

Dear Families,

Welcome to our very first monthly newsletter!

As you know, from this term onwards we have shifted from fortnightly newsletters to a monthly edition. With regular updates continuing to come through Operoo, social media, and SMS, this new format allows us to use the newsletter as a space to celebrate learning, share stories, and highlight the wonderful life of our school community. Please be assured that all important reminders and time-sensitive information will still be sent through our other communication channels, so you won't miss a thing. Thank you for the many ways you stay connected and for the ongoing support you give our school.

We are also looking forward to celebrating our **Father's Day Breakfast** tomorrow, on Thursday 4th September from 7:45–8:45am- dads, grandfathers, and special father figures are warmly invited to join us for breakfast with their children, followed by a visit to their learning spaces up until 9am. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to share their learning with their fathers or father-like figures and enjoy a special moment together. A note indicating attendance went home on Friday 8th August.

In addition, our **Father's Day Stall** will be held on **Friday 5 September**. Students will have the opportunity to purchase a Father's Day gift for their dad or a special person in their lives. The students will be shown the gifts available for purchase prior to this day. Gifts will range from \$1.00 to \$4.00. Students will be provided with a paper bag to give their gift in. Students are to bring their money in a named envelope or purse which they will then bring to the hall to purchase their gift.

Last week we celebrated the joy of reading through Book Week with the theme "Book an Adventure." Our school has been filled with stories, imagination and creativity, reminding us of the power of books to open hearts and minds. A big thank you to our staff for the time, effort and energy they have given to make the week so special- from organising activities and displays, to encouraging a love of reading in our students each day, your commitment ensures that Book Week is both meaningful and memorable. We also thank our families for supporting the celebrations, especially through the excitement of the Book Week parade. Together, we continue to nurture a love of learning and the gift of stories in our community.

MACSSIS surveys have been distributed to selected families on Monday 1st September. The surveys give feedback to the school, to assist us to continue to enhance all we do for the children. If you have received this, we ask you to take the time to complete as this gives you a voice in supporting the school to provide the best education for your child.

We have had a number of complaints from residents on Retford Close regarding parents/carers parking across, or even in, residents' driveways. Residents have informed the school that they have notified the council. Please be aware that council officers will be patrolling the area and issuing fines to anyone found parking illegally.

The SRC initiative for this term is a Movie Day. This will be held on Thursday 18th September. Stayed tuned for further information regarding this.

Hub Groupings 2026

At the beginning of term 4, the school will begin to consider hub groups for 2026. In placing a student in a hub group, we will be considering; teacher recommendations, friendships and the need to mix learning abilities and having gender balance. Should any parent feel that they wish to share insights or information with us that may assist in this decision-making process, please phone the school (9742 9800) and I (Joanne) will be happy to chat with you. A conversation about this is the preferred option. Please do not email. The opportunity to share information will only be provided until **Friday 17th October, 2025**.

Last day of Term 3 is Friday 19th September at 12:30pm. In consultation with the SRC, this day will be a FOOTY FEVER dress up day, where students may dress up in their favourite footy team gear or colours.

THERE WILL BE NO LUNCH ORDERS ON THIS DAY

May the next few weeks, be filled with moments of faith, discovery, and connection for every member of our community.

Enjoy the remainder of the week

Take care. God bless.

Joanne Webster
Principal

Prayer for September

Heavenly Father,
As we enter the month of September,
we turn our hearts to Mary, Mother of Sorrows,
who stood faithfully at the foot of the Cross.
May her strength and trust in You
guide us through life's challenges and sorrows.

Lord Jesus,
through the mystery of the Holy Cross,
teach us to embrace love, sacrifice, and forgiveness.
May we carry our daily crosses with patience and hope,
knowing that You walk beside us always.

