



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### *Project Compassion*

#### *A Lenten Prayer*

*God of our journey we are all pilgrims of hope brought together by your love and your wish that we may all be one. We pray that in this Year of Jubilee when we are called to a greater justice and care for our common home that we may*

*Unite Against Poverty.*

*May we work in unity for the freedom of the oppressed and the renewal of creation. May our compassionate minds and generous hearts help bring about a world where all can live in peace.*

*May our Lenten pilgrimage of fasting, almsgiving and prayer bring us closer to your loving heart.*

*We ask this in the name of Jesus.*

*Amen.*

Dear Families,

Our Lenten journey began last week with Ash Wednesday. During Lent, our school contributes to Project Compassion through fundraising and prayer. Please check in with your child's classroom teacher to keep abreast of what we have in place.



***Making Jesus Real (MJR)***, a resource that we have in place here at Holy Spirit reminds us to reflect on times where we see 'The Spirit of Jesus', whether at school, at home or in our community. Through our fortnightly Friday Awards Assembly we invite our children to share where they have seen this. A conversation point for you at home with your family to assist us in spreading the beautiful work of our students and of course, you, as our parents.

- Am I welcoming to new and current families of Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School?
- Did I welcome someone today by saying hello?

- Have I included everyone?
- Where was Jesus in my life today?
- What encouraging words did I use today to my friends and family?
- Was I a positive thinker this week?
- Today was I a 'winner and grinner' or a 'moaner and groaner'?
- Was I a giver or taker today?
- When did I thank someone for what they did for me to help me out in my day?

Please check in with our staff where you wish to learn more about MJR.

Thank you to our families for your support with Parent/Teacher Interviews. As shared, this is an important time for you to meet with your child's teacher to discuss goals and areas of focus. Our teachers work hard preparing for these important meetings. If yet to meet with your child's teacher, please contact them to set a time before the end of the term.

NAPLAN began today for our students in Years 3 and 5. A letter was sent to families earlier this term with information around this. Please take the time to speak with your child about NAPLAN and how they feel they are going. Please reassure your child that NAPLAN is one test on a particular day, and it is only one form of assessment that we do not use in preparing academic reports. Results of NAPLAN do not influence results in literacy and numeracy with student academic reports as we continue to conduct ongoing assessment throughout our school year to gain this valuable data. Where you have any questions or points of clarification, please make the time to speak with your child's classroom teacher, or Mrs Heidi van Bodegraven as our Deputy Principal and Curriculum Coordinator.

We welcome student teacher, Xavier Vallejo who joins Year 3/4, Room 15. I am sure you will all make Xavier feel welcome here at our school.



This week we welcomed John Forbes and Sharee Kinnaird from Tatu who have been assisting us in formulating our Strategic Plan for 2026 - 2028. Thank you to our students, staff and parents who were able to make themselves available for the purpose of a focus group. It is important that we hear the voice of everyone when planning for the future. I shall share with you all more information around this as it comes to hand.

Congratulations to our students who participated in soccer and netball gala days this term. Mrs Abby Caldwell, our PE teacher works tirelessly in getting these days ready for our children. Certificates were presented at our assembly last week to acknowledge the participation and team spirit of all students. Next term is going to be a busy one with school sport so please keep watch through Class Dojo and Operoo for details around this.



Through Snappy Six, we introduce to you our student Leadership for 2025. Next term I will be inviting parents to be a part of Snappy Six. Yola shall send you all an invitation through Operoo with six important questions:

- Name: (first name only if you wish for your surname not to appear)
- Favourite colour:
- Favourite food:
- Favourite book:
- Favourite sport:
- What you like best about Holy Spirit

In sending through your response, we ask that you provide a photo also.

It is important that we connect with each other as a school community. We have families who are long term residents of Darwin but we also have those who may have moved recently due to work. In addition, as a defence school, we have families who come to us for a period of only two or three years and the chance to connect with each other is important in building friendships and networks. I hope that you are able to assist us in connecting with each other. Building connections within our school community is important to us.

Thank you Mrs Chris Crimmings as our Defence School Mentor for organising a great Defence Family Gathering last Friday at Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre. This was a fantastic afternoon for our defence students and parents to engage and connect.



Our canteen is open for orders each Friday for recess and lunch. Please be sure to set up an account through [Quickcliq](#) so that you can place an order. Thank you Orlando Rocio who makes this available to us all.

