Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL FAITH AND LOVE STRATHMORE

Newsletter

St. Vincent de Paul Primary School
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Reflection

Wisdom is found by those who look for her
Wisdom 6:12-16
The following reading is from this coming Sunday.

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her,
she makes herself known to them.
Watch for her early and you will have no tr
you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

This Sunday's First Reading (Wisdom 6:12–16) reminds us that wisdom is a precious gift from God. True wisdom is more than knowledge; it is shown through the choices we make, the kindness we share and the way we treat others. When we pause, pray and listen to God, we allow His wisdom to guide our everyday lives, helping us grow in faith and become a positive influence on those around us.

Prayer for Wisdom

Loving God,

Thank you for the gift of wisdom and for guiding us each day.
Help us to open our hearts and minds to your teachings.
Teach us to slow down, listen carefully and make choices that reflect your love.

Give us the wisdom to know what is right, even when it is difficult, and the courage to put our faith into action.
May we recognise your wisdom in the people we meet and the experiences we share.

Help us to show kindness, understanding and compassion in all that we do.
May your light guide our decisions and inspire us to be a positive influence on others, growing closer to you each day.

Amen.

Christmas Appeal
Once again, St Vincent de Paul Primary School is proud to participate in the annual Christmas Appeal, collecting donations to support the St Vincent de Paul Society and Caroline Chisholm Society in bringing joy and Christmas cheer to children and families in need.

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Parish Priest: Fr Nhan Le
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PARISH OFFICE
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Principal's Message

FETE

With just over a week until our 2026 School Fete, the excitement is truly building! After 18 months of tireless planning led by our Fete Committee, Gemma Bugryn and Josephine Agresta, we are ready to go.

To make the day a complete success, we still urgently need parent volunteers. Without extra help, a few of our stalls will not be able to operate. If you haven't already signed up, please consider giving a small shift on the day. It's a fantastic way to get involved, meet other families, and build the wonderful spirit that makes St. Vincent's such a strong community.

A huge thank you to all the parents who have already signed up to help!

Please invite your family, friends, and neighbours to join us for a fantastic day filled with fun events, rides, and stalls.

- Date: Saturday, 14th November 2026
- Time: 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

We look forward to seeing everyone there! For more details, please refer to today's Fete Newsletter.

SPORTS DAY

It was disappointing that the School Sports Day had to be cancelled yesterday. However the good news is that we have a new date for this important school event.

December 1 is the new date for the children to participate in a variety of athletic and fun events. It will be held at Moonee Valley Athletics Centre ground and a permission notice will be sent out in the coming weeks.

CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE MASS

This Saturday evening the children in Year 6 who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation will be presented with their certificates. We look forward to seeing all the children and their families at the 6:00pm parish mass.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Graduation ceremony for the Year 6 children graduating this year will take place on December 10. The ceremony will be held in the Church and will begin at 6.00pm. The Graduation Dinner will be held at Melrose Receptions in Tullamarine and will begin at 7:30pm. Information on booking and costing for the dinner will be provided to Year 6 parents in the coming weeks.

The children in Year 5 are also expected to attend the Graduation Ceremony (not the dinner) together with the Year 6 children who will be graduating. Year 5 has an important role to play in the ceremony and we need their support in maintaining this tradition. We ask that parents of Year 5 & 6 children mark this date on your calendars to ensure your child is able to attend.

NOMINATIONS FOR PARENTS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Adrianne Bates (Co-President), Geoff Azzopardi (Co-President), and Margarite Kheir (Vice-President), who are stepping down as their terms come to an end. Over the past two years, Adrianne, Geoff and Margarite have done an exceptional job leading the Parents Association. Their dedication, organisation, and creativity have made our school events a resounding success and brought our community closer together. We are immensely grateful for their hard work and leadership.

With these vacancies, nominations are now open for our next PA President and Vice-President!

If you are curious about what these roles entail, Adrianne, Geoff, and Margarite are happy to answer any questions and share their experience.

Why get involved?

- Help guide school fundraising initiatives and community events.
- Collaborate directly with school leadership.
- Make a meaningful, positive impact on your child's school experience.

No prior committee experience is needed - just enthusiasm and a passion for our school community!

To nominate or learn more about these roles, please contact the school office.

