



# St. Joseph's Primary School NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 6—4th March 2025

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

### 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

**\*\*NEW DATE\*\***  
**SCHOOL**  
**PHOTO DAY**  
**FRIDAY 28TH**  
**MARCH 2025**

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



**Dear God,**

**We pray for Pope Francis as he faces  
illness. Please bring him comfort,  
strength, and healing.**

**Watch over him with Your loving care, give  
wisdom to his doctors, and fill his heart  
with peace.**

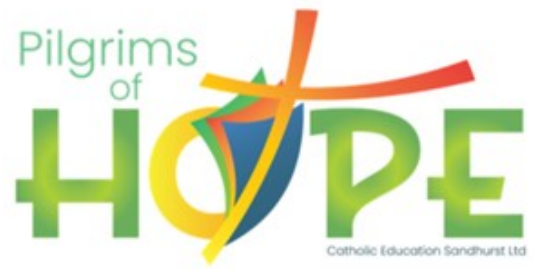
**May he continue to guide us with faith and  
love.**

**Amen.**

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



## Principal's Reflection—Mrs Mary Dunstan



Dear Parents and Carers

"Pilgrims of Hope" is the 2025 focus for the Catholic Church and Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited (CESL). This focus invites our students and community members to learn to see life as a journey of faith, where people walk together with hope, trust in God, and a commitment to building a better world. At this weekend's Masses the readings spoke of hope and that as pilgrims of hope we are encouraged to pray to Mary, as she is considered the most hopeful of the disciples. I hope that our community keep Pope Francis in their prayers for a return to good health.

### Ash Wednesday and the Beginning of Lent



Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, a special time in the Church that helps us prepare for Easter. On this day, people receive ashes on their foreheads as a sign of turning back to God. The ashes remind us that life is a gift, and we are called to live with love and kindness.

Lent lasts for 40 days and is a time for reflection, prayer, and making positive changes in our lives. It is a season where we try to have a **change of heart**—to let go of bad habits and fill our hearts with hope, happiness, and peace.

During Lent, we are encouraged to:

- \* **Use kind words** and be gentle with others.
- \* **Do kind things** to help those around us.
- \* **Spend time with God** in prayer and reflection.
- \* **Think of others** and show love and generosity.

Lent is a time to follow in Jesus' footsteps, to grow closer to God, and to share love and kindness in our daily lives. Through simple acts of goodness, we help bring more peace and joy to the world.

In preparation for the beginning of Lent, we celebrated Shrove Tuesday this morning. The children enjoyed a feast of pancakes together and raised many needed funds for Caritas-the Missions. This work is important and celebrating Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Tuesday, is a lovely way for our students to learn about the importance of taking 'action' in this world for the benefit of others.

### New Playground Open!

We are excited to announce the opening of our brand new playground behind the Junior Building! This beautifully designed space provides a fantastic area for our students to play, connect, and create lasting memories together.

A huge thanks to **Jeni Dunn** for her invaluable expertise and initial planning of this project. We also extend our gratitude to **Chris Welsh** and his team from *Chris Welsh Landscapes and Designs* for their dedication, hard work, and meticulous attention to detail in bringing this area to life.



*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

### Magnify Update

St Joseph's has successfully launched the Magnify Learning and Teaching Program, supported by Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited (CESL). This initiative focuses on structured, evidence-based learning in Literacy and Numeracy while fostering a supportive, faith-based classroom environment.

Every school in Sandhurst has a partnership with Ochre Education with the focus on helping 'Teachers Plan Great Lessons'.

At St Joseph's, we use **Ochre Education** to support our teachers in delivering high-quality lessons. This approach helps teachers prepare effectively so students can get the most out of their learning.

### **How Teachers Prepare Lessons at St Joseph's:**

**Thorough Review:** Before teaching, teachers go through all the lesson materials, including slides, student booklets, and key learning points.

**Schoolwide Consistency:** We have a shared approach to lesson planning to ensure all teachers prepare in a consistent and effective way.

