



# St. Joseph's Primary School NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 10—10th December 2024

17 Wedge St, Benalla 3672 P: (03) 5762 1347  
[www.sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au)



## SCHOOL NOTICES

### Contact Us:

St Joseph's Primary School  
17 Wedge St  
Benalla 3672  
P: (03) 5762 1347  
W: [www.sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au)

### Office open:

Mon-Fri 8.15am - 4.00pm

### Yard Supervision:

Morning: 8.30am – 9.00am  
Afternoon: 3.20pm - 3.40pm

### Bell Times:

First Bell: 8.55am  
**School Commences 9.00am**  
Lunch: 11.00am—12.00pm  
Afternoon Recess:  
2.00pm– 2.25pm  
Final Bell: 3.20pm

### 2024 Term Dates:

Term 1: 29th Jan—28th March  
Term 2: 15th April—28th June  
Term 3: 15th July—20th Sept  
Term 4: 7th Oct— 18th Dec

### 2025 Term Dates:

Term 1: 28th Jan—4th April  
Term 2: 22nd April—4th July  
Term 3: 21st July—19th Sept  
Term 4: 6th Oct— 19th Dec

**FINISH TIME ON  
WEDNESDAY  
18TH DECEMBER  
3.20PM**

**St Joseph's Primary School is  
a Child Safe School**



Dear God,

This Advent, we ask for your peace in our hearts and in the world. Help us be kind and understanding with each other, and bring peace to our school, homes, and everywhere we go.

We pray for those who are hurting or afraid, and for peace where there is conflict.

Thank you for sending Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Help us share His peace with others.

Amen.

### 2025 TERM 1 COMMENCES

STAFF—TUESDAY 28TH JANUARY  
YEAR 1 –6 STUDENTS— THURSDAY 30TH JANUARY  
FOUNDATION STUDENTS— FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY

St Joseph's Primary School is a Child Safe School.



## Principal's Reflection—Mrs Mary Dunstan



To the St Joseph's Community

As we come to the end of another wonderful year at St Joseph's, we want to take a moment to reflect on the many blessings and exciting events that we've shared this year. I want to thank each and every member of our whole community for the contributions that every child, parent, staff member and the wider parish community members have made to make St Joseph's such a wonderful school. Our school truly is a special place.

Firstly, a special thanks to Fr Vijay Bandanadam and the Parish Committee for their dedication to building and maintaining strong connections between our school community and the parish. Fr Vijay's spiritual guidance and support continues to be an important part of our daily operations. The connection between our school and the St Joseph's Parish Community is celebrated by all. These strong connections help ensure the lives of our students and families are influenced by the care and consideration of our wider parish community and the message of Jesus Christ.



I would like to thank our Parents and Friends Committee who have worked diligently this year to plan, organise and implement so many wonderful activities for our whole school community. This year Danielle Mee, Leesa Hazell, Jasmine Dean, and Karli Economou who were instrumental in leading an enthusiastic team of volunteers to plan and implement many successful fund raisers. Our whole community thank each and every member of the Parents and Friends committee for their dedication and hard work for our school.



Every Thursday a number of staff members and volunteers from the St Joseph's Parish came to school early to provide breakfast for many students in St Joseph's Hall. I make special thanks to Hayden Reeves, Jade Humphrey, Leanne Trotter, Tanya Johnstone, and some very special parish helpers: Kath, Denise and Carmel. This team ensured that the children were provided with a welcoming smile and a lovely breakfast to start the day.

Thanks to you all.

I also thank Mr Brendan French for his work with the Garden Club at school. Brendan organises a range of tools and plants for the children to tend to during lunch breaks. Thanks to you Brendan for your commitment to this important work at our school. Many children love the garden and look forward to watching the plants grow!