Holy Spirit,
renew in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love.
Help our community to live with compassion,
to serve one another generously,
and to walk in the light of Christ each day.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Student News

Masses, Sacraments and Family Nights for 2025

2025 Bethany Masses & Sacrament Dates Updated

Sacraments: Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation / Year Level Mass / Whole School Mass / Bethany Community Mass at St. Andrew's Church

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass Wednesday March 5th 10am (Week 6) Bethany Community Mass at St. Andrew's Church Saturday March 29th 6pm (Week 9) Holy Week Liturgy Friday April 4th 9:30am (Week 10)	Eucharist Family Meeting Wednesday April 30th at 6:45pm (Week 2) Year 1 & 6 Level Mass Thursday May 8th at 10am (Week 3) Our Lady Help Of Christians Mass Whole School Mass Friday May 23rd at 10am (Week 5) Reconciliation prior to Eucharist Thursday June 5th at 12pm (Week 7) Sacrament of Eucharist Thursday June 12th at 5pm St. Andrew's (Week 8)	Confirmation Spirituality Day Wednesday July 23rd and Thursday July 24th (Week 1) Confirmation Family Meeting Wednesday July 23rd at 6:45pm (Week 1) Reconciliation prior to Confirmation Thursday July 31st at 12pm (Week 2) Grandparents Day Whole School Mass Friday August 1st at 10am (Week 2) Sacrament of Confirmation Thursday August 7th at 5pm (Week 3) Prep, Year 3 & 5 Level Prayer Time Thursday August 21st at 10am (Week 5) Year 2 & 4 Level Mass (Passion Of St. John The Baptism) Friday August 29th at 10am (Week 6)	Reconciliation Family Meeting Wednesday Oct 22nd at 6:45pm (Week 3) Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesday 29th Oct at 5 pm (Week 4) Bethany Community Mass at St. Andrew's Church Saturday November 8th at 6pm (Week 5) TBC Bethany 30th Year Anniversary Whole School Mass Thursday November 13th at 10am (Week 6)

Assemblies:

Assemblies are held on Mondays, generally fortnightly at 2:25pm. Please find the Assembly Schedule. All families are invited to attend. These are generally held on the basketball court or in the school hall. **Our next assembly will be on the 8th September – Earth and Ocean Hubs.**

ASSEMBLIES - 2025								
	TERM 1		TERM 2		TERM 3		TERM 4	
WEEK	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS	DATE	HUBS
1			22 APRIL		21 JULY		6 OCTOBER	
2	3 FEBRUARY	Principal - JOANNE	28 APRIL	Year 6 Teresa/Little	28 JULY	Year 5/6 Kolbe/Mandela	13 OCTOBER	Year 5 Chisholm/MacKillop
3	10 FEBRUARY		5 MAY		4 AUGUST		20 OCTOBER	
4	17 FEBRUARY	PBL	12 MAY	Year 2 Indigo/Blue	11 AUGUST	Year 2 Gold / Violet	27 OCTOBER	Prep Sky/Star
5	24 FEBRUARY		19 MAY		18 AUGUST		3 NOVEMBER	
6	3 MARCH	Leadership Assembly	26 MAY	Year 4 Jordan/Todd	25 AUGUST	Book Week Incursion	10 NOVEMBER	REMEMBRANCE DAY- Leadership Centre
7	10 MARCH	HOLIDAY	2 JUNE		1 SEPTEMBER		17 NOVEMBER	
8	17 MARCH	Year 1 Yellow/Green	9 JUNE	HOLIDAY	8 SEPTEMBER	Prep Earth/Ocean	24 NOVEMBER	Year 3/4 Sepik/Murray
9	24 MARCH		16 JUNE	Year 1 Red/Orange	15 SEPTEMBER		1 DECEMBER	PP DAY
10	31 MARCH		23 JUNE	Year 3 Werribee/Yarra			Thurs 11 DECEMBER	End of Year Assembly JOANNE
11			30 JUNE				15 Dec	

Inform and Empower:

Each term the students across the school take part in the Inform and Empower Cyber Safety and Digital Wellbeing program by participating in engaging and interactive live streamed incursions. These incursions are designed to help create safer and more positive online experiences for the students.

This term the students from Years Prep-6 participated in the live incursions focusing on safe screen time, digital footprints and cyberbullying.
Below is an overview of the incursions and some conversation starters for parents and carers to use at home.

Foundation: Students focussed on navigating the online world more safely. They discussed how not all places on the internet are safe and explored how trusted adults can help us stay safe when online. Trusted adults can be teachers, parents, grandparents and carers who keep us safe when we are on devices. They listen to us, believe in us, keep us safe and help us.



Conversation starters for home:

Have you ever felt confused when you're having screen time? What did you do?
Who are some trusted adults you can talk to?

