



Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025



Dear Parents & Carers,

This week we celebrated our Prep students commencing full days and the commissioning of our staff at last Wednesday's Beginning of Year Mass. The year has commenced extraordinarily well with teachers commenting on how well students are engaging with the curriculum, coming to school on time, encouraging each other to do well and taking pride in their learning, classroom and selves.

One of the standout lessons observed during this week has been the effort of students creating prayers for their classroom prayer book. As a Catholic school, prayer is an essential part of our day with daily prayer occurring in the morning, before lunch, and in the afternoon. The following prayer was written by Grace S (3C) and reflects so well a child's developing understanding of who and why God is important to them.

*Dear God,*

*We thank you for this new day to work together,  
learn and play, and fill our hearts with kindness so  
we can be kind to others.*

*Teach us how to be like Jesus and care for  
others, help us to learn and try our best so we think,  
do and say thank you for this amazing day.*

*Amen.*

This week's newsletter is filled with important information that parents and carers need to know.

The **Specialist Timetable** is to provide clarity around which days their child is required to wear sports uniform. **Sports uniform is only to be worn on the days that a student is participating in Physical Education.** On all other days, the school's expectation is that they wear formal school uniform.

The **Absentee Flowchart** has been published due to absenteeism and lateness continuing to be an ongoing issue. Students need to be at school everyday possible, to be able to learn with their peers so they get the benefit of knowing what to do and what is expected of them.

We have had many inquiries regarding **School Fees & Levies.** For families experiencing financial hardship or require an arrangement that suits the families current circumstances, please contact Mrs Lisa Nolan (School Bursar) via the office phone number on 9743 2166.

Last year, the school introduced a new wellbeing and behaviour management plan titled Positive Behaviour for Learning. This coming Monday, members of the school leadership team will be working with Mrs Jo-Ann Patrick (Education Excellence- Student Engagement Learning Consultant) who is assisting us in the development of a Behaviour Matrix outlining minor & major behaviours and how such behaviours will be managed. In conjunction with PBL, the school has both a **Code of Conduct for parents and students.** In publishing both codes in this week's newsletter, we wish to remind all families of the responsibility we all have in ensuring St Catherine of Siena is a safe, welcoming and friendly environment for all students, staff and families.

Looking forward to next week being even better!

Des Noack  
Principal





Dear Parents/Guardians,

**Parent Teacher Learning Conversations** for will be held on **Tuesday February 11th** and **Thursday February 13th between 3:45pm and 8:00pm.**

These interviews are an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher as you begin a partnership in your child's 2025 learning journey. During this conversation you will have the opportunity to share their strengths, challenges and interests. This conversation will allow you to inform your child's teacher of anything you feel is important for them to know. Your child may be present at the conversation if you like.

All interviews are for 15 minutes. It is important that we all keep to the allocated times and that you give yourself enough time to be at your next scheduled appointment on time. **If you, or your child's teacher, think more time is required, arrangements can be made for a longer meeting at an alternative date.**

1. Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and enter the code **z7efr**
2. Enter your details
3. Select the teachers you wish to see
4. Select the appointment times that suit your family best
5. When you click FINISH your selected bookings will be emailed to you immediately.

If you do not receive your email, please check your junk-mail, or enter the event code again and check your email address spelling. Update your details if the email address is incorrect.

DO NOT DELETE the email you receive. Keep it somewhere safe. You may need to refer back to it at a later date.

REMEMBER TO ADD YOUR APPOINTMENTS TO YOUR CALENDAR - reminders will not be sent home.

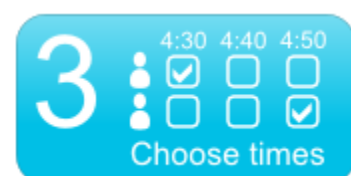
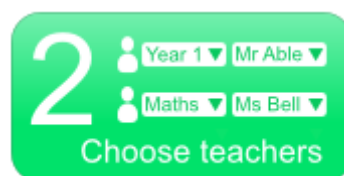
**Bookings open on Wednesday February 5th at 12pm, and close on Sunday February 9th at 8pm**

If you need to view, cancel, change or print your bookings:

- Click on the link in the confirmation email you received after you made your bookings
- OR return to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and enter the code and the email address you used when making your bookings.



Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and enter our school code. Then follow the 3 simple steps.




