



Newsletter

St. Vincent de Paul Primary School
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Reflection



The following reading is from this coming Sunday.

Matthew 17:1-9

His face shone like the sun

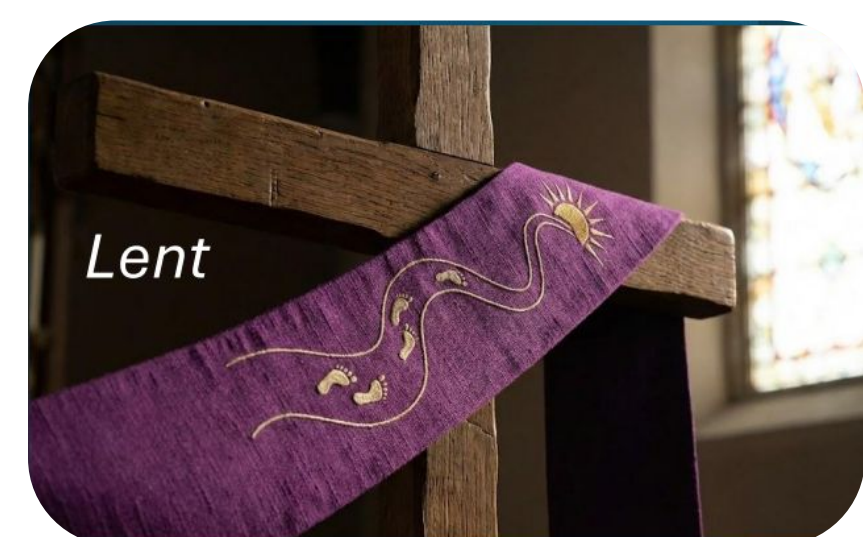
Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.'

When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order, 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

Lent

This coming Sunday is the Second Sunday of Lent, and Pope Leo XIV has shared many messages of hope. One of these invites us to fast from hurtful words and to speak with kindness, compassion and care. As we open our hearts to others and listen with love, we remember those in our world who long to be heard, supported and uplifted.

Through our Lenten journey and our support of Caritas Australia, may our words, prayers and generosity bring hope, dignity and love to those most in need.



Principal: Shane Byrne
Email: principal@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr Nhan Le
Email: strathmore@cam.org.au
Website: www.stmonicasparish.com.au

PARISH OFFICE
 22 Robinson Street
 Moonee Ponds 3039
Telephone: 9370 5035

Acting Principal's Message

It has been a great start to the school year, with so much learning already taking place alongside the establishment of important routines and expectations. Classrooms are buzzing with curiosity, new friendships are forming, and students are settling confidently into the rhythm of school life. It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and positive energy across the school as everyone embraces our school theme: Step by Step, We Grow.

PREP / YR 6 BBQ

It was unfortunate that due to the inclement weather on Tuesday the Prep/Yr 6 BBQ needed to be postponed. A huge thank you to the Parents Association, in particular, the Year 1 Reps for your understanding and support with the decision. Please note that the new date for the Prep/Year 6 BBQ will take place on **TUESDAY 17th MARCH, from 6pm-8pm in the Senior Yard.** We look forward to seeing the Prep and Year 6 children and their families at this event.

EARLY LEAVERS POLICY

Last year the school published the Early Leavers Policy to support the implementation of the Vision for Instruction, which the school began to implement in 2024. One of the main reasons for this policy is to minimise interruptions to the learning time, particularly children leaving early from school. In collaboration with the School Advisory Council and the staff, the school has outlined reasons children would be permitted to leave school early and reasons which would not be considered appropriate to leave school early. A reminder to parents to please submit the Audiri form either the day prior or on the morning your child will be leaving early. This ensures both the classroom teacher and office staff are informed and prepared for the early departure. Please find attached to this newsletter the Early Leavers Policy.

UNIFORMS

Now that we are into Week 5 of the term it is expected that all children be wearing all elements of the school uniform. If a child is not in school uniform, parents are required to notify the classroom teacher if the uniform code cannot be adhered to for any reason. For safety reasons no jewellery is to be worn to school e.g. bracelets, rings and necklaces. Earrings - Students may wear plain, small sleepers or studs, but no more than one per ear lobe. Nail polish is not to be worn to school.