**Smart Planning:** Teachers make the most of their planning time by focusing on key parts of the lesson and deciding where students may need extra support.

**Using Professional Judgement:** Teachers adjust their lessons to ensure students understand key ideas, sometimes spending more or less time on certain concepts.

### 2025 House Captains and Vice Captains— Badge Presentation—Congratulations Everyone!!



### House Captains and Vice Captains for 2025

Chamberlain:	Captain—Summer S. Vice Captain—Francesca M.
Hannan:	Captain—Reuben F. Vice Captain—Aaliyah W.
Kearney:	Captain—Louis H. Vice Captain—Sophie McK.
Scanlon:	Captain—Manny B. Vice Captain—Isabelle D.

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## Principal's Reflection—Mrs Mary Dunstan

### School Interschool Sport

Since February 14th a number of Grade Four to Six students competed in a variety of swimming trials. Many of these students made it through to the next level of competition at the Ovens & Mitta Primary Division Swim Meet on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 at the WISAC outdoor Pool in Wangaratta. Many children have competed well enjoying the spirit of positive and respectful competition. A number of our students will now compete at on 5th March 2025 at Aqua Moves in Shepparton.



Congratulations to the following children:

Lucas, Tilly, Sophie, Ron, Chessie, Luke, Jack, Patrick, Harriet

Ten Year Old Girls - 200m free relay:

Aiofe, Chessie, Isabelle and Emily

Eleven Year Old Mixed - 200m free: Myra, Jack, Lucas, Luke

Twelve to Thirteen Year Old Mixed 200m free: Tilly, Sophie, Ben, Nick

Those children who achieved a first or second place will now move onto Hume competition. This will include:

Sophie, Tilly, Lucas, Ron, Chessie, Myra, Jack, Luke, Ben, Nick and Harriet.

Congratulations to all the competitors who did their best on the day and competed with manners and good sportsmanship. Such a wonderful effort made by all the children! Congratulations to all involved!

Thanks to Mrs Mellington for organising the entries and the initial trials in Benalla which ensured that many children received the opportunity to compete. Good luck to those children who will compete at the Hume level.

### Naplan 2025

"The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7, and across Australia. It evaluates essential skills in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar, and punctuation), and numeracy, providing insights into students' progress and assisting schools in identifying areas needing support".



In 2025, the NAPLAN test window is scheduled from Wednesday, 12 March to Monday, 24 March. The testing sequence typically begins with the writing test, followed by reading, conventions of language and numeracy.

While specific information about St Joseph's practice test schedule isn't publicly available, schools generally conduct practice tests to familiarise students with the NAPLAN format and process. These practice sessions often occur in the weeks leading up to the official tests. St Joseph's will commence practice tests within the next fortnight to prepare Year 3 and 5 students for the assessments.

### Prokidz BEFORE and AFTER School Care



*Pro Kidz OSHC Service*

Our After School Care Provider Prokidz is seeking expressions of interest from families who require BEFORE School Care.

The Before School Care will be available as of the beginning of Term Two.

**Please register as soon as possible.**

Before School Care: 7:00am-8:45am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

Before School Care: 7:00am-8:00am Thursdays (Breakfast Club from 8:00am)

After School Care: 3:20pm-6:00pm Monday to Friday

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## Principal's Reflection—Mrs Mary Dunstan

### School Tours and Enrolment Information

We will be opening our school for Tours and Information sessions for Foundation 2026 enrolments. A flyer is included in this Newsletter with complete information.

We look forward to meeting as many families as possible to explore our School.



### UPDATE Medical Details on SIMON - PAM

A reminder to all families to please update their children's medical details in their SIMON - Parent Access Module Account. This is an important process that needs to be updated every semester.

By following the correct protocol we ensure that all medical details of your child are current and up to date here at school, thank you.



### Morning Drop Off Reminder

A friendly reminder that students should arrive at school **before the first bell at 8:55am** so they can line up with their class and be ready to learn when the second bell rings at **9:00am**.