I encourage all our families to connect with Class Dojo if yet to do so. We use this resource across the school, including Out of School Hours Care and Community of Learners. Our staff share stories and photos of children in their learning. Many of our classes have 100% of families connected which is fantastic. I'm hoping by the end of the week to have all our families connected. You can view the school [ClassDojo policy](#) on the school website.

Next week we will be celebrating Harmony Week. The theme this year, 'Everybody Belongs'. Your child's teacher shall keep you informed of what we will be doing as a school throughout the week. On Friday 21st March we invite our students to wear orange or something that represents their family's culture. Our classes will run a number of activities for students to demonstrate the diverse cultures we have at our school. <https://www.harmony.gov.au/>

Harmony Week is a celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It is about inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging for everyone.

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.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula Sellars". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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 Programs 2025***

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

Father Dave and I met at the beginning of this week to finalise how the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will look. I have attached a link for our parents of children in Year 6 who wish for your child to receive this sacrament this year. Father Dave and I are hoping to set up a Parent Information Session so that you understand how this will look for our celebration on Sunday 1st June.

Link: <https://forms.gle/FqgEGGWTtYdjvWp7>

### ***Project Compassion***

***Pray*** for all our sisters and brothers in need throughout the world:

***Act*** as an ambassador for justice, modelling Jesus' message of love and compassion'

***Promote*** justice and uphold dignity;

***Use your gifts and resources*** to stand in solidarity with those who are vulnerable.

Jesus brought the promise of home to all people so that everyone may, ***'have life and have it to the full'*** (John 10:10)

### ***Upcoming Events:***

***St Patrick's Day*** – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Week*** – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Harmony Week is a celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It is about inclusiveness, respect, and a sense of belonging for everyone.

Children and staff are encouraged to come to school on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March (next week) in orange. If not orange, your child may wish to wear their traditional dress.

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

Mrs Sellars  
Principal

**NAPLAN Testing Begins**

NAPLAN testing starts this week for our Year 3 and 5 students. We want to remind everyone that this is just another school day. Please ensure your child has a good breakfast and follows their regular routine. Our goal is to keep the atmosphere as normal and stress-free as possible for all our students. Some students will complete their test in alternate spaces to allow breaks, a regulated noise level and processing support.

**My Mind Check Program**

We recently emailed families of students in Years 3-6 via Operoo about the My Mind Check program. Understand student mental health and wellbeing. At this stage, we will be starting with our Year 5 and 6 students at the end of term. This new initiative aims to collect valuable data to help us better support our students' wellbeing.

Please note that participation in My Mind Check is entirely voluntary, and you can withdraw at any time. These checks provide an additional layer of insight, similar to the annual Tell Them From Me survey. However, the questions in My Mind Check are more tailored to our school's context. The summary we receive will help us inform any necessary support or programs to assist our students.

**Exciting Whole System Work with Lyn Sharratt**

We are thrilled to announce our ongoing collaboration with renowned education expert Lyn Sharratt, focusing on her work 'Clarity' and embedding the 14 Parameters. This important whole-system initiative is designed to align our practices and ensure academic growth for all students.

Through this work, we are enhancing our:

- Data practices
- Assessment rigor through the assessment waterfall
- Goal-setting practices
- Constructive and timely feedback processes

This approach supports our school in creating a cohesive and effective learning environment that benefits every student.

Next week, we will be welcoming visitors to our school who are attending the first of our 2025 sessions. While these visits will not disrupt learning, they provide an excellent opportunity for us to showcase our beautiful school and the fantastic work our students and staff are doing. We are incredibly excited to have the opportunity to work with Lyn Sharratt and to demonstrate how we are implementing best practices in education.

**Parent-Teacher Meetings**

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the families who attended our recent parent-teacher meetings. Your participation demonstrates the strong partnership between our school and our families. We truly value your trust and are committed to working with you to support your child's education and well-being.

If you were unable to attend the meetings, and would like to meet your child's teacher, please reach out to them directly to schedule an in-person meeting or a video conference at a time that suits you both.

Open communication between home and school is crucial for your child's success. We are always here to listen, support, and collaborate with you. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community.

Kind Regards,



Heidi van Bodegraven

Deputy Principal / Curriculum Coordinator

Hello from Inclusion Corner!

This week, our Lego Social Emotional Learning groups kicked off with great success! Students are working together on creative builds, discovering that the strength of a group comes from every member contributing and communicating, not just the leader. Our weekly visits with therapy dog Jackson continue to be a highlight, supporting students in developing confidence and building their direct communication skills.

