreath Making





Birthdays

Happy Birthday to these students and staff who celebrated their birthdays recently and in the coming weeks:

December

8th—Jack

17th—Vern

19th—Amanda

26th—Isaac

St Colman's Parish

St Colman's & St Brendan's Catholic Church - Mass Times



Tuesdays: St Brendan's Lakes Entrance
9:30am
Wednesdays : St Colman's Orbost
9:30am
Fridays: St Brendan's Lakes Entrance
9:30am
Saturdays: Once a month
St Dymphna's Buchan Check website
1st, 3rd, 5th wks.
St Joseph's Swan Reach 5:00pm
Sundays: St Brendan's Lakes Entrance
9:00am
St Colman's Orbost 11:00am



Prayers for our Community

Prayer for Students

Lord, Our God,

in your wisdom and love you surround us with the mysteries of the universe. Send your spirit upon these students and fill them with your wisdom and blessings. Grant that they may devote themselves to their studies and draw ever closer to you, the source of all knowledge. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Term dates

Term 4: Tuesday 7th October - Thursday 18th December

Term Calendar

November 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30						1
2 Week 5	3 10 School Closure Day	4 Melb Cup Holiday	5 Foundation Transition 9-10:00	6	7 Lakes Aquadrome Swimming	8
9 Week 6	10	11 Remembrance day	12 2026 Foundation Transition 9-11.00	13	14 Lakes Aquadrome Swimming Newsletter	15
16 Week 7	17	18	19 2026 Foundation Transition 9-11:00	20	21 Lakes Aquadrome Swimming	22
23 Week 8	24	25	26 2026 Foundation Transition 9-12.30	27	28 Newsletter	29

Parents & Friends Association

Social News

Have an idea, send us an email!

Fundraising

Next meeting

December 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Week 9	1	2 Yr 6 OSC transition-Full day	3 Yr 6 OSC transition-Full Day 2026 Foundation Transition 9-1:40	4 Yr 6 OSC transition-Full Day	5	6
7 Week 10	8 Christmas Concert & Dinner	9	10 Yr 6 Graduation Mass 12pm	11	12 Newsletter	13
14 Week 11	15	16	17	18 Last day of school, Finish at 3:15pm	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



SPECIAL REPORT: New Social Media Regulations

From 10 December 2025, age-restricted social media platforms will have to take reasonable steps to prevent Australians under the age of 16 from creating or keeping an account. This landmark reform marks a major step forward in addressing growing concerns about the impact of social media on children's mental health and development.

These changes aim to create a safer, more balanced digital environment by shifting responsibility back onto social media platforms to verify user ages and reduce exposure to harmful content. For many families, this is a welcome and long-awaited move that recognises mounting evidence linking early social media use with anxiety, poor sleep, body image concerns and reduced wellbeing.

While regulation is an important milestone, it cannot replace parental guidance. Families continue to play a vital role in helping children navigate the online world with awareness and confidence. This is an opportunity to review technology use at home, set healthy boundaries and start open conversations about digital behaviour. By understanding what these new regulations mean and why they matter, parents and caregivers can feel empowered to support their children's online safety and wellbeing through this period of change.

To stay informed about how these laws will work in practice, visit the [eSafety Commissioner](#) website for updates, tools and guidance.

You can also download the [SchoolTV Family Tech Agreement](#) to help your family set clear expectations around technology use.

Or, access our [step-by-step guide](#) showing young people how to download and save their social media data before regulations take effect.

These documents can be found at the bottom of this webpage, alongside the **KEYpoints Flyer**.