**PLEASE DO NOT APPROACH THE CLASSROOM TEACHERS DIRECTLY AS THEY DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE DATABASE.**  
Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date should contact the school directly on: 9743 2166

# TERM 1 SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

The following timetable highlights which days and times your child participates in specialist classes.

**Students are to wear their sports uniform only on the days allocated for physical education and their formal school uniform on all other days.**

 <b>SPECIALIST</b>	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	BREAK 1	SESSION 3	SESSION 4	BREAK 2	SESSION 5
	8.45AM- 9.45AM	9.45AM-10.45AM		11.30AM-12.30AM	12.30PM-1.20PM		2.15PM - 3.15PM
	60 Minutes	60 Minutes		60 Minutes	60 Minutes		60 Minutes
<b>Monday</b>							
L.O.T.E.	6B	6A		5C	5A		5B
STEM	6C	6B		6A	5B		5C
Performing Arts	5A	6C		6B	5C		6A
Physical Education	5B	5A		6C	6A		6B
Visual Arts	5C	5B		5A	6B		6C
P.L. Support	6A	5C		5B	6C		5A
<b>Tuesday</b>							
L.O.T.E.	3A	3B		3C	4A		4B
STEM	3B	3C		4A	4B		4C
Performing Arts	3C	4A		4B	4C		3A
Physical Education	4A	4B		4C	3A		3B
Visual Arts	4B	4C		3A	3B		3C
P.L. Support	4C	3A		3B	3C		4A
<b>Wednesday</b>							
L.O.T.E.					4C		
STEM					5A		
Performing Arts					5B		
Physical Education					5C		
Visual Arts				4A	6A		
<b>Thursday</b>							
L.O.T.E.	1A	1B		1C	2A		2B
STEM	1B	1C		2A	2B		2C
Performing Arts	1C	2A		2B	2C		1A
Physical Education	2A	2B		2C	1A		1B
P.L. Support	2C	1A		1B	1C		2A
Visual Arts	2B	2C		1A	1B		1C
<b>Friday</b>							
L.O.T.E.	2C	PB		PC	PA		6C
STEM	PC	PA		PB	3A		1A
Performing Arts	PB	1B		PA	3B		PC
Physical Education	PA	1C		3C	PC		PB
Visual Arts		PC		2A	PB		PA

# Absentee Flowchart

At St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School, the monitoring of student absences is the responsibility of all staff. Homegroup teachers must work through the flowchart with the support of Level Leaders and Wellbeing Leader to alert families and school leadership when concerns are raised regarding extended absences and late arrivals.

## Please note:

- Any child having an planned extended absence of **6 days** or more consecutive days will meet with the Principal prior to approval has been made (eg. notification of extended holidays).
- When families make Operoo notifications regarding absences, this information will be passed onto Homegroup teachers by the Office staff.
- Please consider the context relating to the purpose of the absences/late arrivals prior to communicating with families.





## Parent/Guardian/Carer Code of Conduct

St Catherine of Siena is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS). This Code of Code is created with reference to St Catherine of Siena Enrolment Policy and St Catherine of Siena Enrolment Agreement.

### ***Purpose***

St Catherine of Siena is committed to ensuring a respectful learning environment that is safe, positive, and supportive for all students, staff and visitors of the school.

It is the intention of the school to provide clear guidelines to all parents and visitors regarding the conduct expected of them while in a school environment. or at school related place, engaging in school-related activities or representing the school. Parents/guardians/carers and visitors are expected to uphold the school's core values at all times.

### ***Scope***

This Code of Conduct applies to all St Catherine of Siena parents, guardians, carers and visitors to the school and school related places. The application of this code is not limited to the school site and school hours. It extends to all school-related activities and events (including, but not limited to: school fetes, camps or sporting events, online activity, etc.) and when visiting or representing the school.

### ***Principles***

This Code of Conduct is based on the following principles that everyone at St Catherine of Siena:

- has the right to be safe
- has the right to be treated with respect and be valued even in disagreement
- has the right to participate within a secure environment without interference, intimidation, harassment, bullying, discrimination or any harmful, threatening or abusive behaviour
- is encouraged to be respectful, polite, courteous and considerate of others
- has the right to be supported and challenged as ongoing learners.

