ST PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL COBURG

St Paul's & Scholastic Book Fair!

Save the date: 17-19 November

BOOK FAIR



$12



$6



$10



$10



$10



$10



$10

Find these titles & more fantastic reads!

Next Week!

Volunteers needed!
Contact Ms Angela -
agangi@spcoburg.catholic.edu.au

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
3.30 - 4.00pm	8.30 - 8.50am, 3.30 - 4.00pm	8.30 - 8.50am, 3.30 - 4.00pm

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



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them

November is the season of Remembrance.
A time to remember those we love who have died.

There is a season for everything,
a time for every happening under heaven.
A time for giving birth and a time for dying;
a time for planting, a time for harvesting.
A time for knocking down
and a time for building up.
A time for tears, a time for laughter,
a time for mourning and a time for dancing.
A time for embracing and a time for refraining from embracing.
A time for holding and a time for letting go.
A time for keeping silent and
a time for speaking.
A time for loving, a time for hating, a time for war, a time for peace.
A time for forgetting and a time for remembering.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

Term 4 - 2026 Dates - Monday, 5 October - Tuesday, 15 December	
NOVEMBER	
Wednesday 18 - Friday 20	Scholastic Book Fair
Thursday, 19	Prep Orientation - Session 2
Tuesday, 24	St Paul's Time Capsule Opening
Thursday 26	Prep Orientation - Session 3 P&F End of Year School Disco - 11:40 - 1:40
Friday, 27	Senior excursion - Melbourne Museum
DECEMBER	
Tuesday, 1	ABC School Concert
Wednesday, 2	Year 6 graduation speeches - church
Thursday, 3	Year 6 graduation speeches - church
Monday, 7	Year 6 graduation speeches - church
Tuesday 8	Year 6 Graduation
Monday, 11	End of Year Mass End of Year Picnic and Christmas Carols Coburg Lake 11:40am -2:30pm
Tuesday, 15	LAST DAY TERM 4

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





REMEMBRANCE DAY - On Wednesday 11th November, we gathered as a school community to pay tribute to all servicemen and servicewomen, past and present. We were joined by Vice President, Mark Robbins, from Coburg RSL. He is a Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Corps of Signals.
Our student leaders lead the prayer service with reverence. We listened to the ode, sung the National Anthem and had one minute of silence. Students also learnt about the importance of Remembrance Day, through their classroom learning.

Yesterday, we welcomed our **2027 Prep students** and their families to the first of three orientation sessions. These sessions continue to be an important part of welcoming new students and ensuring their journey to starting school is a positive one. Building on our Jumpstart sessions, they provide an important opportunity for children to become familiar with their new learning environment, meet their **2027 Prep teachers; Mrs Penny and Miss Bonnie** and begin building friendships. Parents heard from school leaders and members of our parent community. Thank you to **Amanda W and Sandra M** for sharing their Prep parent experiences and to **Fadi S,** for speaking about the School Advisory Council. Our **Mini Vinnies and Sustainability Student Leaders** also shared their experiences as St Paul's students. It was wonderful to welcome many new families, including siblings joining us next year. We look forward to welcoming our 2027 Foundation students and families into the St Paul's community.

Thank you to our local MP, Anthony Cianflone, for visiting our community to present the following awards:



Bob Hawke Endeavour Award
Congratulations to Liyan J and Lukas W who were presented with their certificate and voucher, in recognition of their effort, determination and willingness to try their best - no matter the outcome – whilst endeavouring to make our school a more welcoming and inclusive place for everyone.