“Together, let's make the internet a safer, more positive place”.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Join us for

Orbost Community Christmas Carols

Sunday 7 December
at 6:00 PM

St. Andrews Uniting Church

Supper to Follow
Please bring a plate to share



THE VICAR'S Bush Christmas

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER
STALL HOLDERS WANTED
Please contact
★ Bevil on 0417 355 930

St. James Hall
Browning St
Orbost



ORBOST intensive SWIM PROGRAM

30 MINUTE LESSONS HELD EACH DAY OVER 10 CONSECUTIVE DAYS, MONDAY TO FRIDAY

Monday 24 – Friday 28 November
Monday 1 – Friday 5 December

COST: \$120

On confirmation of booking a \$20 deposit will be required to secure your child's spot

Enrolments due Friday 14 November 2025



6 Sylvia Street, Orbost
P (03) 51 54 1504
www.lakesaquadome.com.au

 **Orbost Town Landcare**

Picnic In The Rainforest

Join us for a delightful date:
Fun, food, and festivities!

What to Expect:

- ✓ BYO Picnic Baskets, Drinks, Chair
- ✓ Art Walk
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Relaxation
- ✓ Cut The Rainforest Cake
- ✓ New Map and Brochures

 **Sat, Dec 6th, 2025**
6-8pm

 **Orbost Rainforest Centre**



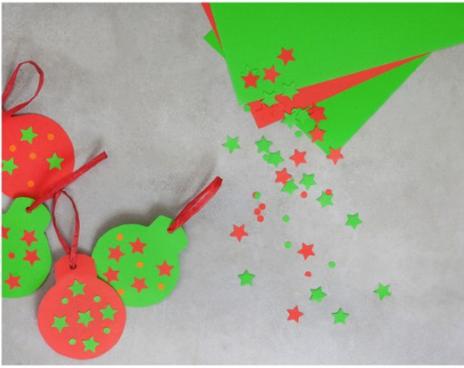
COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE | BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL | AGES 5-12



Christmas Craft

After School Craft Activity



Join us for some Christmas fun!

Get into the holiday spirit with our After School Christmas Craft session at the library! This fun, festive workshop is perfect for kids to express their creativity while making a range of Christmas crafts.

Whether it's getting crafty or simply just listening to a Chrissy story there's something for everyone.

*Available crafts are assorted

Bairnsdale Library
Tuesday 16 December
4.00 pm - 5.00 pm

Lakes Entrance Service Centre
Tuesday 16 December
3.30 pm - 4.30 pm

Orbost Service Centre
Thursday 18 December
3.45 pm - 4.45 pm

Paynesville Service Centre
Thursday 4 December
3.30 pm - 4.30 pm

Omeo Service Centre
Thursday 11 December
3.30 pm - 4.30 pm

Mallacoota Service Centre
Wednesday 17 December
3.30 pm - 4.30 pm

Book Now
At your library
5152 4225

www.trybooking.com/eventlist/eastgippslandshirelibraries
Scan the QR code



Orbost Aqua Playgroup

ONLY \$6.70 PER SESSION

Every Wednesday
9.30am - 10.30am

(*when forecast temp is 24°C or above)
Ages: 6 months to preschool

Fun-Filled Baby-Parent Activities Guided by a Qualified Infant Instructor That Builds Your Baby's Familiarity With Water and Provides Social Interaction.

Orbost Outdoor Pool, 6 Sylvia Street **5154 1504**



COOKING CLASS

Using the whole chicken



Each week participants will be creating Risotto and Rasta Pasta dish, traditional Caesar salad and Vietnamese rice paper rolls using up a whole chicken.

These classes are perfect to learn how to stretch your weekly budget without sacrificing flavour.

Classes will be held on Mondays from 4.30pm-6.30pm at Orbost Secondary College.

Book ONE of the following dates, a \$20 deposit is paid at time of booking:

- 3rd November
- 17th November
- 1st December
- 15th December

Scan QR Code to Register for one of the available dates

All participants who attend will take home ingredients to recreate the meals you learn for their family and receive a \$20 Orbost Chamber of Commerce Gift Card.

Preference will be given to Concession Card Holders.

All participants will be contacted by The Orbost Neighbourhood House team to complete a registration form for the programs.

