



The little school
with a big heart

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<https://www.stjorbost.catholic.edu.au>

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

St Joseph's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Term 1 – 27th January 2026

Issue No. 1



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back2school prayer

"Dear Lord, use my eyes to *see* new friends.

Open my ears to *hear* my teacher.

Open my mind to *learn* new things.

Let my heart *remember* YOU are near
when I'm afraid.

Help me to *love* others like you do.

I want to *shine* your light
so bright in my school."

© Courtney DeFeo

Amen.

Upcoming Reminders

- 29th Jan Students back at school
- Class newsletter out
- 5 Feb Toddler Gym 10am—12pm Hall
- 12 Feb Toddler Gym
- **Swimming Carnival** Volunteer Forms return



A Message from the Principal

Welcome to the start of a brand-new school year! There is a unique kind of magic in these first few days—the crispness of new notebooks, the reunions of old friends, and the quiet buzz of potential that fills every classroom. Whether you are a returning family or joining our community for the very first time, we are thrilled to have you with us. Welcome 'Lily Richards' in year 2 and 'Darius Mathews' in year 5.

Our focus this year is on "**Building Connection**," ensuring that every student feels seen, supported, and inspired to take bold steps in their learning. Education is a partnership, and we are eager to work alongside you to make this year a transformative one for our students. Let's make it a year of growth, curiosity, and kindness.

Tips for a smooth first few weeks:

- **Establish Routines:** Help your child settle in by keeping consistent sleep and morning schedules.
- **Stay Informed:** Keep a close eye on the school calendar for upcoming events, with the first one 'Swimming Carnival'. A volunteer Expression of Interest form went out last night and we would love to see you
- **Open Channels:** Don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher with any questions—early communication is key!

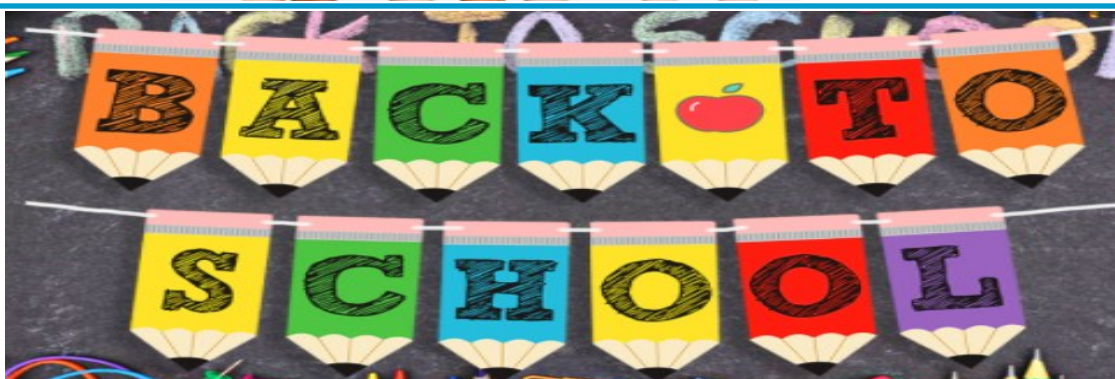
Communication & Reporting Updates

As we settle into the new term, I want to share a few updates regarding how we will keep you informed:

- **Fortnightly Newsletters:** To help you stay ahead of school events, our newsletters will now be sent out every **Wednesday afternoon on odd-numbered weeks** (*next few: 11th Feb, 25th Feb*)
- **SIMON /PAM Support:** Next week, we will distribute detailed information regarding our parent communication platforms, **SIMO/PAM**. We recognise that some families experienced technical hurdles or connectivity issues late last year; this guide is designed to ensure everyone is fully supported and reconnected for 2026.
- **A New Look for Student Reporting:** Our team is currently developing a refreshed format for reporting your child's progress each semester. We are excited to move toward a style that offers deeper insight into student growth, and we look forward to sharing more details as we approach the end of the term.

Warm regards,

Kirsten Daly
Principal.





Whole School Approach to Positive Behavior

3 C's—Students in action

Caring for ourselves

Caring for Others

Caring for the environment



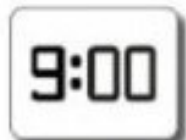
EVERY MINUTE COUNTS ...

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!

**VIC KIDS
EAT WELL**



Birthdays

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

January

11th — Aralee

February

No one has a birthday in February.

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



A Prayer for Community

God, thank You for creating us to live in community with one another. I'm grateful that we don't have to go through life alone, and we can trust and rely on each other during life's challenges. Please provide me with people who will pray for me during hard times and celebrate with me during good times. In Jesus' name, Amen.

YouVersion

Term dates

Term 1 : Thursday 29th January—Thursday 2nd April

Term Calendar

January 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Office open and Staff back to school Planning Day	28 First day back to school for Students	29	30	31

February 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Week 2	2	3	4	5 Toddler Gym 10- 12pm	6	7
8 Week 3	9	10	11	12 Toddler Gym 10- 12pm Swimming Carnival	13	14
15 Week 4	16	17 Shrove Tues- day & Project com- passion launch	18 Ash Wednes- day	19 Toddler Gym 10- 12pm	20 Bishop Greg's visit to bless Dove	21
22 Week 5	23	24	25	26 Toddler Gym 10- 12pm	27	28 Clean Up Australia Day

Parents &
Friends
Association

Social News

Have an idea,
send us an email!

Fundraising

Next meeting

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES FOR 2026

Curriculum Dates/Learner Free Dates

As education is an evolving process staff need ongoing Professional Development to keep abreast of educational developments. During the year there will be a number of School Closure Days to enable this to take place. All School Closure Days are approved by the Catholic Education Office.

Term 1 dates: 29th January to 2nd April

Tuesday 27th & Wednesday 28th January - Staff Planning/Curriculum professional learning- No students

Tuesday 3rd March - Curriculum Planning - No students

Monday 9th March -Labour Day holiday - No school

Term 2 dates: 20th April to 26th June

Friday 5th June - Time in Lieu School Closure Day

Monday 8th June - Kings Birthday Public Holiday

Tuesday 9th June - Curriculum Planning Days - No Students

Term 3 dates: 13th July to 18th September

Monday 24th August -Catholic Identity & Religious Education / Indigenous Culture - No Students

Tuesday 8th September - Curriculum Planning Day - No students

Monday 5th October- Curriculum Planning - No Students

Term 4 dates: Students start Tuesday 6th October to 16th December

Monday 2nd November - Time in Lieu School Closure Day

Tuesday 3rd November—Melbourne Cup Public Holiday– No school

Thursday 17th December- Curriculum Planning - No Students

Friday 18th December- Time in Lieu School Closure Day

