



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Robert's
Newtown

7th November 2025

NEWSLETTER

www.srnewtown.catholic.edu.au



At St Robert's, taking Jesus as our model, we **INCLUDE**, we **CONNECT**, we act with **PURPOSE**.

NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL TRANSITION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL - ZOOM

Monday 10th November

See page 5 for details

REMEMBRANCE DAY Tuesday 11th November

2026 FOUNDATION STUDENTS TRANSITION SESSION TWO

Tuesday 11th November

From 9:10am to 10:30am

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we return from the Melbourne Cup long weekend, there's a real sense of gratitude for the energy and joy that fills our school each day. I hope the extra days provided everyone with a chance to rest, recharge and enjoy some family time before we launch into a busy few weeks ahead.

Last Monday, we were treated to a wonderful Assembly led by 1MP. The students spoke confidently and with great enthusiasm as they taught us about the human body and the earth's layers. It's always inspiring to see our youngest learners sharing their knowledge so proudly, well done, 1MP!

Our Year 3 students also had an exciting adventure at Scienceworks, exploring the wonders of science and technology. Their curiosity and questions reminded us just how powerful hands-on learning can be.

Next week, our school community will take part in a Remembrance Day Service on Monday 10th November, learning about the importance of this national day of reflection and participating in a minute of silence on Tuesday 11th November. These moments help our students understand the value of gratitude, peace and remembrance.

I would also like to share an important safety reminder. Late last week, a Sacred Heart College staff member contacted me after witnessing a near miss involving a student crossing the road unsafely near Munchies Milk Bar. While the student could not be clearly identified, we remind all families to please speak with your children about using the designated pedestrian crossings before and after school. Staff will also reinforce this message in classrooms to ensure everyone travels safely to and from school each day.

In staffing news, I am delighted to announce that Miss Chloe Painter has been appointed as our Deputy Principal. Chloe has led with exceptional connection, inclusion and purpose throughout her time in the acting role, and I look forward to continuing our partnership.

We also warmly welcome Emma Clancy, our new Learning Diversity Leader, who will be joining our community in 2026. Emma brings a wealth of experience and passion for inclusive education, and we are very excited to have her as part of our team. See page 3 to learn more about Miss Clancy.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy weekend!

Warm regards,

Rebecca O'Leary
PRINCIPAL

UPCOMING DATES

Year 3 Students Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday 19th November -
See note sent via email 7/11

2026 Foundation Students Transition Session Three

Tuesday 25th November - From
9:10am to 10:30am

St Robert's presents... 'Broadway Bound' School Concert

Thursday 27th November from
5:45pm at The Arena

School Closure Day

Monday 1st December - No
students at school today

Parents & Friends AGM

Tuesday 2nd December from
7:00pm - See page 2

Year 6 'Upcycling Project' Open Morning inside classrooms

Thursday 4th December from
9:00am to 10:00am

Loving God,

I know that you are extremely patient with me, help me to practice patience with friends, at home and at school.

Help me understand the importance of waiting.

Amen.



REPORT STUDENT ABSENCES BY 9:15AM ON THE DAY OF THE ABSENCE

Please call 5221 1075, press 1 & leave details of absence OR email: attendance@srnewtown.catholic.edu.au
OR submit via Skool Loop App Absences Tab

FAITH IN EDUCATION

Theresa Lewis

Please keep our Grade Three students in your prayers as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance through the Rite of Reconciliation on Wednesday 19th November.

Merciful God, as children from our school prepare for Reconciliation, help us all to ask for forgiveness when we need to, and to be peacemakers in our school and families. Guide our hearts and minds as we examine our consciences, and fill us with your love and peace. Amen.



Noah B	Jude C	Harlow D	Ivy H	Reid M	Sadie P	Bowie S	Bethany W
Toby B	Nastassia C	Alannah E	Isla J	Willow M	Sophie P	Maya S	Vivienne w
Isabel B	Sadie D	Cooper G	Lindy M	Xavier M	Zara R	Louis S	Gus W
Ciara C	Leila D	Otis G	Ailish M	Edie N	Sam S	Sophia T	Olivia O
Addison C	Milla D	Kai H	Maggie M	Charlotte P	Bruin S	Edward V	

YEAR 2 & 3 ART EXCURSION

Annie Humphries

We had a wonderful day on our recent Year 2 and 3 Art Excursion on Friday 24th October!

Students visited the Geelong Gallery where they viewed the Archibald Prize finalists and the incredibly intricate re/JOY Vipoo Srivilasa exhibition.

They were also given a guided tour of the Geelong Library, exploring its amazing facilities, including the 3D printer!

We enjoyed lunch, games, and a walk through Johnstone Park, making the most of the beautiful weather. All in all, it was a fantastic day of art, learning, and fun!



STEM NEWS

Emma Rayson

YR 6 AVIATION COMPETITION

A huge congratulations to Frankie V and Sonny T for winning the 'Greatest Payload' award in the Victorian Aviation Competition held last term.