Premiers Reading Challenge
Congratulations to **ALL** students who participated in and completed the PRC! We are extremely proud of our final school tally of **2,506 books read!**
Congratulations to Joshua S and Conor H for receiving an award for Most Consistent Effort during the PRC. They were presented with their certificate and voucher for our upcoming Scholastic Book Fair.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL, MARIA MERCURI

BOOK FAIR - Ms Angela has organised our very popular Book Fair for next week. We all love this time of year! This will be an great time to purchase books, stationery and gifts for Christmas, while supporting our school library. See details and times via this link **Book Fair**

BIG MOMENTS

Merri-bek Children's Reference Group - A big thank you to Arion and Charlotte, who proudly represented St Paul's in the Merri-bek Children's Reference Group this year.
Throughout the sessions, they shared their ideas and contributed to discussions about how to improve parks and public spaces across Merri-bek. At today's final session, they heard from a council representative about how children's ideas have helped inform improvements in our local community.
We are so proud of their contribution, their thoughtful ideas and the way they represented St Paul's.
Thank you, Arion and Charlotte. They should be proud of their achievement and the way they represented St Paul's.
Early in 2027, they will visit the upcoming year 5 students to seek new representatives for the 2027 Merri - bek Children's Reference Group.





Congratulations to Mia for achieving wonderful results at regional competitions and earning a qualification to compete at the National Championships in Queensland, next month. Mia has also been accepted into SCIMM Dance Company, a junior creative and performance company specialising in classical and contemporary dance. Mia was one of just 15 dancers selected, making this a particularly special achievement and an exciting opportunity to further develop her skills and passion for dance.

Child Safe Standards - Standard 10
The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards for all Victorian schools to ensure schools are well prepared to keep children and young people safe and protect them from abuse.
There are eleven Child Safe Standards and to help you gain an understanding of what these standards entail, we will feature one in each of our upcoming newsletters. Today we highlight **Standard 10** - *Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.* Please see the information in this newsletter

Have a fabulous weekend,
Maria Mercuri.

STUDENT AWARDS

Student of the Week

Student of the Week awards will be presented at our Friday Morning Gathering at 8:45am. Be sure to check our Friday newsletter each week to see if your child's name is featured. Families are welcome to attend the Friday Morning Gathering at 8:45am.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS WEEK'S CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS	
Class	**Name**
Prep P	Alyssa P
Prep T	Penelope M
1/2C	Jack F
1/2E	Penny B
1/2F	Atreya D
3/4MH	Gianna P
3/4B	Phoebe L
3/4D	Alexander N
5/6J	Isabella U
5/6T	Scarlett J
5/6H	Noor S



NOVEMBER:
Miss Elicia (staff) - 6th
Miss Georgia (staff) - 10th
Conor H - 15th
Zara H - 16th





SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Important Dates Coming Up!

There are many special events and opportunities to come together as a school community, as we head towards the end of the year. Please pop these dates in your diary!



It's Disco Time at St Paul's!

Get ready to dance! Our wonderful Parents & Friends (P&F) are hosting their much loved annual School Disco!
The disco will take place during the school day, giving all our students the chance to enjoy some music, dancing and fun with their friends.

A few things to know:

- Thursday 26th November;
- Students can wear casual clothes instead of their school uniform;
- The P&F will kindly provide every student with a free sausage.

A big thank you to our P&F for organising this special day and making it such a fun experience for our students.

We can't wait to see everyone on the dance floor!

Athletics Day – An Update

Due to the upcoming upgrade works at Coburg Athletics Track, our Athletics Day will unfortunately not take place this year. We apologise for any disappointment this may cause and thank our families for their understanding.







A Little Trip Back in Time

Opening Our 2001 Time Capsule

Tuesday 24th November, 5:00pm -7:00pm

Were you a student at St Paul's in 2001, or do you know someone who was? We are getting ready to open our 2001 time capsule! We'd love to hear from past students and families who might have special memories to share, as we revisit a little piece of St Paul's history.

Other events for 2026

School Picnic and Carols – Friday 11th December
Bring the family and join us for a lovely afternoon together at our end of year school picnic, with Christmas carols to help us celebrate the festive season.

End of Year Mass – Friday 11th December
We will come together as a school community to celebrate the year, give thanks and reflect on the year that has been.

