



NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

Congratulations to the students of St Thomas More who will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this evening. We keep these students in our thoughts and prayers as they continue to grow in their faith journey.



PROJECT COMPASSION

Thank you to our wonderful school community for your generosity in supporting Caritas through Project Compassion this term. To date, we have raised over **\$1,700**, helping to support vulnerable communities around the world by addressing poverty, promoting justice and upholding human dignity. Families are kindly reminded to return their Project Compassion boxes to school by **Tuesday 31st March**.



HOLY WEEK LITURGY

On **Wednesday 1st April at 2:30pm**, the students from Year 5/6 Baker will lead a special Holy Week Liturgy in the Hall/Multipurpose Room. We warmly invite all members of our school community to join us for this meaningful and reflective celebration.



PARENTS & FRIENDS – EASTER RAFFLE

Our Parents and Friends Association Easter Raffle will be closing in **5 days**. Funds raised will contribute to the development and installation of new synthetic courts, including new basketball, netball, soccer and pickleball facilities for our students. We sincerely appreciate the continued support and generosity of our families in making this exciting project possible. Tickets can be purchased here: <https://rafflelink.com.au/stmcpseaster26>



The raffle will be drawn on **Tuesday 31st March at 3pm**.

END OF TERM 1

Term 1 concludes next **Thursday 2nd April at 1:45pm**. Please note the earlier dismissal time.

WINTER UNIFORM

As we approach Terms 2 and 3, a reminder of the winter uniform options:

Sports Uniform:

Shorts, skorts or tracksuit pants with the blue school polo shirt (long or short sleeve)

Academic Uniform:

Winter pinafore with white socks or navy tights

Grey shorts or grey pants with grey socks, with the blue school polo shirt (long or short sleeve)

Please note:

The school jumper should be worn as the next layer with the academic uniform

The soft-shell or puffer jacket may be worn over the jumper

We encourage families to use discretion and choose the most appropriate uniform based on weather conditions.

E-SCOOTERS

In partnership with Victorian Police, we remind families of the regulations regarding e-scooter use:

- Riders must be **at least 16 years of age**
- Helmets must be worn at all times
- The maximum speed limit is **20 km/h**

We appreciate your support in ensuring that students do not ride e-scooters to school.

Further information is available via the Victorian Police website:

<https://www.police.vic.gov.au/electric-powered-scooters-e-scooters>



MOBILE PHONE & SMARTWATCH PRACTICES

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School recognises that digital technologies are an integral part of modern life. While these tools can enhance learning, they can also present risks to student wellbeing and development if not used appropriately.

To maintain a safe and focused learning environment, we support the use of school-based technologies (such as iPads and Chromebooks), while restricting the use of personal devices during the school day.

In line with Victorian Government guidelines:

All mobile phones and smartwatches must be handed to the classroom teacher at the start of the day and will be securely stored.

Students may access their devices before 8:45am and after 3:15pm only

Smartwatches should not be worn during the school day unless they are set to *school mode*

If you need to contact your child during school hours, please phone the school office on 5334 2244 and we will ensure your message is passed on promptly. Alternatively, you may leave a message on your child's phone for them to access after school.



CONCUSSION – Important Information for Parents and Carers

If your child experiences a concussion outside of school, it is important that they:

Rest for 24–48 hours following the injury

Gradually return to normal activities, including school and sport, as symptoms allow. A staged return to school may be necessary, with a focus on slowly increasing your child's tolerance to a full day of learning.

The same gradual approach should be applied to sporting activities. We strongly recommend seeking medical advice following any head injury and following your doctor's guidance throughout recovery.

Please ensure the school is informed if your child has sustained a concussion. This allows us to appropriately monitor their wellbeing and make any necessary adjustments to their learning and activity levels. For further information, we encourage families to read the following resource from the Royal Children's Hospital:

https://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact_sheets/Head_injury_return_to_school_and_sport/

SchoolTV – MANAGING SCREEN TIME [Managing Screen Time](#)

This edition of SchoolTV focuses on managing screen time in today's digital world. Since the pandemic, screen use has increased and many families are still working to re-establish healthy boundaries. While screens can support learning and connection, excessive use may impact children's wellbeing.