Frankie and Sonny had a whopping 110 grams of blu-tak added to their plane and it was still able to launch into the air and fly. They should be very proud of their construction and attention to detail.



SOCIAL MEDIA AGE RESTRICTIONS

From 10th December 2025, certain social media platforms won't be allowed to let Australian children under 16 create or keep an account.

The eSafety Commissioner is running FREE 30-minute webinars to help parents and carers understand the upcoming changes to social media access for children under 16.

Information sessions will help with:

- understanding the purpose of the new age restrictions and how they aim to protect young Australians
- understanding which platforms will require users to be 16+ and what platforms they can still access
- tips and resources to support your child's online safety and wellbeing through the transition.

Click [here](#) to register for a FREE webinar

The eSafety Commissioner also has [Social Media Age Restrictions HUB](#) that may help answer some of your questions or concerns.

MISS CLANCY

HELLO ST ROBERT'S COMMUNITY,

My name is Emma Clancy and I am thrilled to be joining the team in 2026 as the Learning Diversity Leader. I have over 15 years of experience in Catholic education and I am passionate about helping every child feel successful, understood and confident in their learning.



WHAT I BELIEVE

I am guided by the heart of St Robert's;

**We Include,
We Connect,
We Act with Purpose.**

I believe every child deserves to feel seen, heard and valued. For me, inclusion isn't just about support, it's about belonging. When children feel safe and connected, they are more willing to give things a go, take risks in their learning and discover what they're capable of. In this role, I will always lead with purpose and care, keeping your child's wellbeing and learning at the centre of every decision.

I feel genuinely privileged to join St Robert's and I cannot wait to connect with students and families. My door will always be open, and I look forward to working in partnership to support every learner.



A LITTLE ABOUT ME

When I'm not at school, you'll most likely find me outdoors with my family and our two very energetic dogs, Minnie and Hendrix. We love beach walks, bike rides and swag camping around Australia whenever we get the chance. There's nothing better than a campfire, a starry sky and muddy kids who've had a good day outside!

If you also love the outdoors, I'd love to hear your favourite places to visit, I'm always looking for new adventures and recommendations.

I grew up on a cattle farm in country Victoria, so I have always loved wide open spaces and simple living. One of my favourite memories is the year our road flooded and we had to take a tinnie (tin boat) to get to the school bus stop.

I'm a big believer in lifelong learning and I always have something on the go, whether I'm reading on my Kindle, exploring new ideas through podcasts or unwinding with music while I cook or get creative.

Fun fact: I may have dived with Great White Sharks but am still scared of heights and couldn't climb the second level of the Eiffel Tower. I also love Mexican food, a good chai latte and my favourite colour is emerald green.





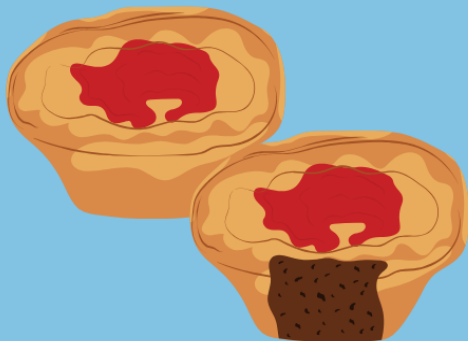
ST ROBERT'S



SPECIAL *Lunch Day*

JOIN US FOR A 'CONCERT RECOVERY' LUNCH DAY!

FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER
ORDER BY 11:59PM FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER



PARTY PIE \$1.50 EACH (GF AVAIL)
SAUSAGE ROLL \$1.50 EACH (GF AVAIL)
ADD A CHOC CHIP COOKIE & GOLDEN
CIRCLE JUICE BOX FOR \$3.00

*DIETARY COOKIE AVAILABLE - SEE
DETAILS ON CDF PAY*



ORDER VIA CDF PAY APP



PARENTS AND FRIENDS

AGM Meeting

Tuesday 2nd December 2025

- Join us in the staffroom at 7:00pm
- Dial In details will also be available for anyone who can't make it on the night
- In 2026 we are looking for nominations for: A P&F Deputy Coordinator, General Committee Members, 2026 Year Level Representatives and 2026 Special Lunch Committee
- Nominations can be emailed to pfstroberts@gmail.com

PARENTING YOUNG MINDS



Read the Play

PHONES, SOCIAL MEDIA & ONLINE RISKS

Join us for an eye-opening and practical evening with leading psychologist and Read the Play Patron Dr Michael Carr-Gregg.



MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER, 2025
06:00 PM - 07:30 PM
GEE LONG WEST TOWN HALL
\$15 PER PERSON



This session will cover:

- When is the "right" time to give your child a phone
- How to introduce devices safely and set clear expectations
- Essential tips for managing social media use
- How to identify and respond to online risks (e.g. predators, cyberbullying, privacy breaches)
- Apps that help support your child's digital behaviour
- Setting healthy family rules around phone use

Meli

Parenting Support

Hear from Meli about their evidence-based parenting programs – from newborns to teens. Build resilience, confidence and connection through communication. Programs include Circle of Security, Bringing Up Great Kids, Tuning into Kids and Tuning into Teens.