Graduation Speeches – Our graduating students will have the opportunity to reflect on their primary school journey and share their memories with our school community, through presenting their graduation speeches. Please refer to the important dates on the first page.

Inquiry Learning Snaphot

There is something special about taking learning beyond the classroom!

Excursions give children the opportunity to explore new places, experience things first hand, ask questions and make connections that bring their learning to life. These experiences spark curiosity, encourage creativity and often provide wonderful 'aha' moments that make learning memorable.

Last week, our Prep and Year 1/2 students hopped on the train for an adventure, with our Prep students visiting *ACMI* and our Year 1/2 students exploring the *Botanical Gardens,* as part of their inquiry learning.

Both excursions offered our students the chance to discover new ideas, see things from a different perspective and gather experiences to bring back into the classroom, as their inquiries continue.

What a wonderful week of learning and discovery!





Our Prep students visited ACMI as part of their inquiry unit, *Once Upon a Time*.
They took part in ACMI's Fairytales workshop, immersing themselves in the world of stories and imagination and exploring their learning in a new and exciting setting.

acmi AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR THE MOVING IMAGE

Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria

Our **Year 1/2 students** visited the Botanical Gardens as part of their inquiry unit, *From Nature to Design*.











LEARNING & TEACHING

Taking Learning Beyond the Classroom

















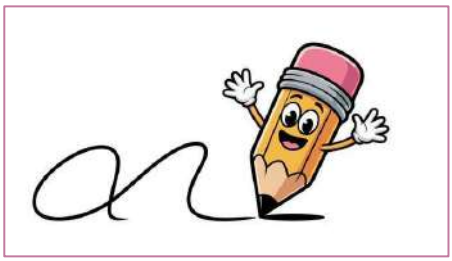
The Importance Of Handwriting

In a world surrounded by digital technology, students are spending more time typing and less time writing by hand. However, research highlights the important role handwriting plays in students' learning and literacy development.

Did you know that writing by hand helps activate areas of the brain involved in memory, language and learning? *For younger students, practising letter formation can strengthen letter recognition, word reading and early literacy skills. Research has found that students who practise writing letters by hand can achieve stronger early reading outcomes, than those who practise typing alone. Handwriting also supports older students to remember and understand new information. The slower process of writing encourages students to think about what they are learning, identify important ideas and make connections.*

At St Paul's, we recognise that while technology and typing remain valuable skills, it is important that our students continue to have regular opportunities to write by hand. In Prep - Year 2, daily handwriting practise is embedded in Literacy, focusing on correct letter formation, entry and exit points, direction and writing on the solid lines. From Year 3 onwards, this extends to cursive loops to prepare for joined writing. Our students use mini whiteboards throughout the day to record responses and use their books to plan ideas and write their responses.





If you would like to read some further information, please visit the link below

https://www.edutopia.org/video/the-many-benefits-of-writing-by-hand

Dina Rubini - Literacy Leader

ADVENT

As we draw closer to Christmas, we begin a special time in the church, known as Advent. Advent is the four weeks before Christmas and it is a time to prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The word Advent means *coming*. During this season, we remember the story of Jesus' birth and the great gift of love, hope and joy that He brings to the world. This year the Season of Advent begins on Sunday 29 November.

The Four Weeks of Advent

Each week, we light a candle on the Advent wreath. Each candle has a special meaning for us to reflect on as a school community.



Week 1 – HOPE
We remember that God is always with us and gives us hope, as we light the Prophecy Candle.

Week 2 – PEACE
We reflect on the ways we can be kind to one another and bring peace to the world, as we light the Bethlehem Candle.

Week 3 – JOY
We celebrate the happiness that comes from God's love, as we light the pink candle. This is the Shepherd's Candle.

Week 4 – LOVE
We remember how much God loves us and how we can share that love with others, as we light the Angel's Candle.

Come Lord Jesus;
Come and be born in our hearts.