Arriving on time ensures that your child starts the day smoothly, hears important messages during roll call, and settles into learning without disruption.

Late arrivals not only interrupt the flow of the classroom but also mean that your child may miss key instructions for the day. If your child is late please ensure they sign in at the office and obtain a late pass to provide to their teacher.

Thank you for your support in making sure all students have the best possible start to their school day!

## SCHOOL DROP OFF



### School Photo Day Reminder—Friday 28th March 2025



**NOONE**

Full School Uniform Required - either the OLD or NEW Uniform is acceptable. Please refer to the Uniform section of our school website to read more on acceptable NEW or OLD uniform.

On line ordering information will be sent out when available.

God Bless

Mary Dunstan

Principal



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## Parents and Friends

### Parents and Friends

A big thank you to all our parents who attended our Parents and Friends Social Gathering on Friday. It was great to see some new families express their interest and also some of our current families share that they would be happy to help out.

We are extremely grateful for all parents who can help out and for those who attended, we will reach out to see which events you can help with.

We would also like to share and congratulate our P&F Presidents and Vice Presidents for 2025:

#### **Presidents:**

Sharni Symes & Eliza Polwarth

#### **Vice Presidents:**

Danielle Mee & Lisa Hazell

We are so appreciative of all that our parents do to help out our community. We understand that life is busy, and committing to ongoing volunteering can be challenging. But if you could spare time for **just one thing** this year—whether it's helping on **Food Days**, assisting with **Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts**, or any event in the school—our students and school community would be incredibly grateful.

Families have been sent home the Easter Raffle information and tickets this week—We are looking forward to this event to start our fundraising for the year. Thank you for your support!



Our Next Food Day Date is Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April. More information will come out to order on Spriggy very soon.

*Sam Kerlin*

Deputy Principal

Learning & Teaching / Catholic Identity Leader

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## Catholic Identity

### St Joseph's Feast Day—Wednesday 19th March



We invite all families and parishioners to attend our Beginning of Year Mass and St Joseph Feast Day Mass on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 9:30am under the COLA.

#### Plan for the Day:

- **9.30am-10.30am** FEAST OF ST JOSEPHS and BEGINNING OF YEAR MASS
- **10.30am—11.00am** Open Classrooms for Parents and Grandparents
- **11.00am—11.30am** The New Playground and Garden Space open to Families for recess –Parents and Grandparents are Welcome To Join Us on the School Yard.
- **11.30am—1.00pm—BBQ lunch for everyone.—Sausages \$2**
- **11.30am—1.00pm** MINIFETE for FEAST DAY - 5 /6 Students run stalls please bring along your gold coins —ALL MONEY RAISED TO CARITAS (Project Compassion).



### Caritas Project Compassion

Families should expect to receive a Caritas Project Compassion box in the next few weeks. We fundraise during Lent as a way of reaching out to those in need and as part of the mission and commitment to serving those in need.

### Lent



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of LENT. We change the prayer table in our classrooms to purple to mark the important Lenten season in our liturgical calendar. Lent is a period of 40 days leading up to Easter. It is a time that symbolises Jesus fasting in the desert. On Ash Wednesday students will have a cross marked on their forehead symbolising the beginning of Lent - this may happen at Mass if your child is attending Church that day OR as part of a liturgy with the teacher in the classroom.



### Sacramental Enrolment Evening

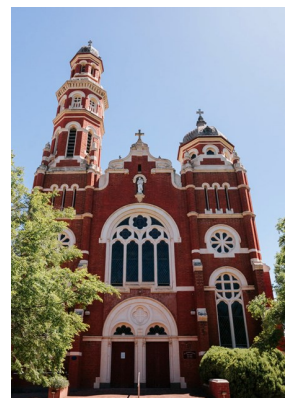
For all children and their parents/carers who wish to enrol in the St Joseph's Parish Sacramental Program for 2025 we ask that you save the date and attend a compulsory sign up/enrolment and information session on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 5:30pm** in the Hall.



### Wednesday Mass—All welcome

Fr Vijay is celebrating a Children's Mass each Wednesday afternoon for all families and parishioners of our community.

