



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A Prayer for those who serve in Defence

Dear Lord,

We pray for the protection of our armed forces as they serve our country around the world. Give them endurance and remind them that their service is worthwhile and necessary. May they know that their service is appreciated by us all.

We thank you for the bravery of these men and women as part of your protection for us. We look forward to a day when this protection is no longer necessary as we live in perfect peace with you for eternity.

Amen.

Dear Families,

Today, Chris Crimmings and I had the pleasure of attending the 83rd Anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin alongside our School and Vice Captains. While not a celebration, a time for us to reflect, learn and acknowledge the work of our defence in what they did 83 years ago to make the place we live a great place to be. Holy Spirit School is a proud Defence School - welcoming all families who are posted to Darwin.



Last Friday we celebrated our Opening Mass with the theme: Pilgrims of Hope. Thank you to Ann Byrne as our Youth Minister and our Year 6 leaders in leading us through mass. We are blessed with Father Dave Callaghan as our Parish Priest, alongside Deacon Tony Cunningham who were there as our celebrants. As we are in the year of Jubilee, a chance for us all to reflect on what we hope in our journey this year as we travel together.





Congratulations to Joyal Jinoy who became an Australian citizen last Friday. A great celebration for Joyal along with his family.



Parent/Teacher Interviews are scheduled for Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th March. Details around this will be sent to you shortly in an e-form via Operoo which will allow you to book a time. Interviews will take place in your child's classroom. Fifteen minutes has been set aside for each scheduled meeting. After School Care is available during interview time for you as required. This is a great opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher to discuss goals and areas of focus for the year ahead.

Through Class Dojo you should have received from our teachers the Year Level Term Newsletter, sharing with you all the great learning and activities that are planned. Please let us know if you are not able to access so we can make them available to you.

Our specialist areas began at the beginning of term. Our children join Mrs Abby for PE, Mrs Leah for The Arts and Ibu Jo for Indonesian. Please take the time to get to know our specialist teachers and thank them for what they contribute each week in your child's education.



Through [Snappy Six](#), we introduce to you some of our new staff here at Holy Spirit. Welcome Kate Murray and Beth Jackson.

Laura McCormack, our school counsellor from Catholic Care continues with us this year. Laura is at our school Tuesday and Wednesday each week. Where you wish to access this service, please come to the front office to pick up a registration form and or have a chat with your child's classroom teacher to learn more about this service.



On Monday we welcomed Jaleel Vea Vea who has joined Year 5/6, Room 13. I am sure you will all make Jaleel feel very welcome here at Holy Spirit. Jaleel joins his younger brother Thaine who is in Transition.

Thank you for your support ensuring our children are dressed in our correct school uniform. We are proud of our school and who we are. Your support with this is required.



Awards Assembly takes place this Friday in our Multipurpose Room from 8:15am. Please come along and join us where you can. When your child is to receive an award, you will be informed through Class Dojo by your child's teacher so that you can make arrangements to come along. Remember that Friday Awards Assembly takes place in Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 of each term. A photo of all award recipients will be shared on our Class Dojo and Facebook page following assembly. Where you do not wish for your child's photo to be shown, please ensure we have these details through our front office.

A reminder of our whole school closure on Friday 4th April for the purpose of staff professional development in Catholic Identity. OSHC and COL are also closed on this day, so that all staff from across the school can gather for important faith formation.

Our new carpark is proving to be a great success. Improving safety was our number one priority, and we have noted improvement with this. As shared with you all at the beginning of the term, please be patient as we adjust to our new traffic conditions in this space and travel slowly in our carpark.

Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre Carpark continues to be available to you all for drop off and afternoon dismissal each day.

Our Class Buddy Program, in support of student support and learning is in place again this year. This program encourages student engagement and support across all our year levels, including Community of Learners. This program continues to develop as a way to support our children in both the classroom and playground. The goals of our program, as identified through our policy include:

- Supporting students in their learning
- Developing positive relationships
- Mentoring and guiding students through their learning and play
- Participation in learning activities
- Proving leadership opportunities for potential leaders of our school
- A place for students to visit when reflecting on some behavioural choices

Our Class Buddy Arrangements for 2025 are:

- Transition Room 8 and Year 3/4 Room 15
- Transition Room 9 and Year 3/4 Room 17
- Year 1/2 Room 2 and Year 3/4 Room 14
- Year 1/2 Room 4 and Year 5/6 Room 12
- Year 1/2 Room 6 and Year 5/6 Room 13
- Year 5/6 Room 10 and Community of Learners

Please take the time to speak with your child about our Class Buddy Program and the positive experiences we encourage and celebrate.