A special message from Dr Edward Simons Executive Director, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS)

As schools communicate their fees for the coming year, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of Catholic education and to reaffirm our commitment to keeping Catholic schooling accessible and affordable for families. Thank you for choosing to be part of our Catholic education community of more than 120,000 young people across the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Today, one in five Victorian families choose a Catholic education, and in the past year alone almost 2,000 additional students have enrolled in a MACS school. Together, we share a commitment to providing an education grounded in faith, where every child is known, valued and inspired to flourish. I would also like to acknowledge the significant work undertaken by principals and school leadership teams across MACS as they finalise plans and budgets for the year ahead. Their careful stewardship helps ensure our schools continue to provide outstanding learning opportunities, strong wellbeing support and vibrant faith communities for every student. Like many families, our schools continue to face rising costs. We know that cost-of-living pressures continue to place strain on household budgets, and we remain committed to keeping school fees as affordable as possible. At the same time, we have a responsibility to attract,

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

Principal's Message cont.....

support and fairly reward the teachers and staff who make such a profound difference in the lives of our students each day, including maintaining pay parity with their colleagues in government schools. Across MACS, we continue to review the way we operate, seeking efficiencies and making thoughtful decisions so that resources are directed where they matter most: teaching and learning, student wellbeing and the faith formation of young people. Thank you for the trust you place in your school and in Catholic education. The continued growth in enrolments across our system is a sign of the confidence families place in Catholic education and the outstanding work of our principals, teachers and staff. As we continue to grow, our focus will remain on responsible stewardship, strong partnerships with families and a shared commitment to excellence.

Shane Byrne
Principal

2026 St Vincent de Paul Society Christmas Appeal

Sports News

Softball
Congratulations to the Year 5/6 Mixed Softball Team for reaching the Regional Finals in the SSV Competition. After a successful Gala Day campaign in Term 1, the team participated at the Western Metropolitan Regional Finals in Week 3 at Stead Park in Corio. Again, they put on a great performance, just going down in the semi final by 6 runs to Braemar College. A big congratulations to the way in which they played in each of their and for the parent support along the way too, it is much appreciated.

Regional Athletics
Congratulations to Ella Kemp of Year 5 who recently represented our school at the Regional Athletics Competition in long jump. Having progressed through both the district and divisional competition in first place, Ella was selected to participate in the Regional Competition. Well done to Ella for her efforts and for jumping an incredible 3.75m as a personal best! Keep an eye out for her at the upcoming Athletics Carnival!

Hoop Time State Finals
Congratulations to the Year 5/6 Boys Basketball Team on receiving a wildcard invite to the Hoop Time State Finals on December 2nd, which is our school closure day. After representing the school at the SSV regional competition and reaching the semi finals, they will now compete in the State Finals for the Hoop Time competition at the State Basketball Centre. What an exciting opportunity for the boys and we wish them all the best in their games. More information for parents and families involved will be communicated in the coming weeks.

Daniel Igoe
Sports / PE Co-ordinator

Learning Diversity & Student Wellbeing

Wellbeing at St. Vincent de Paul

11 Months 11 Standards

At St. Vincent de Paul We are dedicated to keeping children safe by continuously assessing and enhancing our practices. Staff and volunteers receive ongoing guidance and training, and our procedures are regularly reviewed to identify improvements, address emerging risks, and strengthen our response to potential harm.

Child Safe Standard 10

‘Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved’

Child Safe Standard 10 emphasises the importance of continually improving and embedding child safe practices within organisations. This aligns with Galatians 6:9, which reminds us, “And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” Keeping children safe requires ongoing commitment from all staff and members of the community; continuously reflecting on practice, learning from experiences, and making improvements where needed. Even when progress seems slow or challenges arise, perseverance ensures that children are consistently supported, protected, and able to thrive in environments where safety is a shared and enduring priority.

Why is it important that the work our school does in child safety is regularly reviewed and improved?

- Regularly reviewing and improving our school’s child safety practices is essential because children’s needs, risks, and the environments they grow up in change over time.
- By continuously evaluating what we do well and where we can strengthen our approach, we make sure our policies, staff training, and everyday practices remain effective, up to date, and responsive.
- Ongoing improvement also shows our community that we take Child Safe Standard 10 seriously, that we are committed to transparency, accountability, and creating a school where every child is protected, supported, and able to thrive.