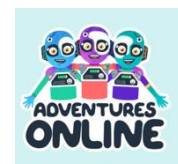
Years 1/2: Students focussed on the importance of Digital Footprints. Students learned about the importance of creating strong user names and passwords and not sharing personal information online. They discussed if someone online asks for any personal information, they need to tell one of their trusted adults who can block and support them.



Conversation starters for home:

Let's look at your username and passwords and profiles and see how safe they are.
What should we do if someone in a game or app asks us for personal information such as your name, address, age, phone number or photos?

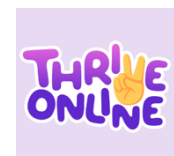
Years 3/4: Students focussed on developing strategies for navigating uncomfortable situations online such as seeking help, record/screenshot, report, block/change settings and taking a break. They explored what it means to be an upstander by letting a trusted adult know, reaching out to the person being impacted or calling it out online. It takes bravery to be an upstander.



Conversation starters for home:

Has a friend ever mentioned feeling uncomfortable or upset about something online?
Aside from a parent, teacher or carer, where else could you go for help or support? eg other adults or Kids Helpline.

Years 5/6: Students focussed on Cyberbullying- navigating uncomfortable situations. Students explored strategies for being an upstander- sending a supportive message to someone, calling out hurtful actions directly or telling a trusted adult and where to seek help. They also discussed the importance of consent in the context of digital interactions, asking for and receiving permission from someone before sharing their private photos or personal information online.



Conversation starters for home:

Can you think of a time when you or someone you know felt uncomfortable online?
Have you ever accessed the Kids Helpline website?
Have you ever seen other people act as an upstander online? What did they do?
Why do you think it is important to get consent before sharing someone's photo or video?

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

Our Prep students recently celebrated a very special milestone – 100 Days of Prep! To mark the occasion, the students enjoyed a Prep Camp Celebration Day, coming to school in their pyjamas, sharing a delicious breakfast together, brushing their teeth, and then getting dressed into their uniforms to begin their day.



This celebration was a wonderful opportunity for our Preps to demonstrate our school-wide expectations of being **safe, respectful, and responsible**. Students showed responsibility by independently getting themselves organised, brushing their teeth, dressing in their uniforms, and taking care of their belongings.

They demonstrated respect by listening attentively during the puppet show about resilience and by supporting their friends throughout the day. And they kept themselves and others safe by following routines and moving carefully during each activity.

It was great to see how far their independence, confidence, and positive behaviour have come in just 100 days of school!



Here's what some of our Preps had to say:

👤 "I liked having breakfast at school with my friends." – Imani (Ocean Hub)

👤 "The puppet show taught me to keep trying when things are hard." – Miranda (Sky Hub)

👤 "I was responsible when I brushed my teeth and got ready." - Daniel (Star Hub)

Positive Behaviour for Learning School Wide Expectations



Let Learners Learn and Teachers Teach

	Be Safe	Be Respectful	Be Responsible
Learning Spaces	- Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself - Line up and walk calmly and quietly	- Use kind words and actions - Use whole body listening - Follow directions promptly	- Look after self, others and equipment - Be a responsible learner
Outside Area	- Keep hands and feet to yourself - Use spaces and equipment correctly	- Use kind words and actions - Be a good sport	- Look after self, others and equipment - Wear correct uniform - Be on time & walk promptly to line up

UPDATED JAN 2024



The Resilience Project

Why It's Good for Children to Be Bored

In today's "Screen Age," boredom often feels like something to avoid — but research shows it can actually benefit children's emotional wellbeing and resilience. Allowing kids to experience boredom encourages creativity, problem-solving, and unstructured play, all of which are essential for developing social, emotional, and communication skills.



Leah Stevenson from *The Resilience Project* explains that device-free time helps children process big feelings, connect with others, and build resilience. By contrast, constant screen use can numb emotions and limit opportunities for meaningful conversations.

Parents and carers can support children by role-modelling device-free moments and encouraging them to embrace "Boredom Busters" such as imaginative play, exploring their environment, or creating cubbies and cardboard inventions. While it may take practice, giving children space to discover their own fun can lead to deeper creativity, confidence, and connection.

If you would like to read more about this, feel free to access the original article [here](#) or in the Wellbeing Hub at TRP@Home.

Happy Families:

Time Is Love: Why Being Present Matters More Than Ever

In amidst all the busyness of life and the endless 'to-do' lists, often family time, time with our children can be lost or replaced by tasks that 'have to be done.'

