ST PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

St Paul's Primary School is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable people in our community

Growing Together

Loving God,

as we reach the middle of Term 1, thank you for the gift of our St Paul's family.

Bless our students with energy for learning and joy in friendship.

Guide our teachers with wisdom and patience.

Bless parents with patience and joy in their children's growth.

Help us all grow in kindness, courage and faith this week.

We ask this through Jesus, our friend and guide.

Amen

Term 1 - 2026 Dates
Friday, 30 January - Thursday, 2 April

MARCH	
Wednesday, 11 - 23	NAPLAN (Year 3 & 5)
Monday, 16 March	ASSEMBLY 1/2C presenting.
Thursday, 19	Harmony Day - wear a splash of orange/traditional costume!
Friday, 20	COLOUR RUN
Monday, 23 - Wednesday, 25	'The Way of the Cross' - Stations of the Cross 8.30-8.50am
Tuesday, 31	Holy Week & Easter Musical Play 9.15am (Church)
APRIL	
Thursday, 2,	Pyjama Day Fundraiser for Royal Children's Hospital
Thursday, 2	End of Term 1 - 1pm finish

SACRAMENTAL DATES	
Tuesday, 19 May	Year 3 FIRST RECONCILIATION
Sunday, 22 March	Year 4 FIRST EUCHARIST
Friday 23 October	Year 6 CONFIRMATION

St Paul's acknowledges that our school is on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and future.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL, MARIA MERCURI

I hope that everyone had a great long weekend with family and friends and is ready to launch into another great week at St Paul's!

We are in the last weeks of Term 1 and we still have lots of learning and events to pack in. This newsletter is filled with the events, as we draw closer to the end of Term 1.

COLOUR RUN - **WE** are all very excited and waiting in anticipation for our **Colour Run** next Friday! We are so grateful to our fantastic group of parents who have organised the whole event and sourced all of the prizes. It has been an enormous effort in such a tight turnaround and we can't wait to enjoy the fun together as a school community. I hear the Principal and Mrs Brunina are getting slimed! Please register for our **COLOUR RUN fundraiser** and see the details in this newsletter.

NAPLAN - We started **NAPLAN** this week with the Writing assessment. Our Year 3 students completed their test using pen and paper and our Year 5 students were scheduled to complete theirs online. Unfortunately, due to the technical issues experienced nationally by ACARA, we were among the schools unable to access the online platform. We are incredibly proud of our Year 5 students, who took the hitch in their stride and held onto their fantastic writing ideas until Thursday. NAPLAN continues for our our Year 3 and Year 5 students next week.

HARMONY WEEK - Next week our school community will celebrate **Harmony Week**. During this week we will celebrate our cultural diversity; each class will make a commitment to ensuring we are all inclusive and respectful of one another. Children are invited to wear a **SPLASH OF ORANGE** - on their uniform (hair tie, wristband ribbon, etc) or their favourite traditional cultural outfit!

LITERACY & NUMERACY - Literacy and Numeracy teaching make up the majority of our weekly learning focus. Our Literacy Leader, Dina Rubini and Numeracy Leader, Kim Simpson, work alongside teachers and students each week to ensure high quality learning opportunities across the school. This week, Dina and Kim have prepared some helpful hints and tips for parents, explaining how we teach **Literacy** and **Numeracy** at school and offering practical ideas for how you can support your child's learning at home.

WELLBEING - Wellbeing is fundamental to our everyday work at St Paul's. We want our students to feel happy, confident, secure and willing to come to school each day. Our Wellbeing Leader, Mrs Brunina, works with teachers, students and parents to foster wellbeing and help everyone feel supported, safe, and connected. Check out Mrs Brunina's **Wellbeing** page for some resources that can support parents at home. Please contact your child's teacher or our leaders if you have any questions about your child learning or wellbeing.

LAST CHANCE TO ORDER SCHOOL PHOTOS- School photos we taken on Tuesday

Please follow link to order your child's photos.