*The St Joseph's school community acknowledges the eight clan groups of the Yorta Yorta Nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which our school is situated.*



## Principal's Reflection—Mrs Mary Dunstan



Another important part of this work was the involvement of Benalla's Tomorrow Today Foundation. This year has seen another wonderful year of working in partnership with Tomorrow Today in our Literacy Program, Reading Buddy Program, Beginning School Transition Program and the Careers Program. This Foundation has helped us fund our garden and continues to provide a number of uniform vouchers to our community. Tomorrow Today Foundation partners with families, schools, and the community, and their aim is to help every child and young person reach their full potential in school, work, and throughout life.



It is very important to thank our Reading Buddies who have become an integral part of our community. These special visitors come to school to share many experiences that help children practice their reading skills and enjoy books. The children are always so excited when they know that their Reading Buddy is coming to school to spend time with them.

We are deeply grateful for the relationships that we share with our wider community. Our strong connections with FCJ Secondary College has always been a close and supportive partnership and we thank Shaun Mason for working so closely with us throughout the year. We also thank our local kindergartens, and all Benalla public schools who are always willing to work with us as we support the educational journey and local town experience for all students throughout Benalla. Strong and positive partnerships highlight the value of working together for the benefit of all children in our region.

This year, we say farewell to three valued staff members who have contributed immensely to St Joseph's:



**Jake Tunks**, an inspiring teacher, will be leaving to begin an exciting new chapter at St John's in Euroa. Jake has shown incredible dedication, care, and commitment to his students' learning and wellbeing, and we wish him every success for his future. Jake is a very special teacher who takes pride in every aspect of his teaching and he cares deeply for the children in his care



**Leanne Honybun**, I would like to extend my thanks to Leanne Honybun as she prepares to leave our school at the end of 2024. Mrs Honybun is one of those teachers who truly believes that it is important to go above and beyond for the wellbeing and benefit of the kids. Leanne has brought so much joy, happiness and wonderful teaching and learning to St Joseph's and I know she will be truly missed. We do hope that Leanne will be a regular visitor and that she remains as she is now, a highly valued member of our community who shows kindness to all and has a wonderful sense of humour. Thanks for everything Mrs Honybun!



**Ashlea McDonald**, who has worked diligently as a Learning Support Officer throughout 2024, will also be moving on. Ashlea's attention to detail and compassionate approach have made a meaningful difference to our school community. Ashlea has brought a flare for creativity, sense of humour and an eye for detail to her work this year and we thank Ashlea for her kindness towards all students.

We thank Jake, Leanne and Ashlea for their exceptional service and pray for their continued success and happiness.

*The St Joseph's school community acknowledges the eight clan groups of the Yorta Yorta Nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which our school is situated.*

## Principal's Reflection—Mrs Mary Dunstan



As we say goodbye to some, we also joyfully welcome new faces to our team in 2024. We are delighted to introduce **Abby Sanchez**, **Sandra Hall**, and **Katherine Mennen** to St Joseph's. We look forward to the enthusiasm, talents, and contributions they will bring to our community



### **Abby Sanchez**

Abby comes to us from Wodonga West Primary school where she has been classroom teacher in a Year 1/2 classroom. Abby is looking forward to becoming a strong member of the St Joseph's community. Abby is a young and vibrant teacher who describes her greatest joy in teaching as building positive relationships with her students and knowing that the wellbeing of children is vital to successful learning. Abby loves to work in collaboration with a team and is looking forward to her employment here at St Joseph's.

Welcome Abby!



### **Sandra Hall**

Sandra has thirty-two years of teaching experience and comes with a strong commitment to fostering stimulating and inclusive education for all children in her care. Sandra is a strong believer in fostering the Catholic ethos of our school. Sandra is currently employed at St Anthony's college in Townsville and is particularly interested in hands-on investigative learning, differentiated teaching and most of all including and engaging all students. Sandra is enthusiastic, energetic and self-motivated and is excited to be working as a member of the St Joseph's staff.

Welcome Sandra!



