



NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

In our school assembly today, we reminded the students that ANZAC Day is a day to remember all Australians and New Zealanders who gave their lives in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping missions around the world. It is also a time to remember and thank all those who have served, and continue to serve, in the Australian and New Zealand armies. We will keep them all in our thoughts tomorrow on ANZAC Day.



Next week all schools across the Ballarat Diocese will be celebrating the 150 years of the Ballarat Diocese with Catholic Education Week, which will run from 29th April – 3rd May. This is a very significant occasion that will be marked by many celebrations across the Diocese and here at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School.



SPECIAL PERSONS DAY

As part of Catholic Education Week celebrations, we will be holding a Special Persons Day on **Thursday 2nd May** between 1.30 - 3.15pm. The format for the day is that "Special Persons" (parents, grandparents, friends etc) are invited to 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 in activities within the classroom. At 2.40pm 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.



ANNUAL ATHLETICS DAY

Another great community event in Catholic Education Week is our annual Athletics Day. It will be held on **Friday 3rd May** at 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, we plan to have a 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 group. The sports day will conclude at 2:00pm, with students being dismissed from the site, under the care of their parents/caregivers. 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 at the usual dismissal time of 3:15pm. A program for the day is being finalised and will be sent home very soon. Extra copies will also be available at the front reception desk.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

Please note that this coming **Friday, 26th April**, is a school closure day to allow staff to participate in professional learning.

INFORM AND EMPOWER

Beginning this term, we are pleased to be partnering with the *Inform and Empower Cyber Safety & Digital Wellbeing program*. This means that your child/children will be tuning in to live streamed incursions (with their teachers) that focus on healthy and safe digital habits. The incursion content is all written and delivered by qualified teachers who are endorsed by the eSafety Commissioner as a Trusted eSafety Provider.



These sessions aim to help children better navigate the online world and become more aware, clever, brave and kind. They will focus on topics including navigating unwanted contact, cyberbullying, help-seeking strategies, unsafe content, balancing screen time with "green time" and guidelines around sharing personal information. You will also be given resources to support conversations with your children at home. You will receive a concise "tip sheet" each term that outlines what your child learned about in class and how you might open-up these important conversations. See page 5 of the newsletter.

MOTHER'S DAY EVENTS

We have several Mother's Day events planned to celebrate the mothers and carers in our children's lives. On **Thursday 9th May**, the Parents and Friends Association is conducting a Mother's Day Stall for the students. All students will have the opportunity to purchase a gift for their mother/carer. All gifts are priced at \$5 each. Students are asked to bring along \$5 on the day to pay for their chosen gift. On the afternoon of **Thursday 9th May**, our Whole School Prayer will focus on Mother's Day. Parents are welcome to attend the Whole School Prayer. If you intend to attend, we ask that you are seated quietly and prayerfully in the Multipurpose Room by 2.50pm. The following day, **Friday 10th May**, our annual Mother's Day breakfast will be hosted by the Parents and Friends 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, however, please be aware that breakfast service will most likely be very busy between 8am and 8.45am.

ENHANCING CATHOLIC SCHOOL IDENTITY (ECSI) SURVEY

I am seeking another 20 families to participate in the Enhancing Catholic School Identity (ECSI) survey to assist us in better understanding how our Catholic identity is seen to be 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/>. Survey closes on **Friday 26th April**. 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.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS IN 2024 (STUDENT FREE)

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

SchoolTV Update: Week 2, Term 2 2024

[Happiness and Gratitude](#)

'Happiness is defined as the balance of positive and negative emotions, combined with overall life satisfaction. Happiness and gratitude have been studied in positive psychology for many years and researchers have found that gratitude is always strongly associated with greater happiness. Although everyone has their own definition of happiness, many of us want to feel more positive emotions than negative ones. However, negative emotions are still important. They have a lot to teach us and alert us when things need to change. Practising gratitude helps people feel more of the positive emotions, enable us to relish good experiences, improve our overall health, deal with adversity and build strong relationships.' (SchoolTV, 2024)



OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY - MARCH 2024

The March edition of 'Our Diocesan Community' is [now available!](#) This wonderful magazine features the good news stories of our schools, parishes and agencies across the Ballarat diocese. There are a few St Thomas More staff and students that feature in this current edition of the magazine.



May God bless you all and keep you safe,

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

Term 2 Calendar, 2024

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 April	22	23 First Eucharist Information sessions for Parents 9:00am and repeated at 2:45pm at STMCPs	24 Assembly at 2:45pm 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 8:30am-2:00pm
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



Australian Government



eSafety
Commissioner

We are excited to introduce you to a vital resource that promotes the safety and wellbeing of our children in the digital world – the Australian eSafety Commissioner. In this day and age, it is essential to equip ourselves and our children with the necessary knowledge and tools to navigate the online landscape safely.

The Australian eSafety Commissioner is an independent government agency focused on promoting online safety for all Australians, especially children and young people.

eSafety Parents

The eSafety Commissioner website has a whole collection of useful, searchable, help articles for parents. They cover topics including gaming, social media, first mobile phone, tricky conversations, parental controls and much more.

Follow them on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) for timely updates.



Reporting and Removal of Harmful Content

If you and your family ever encounter a situation online where you need support, this is the place to come. They can investigate and take action against cyberbullying (children or adult), illegal content and image based abuse, providing a user-friendly reporting system.



www.esafety.gov.au



Inform & Empower is endorsed by the eSafety Commissioner as a Trusted eSafety Provider

INFORM & EMPOWER

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.



KU LEUVEN

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.



ALFREDTON AFTER SCHOOL *care program*

We cater to the needs of all children and offer a range of activities including sports, games, arts and crafts, cooking, creative and expressive arts such as drama, singing and dancing, board games and puzzles and much more. We also provide healthy and delicious snacks.

For more information call 0492 847 596
or visit yballarat.org.au