### ***Expected conduct and bearing of all parents / guardians / carers***

It is expected that every parent/guardian/carers will:

- uphold the school's core beliefs and values
- behave in a manner that does not endanger the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves or others
- abide by all health and safety rules and procedures operating within the school and other locations at which they may visit while representing the school
- ensure that their actions do not bring the school into disrepute
- respect school staff and accept their authority and direction within the exercise of their duties at the school
- observe all school rules as required
- strictly adhere to the school's policies and procedures as required
- behave with respect, courtesy, and consideration for others
- refrain from all forms of bullying and harassment
- refrain from any form of verbal insult or abuse and from any form of physical abuse or intimidation
- refrain from activities, conduct or communication that would reasonably be seen to undermine the reputation of the school, employees or students of the school, including activities on social media
- respect school property and the property of staff, contractors, volunteers and other students
- not be intoxicated by alcohol or under the influence of illicit drugs or other substances harmful to health while visiting the school site, attending school functions or engaging in school-based activities
- respect school staff and accept their authority and direction within the exercise of their duties at the school
- use the school's Complaints Handling Policy to seek resolution for any problems that arise and accept the school's procedures for handling matters of complaint.

# Unacceptable conduct

Unacceptable conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- touching, handling, pushing or otherwise physically or sexually engaging with students, children or others in a manner which is not appropriate and may endanger the health, safety and wellbeing of that person
- any form of physical or verbal violence including fighting, assault or threats of violence or behaviour that is otherwise harmful, threatening or abusive
- approaching a child that is not your own with a view to disciplining that child for their behaviour. Such matters are only to be dealt with by school staff
- approaching other school parents to resolve issues arising between students at school. Such matters should be referred to school staff
- any form of cyber bullying or cyber abuse that is directed towards the school, staff members, students or parents or any member connected to the school
- any form of threatening language, gestures or conduct
- language or conduct which is harmful, threatening, abusive or likely to offend, harass, bully or unfairly discriminate against any student, employee, contractor, volunteer or other
- corresponding or communicating with school staff in a manner which is unreasonable (including for example, via email or app's) in terms of the frequency or volume of communications, or the nature or tone of such communications
- theft, fraud or misuse of school resources
- the use of inappropriate or profane words or gestures and images
- visiting school, attending social, sporting or other functions while intoxicated by alcohol or under the influence of illicit drugs or other substances harmful to health
- smoking on the school premises or within the immediate environs of the school
- claiming to represent the school in any matter without explicit permission from the school principal to do so.

## ***Breach of the code of conduct***

Parents/guardians/carers are, as a condition of enrolment, expected to read, sign, and comply with the St Catherine of Siena Parent/Guardian/Carer Code of Conduct (**Code of Conduct**), and relevant school policies.

Parents/guardians/carers who breach this Code of Conduct or Enrolment Agreement will be contacted by the principal. Appropriate action, which may include limiting and reducing access to school grounds, attending school functions or school-based activities or, setting mandatory parameters around methods and timing of communication, or imposing an Immediate or Ongoing School Community Safety Order is at the discretion of the principal and other authorised persons.

Should any parent/guardian/carer:

- (a) repeatedly breach the terms of the Agreement, Code of Conduct, and/or relevant school policies (after the parent/guardian/carer or the family collectively, has been warned that any further breach may result in a termination of enrolment); or
- (b) engage in conduct on a single occasion which constitutes a serious breach of the Code of Conduct and/or relevant school policies (involving for example, conduct which poses a serious risk to staff or student health and safety), the circumstances may result in a termination of their child's enrolment.
- (c) A termination of enrolment may also occur where any parent/guardian/carer has engaged in conduct on a single occasion which constitutes a serious breach of the Parent / Guardian / Carer Code of Conduct and/or relevant school policies (involving for example, conduct which poses a serious risk to staff or student health and safety.) In these circumstances, it will not be necessary for a warning to be given before consideration is given to termination of enrolment.

A decision to withdraw or terminate the enrolment of a student may only be made by the Director, Learning and Regional Services upon consideration of the following:

- the view of the principal of the school
- an objective assessment of all presenting circumstances, including the nature and gravity of the conduct and whether any previous warnings have been provided to the parent/guardian/carer
- the principles of procedural fairness are followed in the decision-making process, including an opportunity for the student and their family/guardians/carers to be heard, all relevant information considered.