LAST DAY OF TERM 1 - THURSDAY APRIL 2 1PM FINISH

PRINCIPAL NEWS

Congratulations to **Lenny** (5/6J) who finished in 4th place in freestyle and 6th place in breaststroke. It was a wonderful experience for Lenny and he represented St Paul's school proudly. We are all very proud of his effort and commitment.

SCHOOL TOURS - PREP 2027

I am excited to offer personalised tours for Prep 2027. We have a great school and I love sharing our wonderful school. Tours are available in March. Please let family and friends, with children ready to start school, know that they can contact our office to book a tour.

SIBLING ENROLMENTS FOR 2027- LAST CALL!

Do you have a child commencing Prep in 2027? Please enrol your child **NOW** so we can determine how many places will be available to new families in 2027. Collect your enrolment forms from the school office.

ST PAUL'S HOLIDAY PROGRAM IS HERE...

MACSEYE April School Holiday Program *Autumn Adventurers* 7 – 17 April

MACSEYE's Autumn Adventurers Holiday Program is now open for bookings and we can't wait to welcome children for a season packed with creativity, adventure and fun!

Children can look forward to plenty of great activities, including exciting science and craft inspired excursions and the latest movie from Disney and Pixar, *Hoppers*. We also have circus skills workshops, bike and scooter adventure days, nature scavenger hunts, autumn craft creations and critter inspired art.

With a wonderful balance of active play, creative expression and opportunities to connect with friends, there's something to spark every child's curiosity and imagination.

View the program brochure for more details and how to book, or visit www.macseye.vic.edu.au/oshc/holiday-program/

We look forward to sharing an unforgettable Autumn Adventure with your child!

Have a great weekend,
Maria

STUDENT AWARDS

WEEKLY BE RULES

TO BE PRESENTED AT ASSEMBLY ON

MONDAY, 16 MARCH @ 2.45PM

This week's FOCUS is:

BE RESPECTFUL

by listening when others are speaking.

Class	Name
Prep P	Victoria H Saksham L
Prep T	Sofija B John G
1/2C	Jesslyn G Rigzin K
1/2E	Alena S Johnny S
1/2F	Luna B Stavro G
3/4MH	Gabrielle B James R
3/4B	Lukas W Emily L
3/4D	Charlie B Ivy C
5/6J	Alexander P Annabel C
5/6T	Audrey B Anica M
5/6H	Chelsea Y Josh N

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

FEBRUARY
Mrs Angela - 23rd
Ms Fortunato - 29th
MARCH
Dexter H - 2nd
Miss Ryan - 2nd
Mrs Maria- 3rd
Charlotte H - 7th
Anica M - 8th
James P - 9th
Amelia D - 12th
Julia P - 12th

ZOOPER DOOPER FRIDAYS

Order Zooper Doopers via CDFPay

Scan the QR Code to download the App

FRIDAY MARCH 20TH

STARTLINE WILL BE ON THE OVAL

2:00PM

ST PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL COBURG

Wellbeing & learning for all

ST PAUL'S 2026 COLOUR RUN FUNDRAISER

REGISTER AND START FUNDRAISING TODAY

Donations can be made online via the QR code or the website

https://stpaulsschoolcolourrun.goraiseit.com.au/

Gold Prize

Ninetendo Switch 2 Bundle

Every $10 raised = One entry - Bronze Raffle
Every $50 raised = One entry - Silver Raffle
Every $100 raised = One entry - Gold Raffle

Raising $100 = 1 Gold entry + 2 Silver entries + 10 bronze entries!

Many more prizes to be won!

ST PAUL'S 2026 COLOUR RUN FUNDRAISER

👀 Check out SOME of the amazing prizes you could win

NINTENDO SWITCH

A chance to slime a teacher!

GLOBBER
THE WORLD ON WHEELS

Have an opportunity to try something new with free sessions to some fun and active sports programs such as swimming, gymnastics, soccer, basketball and more!

CALCIO FOOTBALL ACADEMY

WARRIORS St. Pauls Basketball Club

ACTIVE Merri-bek

the Y

TAG HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Free entry to some of your favourite playcentres and passes for some awesome experiences!