Parents and carers play an important role in modelling balanced screen habits and having open conversations about both the benefits and risks of technology.

Clear expectations and consistent limits are essential, along with appropriate privacy settings to keep children safe online. This resource offers practical strategies to support families in creating healthy screen habits at home.



School Closure days in 2026 (Student free)

| Date | Purpose |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Friday 5 th June | Mental Health - Staff Professional Development |
| Friday 31 st July | Religious Education- Staff Professional Development |
| Tuesday 1 st September | FLARE Literacy - Staff Professional Development |
| Monday 2 nd November | Curriculum Planning and Reporting |

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe and supportive environment for all students.

May God bless you all and keep you safe,

Kind regards,

Mr. Simon Duffy,
Principal

Term 1 Calendar, 2026

| Week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|------------|--------|---|---|--|---|
| 9 March | 23 | 24 <i>Foundation 2027 Parent Information session 9.15am- 10.15am</i> | 25 School Photos <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation 5.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral</i> | 26 <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 3/4 Hawkes/De Bono</i> | 27 |
| 10 | 30 | 31 <i>Easter Raffle: drawn @ 3:00pm</i> | 1 <i>Stations of the Cross: Whole School Prayer @ 2:30pm led by 5/6 Baker</i> | 2 <i>Last day of Term 1 1.45pm finish</i> | 3 <i>Good Friday -Public holiday</i> |

Term 2 Calendar, 2026

| Week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|----------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1 April | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 <i>Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 5/6 Smith</i> | 24 |
| 2 April/May | 27 | 28 | 29 <i>Sacramental program Eucharist - Parent info session 9 am at St Thomas More</i> | 30 <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 3/4 Gittings/Willey</i> | 1 Year 5/6 Interschool Football |
| 3 May | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 <i>Mother's Day Stall</i> <i>Mother's Day Liturgy Prayer @ 2:55pm led by our 1/2 Classes</i> | 8 <i>Mother's Day Breakfast 7 – 8.30am</i> |
| 4 May | 11 Interschool Cross country | 12 <i>Year 5 Secondary Education Experience Day (SEED) 9:00-1:30pm St Pat's & Loreto College</i> | 13 | 14 <i>Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by Foundation Cudia</i> | 15 <i>School Athletics Day Years 3-6 at Llanberris</i> |
| 5 May | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 5/6 Larkin</i> | 22 <i>Junior F-2 Athletics Carnival at St Thomas More School</i> |
| 6 May | 25 <i>Catholic Education Week</i> | 26 | 27 | 28 Special Person Day <i>Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 3/4 Martin</i> | 29 Year 5/6 interschool Soccer <i>Year 3/4 Mass 9.15am</i> |
| 7 May/June | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 1/2 Turkenburg/Bourke</i> | 5 <i>School closure day Staff PD - Mental Health training day</i> |
| 8 June | 8 <i>King's Birthday- Public Holiday</i> | 9 | 10 | 11 <i>Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by Foundation Gannon</i> | 12 Yr 5/6 Interschool Netball |
| 9 June | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by Foundation Edwards</i> <i>School production @6pm at Ballarat Civic Hall</i> | 19 Yr 5/6 Interschool sport STM versing Emmaus |
| 10 June | 22 <i>St Thomas More Feast Day Mass 9.15am</i> | 23 | 24 | 25 <i>Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 1/2 Hammill</i> | 26 |

Inspired by Christ's Mercy



Join us for Open Night

Damascus College

Thursday 30 April | 4.30pm - 6.30pm

Explore our campus, meet our students and staff,
and discover what makes Damascus College
a place where young people grow and thrive.



Registration essential: damascus.vic.edu.au

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