Before any final decision as to termination of enrolment is made, the student's family will be provided with an opportunity to comment on and/or provide any relevant information for consideration in this regard.

In accordance with applicable legislation and the school's Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, the police and/or 'Families and Children's Services' within the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP), and/or any other relevant bodies will be informed of any unlawful breaches of this code.



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools

# Student Code of Conduct

St Catherine of Siena is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS).

## ***Purpose***

St Catherine of Siena is committed to ensuring a respectful learning environment that is safe, positive and supportive for all students at the school.

It is the intention of St Catherine of Siena to provide clear guidelines to all students regarding the conduct expected of them while in a school environment, at school related locations or engaging in school-related activities or representing the school. Students are expected to uphold the school's core values at all times.

## ***Scope***

This Code of Conduct applies to all St Catherine of Siena students. The application of this code is not limited to the school site and school hours. It extends to all activities and events that are school-related and when representing or acting on behalf of the school, including, without limitation, at all times when wearing the school uniform.

The code also requires that student actions do not bring the school into disrepute at any time, regardless of whether the action occurs within or outside of school activities.

## ***Principles***

This Code of Conduct is based on the following principles that everyone at St Catherine of Siena:

- has the right to be safe
- has the right to be treated with respect and be valued, even in diversity
- has the right to participate within a secure environment without interference, intimidation, harassment, bullying or discrimination
- is encouraged to be respectful, polite, courteous and considerate of others
- has the right to be supported and challenged as ongoing learners.

## ***Expected conduct and bearing of all students***

It is expected that every student will:

- uphold the school's core values at all times
- behave in a manner that does not endanger the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves or others
- abide by all health and safety rules and procedures operating within the school and other locations at which the students may visit
- ensure that their actions do not bring the school into disrepute
- respect the authority of members of staff and observe school rules and teacher directions as required
- strictly adhere to the ICT Acceptable Usage Policy and User Agreement
- be respectful and supportive of the school's beliefs and values
- behave with courtesy and consideration for others
- refrain from all forms of bullying, harassment, racial vilification, and discrimination of any nature
- report any behaviour of other students that is harmful to other students, or to the teachers or school
- support other students, or seek help for other students who need assistance or are in a vulnerable situation
- refrain from behaviour which would interrupt the work of any class or hinder the learning opportunities of other students
- respect school property and the property of staff, contractors, visitors and other students
- be punctual and attend all classes
- remain in the school grounds during the school day unless otherwise approved by the principal
- complete work set by teachers promptly and to the best of their ability and to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered at the school
- dress neatly and with due regard for health, hygiene and safety in accordance with the school's uniform requirements.

## ***Unacceptable conduct***

Unacceptable conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- touching, handling, pushing or otherwise physically or sexually engaging with students or others in a manner which is not appropriate and may endanger the health, safety and wellbeing of that person
- any form of physical or verbal violence (including fighting, assault, or threats of violence, bullying, name calling, racial discrimination or discrimination on grounds of disability, appearance, or religion)
- any form of cyber bullying or cyber abuse
- theft or misuse of property belonging to other students or the school
- sending inappropriate, offensive, or explicit text messages, photos, or videos
- language or conduct which is likely to offend, harass, bully, or unfairly discriminate against any student, teacher, contractor or visitor
- the use of inappropriate or profane words or gestures and images
- unacceptable class attendance levels
- being uncooperative with teachers during class or school activities and generally disrupting planned activities.

## ***Supporting positive behaviour***

The Student Behaviour Policy is based on a model of positive behaviour support. This is a model that acknowledges the positive behaviour of the majority of students and puts strategies into place to model and specifically teach expected behaviours. It targets focused support, including staged sanctions, for the minority of students that do not embrace positive behaviour.

## ***Breach of the student code of conduct***

Students who breach this code of conduct may be sanctioned by the class teacher or school principal as deemed appropriate given the nature of breach and the age of the student.

In cases of serious and/or persistent breaches of the student code of conduct, the Student Behaviour Policy outlines the consequences for student misbehaviour. The St Catherine of Siena policies and procedures for the Suspension, Negotiated Transfer of Students, and the St Catherine of Siena Expulsion of Students outline the management of suspension and expulsion, and appeals processes.

In accordance with applicable legislation and the school's Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, the police and/or 'Families and Children's Services' within the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP), and/or any other relevant bodies will be informed of any unlawful breaches of this code.