Lollipop's PLAYLAND & CAFE

MOPA MUSEUM OF PLAY AND ART

PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY

LITTLE ART STUDIO

SOCIAL FAIR

INFLATABLE WORLD

SPR PRK

Newlands Cove Playcentre and Cafe

Gravity Worx INDOOR CLIMBING GYM

JUMPSIDE

HOLY WEEK EVENT

Dear Parents,

We warmly invite you to join our St Paul's community for the following Holy Week and Easter events:

TUESDAY, 31 MARCH – 9:15 AM
Holy Week and Easter Musical Play – "That We Might Live"
This will be performed by our students in the church. It is a whole school musical and dramatic interpretation of the events leading up to and including Jesus' death and resurrection. All families are welcome to join us in the church.

MONDAY, 23 MARCH – WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH
St Paul's – "The Way of the Cross" – Stations of the Cross at School
Doors open at 8:30 AM – 8:50 AM each morning

Each class has created their own Stations of the Cross. The children and teachers have worked together to represent each station in a way that is meaningful to them. We invite students and families to walk around to each station to view, reflect and pray together.

We kindly ask parents to leave the building at 8:50 AM when learning begins.

We hope you will come along and join us as we celebrate these special moments together as a school community.

If you have any questions please contact - ksimpson@spcoburg.catholic.edu.au

Kind regards,

Kim Simpson.
Education in Faith Leader

EVERYONE BELONGS

March 16-20

Harmony Week celebrates the amazing diversity that makes **our St Paul's community** so strong with our families' different cultures, languages, traditions and stories all coming together in faith and friendship.

It's about **everyone belonging** at St Paul's: being included and appreciating what makes each child unique. We celebrate because as a Catholic school, we know God made us all wonderfully different and Jesus calls us to welcome and care for each other, just as we are.

Join the Harmony Celebrations

Thursday 19th March - Dress Up Day

Students are invited to wear:

✨ A splash of ORANGE (our Harmony Week colour!)

✨ Or their favourite traditional cultural outfit!

🎉 **Launch:** Miss Claudia and 1/2C kick off Harmony Week at Monday's assembly @ 2.45pm in the school hall.

Brunina Moreno - *Well Being Leader*

MACSeye

Play

Create

Autumn Adventurers

School Holiday Program

Prep to Grade 6

Explore

Have fun!

Don't miss out!

Book your child's adventure today.
Find you nearest location

MACSeye

macseye.vic.edu.au

LITERACY

Why do we read?

We read for many reasons, including enjoyment, learning and gathering information. When we read, our primary goal is to understand the text and make meaning from it.

How do children learn to read?

When children read, they rely on their understanding of:

- books and the world around them;
- how words work in a sentence so it sounds correct (meaning);
- words they recognise automatically (often called sight words);
- letters and the sounds they represent.

Why phonics is important?

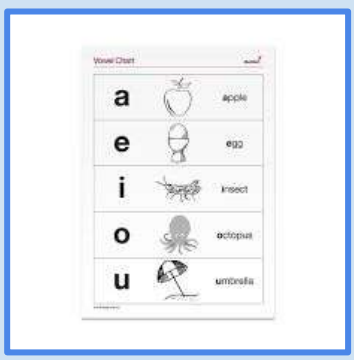
Phonics helps children to:

- read unfamiliar words by sounding them out;
- spell words when they are writing;
- become more confident and independent readers.

How phonics is taught?

Teachers introduce letters and sounds in a sequential order, beginning with simple code and building to more complex code. Lessons are designed so that:

- letters that can make many words are taught early (***s a t p i n***);
- letters that look or sound similar are taught separately (***b*** **and** ***d***);
- short vowel sounds are introduced early to help children begin blending words (***a e i o u***).



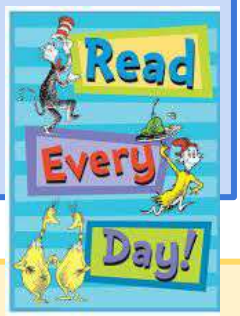
LITERACY

How can families support reading at home?

