

## NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

As a faith-filled community at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, we come together in prayer and reflection following the passing of Pope Francis. In this time of mourning, we remember his compassion, his leadership and the deep love he showed for all of God's creation.



*God of all Creation,*

*We thank You for the gift of Pope Francis. Please help us to always be kind, loving and helpful, just like he was. We pray that we will follow the example of love that Pope Francis gave us by caring for the poor and marginalised and for the beautiful gift of the whole world. Amen*

Next weekend we give thanks for the wonderful gift of mothers, grandmothers, stepmothers, aunties and female carers through the celebration of Mother's Day. This is a great opportunity for each of us to thank God for the very special women who care for us and love us unconditionally. I am truly thankful for my own mother, who is a mother to three and grandmother to seven. I am extremely grateful for her many gifts, including her compassion for others, her ability to make people feel special and her ability to laugh. Her gifts continue to be a great source of strength and inspiration for me each day.



### MOTHER'S DAY EVENTS

We have several Mother's Day events planned to celebrate the mothers and carers in our children's lives. On the morning of **Thursday 8th 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 8th May**, our Whole School Prayer will focus on Mother's Day. As always 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 2.40pm in readiness for a 2:45pm start. The following day, **Friday 9th 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. There is no need to pre-order tickets for this event, however, please be aware that breakfast service will most likely be very busy between 8am and 8.45am.

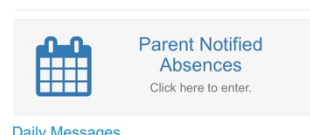
### ANZAC ASSEMBLY

In our school assembly tomorrow, led by Year 3/4 Hare, we remind the students that ANZAC Day is and was 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 on ANZAC Day each year.



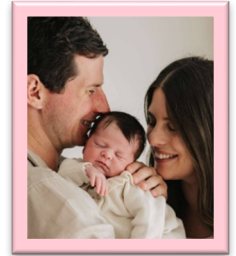
### NOTIFYING OF STUDENT ABSENCE

To report student absences please enter the absence through PAM (Parent Access Module) as the St Thomas More School App is no longer in use.



## BABY NEWS

We congratulate Ms Brooke Keighrey and partner Clay who recently welcomed their little bundle of joy. Annie arrived safely on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March. Brooke is looking forward to introducing Annie to the St Thomas More Catholic Primary School community in the near future.



## Pursuing Fullness of Life for All – DOBCEL Strategy 2035

Last week, the St Thomas More Staff joined with all Central Zone schools for a Collaboration Day, where we explored the *Pursuing Fullness of Life for All – DOBCEL Strategy 2035*. This important gathering was led by Tom Sexton (Director of Catholic Education for the Ballarat Diocese), Pasi Sahlberg and David Runge, who guided us through the strategy and its significance for Catholic schools across the Ballarat Diocese. It was a meaningful and inspiring day that encouraged deep thinking about the future of catholic education in our community. As we look ahead, we do so with excitement and curiosity, ready to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead in building a high-performing and faith-filled system of schools. Click here to find a copy of the booklet - [here](#)



## INFORM AND EMPOWER

This term we continue our partnership 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 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 their online class.



## WINTER UNIFORM

This term we will be trialling a new approach to our winter uniform. Students will have the following uniform options:

**Sports uniform** - students may choose to wear shorts, skorts or tracksuit pants

**Academic uniform** - students may choose to wear their winter pinafore with white school socks or navy tights. Students may also choose to wear grey shorts or grey pants.

A reminder that when wearing the academic uniform, the school jumper is the next layer. Students can wear the soft-shell jacket or the puffer jacket over the jumper. We encourage parents and students to make common sense decisions on which uniform to wear depending on the weather conditions.

This change will be reviewed at the end of Term 2 before a decision is made for Term 3.

## BEFORE SCHOOL CARE AT 'THE Y'

A Before School Care program, based out of Alfredton Primary School, has begun this term. This service is in conjunction with the After School Care program that is already on offer. The program is designed to provide a safe and engaging environment for children before the school day starts. The service will run from 6:30am to 8:45am each school morning. The service will offer the opportunity for permanent or casual bookings. If you have any questions or need assistance with bookings, please contact Emily Griffiths OSHC Program Director on 03 4311 1500 or at [alfredton.oshc@yballarat.org.au](mailto:alfredton.oshc@yballarat.org.au)



We believe in the power of  
inspired young people

## SPECIAL PERSON DAY

We will be celebrating Special Persons Day on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** 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. The day will conclude at 3.15pm.



## CLASSROOM HELPERS 2025

This term we welcome 22 classroom helpers in the F-2 learning area, supporting teachers and students during literacy time. Eight new parents participated in the training course this year and we welcome them warmly to our community of learning. Already there is a 'buzz' in the corridors and classrooms with extra groups and 1:1 reading/writing practise occurring every day. For the St Thomas More Catholic primary School community, this partnership and support in learning is invaluable.

## DOGS WITHIN SCHOOL GROUNDS POLICY

A reminder for parents that we have a Dogs Within School Grounds Policy which supports the promotion of a safe school environment and to ensure the safety of all whilst attending the school: through both direct and indirect contact with dogs.