### **Kat Mennen**

Kat is currently employed at Delacombe Primary located in Ballarat and is on maternity leave from there at the moment. Kat has taught in a range of year levels. She believes that assessing learning and using student data to inform teaching is essential. Kat is determined to cater for the learning needs of all students and ensure that they experience joy and growth in their learning. Kat prides herself on her emphasis on instilling the values of hope, respect, responsibility, integrity and reconciliation for her students. She also values running a smooth and calm classroom.

Welcome Kat!

*The St Joseph's school community acknowledges the eight clan groups of the Yorta Yorta Nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which our school is situated.*

## Principal's Reflection—Mrs Mary Dunstan

<u>Class Group</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>LSO</u>
<b><u>Foundation</u></b>		
Katherine Barker Mon-Tues/Alicia Kempton Wed-Fri	Room B	Marg Briggs Janine Lewis
Kaitlin Kaine	Room C	
Fran Dayman	Floating	

<b><u>Year One</u></b>		Julie Sheehan
Natalie Challis Mon-Thurs/ Hazel Piccolo Friday	Room A	Katherine Levy
Hannah Clough	Room Q	
Meagan Griffiths	Room R	

<b><u>Year Two</u></b>		Rachael O'Brien
Sandra Hall	Room S	Julie Sheehan
Georgia Hooper	Room T	
Bonnie Evers	Room U	

<b><u>Year Three/Four</u></b>		Leanne Trotter
Jacqui Creamer (Mon,Tues,Thurs,Fri)/ Ally Ellis (Wednesdays)	Room O	Bre Ackerly Leanne Pritchard
Ally Ellis( Mon, Tues)/ Brooke Robertson (Wed, Thur, Frid)	Room L	
Abby Sanchez	Room P	
Erin Boulton	Room M	
Brendan French	Room N	

*The St Joseph's school community acknowledges the eight clan groups of the Yorta Yorta Nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which our school is situated.*

## Principal's Reflection—Mrs Mary Dunstan

<b><u>Year Five/Six</u></b>		Mon Milner
Bryan Piccolo	Room F	Megan Horsburgh
Kristy Anderson	Room I	Kristy Fry
Tammie Gawley	Room H	
Kat Mennen (Mon, Tues, Wed)/ Sarah Moran (Thurs, Fri)	Room G	
Jane Hawkins (Mon, Tue)/ Elisha Ross (Wed, Thurs, Fri)	Room J	

### **Positions of Leadership: 2025**

Principal	Mary Dunstan
Deputy Principal/Catholic Identity/ Indigenous Education Leader	Samuel Kerlin
Learning and Teaching Leader	Maria Pomponio
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader	Jade Humphrey
Literacy Leader	
Inclusion Leader/Behaviour and Wellbeing Curriculum Leader	Hayden Reeves

### **Administration Team**

Business Manager	Dianne Muller
Administration Officer	Louise Hayes

### **Specialist Classes**

Tanya Johnstone - Library Tues-Fri

Janet Cameron Cooking

Ann-Maree Challis ART

Sharon Mellington SPORT

Jeni Dunn JAPANESE

Deb Pasztor PERFORMING ARTS

Peta Welsh: Extra day of Japanese, PE, Art & Performing Arts/Specialist Release/ Unit Leader Release

Maintenance/OHS: Steve Hart

*The St Joseph's school community acknowledges the eight clan groups of the Yorta Yorta Nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which our school is situated.*

## Principal's Reflection—Mrs Mary Dunstan



I would like to take this special opportunity to say farewell and thanks to the families who will be leaving St Joseph's School at the end of 2024. I thank you all for the joy and contributions that you have brought to our community. I pray that the blessings of Jesus Christ will guide and protect you in the future. I am certain that you will always cherish the fond memories of your experience here at St Joseph's. It is amazing to look back over the times, both joys and challenges, that we have shared as a community.

You will always remain a valued member of our school community, and we wish you every blessing for a future filled with hope and peace.