CLOSURE DAY

A reminder that the school will be closed next Wednesday, March 4. TheirCare will be running a program for those parents who require this service.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

A reminder that this year's school photos are scheduled to be taken on Wednesday March 18 for individual and class photos and Tuesday March 24 for sibling photos. Children are expected to be in full summer uniform on these days. Should your child have PE/sport on the day, we ask that they bring their runners to change into and not wear the sports uniform.

LEARNING CONFERENCES

This year the Learning Conferences will be held on Tuesday March 31 and will be an opportunity for parents to receive feedback on their children's progress. Children are expected to attend the learning conferences with their parent(s). These conferences are an opportunity for students and teachers to identify how children are progressing in their learning. The children in Year P-2 will attend the conferences with their parents and the teacher will facilitate the meeting. The children in Years 3-6 will also attend the conference and will facilitate the first part of the meeting, with the teacher facilitating the second part. The school will be closed on this day with the Learning Conferences beginning at 11:00am and concluding at 6:00pm. Please look out for details on how to book in for your child's Learning Conference, which will be sent out via Audiri next week.

SWIMMING SPORTS

Today the children participated in the Swimming Sports carnival at Oak Park Pool. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day and it was great to see all of the cheering and support for one another throughout the day. A huge thank you to all our parent helpers, staff and Mr Igoe for the work involved in making the day such a successful event. Congratulations to Parker House for receiving the Team Spirit Award and to O'Shea House for achieving the highest total of points for the day.



PARISH PICNIC

This Sunday 1st March the St. Vincent de Paul Parish warmly invites all families to attend Mass at 9:30am and a picnic afterwards (10:30am onwards) at the St. Columban's gardens, located across the road from the Church. Please also bring along any small sports equipment (soft balls) or games that the children would like to play with. We look forward to this being a wonderful community event.

LINK TO PARISH BULLETIN

Please see below for a link to the St. Vincent de Paul, Strathmore and St. Monica's Moonee Ponds parish bulletin.

<https://www.stmonicasparish.com.au/newsletter.html>

Laura Petrie

ACTING PRINCIPAL

“St Vincent de Paul School empowers students to become lifelong learners facing life with faith, hope, humility and resilience.”

Learning Diversity & Student Wellbeing

HARMONY DAY - Friday 20th March

On **Friday 20th March**, our school community will come together to celebrate **Harmony Day**, a day that recognises and celebrates Australia’s rich cultural diversity. Harmony Day is a reminder that *everyone belongs* and that our differences make us stronger, kinder and more vibrant as a community.

Harmony Day coincides with the United Nations’ International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and, here in Australia, it is marked by the message: **“Everyone Belongs.”** It is a time for us to reflect on the many cultures, languages, traditions and stories that make up our school and to celebrate the respect, inclusion and friendship we share.

Wear a Touch of Orange

Students are invited to wear a **touch of orange** with their school uniform on Friday 20th March. Orange is the official colour of Harmony Day and represents social communication, meaningful conversations and mutual respect. A ribbon, socks, hair accessory, t-shirt or any small splash of orange is welcome!

What We’ll Be Doing

Throughout the day, classes will participate in activities that promote:

- Understanding and respect for different cultures
- Celebrating family heritage and traditions
- Exploring what belonging means in our school
- Acts of kindness and inclusion

As a Catholic school community, Harmony Day also connects deeply with our Gospel values. We are reminded in Galatians 3:28 that *“We are all one in Christ Jesus.”* We celebrate the dignity of every person and strive to ensure that each child feels seen, valued and welcomed.

Let us continue to build a community where every voice matters and every child knows they belong.

We look forward to celebrating Harmony Day together!



Rebecca Glenton and Will Kingston
Learning Diversity and Student Wellbeing Leaders

Sports News

AFTER SCHOOL AUSKICK PROGRAM

The after school Auskick program begins on Thursday 5th March 2026. This is an opportunity for children who are interested in participating in 4 sessions at school on a Thursday from 3:30-4:30pm. The clinic will be run by members of AFL Victoria. See flyer or link below for information on how to register for the sessions. Looking forward to seeing as many numbers as 2025!

<https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/611019>



DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Congratulations to all of the students who represented the school at the District Swimming Carnival yesterday. Everyone gave their best in each of their given events and even came away with a few ribbons too! Well done team!