## School TV: Update Week 2, 2025: MOTHER'S DAY

Here is the link to your special report: [Celebrating Mother's Day](#)  
'Mother's Day' originated from humble beginnings in 1908 as a simple tradition to honour all mothers, living and deceased. However, it did not take long for florists, confectioners and card companies to jump onboard and commercialise the day, much to the disappointment of its founder, Ann Jarvis.



SPECIAL REPORT  
**Celebrating  
Mother's Day**  
SchoolTV

Today, Mother's Day is an annual reminder to say thanks to our mum, or other motherly figure, who plays an important role in our lives. It is a day to express our gratitude and love towards the women who have dedicated their time, energy and love to raise and support us. Whether it's a simple gesture like a card, a bunch of flowers or a heartfelt message, Mother's Day is an opportunity to show our mothers how much we cherish and admire them. It's a time to reflect on the love, sacrifices and unwavering support that our mothers provide unconditionally.

Mothers will often put the needs of others above their own, so it is paramount to remind them to take care of themselves, especially when it comes to their mental health. Research has shown that women experience some mental health conditions more so than men and at much higher rates. There are many factors that can impact a woman's well being physically and emotionally. Seeking effective treatment can enable her to engage more readily in everyday activities and fulfil the needs of her children and family. This Special Report highlights that Mother's Day is not only a celebration, but also a reminder of the vital role mothers play in the developmental growth of her children and the impact this has on shaping our society.' (School TV, 2025)

## ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

The Parent's and Friends are looking for some assistance with the setting for the Mother's Day Breakfast. If you could spare some time on **Thursday 8th May** from **3:30-4:30pm** they are needing some help to set up the hall. Also, the P & F are seeking any dads who are available on **Friday 9th May** who could come along from **6:45-8:30am** to help with cooking and serving of food.

Please contact Amy Donald on 0408 357 634 to let her know if you are available to help.

May God bless you all and keep you safe,



Mr Simon Duffy, Principal

## Term 2 Calendar

| Week                   | Monday  | Tuesday                      | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  |
|------------------------|---|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>2</b><br>April/May  | 28  | 29                           | 30<br>Year 5/6 Excursion to Sovereign Hill "Aura" Sound and Light Show 6:30-8:30pm         | 1<br>ANZAC Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 3/4 Hare                         | 2   |
| <b>3</b><br>May        | 5<br>Foundation 2026 Parent Information session & tour 9:15-10:15                   | 6                            | 7<br>Year 5/6 Interschool football   | 8<br>Mother's Day stall<br>Whole School Prayer @ 2:45pm led by 1/2 Classes | 9<br>Mother's Day Breakfast 7:00-8:30am   |
| <b>4</b><br>May        | 12<br>Interschool Cross Country   | 13<br>Admin Appreciation Day | 14   | 15<br>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 5/6 Smith                             | 16<br>Year 5 SEED day at St. Pat's College & Loreto College 9:00-1:30pm<br>Year 3/4 attending Musical production at Loreto College 10:00am – 2:00pm |
| <b>5</b><br>May        | 19<br>School Advisory Council Meeting @ 5pm   | 20                           | 21<br>Year 5/6 attending Musical production at St Patrick's College 10:30-1:30pm           | 22   | 23<br>Special Person Day<br>Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm presented by 1/2 Brady   |
| <b>6</b><br>May        | 26<br>Catholic Education Week<br>Greater Western Region Cross Country Championships | 27                           | 28<br>Year 5/6 interschool Soccer  | 29<br>Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 3/4 Classes                      | 30<br>Year 3/4 Mass 9.15am at STMCPs  |
| <b>7</b><br>May/June   | 2   | 3                            | 4<br>Year 1/2 Excursion to Fairy Park  | 5<br>Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 5/6 Dodd                          | 6<br>Year 5/6 Interschool netball   |
| <b>8</b><br>June       | 9<br>King's Birthday Public Holiday   | 10<br>Year 5/6 Camp          | 11<br>Year 5/6 Camp  | 12<br>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by Foundation Cudia                      | 13<br>Yr 5/6 Interschool Sport against Emmaus PS  |
| <b>9</b><br>June       | 16  | 17                           | 18<br>Greater Western Region Soccer Competition  | 19   | 20<br>Mass celebrating St Thomas More Feast Day @ 9.15am and Talent Show @ 12.30pm<br>Greater Western Region Netball Competition                    |
| <b>10</b><br>June      | 23  | 24                           | 25<br>Greater Western Region Football Competition  | 26<br>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 1/2 Harris                            | 27  |
| <b>11</b><br>June/July | 30<br>Fullness of Life Parent Information session @ 2:30pm                          | 1                            | 2<br>Semester One Student Reports available.<br>Inform and Empower Parent Session @ 7:00pm | 3<br>Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by Foundation Gannon                 | 4<br>Casual Clothes Day<br>Last Day of Term 2 1.45pm finish   |



# TERM 2 SPORTS!

## STM PS



Footy Soccer Basketball Hockey Netball

\$18 + GST  
per session

**MONDAYS**

**GYM & CIRCUS**

**TUESDAYS**

**MULTI-SPORT**

**3:20pm  
-  
4:20pm**



Pick up from  
front of  
school,  
4:20pm

Sign up  
anytime  
during the  
term!

**QUERIES: TEXT SEAN 0411 602 204**



**ENROL ONLINE**  
[WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/](http://WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/)  
**GREATER-BALLARAT**