### Families Leaving

Arnold Probert Family

Bolitho Family

Byers Family

Cavill Family

Mukera Family

Leask Family

Elliott Family

Raut-Raut Family

Fry Family

Gipp Family

Johnson Family

Kelly Family

Kennedy Family

Martin Family

Warnock Family

Levy Family

Singh Family

Smith Family

Traczyk Family

Williams Family

Williamson-Smith Family

To our wonderful staff, including all Teaching Staff, the Leadership Team, Administration Team, Level Leaders, Learning Support Officers and Steve Hart—thank you for your energy, kindness, and commitment to making St Joseph's a place of learning, growth, fun and faith. Every member of our staff go above and beyond in every role that they hold in our school. A sincere thanks to you all.

I am very grateful for the close partnership that I have with Sam Kerlin as Deputy Principal. Sam brings such a vibrance and energy to all his work and he shows such care for every aspect of our school. I thank Sam for the effort, energy and care that he brings to work each day, along with that wonderful sense of humour.

Finally, to our very special students and their families we thank you for your support throughout the year. St Joseph's is a very special place. It is a warm and welcoming place because of the wonderful people who make up our whole community.

May your Christmas season be filled with joy and peace, and may the new year bring many blessings to all. I wish everyone a safe, happy and holy Christmas.

God Bless

Mary Dunstan  
Principal

*The St Joseph's school community acknowledges the eight clan groups of the Yorta Yorta Nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which our school is situated.*





### St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal

The St Joseph's Community has the opportunity to be part of the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal again in 2024. Families are invited to donate a gift for children aged 7 to 11 years old. These donations are to be unused and brand new. To ensure that these gifts reach those in need, **please leave them unwrapped.** Please drop donations off at the front office to be placed under the tree. The collection day for these donations is scheduled for Friday, December 13th. We know this wonderful Christmas Appeal will bring joy to many families and children this Christmas.

We thank everyone for their support.



### End of Year Mass - Friday 13th December at 9:30am Under our COLA

Our End of Year Mass will be held on Friday 13th December at 9:30am. Parents, Grandparents and family members are invited to join us for our end of year celebration as a community.

### Foundation Nativity Assembly - Monday 16th December at 2.45pm In St Joseph's Hall.

Our final Whole School Assembly for 2024 will be held on Monday 16th December at 2:45pm. This Assembly will be different to our usual assembly format and there will be no awards presented. It will be a great opportunity to gather one last time as a school as we prepare for the birth of Jesus.

*Sam Kerlin*

Deputy Principal

Learning & Teaching / Catholic Identity Leader



Parents & Friends

# Community 'Thank You' Morning Tea



Join us after our End of Year Mass to share a morning tea  
to thank all of our P&F volunteers for 2024.

All community members welcome!

St Joseph's Hall  
Friday 13th December  
After End of Year Mass (Approx 11am).

Tea, coffee and morning tea provided.

St Joseph's Primary School is a Child Safe School.

Foundation Area



St Joseph's Primary School is a Child Safe School.



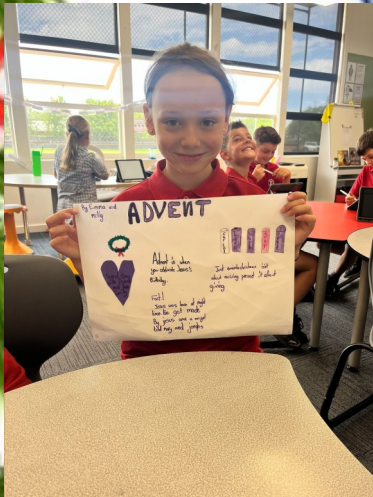
Junior Area



St Joseph's Primary School is a Child Safe School.



## Middle Area



In Religion, the Year 3/4 students have been learning about Advent and the important message of hope, preparation, and the coming of Jesus. They have explored the meaning of the Advent wreath, its candles, and how each week of Advent brings a special focus: hope, peace, joy, and love. The students have also reflected on how they can prepare their hearts and actions during this season to bring light and kindness to those around them.