REGISTER NOW



readtheplay.org.au/events

CYBER SAFETY PROJECT



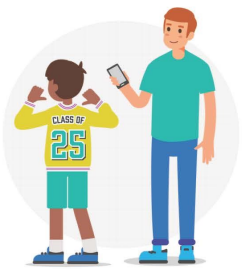
YEAR 6 PARENT & GUARDIAN ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

Navigating the Digital Transition to Secondary School

Year 6 parents and guardians are invited to join the Cyber Safety Project for a vital online session addressing the digital challenges their children will face as they transition to secondary school. This session complements the transition program students will undertake.

In this session, parents and guardians will:

- ✓ Understand the biggest digital challenges their child will face
- ✓ Learn practical strategies for fostering safe online behaviour
- ✓ Discover key conversation starters to encourage responsible tech use



WHEN & WHERE

Monday 10th November 2025
7.30pm AEDT
Live Online via Zoom

REGISTER HERE



OR VISIT [BIT.LY/FINALWORD2025](https://bit.ly/FINALWORD2025)

Student Transition Program - The Final Word

The Final Word: Thriving Online in Secondary School, is a series of interactive live online sessions equipping graduating students with essential online safety skills. Led by expert online safety educators, each session covers key topics specific to this cohort, reinforced by in-class lessons.

THE FINAL WORD



MORE INFORMATION

cybersafetyproject.com/year-6-transition

FAMILY WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS & KIDS U16

CYBER SAFETY PROJECT

JOIN THE CYBER SAFETY PROJECT FOR EXPERT INSIGHTS

SOCIAL MEDIA DELAY

WHAT'S CHANGING

WHY IT MATTERS

MYTH BUSTING

START THE CHAT

READINESS

NEXT STEPS



LIVE
ONLINE
SESSION

Starting on **10 December 2025**, Australia's minimum age for social media use will increase from 13 to 16. This change will affect all young people under 16 and the parents and schools who support them.

WHY ATTEND?

Join Cyber Safety Project for this family event designed for parents and children under 16 to attend together. We'll unpack the facts, clear up common myths, and kick-start important conversations that really matter before the new laws take effect.

Here's what we'll chat about:

- ✓ Exactly what's changing and who it applies to.
- ✓ What will (and won't) be impacted by the new rules.
- ✓ How the law will be enforced and what that means day-to-day.
- ✓ How families can prepare together to stay informed and connected.

**PLUS
RECEIVE A
FREE PARENT
TOOLKIT!**

WHEN & WHERE

LIVE ONLINE
7.00pm - 7.45pm AEDT
Wednesday 19th November 2025

SCAN TO REGISTER
or visit
bit.ly/SMDelay



PRESENTED BY



Cyber Safety Project,
Australia's premier
online safety education
provider.

cybersafetyproject.com



Last day of Year 6 Celebration

So hard to believe Primary School will soon be over for our
Grade Sixes.
Join us for one last family get together.

BATESFORD HOTEL
Ballarat Road
Batesford

TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER

Drinks in the garden from 4pm
Meals available from 5pm
Pop in or stay as long as you like, all family
members welcome.

Please RSVP via here by Friday 5th December



+

GRADE 5

**PARENTS &
CARERS**

CHRISTMAS CATCH UP

Venue TBC soon.
From 7.15pm on Friday November 21st



You're Invited to St
Robert's

Grade 6 Mum's arvo out

SAT 15TH NOVEMBER 4PM

Meet Me At Mary's
Pakington St, Geelong West

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Week 4

FMC	Angus	Andre
FCH	Francesco	Zoe
Gr 1 LB	Birdie	Oakley
Gr 1 MP	Mateja	Alastair
Gr 2 IW	Hamish	Hannah
Gr 3 EG	Sam	Vivienne
Gr 3 SB	Toby	Xavier
Gr 4 CG	Dante	Julian
Gr 4 SM	Indi	Lucas
Gr 5 JB	Flo	Niamh
Gr 5 RR	Henry O	Keanu
Gr 6 CL	Sid	
Gr 6 KR	Mia G	
GR 6 PB	Sophie K	

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Week 5

FMC	Maggie	Beau
FCH	Lucas	Matilda
Gr 1 LB	Sam	Macy
Gr 1 MP	Beau	Emilia
Gr 2 IW	Marlowe	Johnny O
Gr 3 EG	Leila	Nastassia
Gr 3 SB	Cooper	Charlotte
Gr 4 CG	Molly	Olivia
Gr 4 SM	Edward	Archie S
Gr 5 JB	Jimmy	Henry
Gr 5 RR	Kayla	Sacci
Gr 6 CL	Sebastian	
Gr 6 KR	Luca	
GR 6 PB	Max	

St Robert's acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land, the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation.
We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders both past, present and emerging.