Daniel Igoe
Sports / PE Co-ordinator

2026 Project Compassion



Our school is proudly supporting Project Compassion, the annual Lenten initiative of Caritas Australia. This program invites us to live out the values of Lent through compassion, generosity and solidarity, standing against poverty and injustice both in Australia and around the world.

Students are learning about the challenges faced by others and responding through prayer, action and fundraising. We are currently collecting donations in our Project Compassion boxes and encourage families to support this important Lenten cause.

Who are Caritas Australia?

Caritas Australia is the Catholic Church’s international aid and development organisation. Their work is inspired by the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching, calling us to live with compassion, justice and love for others.

Grounded in the example of Jesus who, after forty days in the desert, chose light, love and freedom Caritas continues this mission by working to bring about positive change in the world. Their vision is justice, dignity and hope for all people and for all of God’s creation, especially for the most vulnerable.



2026 Schedule of School Fees & Levies

PER ANNUM FAMILY FEE

(Billed over 3 Terms)

	1 Child	2 Child	3 Child	4 Child
	\$3860	\$3960	\$4010	\$4060
Term 1	\$966	\$1000	\$1016	\$1033
Term 2	\$967	\$1000	\$1017	\$1033
Term 3	\$967	\$1000	\$1017	\$1034
Maintenance Levy	\$210	\$210	\$210	\$210
Capital Levy	\$750	\$750	\$750	\$750

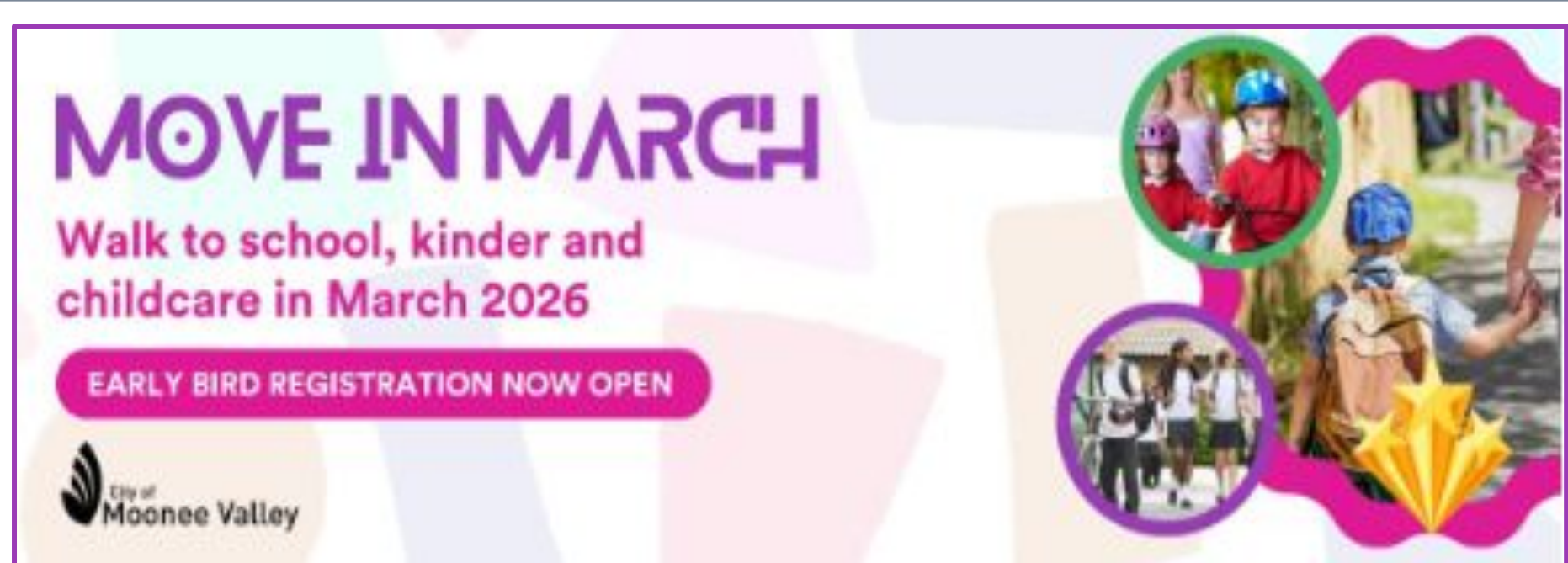
INDIVIDUAL STUDENT LEVY

(Covers classroom requisites, books and excursions)

Book Levy	\$105
Prep	\$470
Year One	\$470
Year Two	\$470
Year Three	\$470
Year Four	\$470
Year Five	\$470
Year Six	\$530

If you have any questions about the school fees and levies, please contact Liz Piccione (lpiccione@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au). If you have any concerns about your financial situation and are experiencing hardship, please contact Mr Shane Byrne (principal@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au), so that a confidential financial arrangement can be discussed.