Brendan French 3/ 4 Teacher



St Joseph's Primary School is a Child Safe School.



## Senior Area



Our Senior Students have been busy with their final Inquiry unit for 2024. It's a hands-on experience and students need to design and create a brand-new product from start to finish. Each student makes an original item, markets it, and sells it at an event called the "Bizarre Bazaar." This fun activity helps them develop important skills like creativity and entrepreneurship. The Year 3/4 students also visited the event, to check out the products, and give some great feedback!





## Wellbeing



It has been an absolute pleasure to collaborate with Tomorrow Today this year and to have the support of our incredible reading buddy volunteers in the Junior area. Each reading buddy dedicated their time to regularly supporting and mentoring students in Literacy, making a lasting impact on their learning journey. These wonderful individuals have truly become a cherished part of our St. Joseph's community, and we are so grateful for their contributions.

To show our appreciation, we hosted a special celebration with the reading buddies, their student partners, the Junior teachers, our school leadership team, and our wonderful Janene Humphries from Tomorrow Today. During the event, students presented their reading buddies with beautifully decorated cards and thoughtful gifts. We also enjoyed delicious treats, generously provided by Tomorrow Today.

This event has been a highlight of our 2024 school year, and we can't wait to do it all over again next year! A heartfelt thank you to all our reading buddies for their dedication and hard work — we truly appreciate everything you do!

Jade Humphrey

Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader



St Joseph's Primary School is a Child Safe School.

## School Fees & Charges for 2025

### School fees and levies are compulsory at St Joseph's Primary School

St Joseph's Primary Fee Structure in 2025 will continue to be a tiered structure. This reflects the services the school provides to families.

In consultation with Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited it was decided to increase the school fees by 3% (rounded), this is in line with CPL

#### Family Fee

2025	
1 child	\$1380.00
2 children	\$1520.00
3+ children	\$1755.00
Capital Maintenance	
Per family	\$185.00

#### Student Fees

2025	
Technology Fee	\$200.00
Student Levy	\$300.00

#### Excursions

2025		
Swimming	\$50.00	
Excursions	Foundation	\$150.00
	Junior	\$150.00
	Year 3 - Year 4	\$150.00
	Year 5 - Year 6	\$200.00
Grade 6 Celebration Day/Book	\$100.00	
Year 6 Polo & Rugby Tops	\$130.00	

St Joseph's Primary School is a Child Safe School.

## Primary School Fee Concessions 2025

Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd (CESL) is pleased to inform Primary School families holding a valid Health Care Card (HCC) that you are eligible for a **significant** reduction in school fees for the upcoming year including all fees and levies. The discount will be automatically applied to your school fee account once you provide a copy of your HCC to the school office, complete a CSEF form, and set up a direct debit arrangement. If you've already submitted your HCC, completed the CSEF form, and have a direct debit in place, no further action is needed — the discount will be applied automatically.

We understand that many families have varying circumstances and in response to the rising cost of living expenses, we are committed to supporting those who need additional assistance.

Please be assured that this support is provided to ensure all students have the opportunity to thrive in our school community. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact the school office.

### Health Care Card HCC 2025 update

#### For Primary School families

Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd (CESL) is pleased to inform Primary School families holding a valid Health Care Card (HCC) that you are eligible for a significant reduction in School fees for the upcoming year, including all fees and levies.

We understand that many families have varying circumstances and in response to the rising cost of living expenses, we are committed to supporting those who need additional assistance.

Please be assured that this support is provided to ensure all students have the opportunity to thrive in our school community. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact the school office.

#### 3 simple steps

- 1 provide a copy of your HCC to the school office
- 2 complete a Camps, Sports & Excursions Form (CSEF)
- 3 set up a direct debit arrangement at the school

If you've already submitted your HCC, completed the CSEF form, and have a direct debit in place, no further action is needed — the discount will be applied automatically.