Sometimes it can feel overwhelming to spend more time with the kids in an overcrowded schedule but it isn't about creating more pressure, it's about what makes the biggest difference—spending quality time to hear, see and be with them. Your children do want your presence. You are big and important in their lives.

So What Can I Do Right Now?

1. *Create Moments, Not Events* - it might be as little as 10 to 15 minutes to share a joke, go for an ice-cream, a chat while on a short walk.

2. *Have a Personal Parenting Interview in your family and ask these three questions—*

- What is going well?
- What's not?
- How can we do better?

you might be surprised by their answers and how they feel about being seen, heard and, indeed, being asked.

3. *Be Interruptible* - sometimes these times come at what feels like inconvenient times, like bedtime or while reading a book. If they are reaching out, consider pausing and tuning in. These moments do matter.

4. *Make Time Their Way*

Each child connects differently. One might want to chat. Another prefers side-by-side activities like cooking or gaming. Follow their lead.

5. *Remember: It's Not Forever*

The days can feel long, but the years are short. Before we know it, they'll be grown. And what they'll remember most isn't how clean the house was, but whether we were there—really there. Just like dollars are the currency of our economy, connection (feeling seen, heard, and valued) is the currency of our relationships.

Parenting isn't about being perfect. It's about being present. In a world full of distractions and pressures, choosing to give our children our time is one of the most powerful ways we say "I love you."

So tonight, even if you're tired, pause for a moment. Ask a question. Play that card game. Sit on the edge of their bed and just listen.

Because in your child's eyes, love is spelled T-I-M-E—and that's what they'll remember.

Family News

Enrolments for Year 7 2028 **NEW**

Key Enrolment Dates for Year 5 2026 beginning Secondary School in 2028

If you wish to enrol your child in a Catholic Secondary School beginning in 2028, please observe the following dates.

- Tuesday 27th January 2026 – Applications will open for students commencing Year 7 in 2027.
- Friday 14th August 2026 – Applications will close.
- Friday 16th October 2026 – Offers will be posted to prospective 2028 Year 7 applicants.
- Friday 6th November 2026 – Final date for parents/carers to accept an offer made by a school.

If you require any further information, please see Elaine or Leanne.

Second Hand Uniform – New Process

We would like to notify you that our current second-hand uniform process is being revised, as it has presented a number of challenges.

Over time, we've encountered several difficulties with our existing process - such as inconsistent inventory, volunteer workload, and limited sales opportunities, which have made it less effective than intended.

We will no longer sell uniforms on behalf of families. You are welcome to list and sell your items privately on platforms like Facebook, Marketplace or local school uniform groups.

All unsold uniform items previously left at school for sale have now been returned to families.

If in the future you would like to donate any official Rushford's Uniform items that are clean and in good condition, you're most welcome to do so. We will assess them and, on an as-needed basis, offer them for sale at a nominal fee. Any proceeds help us manage ongoing costs and support broader school programs.

Families in need of second-hand school uniform items should now reach out directly via email to Kylie: kylie.scott@bswerribeenth.catholic.edu.au. Simply list your specific uniform requirements—such as size, garment type (jumper, shorts, dress, etc.) and we will review existing stock and let you know if we can help. If items are available, we will explain how you can collect or receive them. If nothing matches, we will keep your request on file in case items come in later.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate this matter. We look forward to implementing a more efficient second-hand uniform process in the near future.

Matters Financial

Student Levies AND School Fees are now **OVERDUE**

All student levies (\$420.00 per student) and School Fees (1,840.00 per Family) are now overdue. We would appreciate you attending to this matter if you have not already done so. Payment can be made over the phone by credit card or in person between 8:30am – 4:00pm. Should you be experiencing any difficulties finalising these payments please do not hesitate to speak to Joanne Webster.

Concessional Fee Policy

The concessional fee policy was introduced to support families struggling to pay school fees. Concessional school fees are available to any family that meets the below eligibility criteria:

- Holding a valid HCC and eligible for CSEF
- Experiencing severe financial hardship
- Holding a DVA Gold Card
- Identified as refugees and holding an ImmiCard
- Of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage

You will also be required to complete a form as a part of the process to determine eligibility. Should you wish further information re this funding or if you have questions as to whether you are eligible, please do not hesitate to contact the school and ask to speak to Joanne Webster.