# 2025 SCHEDULE OF FEES

**Family Fees (per family)** \$1,590.00

<b>Student Levies (per student)</b>	<b>Prep</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Year 6</b>
<b>Curriculum, Booklists, Excursion/Incursion Levy</b>	\$510	\$510	\$510	\$510	\$510	\$510	\$510
<b>Tech Resource Program Levy</b>	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	-	-
<b>Swimming Program</b>	\$90	\$90	\$90	-	-	\$40	\$40
<b>Camp Program</b>	-	-	-	\$300	\$300	\$375	\$375
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$650</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>\$910</b>	<b>\$910</b>	<b>\$925</b>	<b>\$925</b>

*Example: A family with Prep and Year 3 students – Total annual school fees cost \$3,150*

## Annual School Fees

The annual school fees at St Catherine of Siena Primary School comprising of the family fees and the student levies include all stationery and books, swimming program, camps, excursions, incursions, personal learning devices and administration costs.

Items not included in the school fees are:

- Compulsory school uniform and accessories
- Library charges – late fees and replacement costs
- School photos

## Payment of fees

St Catherine of Siena Primary School offers a range of payment options to enable parents and guardians to meet their fee obligation, as follows:

- Pay in full before **10th March 2025** (unless a DDR service agreement or Centrepay deduction arrangement has been made)
- Over the phone (03) 9743 2166, Monday to Friday 8:30am – 4:00pm by credit card
- BPay - Biller Code and your reference number can be located at the bottom of your statement
- Internet banking using account number as a reference provided on the fees statement
- In person, at the Office by cash or EFTPOS (Amex/Diners not accepted)

## Financial support for families

St Catherine of Siena Primary School understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

### Camp, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply for the CSEF. This money can be used to help cover the costs of camps, excursions, incursions and/or swimming. CSEF applications are open from the first day of term one 2025. Parents or legal guardians are required to submit a new CSEF application form each year by the due date as outlined by the Department of Education.

### School Saving Bonus

Families receiving the means-tested CSEF in 2024 are eligible for additional support through the School Saving Bonus. There is no application required for non-government school students to receive the School Saving Bonus.

This additional support will be paid directly to the school and will be applied against the 2025 fees.

### MACS Concessional Fee Exemption

Families may be eligible under one of the eligibility criteria. To be eligible for the concession, the family must enter into a DDR (direct debit request) service agreement, Centrepay deduction arrangement or pay the balance upfront. Any default in payment may result in the concession being withdrawn and full standard fees will be due. An application for the MACS Concessional Fee must be submitted each year.

### Approved Payment Plan (weekly, fortnightly, monthly or three term instalments).

The relevant form must be completed and returned to St Catherine of Siena Finance following the receipt of the fee statement no later than **10th February, 2025**

**Scheduled Automatic Payment** – set amount transferred from your nominated bank or credit card account

- Weekly – 32 payments
- Fortnightly – 16 payments
- Monthly – 8 payments
- Three term instalments – 14th February 2025, 14th May 2025 and 14th August 2025

**Centrepay Deduction** – agree amount transferred from your fortnightly Centrelink benefits

Note: Scheduled Automatic Payments will be from February to September each year. The instalment amount will be calculated by St Catherine of Siena Finance, to clear the amount outstanding. All fees are due in the respective year they have been incurred. Should families require more time, we recommend families commence their payment plans the year before.

If you have a scheduled payment arrangement in place, it is imperative that you contact St Catherine of Siena Finance immediately that you are aware there will be insufficient funds in your nominated account to meet the next scheduled instalment.

Please also notify us of new bank account or credit card details including revised card expiry dates, 72 hours ahead of the scheduled payment. St Catherine of Siena Primary School retains the right to pass any bank fees incurred for voided payments onto the debtor.

Families that fail to communicate with the school in respect of non-payment of fees may have their account referred to an external party for collection in accordance with the MACS Debtor Management and Recovery Procedures.

It is at the discretion of the Principal to deny enrolment to siblings of current student(s), where they have existing debt accumulated with no effective resolution or payment arrangements to recover the debt. This also applies to enrolment to student(s) where their family have been assessed to have previously outstanding debt to another MACS school.