St Joseph's Primary School is a Child Safe School.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### DECEMBER 2024

- Fri 13th End of Year Mass 9.30am  
Under our COLA
- Fri 13th Uniform Shop Open 8am-11am
- Mon 16th Foundation Nativity Assembly  
2.45pm St Joseph's Hall  
All Welcome
- Mon 16th Uniform Shop Open 1pm—4pm  
**Final Day for  
Uniform Shop**
- Mon 16th Hot Food Day
- Mon 16th Year 6 Graduation Mass 6.00pm
- Wed 18th Final Day for Students—  
3.20pm finish
- Frid 20th Final Day for Staff

### JANUARY 2025

- Tue 28th Staff Return to School
- Thu 30th Students Year 1 Year 6 Commence
- Fri 31st Foundation Students Commence

### FEBRUARY 2025

- Wed 5th Foundations Students Away
- Wed 12th Foundations Students Away



#### ATTENDANCE

Schooling is compulsory for children between the ages of 6 and 17 years (Education and Training Reform Act 2006).

If your child is sick or is unable to attend please notify the school. The school is obliged to gain this information by law.

#### MEDICATIONS

This form can be accessed via PAM, or obtained from the office. All medications must have the prescription label and are to be held in the Office.



#### UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS

**MONDAY 1PM-4 PM**

**FRIDAY 8AM—11AM**

St Joseph's Primary School is a Child Safe School.

## Assembly Awards

### Assembly Report T4/ W 9

**Assembly Captains:** Tomas K. & Edith R.

**Foundation A:** Isabella W.

**Foundation B:** Stella R. & Otis B.

**Foundation C:** Finn C. & Jackson K.

**Junior Q:** Amber F. & Elyse H.

**Junior R:** No Awards

**Junior S:** Noah M.

**Junior T:** No Awards

**Junior U:** Samuel K. & Caden P.

**Middle L:** Cyrus F. , Mitchell M. & Elsie S.

**Middle M:** Kaleb A. & Jakra J.

**Middle N:** Parker B. & Braxton C.

**Middle O:** Own S. & Emma M.

**Senior F:** No Awards

**Senior G:** Millie H.

**Senior H:** Ryder B. , Ava S.,  
Alex H. & Benji McK.

**Senior I:** No Awards

**Senior J:** Teddy S., Caleb T. & Lavinia K.



*Pro Kidz OSHC Service*

Contact phone numbers are

**5762 1784**

**Application Forms**

**available online:**

**[info@prokidz.com.au](mailto:info@prokidz.com.au)**

**St Joseph's Primary School is a Child Safe School.**

# Do you need a little help this Christmas?

Benalla Christmas Cheer will be  
providing food hampers and  
toys for families and individuals

Register for assistance

Online:

<https://tinyurl.com/2mh48enb>



By Phone:

call Tomorrow Today 5762 1211

In Person: visit the Salvos

Monday or Thursday 10am - 1pm

152-156 Waller St (old Lutheran Church)

Benalla Christmas Cheer 2024  
is proudly supported by



St Joseph's Primary School is a Child Safe School.



## Principal's Reflection—Child Safe Standards 2024

**Child Safe Standard 1** – Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued

**Child Safe Standard 2** – Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture

**Child Safe Standard 3** – Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously

**Child Safe Standard 4** – Families and communities are informed, and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing

**Child Safe Standard 5** – Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice

**Child Safe Standard 6** – People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice

**Child Safe Standard 7** – Processes for complaints and concerns are child focused

**Child Safe Standard 8** – Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training

**Child Safe Standard 9** – Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed

**Child Safe Standard 10** – Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved

**Child Safe Standard 11** – Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people

*The St Joseph's school community acknowledges the eight clan groups of the Yorta Yorta Nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which our school is situated.*

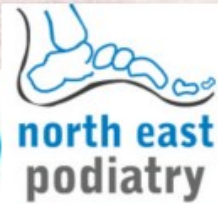




# Nourish TO Flourish Sponsors

We thank the following businesses for their generous support of our wellbeing initiative for 2023!