Important Dates – School Dates for 2025 **NEW**

September 2025

Thursday 4th September – Father's Day Breakfast

Friday 5th September – Father's Day stall

Monday 8th September – Prep Earth/Ocean assembly 2:25pm **NEW**

Monday 8th September- Discovery Centre Flying Bookworm incursion **NEW**

Thursday 11th September – Wyndham Athletics Carnival

Thursday 18th September – Year 3 camp sleepover

Friday 19th September – Last day of Term 3 – 12:30pm finish – casual dress day **NEW**

October 2025

Monday 6th October – First day of Term 4 – 8:45am start

Monday 13th October – Chisholm/MacKillop assembly 2:25pm

Monday 20th October – Discovery Centre Camp **NEW**

Wednesday 22nd October – Reconciliation Family Night – Online 6:45pm **Updated**

Thursday 23rd October – Pre Prep Visits

Friday 24th October – Year 5 Science works excursion

Monday 27th October – Sky/Star assembly 2:25pm

Wednesday 29th October – Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Andrew's Church 5pm

Thursday 30th October – Pre Prep Visits

November 2025

Monday 10th November – Leadership Centre Remembrance Day assembly **NEW**

Thursday 13th November – 30th Anniversary Whole School Mass **NEW**

Friday 14th November – 30th Anniversary Celebration **NEW**

Friday November 14th – Colour Run **NEW**

Monday 24th November – Sepik/Murray assembly 2:25pm

December 2025

Monday 1st December – 2026 Planning Day SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

Wednesday 3rd December – Bethany Christmas Family Event **UPDATED AND NEW**

Friday 5th December – Orientation Day

Wednesday 10th December – Yr 6 Graduation 6pm **NEW**

Thursday 11th December – End of Year assembly 2:25pm

Last day of school for 2025 is Monday 15th December at 3:00pm. **NEW**

Parent in Partnership Dates for 2025

Term 4

Wednesday 15th October – 1:30pm

Wednesday 12th November – 6:45pm

School Advisory Council Dates 2025

Wednesday 3rd September – 6:45pm

Wednesday 19th November – 6:45pm

School Closures for 2025

The following dates are school closure days for 2025. **PLEASE MARK THESE IN YOUR DIARIES:**

Monday 3rd November – Report Writing Day

Monday 1st December – 2026 Planning Day

Public Holidays for 2025

Tuesday 4th November – Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Sacrament Dates 2025 PLEASE MARK IN YOUR DIARIES

First Reconciliation – Year 3 Wednesday 29th October at 5:00pm in St Andrew's Church

Family Nights for Sacraments 2025

Reconciliation Family Night – Year 3 students and parents/carers – Wednesday 22nd October 6:45pm **UPDATED ONLINE**

All students and families celebrating these sacraments are required to attend.

LUNCH ORDER PRICELIST 2025

HOT FOOD		
Party Pies		\$2.00
Sausage Rolls		\$5.20
Hot Dog with Sauce		\$5.20
Hot Dog with Sauce & Cheese		\$6.00
Schnitzel Sandwich		\$6.50
Schnitzel Sandwich with Lettuce & Mayo		\$7.00
Extras:	Sauce	\$0.20
	Mustard	\$0.20
	Paper Bag	\$0.20

CAKES		
Iced Donuts		\$1.20
Cinnamon Donuts		\$1.00
Jam Donuts		\$3.00
Chocolate Jam Donuts		\$3.50
Croissant		\$3.00
Lamington		\$4.00
Apple Cake		\$4.50
Mini Mud Cake		\$4.50
Hedgehog		\$4.50
Muffin (Chocolate Chip & Blueberry)		\$4.50
Happy Face/Neenish Tart		\$3.50

DRINKS		
Prima (Orange or Apple)		\$2.50
Prima (Apple & Raspberry)		\$2.50
Kids Milk (Chocolate or Strawberry)		\$3.00

SANDWICHES		
Ham or Chicken		\$4.00
Ham or Chicken & Cheese		\$5.50
Ham or Chicken, Cheese & Salad		\$7.50
Cheese & Salad (Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber & Carrot)		\$7.50
Cheese & Bacon Roll		\$2.00
Cheese Roll		\$1.80
Cheese & Vegemite Scroll		\$4.00