

NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

God calls us to give others a second chance. During this Lenten season, we can take time to reflect on this and challenge ourselves to act in a way that pushes us to genuinely give others a second chance. One such way we do this at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School is by participating in Project Compassion. It is Caritas Australia's annual major fundraising and awareness raising appeal which brings thousands of Australians in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity to give them a second chance.

To assist with our school fundraising effort for **Project Compassion** we are hosting three events on three consecutive Friday's during Lent. This **Friday 17th March**, the students are encouraged to wear **"Crazy Socks and a Crazy Hat"**. On **Friday 24th March** the students will have a casual clothes day. On **Friday 31st March** the students will participate in K's for Caritas. On each of these days the students are encouraged to participate and bring along a gold coin donation which will be passed on to Caritas Australia.

PASTORAL CARE WORKER

I'm pleased to announce that Tina Handley will be joining our staff from the beginning of next term as our Pastoral Care Worker. Tina has a Master's degree in Social Work and a wealth of experience in working in schools and community settings over the last 23 years. She will be at school three days per week and she looks forward to working alongside staff, students and families to meet the needs of our students.



ANNUAL ATHLETIC SPORTS

Our annual Sports Day is on next Thursday, **23rd March** at the Llanberris Athletics Reserve, located in York St, East Ballarat. Students are required to be dropped off at the venue by parents /caregivers between 8:20 – 8:35am for a prompt 8:45am start. Students will need to bring snacks, lunch, drinks, sunscreen and a hat. If you are coming to join us for lunch or are bringing your child's lunch to the venue, please note that we plan to have a lunch break at approximately 11:20am. Students are timetabled to participate in a variety of events throughout the day and will move to each event in their age groups. The sports day will conclude at 2:00pm, with students being dismissed from the site, under the care of their parents/caregivers. Prior to leaving the sports site, parents are asked to inform their child's teacher that their child is leaving the site with them. For those parents who have informed us, through the Parent Access Module (PAM), that their child/ren will not be collected from the venue, their child/ren will return to school by bus with teachers. These students will be dismissed from school at the usual dismissal time of 3:25pm. A program for the day has been finalised and is attached to this newsletter for your reference and convenience. Extra copies will also be available at the school's front reception desk.

EASTER RAFFLE

Our first Parents and Friends fundraiser for the year is our Easter Raffle. All proceeds from the raffle are going towards purchasing plants for our school garden. We are currently seeking raffle donations in the form of chocolate eggs, bunnies, Easter stickers/stationery/craft/baskets and soft toys. Please drop these donations to the front office. Online tickets are now available for purchase via the following link: <https://rafflelink.com.au/stmcpseasterraffle23>

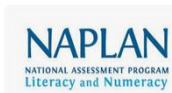
The raffle will be drawn at school on Wednesday 5th April at 3:00pm.



SPECIALIST ASSEMBLY

Parents are most welcome to join us this **Wednesday 22nd March** at 3.05pm for the Specialist Teachers Assembly. Students from across classes will showcase what they have been learning about so far this term.

NAPLAN



Students in Year 3 and Year 5 are currently involved in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The assessments are completed online (except for Year 3 Writing which is completed on paper). The dates and tests are as follows:

Week 8: **Wednesday 15th March – Writing, Thursday 16th March – Reading, Friday 17th March – Catch-Up**

Week 9: **Monday 20th March – Conventions of Language**, followed by **Numeracy** after break.

Friday 24th March – Catch-Up

We have included opportunities for students to participate in catch-up assessments that are missed due to absence. All students require a set of their own **headphones** to complete the online assessments.

FOUNDATION – YEAR 2 NEW CLASSROOM HELPERS

F-2 New Classroom Helpers

Helping in a Junior classroom is such a fantastic and rewarding opportunity to see how your child learns and can help you understand more about how you can support them at home.

We welcome grandparents or special friends to become helpers as well.

All 'helpers' need to complete the really informative course held over two sessions.