The Mass will begin at 2:40pm and finish before the end of the school day.



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## MacqLit and MiniLit SAGE

**MacqLit**

**MiniLit** SAGE



MacqLit and MiniLit SAGE.

As part of our MAGNIFY initiative we will be running two programs that offer additional support for those students across Years 1-6 who would benefit from extra support in literacy.

Students will be identified for these programs based on relevant testing data. There are several tests scores that will be considered, including students' decoding skills and their ability to read a whole piece of text.

**MiniLit SAGE:** This is for students in Years 1 & 2 of schooling. Students will work in small groups of 4, or 1-1 if needed, for four times a week. They will engage in one-hour sessions and work on developing all the skills essential for literacy success, including Phonemic awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary, Fluency and Comprehension. The Phonics component of this program follows a very structured and sequential sequence for introducing all the sounds used in English.

**MacqLit:** This is for students in Years 3-6 of schooling. Students will work in small groups of 4-6 for one-hour sessions, four times a week. They continue to build on the foundation skills essential for literacy success, including Phonemic awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary, Fluency and Comprehension. The MacqLit intervention program includes a strong focus on Spelling and Dictation daily. Like MiniLit SAGE, this program has a set sequence for introducing the sounds used in reading.

Attendance at school has a strong impact on student learning and progress. It is essential that students are present and ready to learn every day at school, except in unavoidable circumstances like sickness, family bereavement etc. Constant, unexplained absences may jeopardise a student's placement on the program.

MiniLit SAGE will commence soon once training has been provided. Our MacqLit program will commence shortly.

MacqLit will be co-ordinated and run by Miss Maria Pomponio, Mrs Leanne Pritchard and Ms Kristy Rawlings.

Maria Pomponio  
Learning and Teacher Leader

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During Term 1 Japanese students at St Joseph's school have been discussing and learning the importance of respect (sonkei) in cultural understanding.

St Josephs will be embracing this learning when we observe National Harmony Day. On Friday the 14th March during Assembly, together we will celebrate the wonderful diversity of cultures that make Australia special. **“We all Belong”**.

As part of the celebration students are invited to dress in the traditional costume of their ancestors. This may be as simple or elaborate as they wish. Students may wear their costume all day or change back into school uniform. This is an invitation for students to acknowledge and celebrate their heritage as part of what is now Australia. Students may also choose to wear orange, the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day.

**This is not a free dress day.**



**Parents and carers are warmly invited to the school to join us celebrate.**

Dunn Sensei  
Japanese Language Teacher

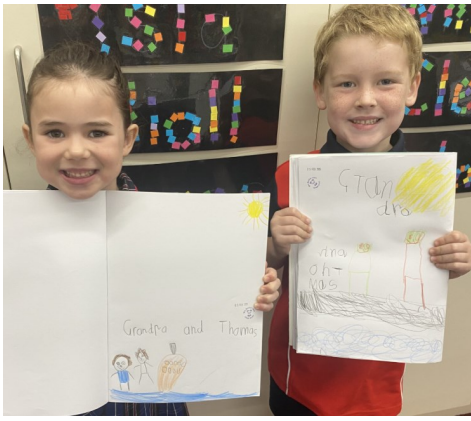


*All people smile  
in the same  
language.*



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# Foundation Area

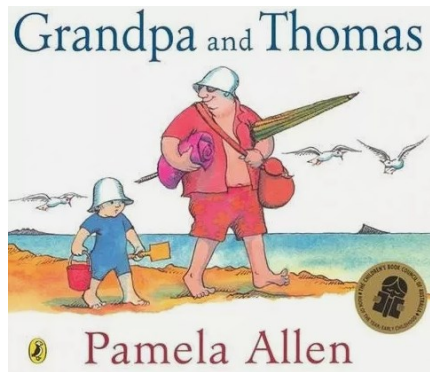


During our Initial-lit lessons, Foundation students were introduced to the characters 'Maggie Mouse' and 'Sammy Seal' as they began learning all about the sounds /m/ and /s/. The children have been busy identifying and sorting pictures that begin with these sounds.