Spotlight on Child Safe Standard 10

Child Safe Standard 10 reminds us that child safety is never static. By regularly reviewing our approaches, we ensure they remain effective, inclusive, and aligned with best practice. Continuous improvement helps our staff adapt to new challenges, refine prevention strategies, and strengthen the protective environment we provide. When we commit to learning and evolving, children feel safer, families feel informed, and our entire community is confident that safety is always at the centre of what we do.

What does this look like?

- **Regular evaluation of policies and processes:** We routinely review our child safety documentation to ensure it meets current standards, reflects community feedback, and aligns with updated legislation and best practice
- **Listening to children, families, and staff:** We seek feedback about what is working well and where improvements can be made, ensuring child and family voices shape decision making
- **Monitoring incidents and responses:** We analyse concerns, complaints, and patterns of behaviour to identify areas where safeguards can be strengthened
- **Updating practices based on learning:** When reviews highlight gaps or opportunities, we make changes, whether through updated procedures, improved communication, or additional staff training.
- **Transparent reporting:** We communicate changes clearly to ensure our community understands how child safety strategies evolve over time

Rebecca Glenton & Will Kingston
Learning Diversity and Student Wellbeing Leaders

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

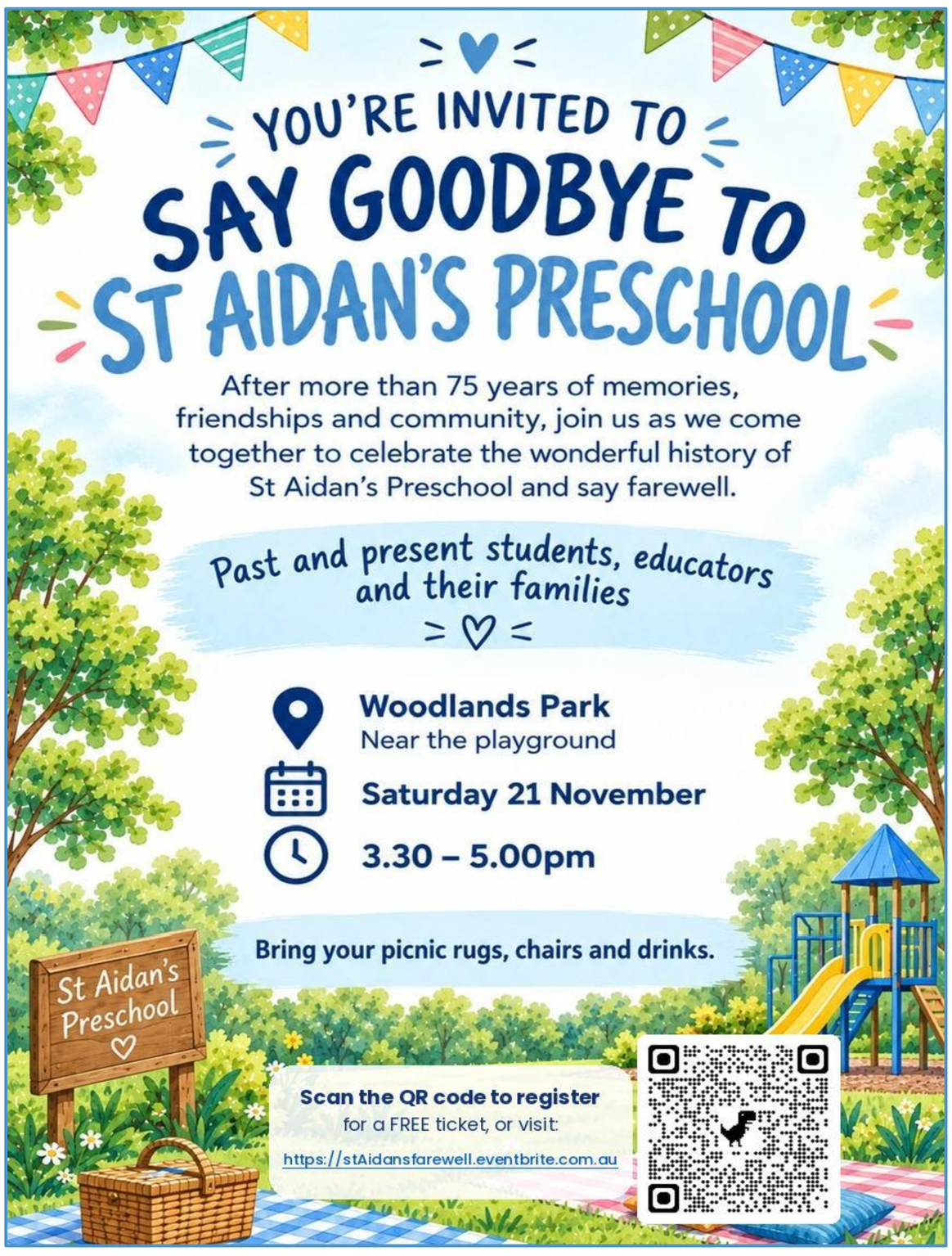
TERM 4

Monday 5th October – Tuesday 15th December

2026 School Closure Days

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

St Aidan's Preschool Farewell



Parish Bulletin

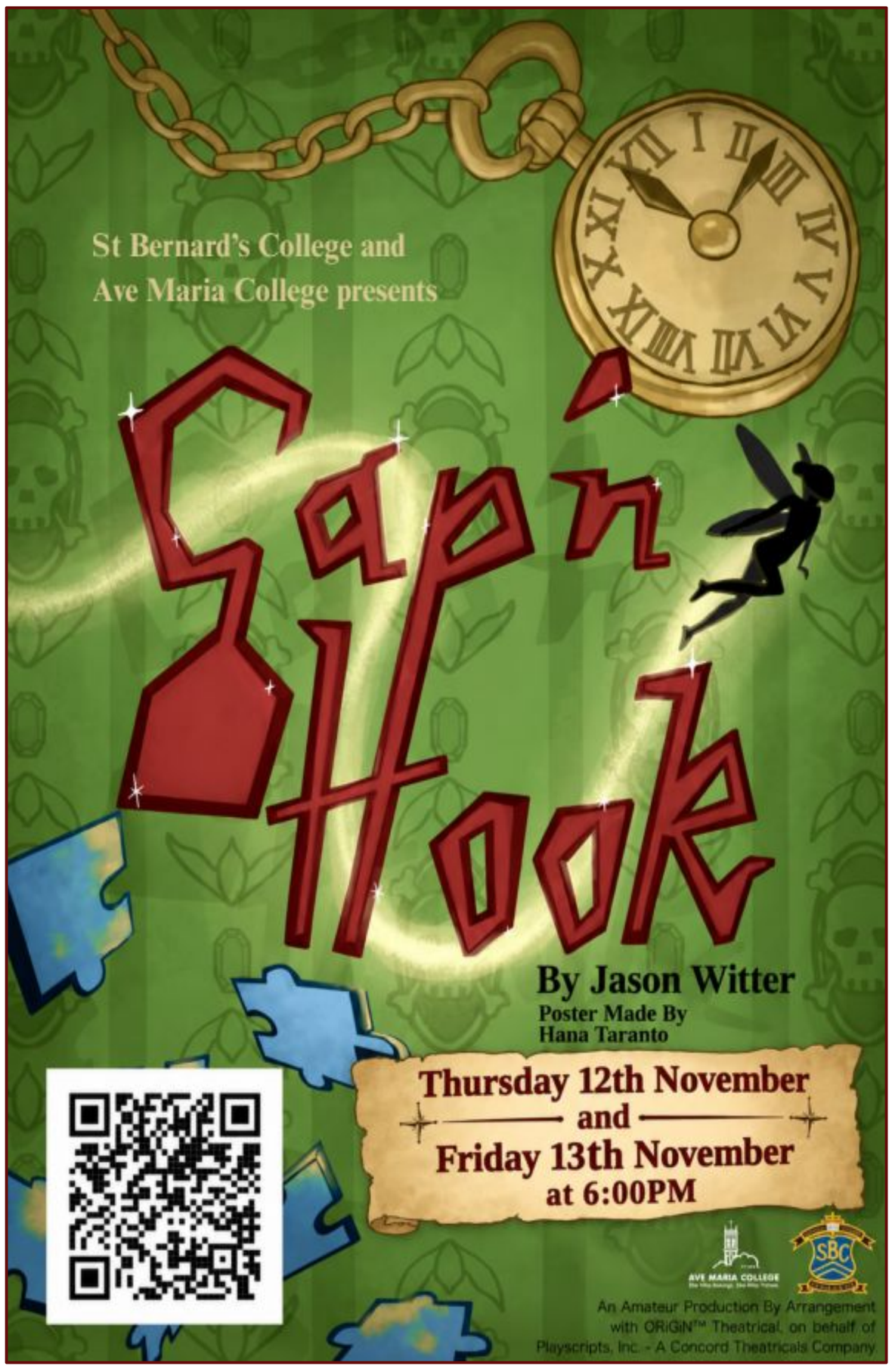
Please see below for a link to the St. Vincent de Paul Strathmore and St. Monica's Moonee Ponds parish bulletin.
https://www.stmonicasparish.com.au/newsletter.html