Jenny Milner -  
Marsha Watson  
Pharmacy



Rotary Club of Benalla



Benalla Glass

11 Gay Street, Benalla

Phone: (03) 5762 2944



Graeme Currie

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR PTY LTD

REC 1053 ABN 11 058 363 198

57 GRANT DRIVE BENALLA 3672

0408 572 766 CURRIEELEC@GMAIL.COM

N.J. TODD



## St Joseph's Facebook Page

To find our **FACEBOOK Page** please either search, **St Joseph's Primary School Benalla** or by **scanning QR code**. Our coloured school emblem is our profile picture.

Please make sure you have read the, '**St Joseph's Primary School Facebook Policy**', which is located on, SimonEverywhere, PAM and our school website.



St Joseph's Primary School is a Child Safe School.





## Benalla Scout Group

Tuesdays 5.00 – 6.30pm

Joey Scouts are amazing! Some activities Joeys are doing In Term 3:

Joey Scouts are girls and boys aged 5-8. They enjoy adventure, imagination, and being outdoors during their weekly one-to-two hour meeting, and occasional sleepovers and camps.

Less screens - and more action, more fun, more friends, and more social skills!

- Olympics
- Weekend in Melbourne
- Designing and building our own Chariot and Swing Set
- Campfire
- Learning about Lizards
- Celebrating Peak Award Recipients Achievements
- Snow Play at Mount Buffalo
- Building Alpine Shelters
- Learn about native Flora & Fauna
- Night Hike around Benalla
- Sleepover and Movie
- AFL & Pie Night

### Contact

Wedgie or Kooka to discuss more  
 Jenny Wapling "Wedgie" 0428 590 606  
 Kylie Dennis "Kooka" 0435 624 380



# WE'RE YOUR LOCAL

7 October to 4 November 2024

Our **industry-leading** swimming lessons help children **develop** the skills and **confidence** they need for a **lifetime** of fun and **safety** in and around water.

Get started today with **2 WEEKS FREE!**

- Scan the QR code to visit our website
- Submit the enquiry form to sign up



## BENALLA AQUATIC CENTRE

4 Mair Street, Benalla VIC 3672  
 T: 5782 2154  
 W: [benalla.ymca.org.au](http://benalla.ymca.org.au)

AGE 5-8 YEARS

\$70 INCLUDES GLOVE AND T-SHIRT

# RANGERS T-BALL

## OCT 10 - NOV 21

### THURSDAY 4:30-5:30PM

ALL EQUIPMENT PROVIDED

**WANGARATTA BASEBALL SOFTBALL CLUB**  
 MURDOCH RD WANGARATTA  
 CONTACT SEAN - 0435997326 OR  
 WANGARATTASOFTBALL@GMAIL.COM

# IMAGINE THE FUN

**Join Woolworths Cricket Blast**  
 Designed for kids to learn skills, exercise, and make friends.

Benalla Bushrangers Cricket Club Blasters & Under 10's team - 2024/25 Season  
 Blasters is for all young children aged between 5-10 years old  
 Under 10's come and try session - Friday November 10th @ 5pm  
 Blasters Start & U/10's - Friday November 15th @ 5pm  
 Benalla Rose Garden Cricket Oval  
 Under 10's Coordinator - Simon Holmes - 0427807960  
 Blasters Coordinator: James Ladd 0423774838 or reach us on Facebook.

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

[Play Cricket](#)

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY

St Joseph's Primary School is a Child Safe School.

In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That's half a year of school by the end of year 6.



# EVERY DAY COUNTS

## Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

### Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

### Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

### What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

**"Day off"** – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

**Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Training Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

**For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:**

[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx)

Department of Education and Training



St Joseph's Primary School is a Child Safe School.





## Attending the Early Years = Greater chance of success

- establishes positive habits
- builds positive relationships
- maximises opportunities to learn
- supports problem solving skills



## What do I miss out on when I am not at school?

Lots!