2026 Move in March



Next month, we are participating in Move in March, presented by Moonee Valley Council. With over 8000 students registered already, thousands of families are taking up the challenge by walking, scooting, cycling or skating to and from school as many times as possible during March for the chance to win awesome prizes. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

We look forward to celebrating the class who have the most walkers, riders or scooters each Monday at Assembly with the Golden Boot Trophy.

2026 School Photos

School photos will be taken on **Wednesday 18th March** for class/individual photos and **Tuesday 24th March** for sibling photos at St. Vincent de Paul Primary School. Please note that your child is required to come to school in their **full Summer school uniform**. If your child has Physical Education on this day, please place their runners into their school bag for them to change into. Please see the information below on how to order your child’s school photos.

order your school photos now

to order visit: www.advancedlife.com.au
 enter code: **DY9 RG7 NXP**

scan to order

2026 Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the cost of school trips, camp and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested **CONCESSION CARD** or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student is **\$400** per primary school student.

We would encourage all parents who do have a concession card to apply for this benefit as, apart from receiving the CSEF payment, it also impacts on the school student funding.

For more information you can visit the CSEF website: [CSEF Information](#). Application forms are available on the website.

If you have applied, or would like to apply, please advise the school office (info@svstrathmore.catholic.edu.au).

Applications must be submitted to the school by 26th June 2026.

Carnevale Italian Day - Tuesday 28th April

We are excited to announce that on **Tuesday 28th April** our school will be celebrating **Carnevale Italian Day!**

Carnevale is a vibrant and colourful celebration traditionally held in Italy before Lent. Cities such as Venice and Viareggio are famous for their spectacular parades, elaborate costumes and beautiful masks. There are many other cities around the world that celebrate Carnevale also, like Goa in India, New Orleans in USA, Rio Janeiro in Brazil, Cologne in Germany and Nice in France. It is a final hurrah before the restrictions of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday. During the celebrations, which can last from a day to a month, revelers are free to eat, drink, and dance before the solemnity of Lent.

On the day, students are invited to come to school dressed in an appropriate **costume of their choice**, (the concept of Carnevale is that you are someone else for the day). They may create a **fantasy costume**, dress as a favourite character, or come as anything they like! (no toy weapons please). There is no need to hire or purchase a costume. If they prefer, students can also dress in the colours of the Italian flag - **green, white and red**. Students will have the opportunity to make their own mask at school.

Some of the activities that students will participate in throughout the day include:

- Mask making
- A festive Carnevale mask parade
- An Italian-themed scavenger hunt
- Watch a theatrical performance
- Dancing
- Playing bocce



This special day will be a wonderful opportunity for students to immerse themselves in Italian culture while practising their language skills in a fun and meaningful way. We look forward to a joyful and colourful celebration of Carnevale together!

Grazie for your support.

Signorina Tania Barbati

2026 Concessional School Fee Policy

Please continue reading to understand if you are eligible for discounted school fees under the 2026 Concessional School Fee Policy (including Health Care Card holders).

CONCESSIONAL SCHOOL FEE POLICY – 2026

- 1 child family \$810 per annum**
 - 2 child family \$1,240 per annum**
 - 3+ child family \$1,620 per annum**
- (Excluding any camp charges)**

The following families are encouraged to apply for concessional school fees as outlined in the newly introduced MACS Concessional School Fee Policy contained on our website under: Concessional Fee Policy.