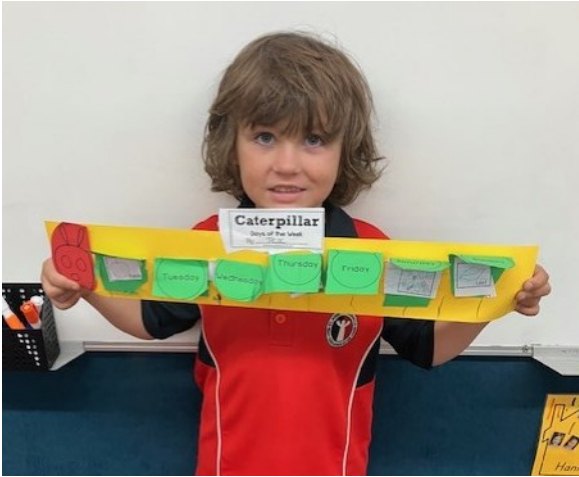
We were inspired by the many different homes featured in 'The Hungry Bear' by Nick Bland. To lead on from this, students designed an alien as a class and got busy creating homes for their alien using play dough and matchsticks.

Students also enjoyed responding to Pamela Allen's book "Grandpa and Thomas:"

Katherine Barker  
Foundation Teacher



Foundation Area



These are caterpillars we made to help us learn the days of the week!  
Alicia Kempton  
Foundation Teacher



## Sport

### Hook into Hockey



On Thursday 27 and Friday 28 February, students in grades 3-6 were given the opportunity to participate in the exciting game of hockey!

It was a fantastic experience having Hockey Victoria recently attend our school as part of their roadshow program. Our students learnt the skills of hockey through exciting game-based activities in an engaging, fun and safe environment.

Go the mini Hockeyroos and Kookaburras!

Sharon Mellington

P E Teacher

### CONGRATULATIONS!!



Congratulations to Kauta S. for her results competing in the Scots Equestrian Interschool Challenge.!

3rd- Novice Primary Mount and Rider

3rd- Novice Primary Handler

Champion Novice Primary Show Horse

6th and 9th in Preparatory Dressage and 13th in Handymount.

Well Done Kauta!!



## Shrove Tuesday



We had a fantastic morning sharing Pancakes with our school community today.

Huge thank you to all involved in helping this community come together to start the day!

We raised \$475.40 for Caritas—Thank You!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH 2025

Tue 4th	Pancake Tuesday
Wed 5th	Ash Wednesday
Wed 5th	Foundation Students Away
Thur 6th	NO BREAKFAST CLUB

### MARCH 10TH PUBLIC HOILIDAY

Wed 12th	Foundation Students At School
Fri 14th	Harmony Day Celebrations
Wed 19th	St Joseph's Feast Day Celebrations Mini Fete
Fri 28th	School Photo Day

### APRIL 2025

Fri 4th	Last Day Term 1—Finish time 2.30pm Hot Food Day
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### APRIL 22ND, 23RD & 24TH PUPIL FREE DAYS

### SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2025

**MARCH 18TH TUESDAY 5.00PM**  
**JUNE 10TH TUESDAY 5.00PM**  
**SEPTEMBER 9TH TUESDAY 5.00PM**  
**NOVEMBER 25TH TUESDAY 5.00PM**



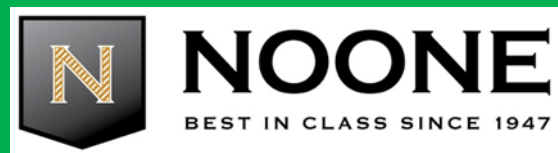
### ATTENDANCE

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 8.00 AM-1.00 PM**  
**FRIDAY 8.00 AM—4.00 PM**

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



## Before School Care – Starting Term 2, 2025

We are pleased to announce that **Before School Care** will be available to families starting from **Term 2, 2025**.