If you are unsure about how to help your child at home, please talk to your child's teacher. The teacher can share the **letters and sounds** the class is learning each week. Your child's teacher will also send home some decodable readers specific to the letters and sounds taught in class. This way your child can practice, practice and practice some more!

Read regularly with your child

- Encourage your child to sound out unfamiliar words and blend the sounds together. We call this segmenting and blending.
- Talk about the story and the meaning of new words. Building vocabulary is key in building comprehension.
- Try to read together every day, even for a short time.
- Play simple word and sound games, such as *I Spy* or read words you see on signs, shopping lists or packaging.



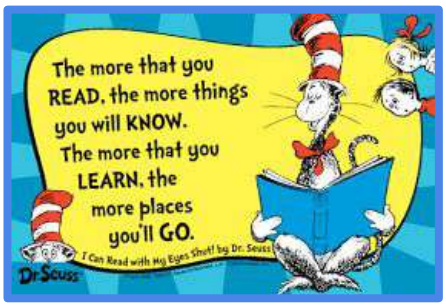
Reading Logs

St Paul's uses a reading log from Prep - Year 4 to encourage our students to read each night. Students are awarded a certificate and their name is published in the newsletter, for every 25 nights of reading.

Regular reading at home helps children build confidence, develop fluency and learn to love reading.

For further information, please visit **The Literacy Hub** using the following link https://www.literacyhub.edu.au/

Dina Rubini - *Literacy Leader*



NUMERACY

St Paul's has introduced *Times Tables Rock Stars* to students in Years 3 -6.
Times Tables Rock Stars is an award winning maths learning platform where children can practise their times tables like a rock star!
It is an online maths programme that supports students' fluency and recall in multiplication and division.
Students in Years 3 to 6 are currently using TTRockstars.
Students in Year 2 will be gradually introduced to the program.

WHY TIMES TABLES ROCK STARS?

Times tables are the essential building blocks that underpin maths curriculum, yet children always find them a challenge.

SUPPORT LEARNING

Times tables serve as a building block for high level maths concepts such as division, algebraic equations and more!

STRENGTHEN LIFE SKILLS

From calculating prices to managing budgets, multiplication is essential for financial literacy and general problem solving.

BUILD CONFIDENCE

A solid grasp of times tables gives children the confidence to tackle more challenging mathematical tasks, increasing their success!

GET READY TO ROCK For Students Years 3 to 6

Watch and learn how your children log in, navigate the platform, start practising and track their progress. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_S1OZJHbM90

NUMERACY

TIP 1: CHECK HEATMAPS

Did you know, you can view your child's heatmap? This is a handy tool to check where your child is thriving and where they're not-so-thriving.

Follow these steps on your child's account to find the heatmap:

1. Click on their avatar in the top right-hand corner.
2. Click 'My Stats'.
3. Scroll down to 'Fluency'.

TIP 2: MAKE IT A REGULAR ROUTINE

It's important that your child does a little bit of times table practice every day! Short bursts of practise on a daily basis are more effective than spending hours once a week.

GET INVOLVED!

For your child to be fully motivated and get the best out of the practice, they need your help.

Without your praise and your reminders, without you sitting down next to them or checking their work, practicing times tables will not feel important to your child.

If you have any questions about the program or have any queries, please let me know.

Kim Simpson ksimpson@spcoburg.catholic.edu.au

WELLBEING

How do we live Wellbeing every day at St Paul's?

At St Paul's, Wellbeing is part of everyday school life. It lives in the small moments that make children feel known, safe and ready to learn:

It shows up in the way we start our days, move through transitions and respond to each other with care.

- Wellbeing check-ins;
- Shared language across classrooms;
- Calm transitions;
- Predictable routines;
- Emotionally safe responses to behaviour;
- Brain Breaks.

Wellbeing is taught *and* lived at St Paul's and children absorb it through our daily example:

- From how adults speak;
- From how behaviour is handled;
- From how stress is managed.