All relevant forms are available on the school website. [www.scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au](http://www.scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au)

### **Delivery of fee statements**

All fee statements are mailed to parents and guardians per term. If your address has changed, please notify the school. If you have any questions about fees, please contact St Catherine of Siena Finance on (03) 9743 2166 or [accounts@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au](mailto:accounts@scmeltonwest.catholic.edu.au)

### **Divorce or separation**

St Catherine of Siena Primary School advises that if both parents have signed the enrolment form, a parent cannot remove themselves from the enrolment contact without the school or the other parent's consent. This means that unless the school agrees and the appropriate paperwork have been completed, the legal liability for fees remains in accordance with the enrolment form.

### **Refunds**

Attendance at camps, excursions and swimming is part of the school curriculum. If for any reason your child is not able to attend these events, no refund is available. In cases of extreme circumstances, please speak to the Principal, Mr Des Noack for support.

No remissions are granted for families who take their children out of school for extended holidays.

In the event of a student withdrawing from the school during the year, a fee rebate may be processed in accordance with the following:

- If withdrawal occurs during Term 1 – 25 % of the annual fee is payable
- If withdrawal occurs during Term 2 – 50% of the annual fee is payable
- If withdrawal occurs during Term 3 – 75% of the annual fee is payable

### **Before and After School Care Fees**

St Catherine of Siena Primary School has a partnership with OSHClub who are contracted to operate and manage the Before and After School Care and Holiday Programs. Please refer to the OSHClub website [www.oshclub.com.au](http://www.oshclub.com.au) at for further information.

### **Terms and conditions**

Enrolment acceptance and ongoing enrolment are subject to the St Catherine of Siena Primary School's terms and conditions being met. Please visit our website for further information.



## Please Let Your Friends And Neighbours Know That 2026 Prep Enrolments Will Open On Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February

We are already receiving many enrolment enquiries from new families to enrol their child into St Catherine's for next year. It's a very healthy sign.

We had set a goal of 75 enrolments for 2025 and have commenced with 78 students meaning we are now fully subscribed.

From Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> February, you will be able to collect an application form for 2026 Prep enrolments.

Please note that once we are fully subscribed for 2026, any further applications will be placed on a waiting list

As part of the enrolment application process, current & new families will need to make an appointment to meet the Principal, Mr Des Noack.



Parents and carers gathered in front of the Prep classrooms, ready to greet their children having attended their very first day at school.

# FAMILY Learning Night

## Information nights: Reading and Maths

This term, St Catherine of Siena Primary School will be hosting Family Learning and Information nights to discuss Reading and Mathematics.

The focus of these nights is to discuss how Reading and Numeracy are taught at our school, the specific goals we have set for school improvement in these learning areas and to support parents with ways their child/ren can be supported at home.

The Learning and Information nights will be held in the upstairs area of the school (above admin).

**As there are limited places available you will be required to book your spot. This will be done in the same way you are booking parent teacher interviews.**

**Our Learning and Teaching Leader, Lisa McCallin will provide an update in next weeks newsletter.**

Below are the nights that the information sessions will run to pre-mark them in your calendar:

### Family Learning and Information Night: READING

**Prep Families: Reading with your child at home –**

Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> February from 7pm-8pm

**Year 1 & 2 Families: Reading with your child at home –** Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> February from 7pm-8pm

### Family Learning and Information Night: Maths

**Year 3 & 4 Families: Math's Learning Night –**

Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> March from 7pm-8pm

**Year 5 & 6 Families Math's Learning Night –**

Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> March from 7pm-8pm

Kind Regards

*Lisa McCallin (Deputy Principal & Learning and Teaching Leader)*

*Kylie Hoey (Literacy Leader)*

*Matt Galea (Numeracy Leader)*



# Why Read 20 Minutes A Day



Starting in kindergarten, if a student reads 20 minutes a day at home, they will hear 1.8 million words per year. They will have read for 851 hours by Grade 6 and on standardized tests, they will likely score better than 90% of their peers.

This is compelling data on the benefits of encouraging your child to read.

## Helps in language development

From the time your child is born, reading out loud is a positive influence. As your child grows, daily reading will help the brain make connections between the written and spoken word, widening vocabulary in the process.

Adding to that benefit, vocabulary knowledge equates to masterful spelling. In fact, reading, spelling and vocabulary are critically important to a child's lifelong achievement.

## Promotes brain development

Educators have long said reading makes people smarter, and there's research backing them up.