This year, these sessions will be on the following two Mondays.

Session 1 Monday 20th March 9:00-10:30am

Session 2 Monday 27th March 9:00-10:30am

If you would like to participate in this course, please complete the Google form by clicking [here](#).

To be a volunteer at our school you will need:

- a current 'Working with Children Check' (WWCC) which you apply for online.
- to complete an induction process online that is located on our website under 'Volunteers'.
- to read and signed the DOBCEL Child Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct policy on our website.

F-2 Trained Classroom Helpers

We will resume having volunteer helpers in our Junior classes in Term 2. If you would like to assist and have previously undertaken the course, please email me with a preference of days of the **week** and frequency (weekly or fortnightly), as well as your child's name and class teacher.

jwheelahan@stmalfredton.catholic.edu.au

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,

Jo Wheelahan (*Literacy Leader*)



TRAFFIC CONGESTION AROUND THE SCHOOL

As all members of our school community know there is a large amount of traffic congestion around the school in the morning and afternoon. This congestion can often lead to dangerous and illegal driving around the school which endangers the safety of our students.

Ways that your family can assist with reducing the congestion around the school are by:

- Walking to and from school
- Riding or scootering to school, and
- Dropping off and collecting your child a short distance from school.

Please only use the Elaine Ave parent drive-through drop off/ pick up if really needed. There are over 150 carparks within 250 metres of our school that you could use to drop off and collect your child.

Please see the attached map on the following page. Areas for parents to drop off and pick up their children within 250m of our school are indicated in **red** on the map below.



SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Yesterday we had five students compete in the Greater Western Swimming Championships in Horsham in some individual and relay events. Congratulations to all swimmers who performed remarkably well. Paddy Ashby finished 1st in 50m Backstroke and 1st in 50m Freestyle, thus qualifying for both events at the Victorian Championships to be held in April. Olivia McConchie finished 4th overall in 50m freestyle for her age category and Sienna Seater finished 5th overall in 50m freestyle for her age category. The girls relay team impressively claimed 2nd place in the freestyle relay where they claimed silver medals, just narrowly missing out on the gold medals.



May God bless you all and keep you safe,

Simon Duffy

Mr. Simon Duffy,

Principal

Term 1 Calendar, 2023

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 March	13 Public Holiday Labour Day	14	15 NAPLAN - WRITING Assembly presented by 5/6 Gittings at 3:05pm	16 NAPLAN t- READING Whole School Prayer led by 5/6 Baker/Larkin at 3:05pm	17 NAPLAN- CATCH-UP - READING
9 March	20 *NAPLAN – CONVENTIONS OF LANGUAGE & NUMERACY *Classroom Helper training session 9-11am (Part 1)	21	22 Assembly- presenting work from Specialist classes at 3:05pm	23 Whole School Athletics Day held at Llanberris Reserve Drop-off 8:20-8:35am Events start at 8:45am Sports conclude at 2:00pm School dismissal: 3:25pm	24 NAPLAN – CATCH-UP Interschool Swimming – Greater Western Region
10 March/ April	27 Classroom Helper training session 9-11am (Part 2)	28	29 Foundation 2024 Information session 9-11am Assembly presented by 3/4 Gannon at 3:05pm	30 Foundation 2024 Information session 5-6pm Cross Country Whole School Prayer led by 1/2Turkenburg/Hoffman n at 3:05pm	31 Foundation 2024 Information session 9-11am
11 April	3 Year 5/6 Camp	4 Year 5/6 Camp	5 Year 5/6 Camp Easter Raffle Draw @ 3pm	6 Holy Week Liturgy- 9:15am led By Yr. 3/4 classes End of Term 2 Dismissal @ 2:30pm	7 Good Friday PUBLIC HOLIDAY

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School ~ Cnr Cuthberts Rd & Elaine Ave, Alfredton 3350.