This service will provide a safe and supportive environment for students before the school day begins.

### Operating Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday

7am - 8:45am Thursday

7am - 8am (Breakfast Club begins at 8am)

## ACT NOW...

We encourage families to **reach out to Pro Kidz to register their interest**.

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

**Phone Number** **5762 1784**

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

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*Starts  
Thursday  
6th  
February*



NOURISH TO FLOURISH

# *Breakfast Club*

THURSDAY MORNINGS

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8:00AM - 8:50AM

ST. JOSEPH'S HALL

ENTER VIA ST JOSEPH'S HALL DOORS

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**MENU:**  
CEREAL  
TOAST  
JUICE  
FRESH FRUIT





Catholic Education  
Sandhurst

St Joseph's  
Benalla



# Enrol for Foundation 2026

## SCHOOL TOURS & ENROLMENT INFORMATION

Dates:

Tuesday 25th March, 2025

Wednesday 26th March, 2025

**9:30AM OR 5:30PM BOTH DAYS**

NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED

*We look forward to welcoming you to our school*

### SCHOOL TOURS INCLUDE:

- information session
- sharing key dates
- tour of school facilities
- enrolment process timeline

### CALL :

(03) 5762 1347

### MORE CONTACT INFO:

[www.sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sjbenalla.catholic.edu.au)

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

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## 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.

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# ST JOSEPH'S EASTER RAFFLE

Dear Parents & Carers,

The St Joseph's P&F are coordinating an Easter Egg Raffle for the school community and are seeking your support.

We are asking for donations of Easter eggs and/or anything Easter related (eg: craft, decorations). Your donations will be grouped into raffle prizes with the raffle draw taking place on **Wednesday 2nd April.**

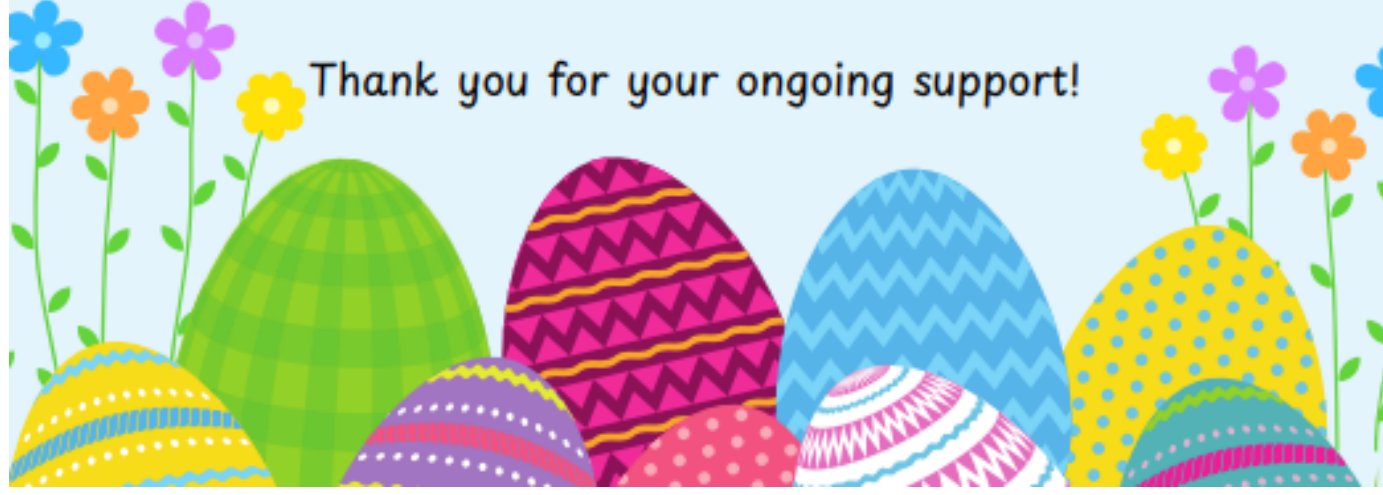
Tickets are \$1 each.

