



NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

Congratulations to the students from St Thomas More Catholic Primary School who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time during the past week. We keep all of these students in our thoughts and prayers as they continue their faith journey.



PROJECT COMPASSION

A big thank you to the school community for the funds raised for Caritas through Project Compassion. So far, the school has raised over \$1500 dollars to assist the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. Families who are yet to return their home Project Compassion collection boxes are encouraged to do so tomorrow.

HOLY WEEK LITURGY

Tomorrow, **Thursday 28th March at 11.45am**, the Year 5/6 students will be leading us in a special *Holy Week Liturgy* in the Multipurpose Room. Members of the school community are most welcome to join us for this prayerful event.



WINTER UNIFORM

As we prepare for next term we will be moving into our winter uniform. A reminder that the long pants or pinafore will be worn as the academic uniform. When wearing the academic uniform, the school jumper is the next layer. Students are able to wear the soft-shell jacket or the puffer jacket over the jumper.



END OF TERM 1 DISMISSAL TIME

Please note that Term 1 concludes tomorrow, **Thursday 28th March**. Students will be dismissed at **1:45pm**.

EASTER RAFFLE and HOT CROSS BUNS

A big thank you to the Parents and Friends for organising the Easter Raffle and Hot Cross Bun Drive. Collectively over \$3000 was raised from these two events. This has allowed for the purchase of three cubby houses to be added to the Junior playground makeover which will occur over the holiday break.



ENHANCING CATHOLIC SCHOOL IDENTITY (ECSI) SURVEY

Families are invited to participate in the ECSI Survey to assist us in better understanding how our Catholic identity is expressed in work and practice here at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School. You are asked to complete the survey online; it may take up to an hour to do so. The survey is only available through the project website; please refer to the *Instructions for Survey Completion for Parents* at the end of this newsletter. The survey can be found at <https://www.ecsi.site/au/user/>

The password is **Ghj654** and the St Thomas More survey code is **d18zWF**



FOUNDATION (PREP) 2025

All Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools have begun the 2025 Foundation (Prep) enrolment process. Please see details attached below regarding this process. Please note that current families will need to also complete the enrolment process, even if they have siblings currently attending at the school. Click [here](#) for the enrolment link.

GREATER WESTERN REGION SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Last Friday, 22nd March, we had five of our students travel to Horsham to compete in the Greater Western Swimming championships. Harvey Coutts competed in the 10yo freestyle event and came 5th overall while, Olivia McConchie, Stella Kavanagh, Morgan Nairn and Willow Sharkey competed in the 11yo girls freestyle relay event and came in 4th. We are so proud of you all and the effort you put in.

MOBILE PHONE & SMART WATCH PRACTICES

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School recognises that modern society is characterised by many forms of digital technologies. These technologies offer potential for enhancing learning but conversely also present risks to student wellbeing and to student development if not used appropriately. To balance the conflicting aspects of technologies, we support the use of school-based technologies (iPads and Chromebooks), but ban the use of smartphones and smartwatches during the school day. E.g. mobile phones, Apple watches, etc.



We continue to adopt Victorian State Government guidelines that all mobile phones and smartwatches in primary school must be handed to the classroom teacher to be stored during the school day. Students may only access them before 8:45am and after 3:15pm. Smartwatches (unless set to school mode) should not be with a student at all throughout the school day. If a parent needs to communicate with their child or relay an urgent message, please contact the office on 5334 2244. Alternatively, you may prefer to leave a message on your child's phone which they will see upon collection of the device at 3.15pm.

In this week's newsletter, SchoolTV is focusing on [Neurodiversity](#)



'Neurodiversity in children and adolescents is a concept celebrating the natural variation in how young minds work. It acknowledges that neurological differences, such as ADHD, autism, dyslexia, and giftedness, are not disabilities but unique aspects of human cognition. Embracing neurodiversity fosters acceptance, empathy, and inclusivity in society. Parents play a pivotal role in supporting their neurodiverse child by understanding their specific needs, advocating for appropriate educational accommodations, and seeking professional guidance when necessary. By appreciating and nurturing their child's strengths, parents can help them thrive and unlock their full potential, leading to a more compassionate and understanding future for all.' (SchoolTV, 2024)

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS IN 2024 (Student free days)

Date	Purpose
Friday 26 th April	ReLATE Professional Development training
Friday 7 th June	Curriculum planning and reporting
Wednesday 7 th August	Religious Education Professional Development
Monday 18 th November	Curriculum planning and reporting

May God bless you all and keep you safe over the holiday break,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Simon Duffy'.

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

TERM 2 PARENT UPDATES TO ASSIST WITH PLANNING.

Wednesday 17th April (Week 1)-Andrew Chinn visit

Andrew Chinn (singer/song writer) will be working with members of the school community to write and rehearse our new school song. There will be a whole school concert in the MPR between 2.30pm – 3.15pm. Parents are invited to the concert.