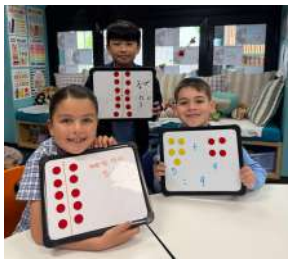
NUMERACY

PLACE VALUE

Place value is the foundation of Mathematics. It is the understanding that the value of a digit depends on its position within a number. For example, in the number 3,456 the digit 3 represents 3,000 and the digit 5 represents 50.







Why is Place Value so important?

A strong understanding of place value supports almost every area of Mathematics. It enables students to work more confidently with addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, particularly when using strategies such as regrouping and partitioning. It also provides an important foundation for understanding decimals, fractions, measurement and money.









Sophie James - *Numeracy Leader*

HELLO FROM MR FARACI, SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

CHANGE is a part of our everyday life.

Dear Families,
Term Four is speeding along and soon enough, it will be time to wrap things up for another end of a school year.
This term, I have spent time with children talking about the concept of **change**. We have explored the idea that change is a constant in our life. Some changes are small; some are big. Some changes are predictable and others are not.
As the children prepare themselves for upcoming changes next year, I thought it might be an idea for families to discuss the sentence starters provided below, in order to explore both the children's understandings and feelings about upcoming changes.



I did explain to the children that a lot of thought, effort and collaboration goes into placing them into their 2027 class groups. Teachers make sure all children have at least one dependable friend in their class group next year, who can help them both learn and feel safe and supported at school.
I want the children to also understand that although some things will change next year, many things stay the same. The children still learn about reading, writing and counting; they still have opportunities to learn about and celebrate their faith and they still interact in a familiar school space.

CHANGE SENTENCE STARTERS:



1. Things change because …
2. A change I have a say in is …
3. A change I do not have a say in is …
4. When things change I feel … because …
5. When change happens I wonder if …
6. … is an example of a change that I like
7. … is an example of a change I don't like.
8.I feel … about changing classrooms/year levels next year.
9. A question I have about changing classrooms/year levels next year is …

If children do feel a little nervous about next year, it is important for them to understand that this feeling makes sense. We all feel this way when we are unable to fully predict what will happen next! But like all things in life, this feeling will eventually change too!

Happy Adventures.
Regards,
Edward Faraci



HELLO FROM MR FARACI, SCHOOL COUNSELLOR



Helping Your Child Embrace Change: Why It's a Positive Experience



Change is something we all encounter in life and for children, it can be both exciting and challenging. From starting a new school year to making new friends or adjusting to family changes, children experience many transitions. As parents, understanding how to guide your child through these changes can help them not only cope but thrive.

What is Change?

Change is simply the process of something becoming different. For children, it might be a new teacher, a move to a different house or even something as small as switching to a different after school activity. While change is a normal part of life, it can sometimes be difficult for children to understand and adapt to.

Why Change Can Be a Positive Experience

1. New Opportunities: Each change presents an opportunity for growth. A new school year means new subjects, new skills and new friendships. When children experience change, they are exposed to different environments that help them develop new perspectives and abilities.

2. Building Resilience: Change helps children learn to adapt. By encountering new situations, they learn problem solving skills and how to navigate uncertainty. These are important life skills that will benefit them in the future.

3. Boosting Confidence: Successfully navigating change can significantly boost a child's self esteem. When they face new experiences—whether it's joining a new sports team or adjusting to a new routine—they learn how capable they are. Over time, they'll gain confidence in their ability to handle future changes.

How to Help Your Child Navigate Change

It's common for children to feel nervous, unsure or even resistant to change. Here are a few strategies to support them:

- Encourage Open Communication: Let your child talk about their feelings and concerns regarding the change. Be a good listener and reassure them that it's normal to feel uncertain. By talking through their emotions, they will feel more in control.

- Focus on the Positives: Help your child see the positive aspects of the change. For example, if they're moving to a new school, talk about the exciting possibilities of making new friends and exploring new subjects. Focusing on the benefits can ease their anxiety.