*(Please write name and contact number on each of the purchased tickets that are returned with the money).*

We kindly ask that all donations, money and tickets are due back on **Friday 28th March.**

All money raised will be allocated to this years COLA commitment.

Thank you for your ongoing support!





# NOONE

FCJ & St Joseph's Benalla Uniform Shop:

**Store Location: 42 Arundel Street  
(Parish building next to St Joseph's Church)  
Benalla VIC 3672**

**Uniform Shop Open Hours**

**Monday 8.00am – 1.00pm**

**Friday 8.00am – 4.00pm**

[www.noone.com.au](http://www.noone.com.au)



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February 2025

Dear Parent and/or Guardian

Tomorrow Today runs the Participate! Sports Initiative which provides funding assistance towards an after-school/weekend activity to ensure every young person in Benalla can participate.

**To access this funding, you need to:**

- Have a current Pension card or Health Care Card
- Live in the Benalla local government area
- Have children aged 5 to 19 who are attending school in the Benalla local government area

Call Tomorrow Today on **5762 1211** to discuss the sport or activity your child would like to participate in and book an appointment to organise the registration and payment of the sport or activity.

**Please note:**

- Tomorrow Today does not reimburse for registration fees that have been paid by families.
- The full costs of registration are **not** covered by Tomorrow Today's funding. A contribution is required to be made towards the cost of the registration. This will be discussed when booking your appointment and collected from you when the registration is finalised.
- Funding is available once per calendar year per child.

Please ring our office if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Sally Matheson  
Education Benalla Program Manager



# Art Competition

Are you aged 5-12 and love art?


Here's your chance to win a  
**\$200 Benalla Cinema voucher!**

Create an artwork around the theme of sustainability.  
It could be a drawing, painting, photo, collage,  
digital image or even an image using recycled material  
...the possibilities are endless (*no AI please*).

Your artwork will be displayed at the ENGIE stall during the Benalla Street Art Festival, where attendees will vote for their favourite. The winning artwork will take home a \$200 Benalla Cinema voucher and also feature in Goorambat East Solar Farm's promotional material for the next 12 months so make sure to send your family and friends to vote!

## HOW TO ENTER

 Email your entry to [goorambatsolarfarm.au@engie.com](mailto:goorambatsolarfarm.au@engie.com)

 Drop it off at Protech, 61 Nunn Street, Benalla

Please label your entry with  
**name, age, email & contact number**

**DEADLINE: Friday 4th April 2025**

**WINNER ANNOUNCED: Monday 14TH April 2025**

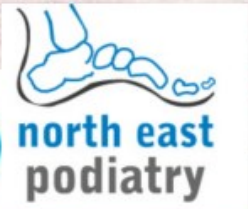
GET  
CREATIVE  
AND  
START YOUR  
MASTERPIECE  
TODAY!





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## 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.

# Baseball Come & Try



WHY NOT GIVE BASEBALL A GO?

Our Come & Try days are for junior players, boys and girls, who want to have some fun & try a new sport!



### Cost

\$50 Per player including a glove or hat and a T-Shirt



### Dates

Thursday, 20th & 27th of Feb and 6th of March



### Time

5:30



### Location

Targoora Park, Murdoch Road

Equipment  
Provided

Ages  
7-14



### Looking to try a new sport?

Give baseball a go. Benalla Bandits Baseball Club is always welcoming new members and would love for you to be one of them. It's a great way to learn a new sport while making new friends and getting some exercise.

Our juniors teams range from 6 to 15 and seniors are for anyone over the age of 15.

We would love to hear from you

### For more information please contact us

Phone: Ashley Cartledge - 0439662780

Email: [benallabandits@gmail.com](mailto:benallabandits@gmail.com)

Or message our Facebook page.

facebook



Find us on Facebook  
and Instagram!