Tuesday 23rd April (Week 2) Eucharist Sacrament

The school will support the parish with the Eucharistic Sacramental program for students making the Sacrament of First Communion (First Eucharist). The parent information session will be held at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School for our families on Tuesday 23rd April at 9:00am and repeated at 2:45pm.

Thursday 2nd May (Week 3) - Special Persons Day

Special Persons Day will be held between 1.30 - 3.15pm. The format for the day is that “Special Persons” will come into school at 1.30pm and wait outside in the school yard until the students come out at 1.45pm. Our “Special Persons” will then have time with the children outside. They may like to bring along some food to share. At 2.20pm the students and special people will come into the classrooms. Students will have the opportunity to show their work to their special person/s and include them with activities in the class. At 2.45pm students and special people will make their way to the Multipurpose Room for Whole School Prayer led by the students in 3/4 Edwards class. The day will conclude at 3.15pm.

Friday 3rd May (Week 3) -School Athletics day

The whole school annual athletics day will be held at Llanberris Athletics Reserve. Students are to be dropped at the track between 8.30am- 8.45am. Community members are invited to come along and support on the day. More details to come early next term.

Thursday 9th May (Week 4) – Mother’s Day Stall

Our annual Mother’s Day stall will be run by the Parent and Friends Association (P and F). All students are encouraged to bring along \$5 to purchase a Mother’s Day gift.

Friday 10th May (Week 4)- Mother’s Day Breakfast

Our annual Mother’s Day breakfast will be hosted by the Parents and Friends (P and F) between 7:00- 8:45am. Egg and bacon rolls and fruit juice will be served to all. This year there will be no tickets required to attend the event. More details to come closer to the date.

Thursday 6th June (Week 8)- School Disco

The school disco will be held in the multipurpose room on the Thursday 6th June prior to the school closure day on Friday 7th June. The cost of the event is \$5 per student. This event is run by the teachers.

Foundation, Yr.1 and Yr. 2 students	4:15pm – 5:15pm
Yr. 3 & Yr. 4 students	5:30pm – 6:30pm
Yr. 5 & Yr. 6 students	6:45pm – 7:45pm

Friday 21st June (Week 10) - St Thomas More Feast Day and Talent Show

The Feast Day Mass will be held at 9:15am in the Multipurpose Room to which parents are invited. “St Thomas More’s Got Talent” show will be held at 12.30pm - more details to come.

Term 1 Calendar, 2024

9 March/ April	25 School Photo Day Classroom Helper training session 9-11am (Part 2)	26	27 Easter Raffle Drawn 2:50pm	28 Whole School Prayer: Stations of the Cross presented by 5/6 classes @11:45am Last day of Term 1 Students dismissed @ 1.45pm	29 Good Friday Public Holiday
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Term 2 Calendar, 2024

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 April	15	16	17 Andrew Chinn concert 2.30pm	18 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 5/6Gittings	19 Foundation 2025 Parent Information session 9.30-10.15am
2 April	22	23 First Eucharist Information sessions for Parents 9:00am and repeated at 2:45pm at STMCPs	24 Assembly at 2:55pm presented by 5/6Dodd	25 ANZAC DAY	26 School closure Day
3 April/May	29 Catholic Education Week Interschool Cross country	30	1	2 Special Person's Day from 1.30 -3.15pm Whole School Prayer @ 2:45pm led by 3/4Edwards	3 School athletics day at Llanberris Athletic Reserve
4 May	6	7 Administration staff Appreciation Day	8	9 Mother's Day Stall Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 1/2Stacey	10 Mother's Day Breakfast beginning 7am
5 May	13 School Advisory Council meeting @ 5pm	14	15	16 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 1/2Woodhart	17 Senior interschool Football
5 May	20	21	22	23 Assembly at 2:55pm presented by Foundation Hobbs	24 Senior Interschool Soccer
7 May/June	27	28	29	30 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 1/2Turkenburg/Hoffmann	31
8 June	3	4	5	6 Assembly at 2:55pm presented by 1/2Smith School Disco Foundation- Yr 2: 4:15-5:15 Years 3&4: 5:30-6:30pm Years 5&6: 6:45-7:45pm	7 School Closure Day
9 June	10 King's Birthday -Public Holiday	11	12	13 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by Foundation Keighrey	14 Casual clothes day -gold coin donation
10 June	17	18	19	20 Assembly at 2:55pm presented by Foundation Cudia	21 St Thomas More Feast Day Mass 9.15am & Talent Show 12.30pm
11 June	24	25	26 Semester 1 School Reports sent home	27 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 3/4Gannon	28 Last Day of Term 2 1.45pm finish



KELLY SPORTS *Easter*
HOLIDAY PROGRAMME
Tue 2nd to Fri 12th April 2024

What To Bring:
Swimable cap
A refillable drink bottle
A hat & sunscreen
Big pocketed lunch

JOIN US!
For a Fun-Filled Holiday Program!
EASTWOOD LEISURE CENTRE BALLARAT
9am-3pm Weekdays
Kinder to Grade 6
\$60 per child per day

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www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat



Foster Care

Information Sessions On Now

Foster Care is about creating a safe space for children in our community. Take the next step in becoming a foster carer with Cafs. Register to attend one of our upcoming carer information sessions today.