For families looking at ways to contribute to the school life of our school and community please consider joining our Parents and Friends Committee. We meet on the first Thursday of each month from 2:00 - 2:30pm at our school. Last year through the work of this committee we raised over \$10,000 dollars. Money raised comes directly back to our school.

Our family gathering at Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre was a great success. So much fun for everyone. Thank you everyone for making the start to our school year a positive experience for everyone.

Blessings,

Paula Sellars

Mrs Paula Sellars
Principal





Jubilee Prayer of Hope

God, our loving Father

In this Jubilee year, you remind us of our call to love creation.

Help us to work together to replant, repair and renew.

Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

Amen

Sacramental Program

Father Dave shall be sharing with us soon details around how our Sacramental Program will look this year for our students. Dates set for our Sacramental Program this year are.

- **Sacrament of Confirmation** – Sunday 1st June at 9:30am mass
- **Sacrament of Reconciliation** – Thursday 11th September at 6:00pm in our church
- **Sacrament of First Holy Communion** – Sunday 14th September at 9:30am mass

Preparations for the Sacrament of Confirmation will begin later this term so please keep a watch for updates and information as sent to you.

Upcoming Events:

Shrove Tuesday – Tuesday 4th March

Our Parents and Friends will be cooking pancakes on this morning. Where you can assist, please let us know. Our children will be most grateful.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy – Wednesday 5th March

This will take place in our church from 8:30am and will be led by our students from Year 5/6, Room 12 and Year 1/2, Room 4.

St Patrick's Day – Monday 17th March

Students and staff will be invited to come to school dressed in green if they wish. No money donations, but rather a chance to celebrate our Irish community.

Harmony Day – Friday 21st March

More details to follow in how this day will look, however the chance to wear orange is encouraged.

Where you have any questions please come and see Mrs Sellars for school events, and for parish, Fr Dave Callaghan.

Mrs Sellars
Principal

Dear Families,

YOU CAN SIT WITH ME

This term we implemented the *You Can Sit with Me* program. This wonderful initiative works to ensure that no student ever feels alone during break times. The concept is simple but powerful and students who volunteer as You Can Sit with Me ambassadors will wear a bright yellow wristband, signalling that they are open to welcoming anyone who needs a friend or a place to sit.

Whether a student is feeling left out, new to the school, or just looking to meet new friends, they can easily find a friendly face and a safe space to belong. This program promotes kindness, inclusion, and peer support.

This week Year 3/4 and 1/2 students will start to wear the bands and become ambassadors for inclusion and support alongside their older mentors. If the bands make it home, could you please send them back in as they are on short supply nation-wide.

Later this term, our younger students in ELC/Transition will use the little sister program, You can share with me. Parents who would like to learn more about the program can visit the official website:

www.youcansitwithme.org

This is just one of the ways we are creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all our students at Holy Spirit in 2025.

NAPLAN

Coming up this term for Year 3 & 5 students are NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) tests. We want to share some positive thoughts and helpful tips to ensure our students approach these assessments with confidence and a can-do attitude.

These tests are conducted every year and can have some media attention leading up to the events. A key message is that NAPLAN is simply a snapshot of your child's progress. The tests are a National snapshot and are designed so at the school level, they help us understand where each student excels and where they might need a little extra support. Remember, these tests are meant to be a bit challenging in some areas – that is completely normal and nothing to worry about!

In the coming weeks, the students will sit a practice test. It is a condensed version of Reading, Conventions of Language and Numeracy. The Year 5 students will practice a writing test online, whereas Year 3 will do theirs on paper in their classroom which replicates the testing conditions. These measures are to help students feel more at ease. There are no marks for these tests.

Here are some ways you can help your child prepare and stay positive:

- Encourage a "can-do" attitude: Remind your child that this is an opportunity to show what they know and to try their best. Every question answered is a chance to shine. I always remind students where there is a choice, an attempt as a correct answer is better than no answer.
- Focus on effort, not perfection: Let your child know that it is okay if they find some questions tricky. The most important thing is that they try their best.
- Maintain a regular routine in the days leading up to the tests, stick to normal bedtimes and wake-up times to ensure your child is well-rested.
- Fuel up for success. On testing days, make sure your child eats a good, nutritious breakfast. This will help them stay focused and energised. It also never ceases to amaze me how much hungrier the students are. Maybe pack some extra healthy snacks on testing days.
- Keep it in perspective. Remind your child that NAPLAN is just one of many ways we assess learning. It does not define their intelligence or worth as a student.
- Celebrate the effort. After each test, acknowledge your child's hard work, regardless of how they think they performed.