Studies have found that reading to children of any age wakens a number of regions in the left part of the brain. The areas in the brain that become active involve understanding the meaning of words and concepts tied to memory.

## Aids in understanding of a world outside our own

Reading is more than just translating written words into verbal form; it is about understanding those words were once ideas in the minds of great thinkers. It is about realizing those ideas can be connected to personal experiences.

Through daily reading, children are exposed to a world outside their own reality. It expands their know-how, opens their minds and creates the potential for a continuation of ideas and an endless number of possibilities.

## Strengthens family relationships

There is nothing quite like reading together as a family. Whether you're flipping through picture books with your little ones or sitting in the same room with older kids while, each immersed in a piece of literature, these are times you remember.

For a moment, you are all able to escape worries and experience art in written form. It is something that can be recreated in different forms with every new book and family read-a-thon.

Give it a go. Try to exercise the brain daily. Be it 1 minute, 5 minutes or 20. Every word read makes a difference.





## This weekend's Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 5:1-11

*They left everything and followed him.*

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats – it was Simon's – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

### **Gospel Reflection**

The theme that comes through this week's readings is one of 'being called'. The first reading is the call of the prophet Isaiah (Is 6:1-8). Isaiah experiences a vision of the glory of God and is humbly reminded of his own deficiencies: he believes himself to be 'a man of unclean lips'. As such, he is certainly unfit to speak on behalf of God as his unclean lips would taint whatever message he may speak. But his lips are cleansed by God who then asks, 'Whom shall I send?' Demonstrating a complete conversion of heart and mind, Isaiah immediately replies, 'Here I am, send me!'

This first reading provides a perfect balance and segway to the gospel. Jesus is being closely pressed by the crowd when he asks a nearby fisherman to take him just off shore to preach without being overwhelmed by the crowd. Seemingly at random, he has selected the boat of the fisherman Peter. Having finished preaching for the day, Jesus tells Peter to set out into deeper water and pay out his fishing nets. Peter is certainly not keen on the idea! Out of some interest or good nature he had agreed to allow this preacher to use his boat for a while, but now this country bumpkin is trying to tell him how to fish! Just to prove Jesus wrong, Peter agrees to go through the futile exercise and is overwhelmed by the enormous catch of fish. Peter is suddenly acutely aware of his own deficiencies – 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man'. Peter recognises that he has just seen the glory of God revealed and he feels unworthy to be part of the experience. But Jesus reassures him, 'Do not be afraid,' and calls Peter to follow.

### **Scriptural context – The Call of the disciples**

In the other two synoptic gospels – Matthew and Mark – the call of the disciples is one of the first recorded actions of Jesus' adult life. Luke, on the other hand, delays the call until after Jesus' public ministry has commenced. By this stage of the gospel, Jesus has made a public declaration about the nature of his ministry and begun to enact it. In this way, the sort of ministry Jesus will undertake is already established when the disciples are called to join it. It becomes a more conscious decision by the disciples – they know what they're getting in to!

### **Have you thought? – Do not be afraid**

When Peter is overcome by the catch of fish and falls on his knees before Jesus, the response Jesus makes is to simply say, 'Do not be afraid'. This phrase is the most often repeated phrase in the Bible. It appears more than 60 times throughout the Bible – depending on which translation one uses. This is an extraordinary number of times for the one phrase to appear. And the references stretch from the first book, Genesis, to the last, Revelation. It is God's message to us echoing throughout the Bible: Do not be afraid!

### **Living the Gospel – Hearing the Call**

Like Isaiah and Peter, each and every one of us is called. It may not happen through Jesus stepping into our boat, but when we quieten our minds and our hearts enough to really listen, we become aware that God truly is calling to each and every one of us. The call comes to us through our friends; our experiences; our hopes and our fears. Sometimes we are so afraid of hearing the call that we fill our lives with noise and distractions. We fear that the call will involve hardship, or at the very least: unpopularity. But that's no excuse!