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CRAZY HAT DAY AND CRAZY SOCK DAY

**17TH MARCH, 2023
GOLD COIN DONATION**

**ALL MONEY TO BE
DONATED TO CARITAS**

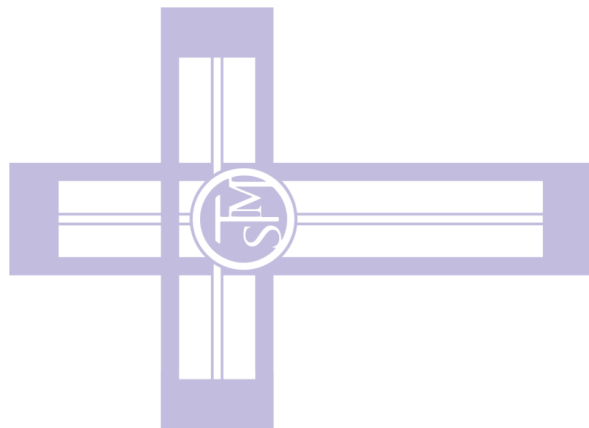
St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

Llanberris Athletics Reserve Thursday 23rd March 8:30am-2:00pm

8:30am Arrive and assemble into class groups
8:45am-9:15am U12/13 Boys & Girls 1200m
9:15am-11:20am Rotation Programme

Age Group	9:20am-9:50am	9:50am-10:20am	10:20am-10:50am	10:50am-11:20am
Foundation	Sprints Back 100m	Sprints Back 100m & Team Game Centre Track	Team Game Centre Track	Relays Back 100m Lanes 1-4
Year 1/2	Vortex Throw @ Discus Field & Team Game close by	Vortex Throw @ Discus Field & Team Game close by	Sprints Back 100m	Relays Back 100m Lanes 5-8
9/10 Boys	Long Jump Pit 1 –Blue & Gold Long Jump Pit 2–Green & Red	Team Game Centre Track	Sprints Front 100m	Shot Put Field 1—Blue & Gold Shot Put Field 2-Green & Red
9/10 Girls	Shot Put Field 1—Blue & Gold Shot Put Field 2-Green & Red	Team Game Centre Track	Sprints Front 100m	Long Jump Pit 1 –Blue & Gold Long Jump Pit 2–Green & Red
11 Boys	Team Game Centre Track	Long Jump Pit 1	Shot Put Field 1	Sprints Front 100m
11 Girls	Team Game Centre Track	Long Jump Pit 2	Shot Put Field 2	Sprints Front 100m
12/13 Boys	Sprints Front 100m	Shot Put Field 1	Long Jump Pit 1	Team Game Centre Track
12/13 Girls	Sprints Front 100m	Shot Put Field 2	Long Jump Pit 2	Team Game Centre Track

11:20am—11:50pm Lunch Break (Under 5 race)
11:50pm - 12:20pm Relays



11:20am—11:50pm Lunch Break (Under 5 race)
 11:50pm - 12:20pm Relays
 12:25pm - 1:25pm Long Distance (1st 4 finishers timed)
 1:30pm 1:50pm Announcement of Winners
 Age Champions
 Junior/Senior/Overall winner + spirit shield.
 Principal's Address and Closure

1:50pm Site clean finalised /buses leave
 3:25pm Official Student Dismissal from school

Age Group	Location
Foundation-8YR	Team Games Centre Track
9/10 Boys	Back 100m Track
9/10 Girls	Back 100m Track
11 Boys	Back 100m Track
11 Girls	Back 100m Track
12/13 Boys	Front 100m Track
12/13 Girls	Front 100m Track
12/13 B Hurdle	Front 100m Track
12/13 G Hurdle	Front 100m Track
House Captains	Onesie Relay

Age Group	Location-Whole Track
Found	200m
Year 1	200m
Year 2	400m
9/10 Boys	400m
9/10 Girls	400m
11 Boys	800m
11 Girls	800m
12/13 Boys	400m
12/13 Girls	400m