## Want to join in local AFL but not sure where to start?

COME DOWN TO TRAINING AND JOIN IN OR  
JUST CHAT TO THE COACHES!!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

**U17 (boys born  
2008, 2009 &  
2010)**

**Every Tuesday  
and Thursday  
6pm @  
Showgrounds**

**U14 (players born  
2011 & 2012 - boys  
& girls)**

**Every Tuesday and  
Thursday  
5.30pm @ Auskick  
Ovals, Arundel St**

**U12 (players born  
2013 & 2014 -  
boys & girls)**

**Every Tuesday and  
Thursday  
beginning  
4th March, 5pm @  
Auskick Ovals,  
Arundel St**

Contact us on [banddjfl@gmail.com](mailto:banddjfl@gmail.com) or follow us  
on Facebook and Instagram

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# 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:



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

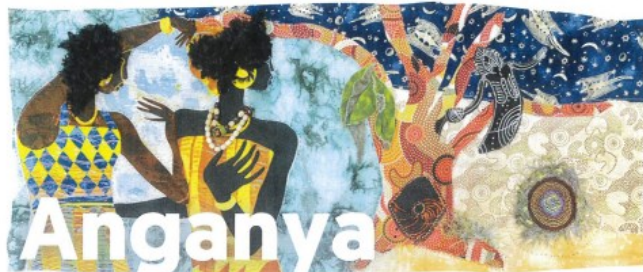
Jade or Sharon  
 enquiriesp@berrystreet.org.au  
 1300 610 355

DELIVERED BY



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.



# Anganya Education Program

Improving the educational outcomes, engagement and opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students within Benalla and district.

Anganya Education Program focuses on:

- Accelerated learning.**  
4 days a week for one hour and weekly educational support in schools
- Financial assistance**  
for school success
- Deepening the connections to culture and country**  
engaging with Elders in our community
- Pathways and work readiness training**  
help to find part-time and full-time employment, resume building, money management, L-P Program, Pathways to TAFE, apprenticeships and university

Contact Heidi Perry  
03 5762 1211  
Shop 5b, 66 Nunn St, Benalla VIC 3672  
[tomorrowtoday.com.au](http://tomorrowtoday.com.au)



## Come & Try HOCKEY!

**Starts Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> March!**

**All abilities No experience needed! All ages**

**All of March is FREE!**

Have fun, make friends  
Whole family can play together  
Come and surprise yourself!  
Equipment provided

**HOOK in 2 HOCKEY**

**4.30 – 5.30pm 5-12 year olds**

**FUN SUMMER HOCKEY**

**5.30 – 6.30pm Teens 13-17yo**

Join in any week, competition starts Term 2  
Hockey field, Churchill Reserve, Waller St  
Bring a drink bottle and friends!  
More info: [benallahockey@gmail.com](mailto:benallahockey@gmail.com)  
RSVP please for session planning:

**TIGERS**



## Benalla Scout Group

**Tuesdays 5.00 – 6.30pm**

Joey Scouts are amazing! Some activities Joeyes are doing In

Term 1, 2025

- Team Building Water Races
- Creating our Unit Code
- Traditional Scout Games
- Traditional Campfire Songs
- Summer Sleepover
- Celebrating Peak Award recipients
- St Patrick's Day Shenanigans
- Jamboree on Pedals
- Pitching Tents and setting up a campsite
- Joeyes of the Round Table District Camp
- Hike and Sausage Sizzle

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!

### Contact

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



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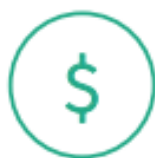
# Get up to \$500 for education costs

Achieve a savings goal for 10 months,  
and **ANZ will match it up to \$500.**

To be eligible, you need to meet these requirements:



18 years  
or older



A regular  
income  
(you or your  
partner)



Attend  
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financial  
education  
workshops



Are studying  
yourself or  
have a child  
at school, or  
starting next  
year



Current  
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or Pensioner  
Concession  
Card**

[Saverplus.org.au](http://Saverplus.org.au)

1300 610 355

saverplus

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in partnership with The Smith Family and Berry Street. It is funded by ANZ and Department of Social Services.

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

# **BENALLA**

(03) 5762 6566

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