- Any family holding a Health Care Card and eligible for Camps, Sports and Excursions (CSEF)
 - Any family of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage
 - Any family experiencing **severe** financial hardship
 - Any family holding a DVA Gold Card
 - Any family identified as refugees and holding an ImmiCard
- Families who meet one of the above criteria are required to return the below documentation to the office:
- Concessional Fee Application Form
 - A completed direct debit request service agreement
 - A copy of the government concession card (if applicable)
 - A completed Camps, Sports and Excursions (CSEF) application form (if applicable)

Free Mask Exhibition

There is a free exhibition of Venetian Carnevale masks. The Exhibition is on display from **29 January - 30 April 2026** (including the school holidays) at CO.AS.IT. Museo Italiano, 199 Faraday Street Carlton

Opening Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 10am-5pm

Saturday 1pm-5pm

FREE ENTRY

This exhibition traces the origins of Venetian mask traditions, their connection to **Commedia dell'Arte**, and the artisanal techniques used to create them, highlighting a craft that continues to thrive today. All exhibition panels are presented in both English and Italian, making the exhibition accessible to a wide and diverse audience.

<https://www.coasit.com.au/events/events-archive/behind-the-mask-history-symbolism-craft-in-venetian-carnevale>



2026 Term Dates

TERM 1

Wednesday 28th January (Prep)
 Friday 30th January (Yr 1–Yr 6) – Thursday 2nd April
 (Note: Easter 3rd-6th April)

TERM 2

Monday 20th April – Friday 26th June

TERM 3

Monday 13th July – Friday 18th September

TERM 4

Monday 5th October – Tuesday 15th December

2026 Family Masses

Please note the following 2026 Family Mass dates for Year Levels other than Sacramental years (Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6). The dates for the Commitment Masses for Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6 year levels has been sent to families via Audiri.

PREP FAMILY MASSES:

- Saturday 22nd August 6pm/Sunday 23rd August 9:30am

YEAR 1 FAMILY MASSES:

- Saturday 2nd May 6pm/Sunday 3rd May 9:30am

YEAR 2 FAMILY MASSES:

- Saturday 14th February 6pm/Sunday 15th February 9:30am

YEAR 5 FAMILY MASSES:

- Saturday 12th September 6pm/Sunday 13th September 9:30am



2026 School Closure Days

- ❖ Wednesday 4th March
- ❖ Tuesday 31st March (Learning Conferences)
- ❖ Thursday 28th May
- ❖ Monday 27th July
- ❖ Wednesday 16th September (Learning Conferences)
- ❖ Monday 2nd November
- ❖ Wednesday 2nd December

Parish Bulletin

Please see below for a link to the St. Vincent de Paul, Strathmore and St. Monica's Moonee Ponds parish bulletin.

<https://www.stmonicasparish.com.au/newsletter.html>



2026 Sacramental Dates

Year 3 Reconciliation

- 3:30pm - 4:30pm Tuesday 24th March (3 GOLD)
- 3:30pm - 4:30pm Thursday 26th March (3 BLUE)

Year 4 First Holy Communion

- 6:00pm Saturday 23rd May
- 9:30am Sunday 24th May
- 6:00pm Saturday 30th May
- 9:30am Sunday 31st May



Year 6 Confirmation

- 6:00pm Saturday 24th October
- 9:30am Sunday 25th October

Prep 2027 Enrolment Applications

Enrolments are now open for Prep 2027. Applications are to be submitted via the online enrolment application form on the school website:

[Prep 2027 Online Enrolment Application Form](#)

Applications close on **Wednesday 1st April 2026.**



Awards

Please find listed below the names of those students receiving awards at the assembly on **FRIDAY 6th March at 2:25 pm** in the hall.

PREP BLUE	Isabel Wright Max Robinson	FOUR BLUE	Easton Lovero Audrey O’Sullivan
PREP GOLD	Jack Bosevski Ava Correia	FOUR GOLD	Max Haynes Sienna Atkinson
PREP GREEN	Marco Muscat Amaia Walsh	FOUR GREEN	William McKinley Lia Camberos Bucci
ONE BLUE	Tommy Hawken Athena Senda	FIVE BLUE	Kris Tadikamalla Lucy Wooden
ONE GOLD	Evelyn Grima Ruby Brigg	FIVE GOLD	Sienna Godino Max Nolan
TWO BLUE	Henry Goodburn Aria Cimino	FIVE GREEN	Brooklyn Cintolo Ella Kemp
TWO GOLD	Sasha Assad Noah Zada	SIX BLUE	Interschool Sports Gala Day
THREE BLUE	Elsie Makarucha Joel Mathews	SIX GOLD	Interschool Sports Gala Day
THREE GOLD	Lachlan Bugryn Claudia Ambrosino	SIX GREEN	Interschool Sports Gala Day



Strathmore Football Club - Junior Griffen Program

STRATHMORE FOOTBALL CLUB



JUNIOR GRIFFEN PROGRAM

FOR BOYS + GIRLS AGED 4-7

- First step into AFL Footy
- Learn the basic fundamentals - kicking, handballing, marking & teamwork
- Build confidence, make friends, get active + have fun!