Lasting change happens when wellbeing is woven into everyday moments: shared language, calm routines, consistent modelling and kind repair when things go wrong.

Wellbeing Resources for Home - Support wellbeing learning from home with these great tools:

Raising Children Network
Trusted tips for 0-18 years on emotions, routines, mental health and family wellbeing.
raisingchildren.net.au

ReachOut Parents
Tools and strategies for parents to support children's mental health every day.
parents.au.reachout.com

Be You Fact Sheets
Practical tips on mental health and wellbeing for families.
beyou.edu.au/resources/fact-sheets

Australian Student Wellbeing Framework
Evidence based tips for creating safe, positive home environments.
education.gov.au/australian-student-wellbeing-framework

These free tools help families extend the St Paul's wellbeing approach from school to home.

Brunina - Wellbeing Leader

Come and visit MACS Creative Arts Exhibition!

We are proud to have artwork featured by our talented St Paul's students. The following children's artwork has been selected to be exhibited.

Congratulations to:
Zane M, Amelia D, Adele K, Annabelle H, Harryson P, Valentina M, Estelle J, Moira W, Louvelle Y, Thomas C D S, Gwen S, Alexandra Z, Daniel F, Aoibheann O'D, Estelle J and Adam I.

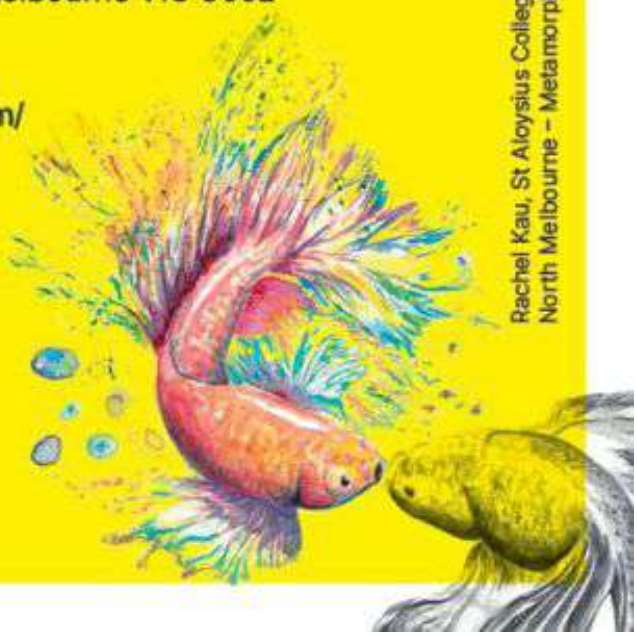
CREATIVE ARTS EXHIBITION

The MACS Creative Arts Exhibition celebrates the artistic talent of students from Catholic schools across the Archdiocese of Melbourne, showcasing works that express story, spirituality, culture and hope through the arts.

Open to the public during Catholic Education Week

15–21 March 2026
Celtic Hall, Catholic Leadership Centre
576 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne VIC 3002

Scan to book tickets
https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1547329



Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

ST PAUL'S PLAYGROUP

ST PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL COBURG

PLAYGROUP

FRIDAY @ 9.30am

Playgroup returns on Friday 6th February 2026

GOLD COIN DONATION

9.30am-11.00am

(During School Terms)

Includes sensory play, art and craft, pretend play, block play, books, story/song session and outdoor play.

For Inquiries: Call 9354 8970 or

playgroup@spcoburg.catholic.edu.au

Held in the School Hall

Parking in school grounds-Enter via Sydney Road

Facilitated by Rita Ravida (Early Childhood Teacher)

BYO: drink bottle, snack and sun hat.

UNIFORM

SUMMER UNIFORM

SUMMER UNIFORM - In Term 1 all children wear Summer uniform. We have a **'No Hat, No Play'** policy. Children must wear a hat when outdoors.
Please ensure your child has a school hat for outdoor play and activities.
Hats can be purchased from the office (Limited stock)

School Shoes: Black shoes - all black soles - are part of the St Paul's uniform. Children can wear runners on their sports day. Some black school shoes examples include:

Jewellery

Only **stud earrings** can be worn. For safety reasons no dangling earrings to be worn.
Necklace that displays religious symbols eg: crucifix, etc.
Watches - Smart watches must have connectivity switched off.