2026 School Fees

Thank you to those families who have paid their school fees. All school fees are now due. A recent statement with the final balance was emailed on 19th October 2026.

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.

St Bernard's College & Ave Maria College Yr 9 Production



Awards

Please find listed below the names of those students receiving awards at the assembly on **FRIDAY 30th October at 2:25 pm** in the hall.

PREP BLUE	Bobby McKay MacKenzie Haynes	**FOUR BLUE**	Lucas Short Audrey O'Sullivan
PREP GOLD	Aiden Sfirlas Luna Cintolo	**FOUR GOLD**	Emilio Toro Portelli Evan Sfirlas Paige D
PREP GREEN	Zalia De Silva Ethan Gray	**FOUR GREEN**	Zak Piaia Lia Camberos Bucci
ONE BLUE	Xavier Thompson Roman Dockar Clay	**FIVE BLUE**	Keira Reardon Poppy Hegarty
ONE GOLD	Alexander Drakopoulos Sonny Gittins	**FIVE GOLD**	Curtis Coleman Max Nolan
TWO BLUE	Austin Abela	**FIVE GREEN**	Ella Kemp Jordan Liu
TWO GOLD	Chiara Interligi Sonny O'Connor	**SIX BLUE**	Leo Giansalvo Gia Sidhu
THREE BLUE	Mila Pantano Leila Diseris	**SIX GOLD**	Ruben Trimboli Jayden Liu
THREE GOLD	Kenzie Schepis Cole Layton	**SIX GREEN**	Fionn O'Carroll Louie Howard

Important Dates

NOVEMBER 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1
2 **School Closure Day**	3 **Melbourne Cup Day**	4 **Whole School Athletics Carnival - POSTPONED**	5	6 **Zooper Dooper's**	7 **Yr 6 Commitment Mass (Certificate) 6pm**	8
9	10 **Music Soiree**	11 **Remembrance Day**	12 **Prep 2027 Information Evening**	13 **Zooper Dooper's**	14 **School Fete**	15
16	17 **Prep 2027 Orientation - Session 1**	18 **Prep & Yr 6 Mass 9:15am**	19 **School Advisory Board Meeting**	20 **Zooper Dooper's** **Year 2 Assembly 2:25pm (Hall)**	21	22
23	24	25 **Prep 2027 Orientation - Session 2**	26	27 **Zooper Dooper's**	28	29
30 **Parent's Association AGM (in person)**						

DECEMBER 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 **Whole School Athletics Carnival**	2 **School Closure Day**	3 **Prep 2027 Orientation - Session 3**	4 **Zooper Dooper's**	5	6
7	8 **Prep Nativity Play**	9	10 **Year 6 Graduation Ceremony & Dinner**	11 **Zooper Dooper's**	12	13
16 **2027 Transition Day**	15 ***End of School Year Mass 9:15am** ***Year 6 Assembly 12:00 noon (Hall)** ***Last Day of Term 4 1:30pm Finish**	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 **Christmas Eve**	25 **Christmas Day**	26 **Boxing Day**	27
28	29	30	31 **New Years Eve**			

JANUARY 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1 **New Years Day**	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 **Australia Day**	27	28 **Term 1 Commences for all students**	29	30	31