FRIDAYS

4:00PM - 4:45PM

LEBANON RESERVE

24 APRIL - 24 JULY

NO SESSIONS: 5 JUN & 3 JUL

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Professional coaching by 3E Fitness
- Junior Griffen training top for all participants
- End of season BBQ & awards presentation with certificates celebrating every child

12 SESSIONS

\$150 PER CHILD



REGISTER NOW! www.playhq.com/afl/register/183a5b

JUNIOR GRIFFEN PROGRAM PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:




St Bernard’s Old Collegians FC - 2026 Auskick

St Bernard’s 2026 Auskick

REGISTER HERE >



13 session starting 18 April

9:30am Saturdays @ St Bernard’s ovals

4yo kinder - Grade 2, all welcome

Girls group, experienced coaches, prizes and player trophies included

Tom Isaacs - 0400044006 or StBernardsfooty@gmail.com





Important Dates

FEBRUARY 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1
2	3	4	5 Opening School Mass 9:15am	6	7	8
9 Reconciliation Parent Info Evening 7pm (Change of Date)	10	11	12	13 Zoooper Doopers	14 Yr 2 Family Mass & Yr 3 Commitment Mass 6pm	15 Yr 2 Family Mass & Yr 3 Commitment Mass 9:30am
16	17 Shrove Tuesday	18 Ash Wednesday	19	20 Zoooper Doopers Year 6 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	21	22
23	24 Prep & Year 6 BBQ 6-8pm (Postponed)	25	26 Whole School Swimming Sports	27 Gala Day 1 (Yr 6) Zoooper Doopers	28	

MARCH 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1
2 PA Meeting (in person) 7pm	3	4 School Closure Day	5	6 Gala Day 2 (Yr 6) Year 5 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	7	8
9 Labour Day Public Holiday	10 Yr 6 Camp	11 Yr 6 Camp NAPLAN (Yr 3 & Yr 5)	12 Yr 6 Camp NAPLAN (Yr 3 & Yr 5) Second Hand Uniform Sale 2:30pm School Advisory Council Meeting	13 Yr 6 Camp NAPLAN (Yr 3 & Yr 5)	14 Yr 3 Commitment Mass 6pm	15 Yr 3 Commitment Mass 9:30am
16 NAPLAN (Yr 3 & Yr 5)	17 School Tour Prep & Year 6 BBQ 6-8pm (Change of date)	18 School Photo Day	19 School Tour	20 Harmony Day Year 4 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)	21	22
23	24 Sibling Photo Day Yr 3 Reconciliation 3:30-4:30pm	25 Yr 6 Mass 9:30am	26 Yr 3 Reconciliation 3:30-4:30pm	27 Food Day - Sushi	28 Yr 3 Commitment Mass (Certificate) 6pm	29
30	31 School Closure Day Learning Conferences					

APRIL 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 Stations of the Cross	2 Easter Raffle Last Day of Term 1 - 1:30pm finish	3 Good Friday	4 Easter Saturday	5 Easter Sunday
6 Easter Monday	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Term 2 Begins	21	22 Yr 5 Mass 9:30am	23 Holy Communion Parent Info Evening 7pm	24 ANZAC Day Ceremony	25 ANZAC Day	26
27	28 Italian Day	29 Yr 4 Mass 9:30am	30 School Advisory Council Meeting			



TheirCare
where kids love to be!

PUPIL FREE DAY

WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH

TheirCare will be running a Pupil Free day on Wednesday 4th March from 7:00am-6:00pm.

If you require care, we ask that you book by Friday 27th February as so we can staff accordingly.

WHAT TO BRING:

- Morning snack
- Healthy nut free lunch
- Drink bottle
- Hat
- We will provide breakfast from 7:00am-8:30am
- We will provide afternoon snack 3:30pm/4:00pm

Home toys are welcome but please be advised that Theircare do not take responsibility of home toys.