REGISTER YOUR INTEREST
Visit cafs.org.au or call 1800 692 237



Enrolment Information for Prospective 2025 Foundation (Prep) Students at Catholic Primary Schools in the City of Ballarat

A single enrolment application process is in place for all families seeking Foundation (Prep) enrolment for the 2025 school year at a Catholic primary school within the City of Ballarat (see school list overleaf), including families with children already in one of the eleven schools. Note that information collected through the enrolment process is collated on a common database shared by the eleven schools.

Families seeking enrolment should follow the steps below to apply by **Thursday 23 May 2024**.

Application Process

1. Contact/visit the website of the school/s you are interested in enrolling your child at – see school list overleaf.
2. Engage with the school's process for conducting information sessions or school tours
3. Complete the online Expression of Interest for Enrolment form by Thursday 23 May 2024 by visiting the [DOBCEL website](#) (click link or scan the QR code)

Important:

- You will be asked to indicate your first, second and third preference schools.
- You will be required to upload your child's Birth Certificate and Baptism Certificate (if applicable).
- If you are unable to access the online form, contact Danielle enrollments@dobcel.catholic.edu.au for assistance. Your query will be attended to as soon as possible.



Key 2024 Dates

Foundation (Prep) enrolment expressions of interest open	Monday 12 February
Expression of interest forms close	Thursday 23 May
First round placement offers sent	Friday 31 May at 12.00pm
First round acceptance close	Friday 7 June at 4.00pm
School principals meet to determine allocation of placements	Wednesday 12 June
Second round placement offers sent	Friday 14 June at 12.00pm
List of schools with vacancies published	Friday 14 June at 12.00pm
Second round acceptance close	Friday 21 June at 4.00pm

Important:

- Each Catholic Primary School will make offers of enrolment in line with the [Diocese of Ballarat Enrolment Policy](#) which takes into consideration a variety of factors.
- Completing this expression of interest process does not guarantee an offer of enrolment in a City of Ballarat Catholic primary school.



Enhancing Catholic School Identity

General instructions for survey completion for parents

Thank you very much for making time to participate in the Enhancing Catholic School Identity project. The purpose of this survey research is to gain meaningful insights into how your son or daughter's school views its Catholic identity today and how such identity might be shaped for tomorrow.

Everyone's input is important.

Your participation should take about **55 minutes**. It's best to finish the survey in one shot, without having to come back later.

Your responses are anonymous and your personal data is treated confidentially in accordance with ethical and legal guidelines.

Only you will be able to view your individual results and this can be done once you've completed the questionnaires.

Keep these best practices in mind:

- ✓ **Answer spontaneously and don't overanalyse.** Your input is more valuable if you respond with the first thought that comes to mind. Plus, you'll proceed faster.
- ✓ **Choose the response that honestly matches your opinion.** Don't hesitate to select "strongly agree" or "strongly disagree" if that's in fact how you feel.
- ✓ **Respond as best you can to each question as it is worded.** You may feel that some questions don't fully apply to your school environment. That's OK; just respond as best you can.

It's also helpful to keep in mind:

- ✓ **Many questions ask you for two perspectives:**
 - "My son/daughter's school" as you actually see things today
 - "My ideal school" as you would like to see things in the best future scenario
- ✓ **Some questions might seem repetitive; but they're actually not.** There's a scientific purpose behind the ways in which the questions are formulated. Every question counts.
- ✓ **Trust that the survey as a whole will accurately capture your personal point of view.** Even if you struggle to respond to some individual questions, it's important to complete the entire survey.

LOGIN INSTRUCTIONS

1. Access the surveys at www.ecsi.site/au/user/
2. Enter the case-sensitive password **Ghj654** and click login.



Password:

3. If you're a new user: Click the **New user** button.
If you wish to continue a previous session: Enter your **User-ID** and **Password**.
4. Enter your school's **Survey Access Code** - as provided by your school - so that your input will be linked to your school **St Thomas More survey access code - d18zWF**
5. You are now logged in. Displayed on the screen is your unique **User-ID** and **Password** (case-sensitive).

Save this information (write, print, or email it) to access the website at a later time.



  User code : r0000
Password : *****

6. From this point forward, please follow the on-screen instructions to complete the surveys.

SURVEY PROGRESS

- The survey begins with some general demographic questions.
- The survey proceeds in several parts. Please finish one part before proceeding to the next one.
- You can view your results at any time by returning to the main questionnaire page.
- You can return at any time to a question and change your response.
- If you wish to pause and finish the survey at a later time, you will need your **User-ID and Password** in order to login again.