- Break It Down: If the change seems overwhelming to your child, help them take things one step at a time. Small, manageable steps can make a big change feel less daunting.

Setting a good example

Children often take cues from their parents, so it's important to model a positive attitude toward change. Even if you're feeling uncertain yourself, staying calm and optimistic can help your child feel more secure. Reassure them that change is a natural part of life and it can lead to wonderful experiences.

Fun Fact to Share with Your Child:

Remind your child that change is something even nature embraces. For instance, caterpillars go through an incredible transformation to become butterflies. It's a great example to share with children about how change can lead to something beautiful.

By guiding your child through the ups and downs of change with patience and positivity, you are helping them develop the resilience and confidence they'll need to face life's many transitions. Change is not something to fear, but rather an opportunity to grow.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is wonderful to see our students wearing their uniforms with pride. Our school uniform is an important part of our identity, fostering a sense of belonging for every child.

To ensure we all maintain these high standards, please take a moment to review our current guidelines:

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.

NEW UNIFORMS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM SPARTAN WORLD UNIFORM SUPPLIER
To place an order, please visit: Spartan School World

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

Thank you for supporting our uniform policy.

MACS CARE CHILD SAFETY

Each month we will be placing information in this newsletter about the Victorian Child Safe Standards, which are a set of 11 minimum requirements that all organisations working with children must meet.

MACS Care, an initiative of MACS (Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools) is designed to highlight and bring awareness to these standards and how they apply in our school setting.

This month our focus is **Child Safe Standard 10: Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.**



MACS CARE

Parent/Carer Newsletter 10

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

Working together for Child Safety

Child Safe Standard 10

Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.

As Catholic educators, we have a moral, mission-driven, and legal responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of every student entrusted to our care.

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.

Policies, procedures, and professional learning are not static; they are regularly evaluated and refined to ensure all staff and volunteers can act effectively in their child-safe roles. By embedding a cycle of review and improvement across school life, we create a culture where children are listened to, supported, and safeguarded in every setting.

This newsletter series provides an overview of what the Child Safe Standards are, how they help keep children and young people safe, and how schools governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are prioritising and achieving this.

Overview of the Child Safe Standards:

The Victorian Child Safe Standards are a set of 11 minimum requirements that all organisations working with children must adhere to.

These standards are designed to:

- Promote the participation and empowerment of children, young people and their families
- Prevent harm and abuse of children and young people
- Ensure child safety is a shared responsibility
- Support the wellbeing of all children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children with disabilities

These standards apply to all school staff, volunteers, contractors, and anyone working with children in schools.

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.

Reviewed: May 2026

MACS CARE CHILD SAFETY

Spotlight on Child Safe Standard 10

"Policies and procedures relating to child safety and wellbeing are regularly reviewed and improved."

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.

How Parents, Carers and Guardians can get involved:

Child Safe Standard 10 works best when schools and families collaborate to ensure continuous improvement in child safety. Families can help by:

- **Providing feedback**: Share your thoughts on what's working well and where our child safety practices could be strengthened.
- **Engaging in school initiatives**: Participate in surveys, forums, and information sessions that help shape improvements.
- **Encouraging open conversations at home**: Talk with your child about safety, wellbeing, and their experiences at school; share any learnings with us as your insights help us review and strengthen our approach.
- **Partnering with the school during updates**: Engage respectfully with new policies, procedures, or communication strategies that arise from our ongoing review process

Want to know more?

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how we support child safety, please contact your school directly. More information about the Child Safe Standards is available through the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP).

Check out these additional resources below to learn more

The Australian Human Rights Commission offers practical guides, resources and information on how to develop, review and maintain Child Safe Organisations:
AHRC: Child Safe Organisation Resources

The Federal Government has a National Office for Child Safety; resources on training, education, and implementing child-safe practices under National Principles. Can be found here:
National Office for Child Safety

Working together for Child Safety

Reviewed: May 2026