Our goal is to create a positive and supportive environment for all our students. Your encouragement and positive attitude can make a world of difference in how your child approaches these tests.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or to me. We are here to support you and your child every step of the way. Let's approach NAPLAN with enthusiasm and confidence.

We believe in our students, and we know they will do their very best!

TODDLE

Coming later this year to our parents is Toddle. A cutting-edge online platform designed to enhance communication between parents and teachers while providing a seamless link to classroom learning and reporting. We have heard parents and teachers loud and clear that the multiple platforms gets a little confusing. Toddle will replace Class Dojo and Operoo in a staggered roll out.

Starting later this term, Toddle will serve as our primary portal for parent communications, offering a user-friendly interface that allows families to stay up-to-date with their child's educational journey. Over time, this system will provide parents with real-time insights into classroom activities, assignments, and their child's progress.

Key features of Toddle include:

- Direct access to classroom updates and learning materials
- Instant messaging between parents and teachers
- Real-time progress reports and assessment feedback
- Absentee logs
- A centralised calendar for school events
- Easy-to-use mobile app for on-the-go access

I believe that Toddle aligns with our commitment to transparent, effective communication with families. It will significantly enhance the way we share our students' learning experiences and achievements. Parents can expect to receive login details and instructions for accessing Toddle by the end of term. The school will also host orientation sessions to ensure a smooth transition to this new platform.

We believe that Toddle will strengthen our school community by fostering closer connections between home and school, ultimately supporting our students' academic and personal growth.

Stay tuned for more information about this exciting development in our school's communication strategy!

Regards,



Heidi van Bodegraven
Deputy Principal and Curriculum Coordinator

Supporting Student Inclusion at Holy Spirit

What an exciting few weeks! We were delighted to welcome **Jackson, our therapy dog** in week three, who will be visiting on Fridays to support one of our **Social Emotional Learning programs focusing on strong and effective communication**. Students were eager to participate, and their enthusiasm was wonderful to see as they built assertive, effective communication skills with Jackson's help.



We also launched the **Engine Room**, as a revamped sensory space designed to support student wellbeing and self-regulation.

Meanwhile, *All About Reading* with Miss Robin is in full swing, helping to foster a love of reading and strengthen literacy skills across the school.

Looking ahead, we can't wait to introduce our **LEGO Social Emotional Learning group**, where students will develop communication and teamwork skills through hands-on, creative play. Plus, once assessments are complete, our **Mathematics and Literacy intervention programs** will begin, providing tailored support to help every student thrive.

Exciting things are happening—watch this space!

Miss Claire
Inclusion Support Coordinator

BACK TO SCHOOL VOUCHER

Have you used your child's Back to School Voucher? It is worth \$200 and can be used against the Book Service Levy within the fees or uniforms (@CSF Gear)

The Back to School Voucher is valid till the end of Term 1, 4th Of April, 2025.

SNAPPY SIX

Name: Mrs Jackson (Inclusion Support)

Favourite Colour: Green

Favourite Food: Pasta

Favourite Book: At the moment, The housemaid's series by Freida McFadden

Favourite Sport: AFL (Go pies!)

What do you like best about Holy Spirit School?

How welcoming and friendly all of the students are!



SNAPPY SIX

Name: Mrs Murray (Teacher)

Favourite Colour: Turquoise

Favourite Food: Curry

Favourite Book: The Gruffalo

Favourite Sport: Football

What do you like best about Holy Spirit School?

Everyone is so welcoming



**Please do not park on the yellow lines outside the front office entrance.
This area is monitored and you may be fined.**