- Class discussions with friends and teachers.
- Information and work that you will have to catch up on.
- You will also miss out on seeing your friends



## Explaining Absences

Report your child's absence before school commences

Provide a reason for your child's absence

Notify the school of any upcoming absence



## Talk to school if:

- Your child is not wanting to attend school
- You need support getting your child to school





# Want \$500 to help you with school costs?



Saver Plus is a financial education program for families and individuals on a tight budget to develop life-long savings habits.

To join Saver Plus, you must:

- ✓ Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card **AND** an eligible Centrelink payment\*
- ✓ Be studying yourself **OR** have a child in school (can be starting school next year)
- ✓ Have regular income from work (either yourself or your partner)\*
- ✓ Be 18+ years old

\*Many types of income and Centrelink payments are eligible

Here are some of the school costs the \$500 can be used for:



laptops & tablets



uniforms & shoes



books & supplies



sports fees & gear



lessons & activities



camps & excursion

For more information, please contact your local Saver Plus coordinator:



Jade or Sharon



enquiriessp@berrystreet.org.au



1300 610 355

DELIVERED BY

**BERRY STREET**

Find out more at [saverplus.org.au](http://saverplus.org.au)

Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ and delivered in partnership with local community organisations. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

[principal@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au)

# **BENALLA**

(03) 5762 6566

[benallabuslines.com.au](http://benallabuslines.com.au)

**CHARTER & BUS HIRE**

MICHAEL OSBORNE  
DIRECTOR

- GRID CONNECT
- SOLAR SYSTEMS
- BATTERY
- STORAGE SYSTEMS
- ELECTRICAL
- DOMESTIC
- COMMERCIAL

[michael.osborne@gmail.com](mailto:michael.osborne@gmail.com)  
**0407 850 788**  
REC 30883

## *Graeme Currie*

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR PTY LTD

REC 1053 ABN 11 058 363 198

57 GRANT DRIVE BENALLA 3672

**TOBY CURRIE**

**0408 572 766**

[CURRIEELEC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CURRIEELEC@GMAIL.COM)

# **COOKS**

KERB | CONCRETE | EXCAVATION

- BOBCAT
- MINI DIGGER
- TRENCHER
- CONCRETE
- CONCRETE CUTTING
- EXCAVATOR
- TIP TRUCK
- AUGER
- SITE CLEANS

**PHIL & DEBBIE COOK**

**0409 950 046**

# **DKMBUILDERS**

NEW HOMES | EXTENSIONS | RENOVATIONS

Duncan McKenzie



REGISTERED  
0810 31407

**0409 536 595**

[dkmbuilders@bigpond.com](mailto:dkmbuilders@bigpond.com)



flowers • events • design

Amanda Fita

Telephone: 03 5762 5588

Email: [bloomsonbridge@bigpond.com](mailto:bloomsonbridge@bigpond.com)

Web: [www.bloomsonbridge.com.au](http://www.bloomsonbridge.com.au)

*Blooms*  
on Bridge  
BENALLA



FORJA INDUSTRIES  
**PRINT CO.**

# **BENALLATRAVEL**

[ EXCEPTIONAL GLOBAL TRAVEL ]

47-49 Bridge Street Benalla Victoria 3672 Australia  
Telephone (61 3) 5762 3187 Facsimile (61 3) 5762 5578  
Toll Free 1800 060 563 [info@benallatravel.com.au](mailto:info@benallatravel.com.au)  
[www.benallatravel.com.au](http://www.benallatravel.com.au)



## **ROSE CITY KITCHENS & JOINERY**

**Mark Pryor**

Specialising in Kitchen Cabinets  
and Vanity Units

11 Yellowbrick Road, Benalla - Phone: 5762 7922  
Fax: 5762 1800 Mobile: 0408 424 793



## **benalla PRINTING**

140 Bridge St Benalla VIC 3672  
P 03 5762 6611 E [office@benallaprinting.com.au](mailto:office@benallaprinting.com.au)