# TERM 1



## Week 3

**Monday 10/02**

- *Saint Scholastica*
- Parent Support Group Meetings

**Tuesday 11/02**

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- *Our Lady Of Lourdes*
- **Parent Teacher Conversations 3.30 to 5.00 / 5.30 to 8.00pm**

**Wednesday 12/02**

- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm – Students Only
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Prep Day Off
- **Year 6 Attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am**

**Thursday 13/02**

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- **Parent Teacher Conversations 3.30 to 5.00 / 5.30 to 8.00pm**

**Friday 14/02**

- *Saints Cyril and Methodius*
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Emergency Displan Practice

**Sunday 16/02**

- 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time -GREEN



## Week 4

**Monday 17/02**

- 2026 Prep Enrolments Open
- Parent Support Group Meetings

**Tuesday 18/02**

- **Parent Helper Training 9.00am (Legal & Classroom Support)**
- **Parent Advisory Committee 7.00pm – 8.00pm**
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

**Wednesday 19/02**

- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm
- Prep Day Off - Scheduled testing of Prep students

- **Year 5 Attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am**

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- **Enrolment night for Sacraments @ 7pm (Hall)- St Dominics and St Catherine of Siena**

**Thursday 20/02**

- WORLD SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- **Prep Parent Information Night – Reading with your child at home 7pm – 8pm**

**Friday 21/02**

- *Saint Peter Damien (commemoration)*
- Parent Support Group Meetings

**Saturday 22/02**

- *The Chair of Saint Peter*

**Sunday 23/02**

- *Saint Polycarp (commemoration)*
- 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time- GREEN

## Week 5

Monday 24/02

- Prep's Commence Full-Time

Tuesday 25/02

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Reconciliation Family Night for St Catherine of Siena and St Dominics @ 6:30pm

Wednesday 26/03

- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm
- Year 4 Attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am

Thursday 27/03

- Saint Gregory of Narek (commemoration)
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Yr 1/2 Parent Night – Reading with your child at home 7pm 8pm

Friday 28/02

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Sunday 02/03

- 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time-GREEN
- Clean Up Australia Day

## Week 6

Monday 03/03

- Whole School Photo Day

Tuesday 04/03

- Shrove Tuesday
- Saint Casimir (commemoration)
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 05/03

- Ash Wednesday Mass @ 9:15am
- Instalment 1 - Family Fee & Student Levy Payment Due
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 06/03

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Yr 3/4 Parent Information Night – Mathematics 7pm – 8pm

Friday 07/03

- Saints Perpetua and Felicity (commemoration)
- World Day of Prayer

Saturday 08/03

- Saint John of God (commemoration)
- International Women's Day
- Reconciliation Presentation and Commitment MASS @ 6:00pm

Sunday 09/03

- Saint Frances of Rome (commemoration)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent-VIOLET



## Week 7

Monday 10/03

- Labour Day – Public Holiday

Tuesday 11/03

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 12/03

- Year 2 Attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am
- Sacrament of Penance 7.00pm
- NAPLAN Commences for Year 3 & 5
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 13/03

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Yr 5/6 Parent Information Night – Mathematics 7pm – 8pm

Friday 14/03

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Saturday 15/03

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Sunday 16/03

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent-VIOLET



## Week 8

### Catholic Education Week

#### Monday 17/03

- Solemnity of Saint Patrick (Dress In Green)
- Saint Gertrude

#### Tuesday 18/03

- Saint Cyril of Jerusalem
- Parent Advisory Committee 7.00pm – 8.00pm
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

#### Wednesday 19/03

- Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Year 3 Attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

#### Thursday 20/03

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

#### Friday 21/03

- Harmony Day
- Mass of Saint Patrick for Schools

#### Saturday 22/03

- Saint Turibius de Mogrovejo (commemoration)

#### Sunday 23/03

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent-VIOLET



## Week 9

#### Monday 24/03

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#### Tuesday 25/03

- The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

#### Wednesday 26/03

- Year 1 Attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

#### Thursday 27/03

#### Saturday 29/03

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#### Sunday 30/03

- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent-VIOLET

## Week 10

#### Monday 31/03

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#### Tuesday 01/04

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

#### Wednesday 02/04

- Last day of Term 1
- Saint Francis of Paola
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Student Dismissal 3.15pm

#### Thursday 03/04

- School Closure Day - Staff PD

#### Friday 04/04

- School Closure Day - Staff PD
- Saint Isidore



Over the next couple of weeks, all staff will have completed or had a refresher in AED, CPR & First Aid. As parents, its reassuring to know that your child's teachers continually update their knowledge, not only in educational and academic matters, but also those related to health and wellbeing.