TERM ONE CALENDAR, 2025

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	ASSEMBLY
Week 4 February 6 th Sunday Ordinary Time	17	18	19	20 School Board Meeting @ 4:45pm	21 Awards Assembly	<u>Year 5/6</u> Room 10 Room 12 Room 13
Week 5 February 7 th Sunday Ordinary Time	24	25	26	27	28 Soccer Gala day REWARD AFTERNOON	No Assembly
Week 6 March 8 th Sunday Ordinary Time	Parent/Teacher Meetings (1pm—5pm)		5	6 Netball Gala	7	<u>Year 3/4</u> Room 14 Room 15 Room 17
	3	4 Shrove Tuesday – Pancakes (P&F) – 9:30-10:30am	Ash Wednesday Liturgy @ 8:30am	P&F Meeting @ 2:00pm	Awards Assembly Defence Gathering @ 1:30pm	
Week 7 March 1 st Sunday Lent	10	11	NAPLAN testing			No Assembly
			12 Newsletter	13	14	
Week 8 March 2 nd Sunday in Lent	NAPLAN testing					<u>Year 1/2</u> Room 2 Room 4 Room 6
	17	18	19	20 School Board Meeting @ 4:45pm	21 Awards Assembly Harmony Day (night events)	
Week 9 March 3 rd Sunday in Lent	NAPLAN	25	26	27	28	No Assembly
	24					
Week 10 March/April 4 th Sunday in Lent	31	1	2 World Autism Awareness Day	3 Awards Assembly REWARD AFTERNOON	4 SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY	<u>Transition</u> Room 8 Room 9

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY



1 Send a message to let someone know you're thinking of them

2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently

3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone

4 Invite a friend over for a 'tea break' (in person or virtual)

5 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour

6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while

7 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others

8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust

9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you

10 Look for good in others, particularly when you feel frustrated with them

11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost

12 Focus on being kind rather than being right

13 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day

14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you

15 Support a local business with a positive online review or friendly message

16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help

17 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life

18 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself

19 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing

20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun

21 Really listen to what people say, without judging them

22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today

23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise

24 Tell a loved one about the strengths that you see in them

25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why

26 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones

27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them

28 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is very important for all our children.

Every day at school counts!

Please refer to the table below as an indicator of how repeated absences can have an impact on student learning.

	<p>Your child's attendance is above 95%</p> <p>They are likely to be a 'Star Performer' as well as an excellent attendee. They will almost certainly achieve the best grades for their ability and have real opportunity in further education, or in the world of work.</p>
	<p>Your child's attendance is 90 – 94%</p> <p>'GREEN for Go' for good attendance, they are likely to achieve grades that will give them real opportunities to continue their studies, or in the world of work.</p>
10 days missed = 2 weeks absence	
	<p>Your child's attendance is 85 – 89%</p> <p>'AMBER – Take care' as students will be missing up to 20 days each year and this will make it very difficult for them to achieve their best.</p>
	<p>Your child's attendance is 80 – 84%</p> <p>'RED light – Be alert' as students are missing so much school that it will be very difficult for them to keep in touch with lessons or with work.</p>
	<p>Your child's attendance is below 80%</p> <p>'AT RISK – Immediate Action Needed' as students are missing so much time from school that it will be almost impossible for them to keep in touch with lessons or work.</p>



HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILD SAFE GUARDING OFFICERS

Principal



Miss Heidi



Mrs. Sellars



Deputy Principal

I know I can go to Mrs. Sellars, and Miss Heidi if...

I need help.

I am worried about my safety.

I am worried about a friend.

SCHOOL FEES

Families are advised the following school fees for 2025 apply. These fees have been recommended by the CEC Finance, Facilities & Resources Committee and endorsed by the Bishop. If the level of increase creates any hardship for you, please make an appointment with the Principal to discuss the circumstances.

Levies break down (these are included in the amounts in table below)

\$492.00	Books & Services (per child/per year)
\$160.00	Excursion (per child/per year)
\$300.00	Operational (per child/per year)

Family	Per Term (Inc. levies)	Per Year (Inc. levies)
1 child	\$625.50	\$2502.00
2 children	\$1212.25	\$4849.00
3 children	\$1760.25	\$7041.00
4 children	\$1998.25	\$7993.00

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE & OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

ELC - Community of Learners (fees subject to change)		
One Child	\$500.00 per week	\$130.00 per day
<i>Effective January, 2025</i>		
OSHC - After School Care (fees subject to change)		
One Child	\$40.00 - booked rate	\$50.00 - casual rate
<i>Effective January 30, 2025</i>		
OSHC - Before School Care (fees subject to change)		
One Child	\$16 - booked rate	\$20.00 - casual rate
<i>Effective January 30, 2025</i>		
OSHC - Vacation Care (fees subject to change)		
One Child	\$360.00 per week	\$100 per day
<i>Effective April 2025</i>		
<i>Child Care Subsidy (CCS) apply</i>		

If you would like to pay your account through internet banking please see the school account details below:

National Australia Bank
Account Name: Holy Spirit School
BSB No. 085 933
Account No. 39 895 1673
Ref: (Child's First Initial) . (Last Name) FEES/COL/OSHC
Example: J Smith FEES

Please contact the [Finance Officer](#) as soon as possible if there are any difficulties meeting payment commitments.