Hair

Hair of shoulder, or longer, length must be tied back with hair accessories in school colours - black or blue hair ties. Hair should not cover eyes.
Hair colour must be of natural colouring - no extreme hair colours.
All hair accessories (eg. clips, ribbons, headbands) to be blue, black or white in colour.
Decorative hair accessories must not be worn.

Thank you for supporting our uniform policy.

SECONDHAND UNIFORMS - $10 an item - Packed and processed on Wednesday only
Email - office@spcoburg.catholic.edu.au

NEW UNIFORMS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM SPARTAN WORLD UNIFORM SUPPLIER

To place an order, please visit: Spartan School World

Select your school in the FIND MY SCHOOL list

Shop: Spartan School World 97 Main Road, Lower Plenty
Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 12pm - 5pm
1st Saturday of every month: 9am - 12pm

- Spartan deliver to school or home for a delivery fee of $12.50
- Returns of incorrect sizes can be arranged directly through Spartan
- Free school delivery weekly, during school terms

dewdrops
EARLY LEARNING

Kindergarten Open Evening

Dewdrops Early Learning, Coburg

36-40 Barrow Street
Coburg, VIC, 3058

(03) 9384 1734

coburg@dewrops.vic.edu.au

Please call or email us with your name to register.

We look forward to meeting you there!

Wednesday
22nd April
6:00pm - 8:00pm

Our service will be open for you to visit and see our rooms and outdoor spaces.

Meet our enthusiastic kindergarten teacher and team.

Learn about our Educational Program.

Discover the Dewdrops difference!

advancedlife
photography . design . printing

St Paul's Primary School
Online Ordering Instructions

Dear Parents and Carers,

School photographs have now been taken. Group and portrait photographs can be purchased for 7 days from photography day, after which, a late fee will be applied as late orders are processed separately.

There are three easy payment methods available: Visa, MasterCard or PayPal.

To purchase photographs, visit: www.advancedlife.com.au
And enter online order code: 5LD N5N REH

School photography information:

- **Online orders** - *do not* require an envelope returned to your school.
- **Late fees** - A late fee will be applied to each package purchased after the cut-off date due to the additional cost of producing these packages separately. Please refer to the cut-off date on the photography flyer.
- **Package delivery** - School photographs will be delivered approximately 8-10 weeks after the day of photography. Please note this delivery timeframe is dependent on proofing, the post-production process and additional photography days at your school.
- **Previous Years' photos** - Past years' photographs including sports, co-curricular and representative groups are also available to order under the 'previous years or group photo' tabs at your school's ***advancedorder*** site when you have entered the online order code. You can also order past packages, portrait images and gifts from your child's unique, individual and secure ***advancedyou*** image archive site using the unique 9-digit image code found on packages you have ordered in the past.

advancedlife would like to express our appreciation to St Paul's Primary School for placing your trust in us. Please remember we offer a 100% money back guarantee on our products to ensure your peace of mind. We would also love to receive your feedback or resolve any issues you may experience as fast as possible, to ensure your satisfaction. If you have any questions, comments or feedback relating to your ***advancedlife*** experience please contact us at: www.advancedlife.com.au/contact

ORDER NOW

School: St Paul's Primary School
Date of photography: 10/03/2026
Place order by: 20/03/2026

Final orders for siblings close at 12.00 a.m. the night before your school's first photo day

HOW TO ORDER

MasterCard VISA PayPal

OPTION 1 ORDER AND PAY ONLINE USING YOUR MOBILE

Scan Me

Scan this QR code using your mobile phone camera to go straight to your school's package options and order photos

OPTION 2 ORDER AND PAY ONLINE USING YOUR COMPUTER

Go to
www.advancedlife.com.au
and enter your school's
9 digit order code
5LD N5N REH

Should you have any questions please contact us at
www.advancedlife.com.au/contact