Looking ahead to Week 10, we will celebrate World Autism Understanding Day, recognising and appreciating the unique strengths, creativity, and perspectives neurodivergent minds bring to our school community and beyond! We look forward to a wonderful celebration of inclusion and diversity—stay tuned for more details!

Warmest wishes,



Mrs Claire  
Inclusion Support Coordinator



## SNAPPY SIX

**Name:** Ridhima  
**Favourite Colour:** Aqua blue  
**Favourite Food:** Anything that has chicken  
**Favourite Book:** Keeper of the Lost Cities by Shannon Messenger  
**Favourite Sport:** Netball and Basketball  
**What do you like best about Holy Spirit School?**  
 I love the people! They are super nice and friendly.

School Captain



## SNAPPY SIX

**Name:** Lucais  
**Favourite Colour:** Red and blue  
**Favourite Food:** Fish and chips, and rice  
**Favourite Book:** Messi Rules by Simon Mugford and Dan Green  
**Favourite Sport:** Soccer  
**What do you like best about Holy Spirit School?**  
 Teachers and friends. Everyone is kind.

School Captain



## SNAPPY SIX

**Name:** Kayla  
**Favourite Colour:** Blue  
**Favourite Food:** 2 minute noodles  
**Favourite Book:** Wicked by Gregory Maguire  
**Favourite Sport:** Netball  
**What do you like best about Holy Spirit School?**  
 Being with my besties

School Vice Captain



## SNAPPY SIX

**Name:** Isaac  
**Favourite Colour:** Green  
**Favourite Food:** Pizza  
**Favourite Book:** Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney  
**Favourite Sport:** Handball  
**What do you like best about Holy Spirit School?**  
 That everyone is very inclusive

School Vice Captain



# SNAPPY SIX

**Name:** Mackenzie  
**Favourite Colour:** Teal, Baby blue and Rose red  
**Favourite Food:** Slow cooked butter chicken  
**Favourite Book:** Keeper of the Lost Cities by Shannon Messenger  
**Favourite Sport:** Netball, Handball and Soccer  
**What do you like best about Holy Spirit School?**  
Being able to create friendships with past and present school members

Strele House Captain



# SNAPPY SIX

**Name:** Koby  
**Favourite Colour:** Blue  
**Favourite Food:** Butter chicken  
**Favourite Book:** Ronaldo Rules by Simon Mugford and Dan Green  
**Favourite Sport:** Soccer  
**What do you like best about Holy Spirit School?**  
I really like all the teachers here and all my friends

Strele House Captain



# SNAPPY SIX

**Name:** Eliana  
**Favourite Colour:** Pink  
**Favourite Food:** Cabonara and Mac and cheese  
**Favourite Book:** Holes by Louis Sachar  
**Favourite Sport:** Dance  
**What do you like best about Holy Spirit School?**  
It's a place where I meet friends, kind teachers and staff.

McAuley House Captain



# SNAPPY SIX

**Name:** Lito  
**Favourite Colour:** Red  
**Favourite Food:** Bacon  
**Favourite Book:** -  
**Favourite Sport:** Handball  
**What do you like best about Holy Spirit School?**  
I have lots of friends

McAuley House Captain



# SNAPPY SIX

**Name:** Aria  
**Favourite Colour:** Blue and purple  
**Favourite Food:** KFC and cabonara  
**Favourite Book:** Babysitters Club by Ann M. Martin  
**Favourite Sport:** Basketball  
**What do you like best about Holy Spirit School?**  
Looking out for my friends and teachers

Gsell House Captain



# SNAPPY SIX

**Name:** Seiarrah  
**Favourite Colour:** Pink  
**Favourite Food:** Steak  
**Favourite Book:** Smile by Raina Telgemeier  
**Favourite Sport:** AFL  
**What do you like best about Holy Spirit School?**  
I like all the teachers and students

Angelo House Captain



# SNAPPY SIX

**Name:** Yongo  
**Favourite Colour:** Red  
**Favourite Food:** Butter chicken and noodles  
**Favourite Book:** The Dogman Dav Pilkey  
**Favourite Sport:** Soccer  
**What do you like best about Holy Spirit School?**  
Being with my friends

Angelo House Captain



# TERM ONE CALENDAR, 2025

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	ASSEMBLY
<u>Week 7</u> March 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Lent	10	11	NAPLAN testing			No Assembly
			12  Newsletter	13	14	
<u>Week 8</u> March 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent	NAPLAN testing					No Assembly
	17  St Patrick's Day	18	19	20  School Board Meeting @ 4:45pm	21  Harmony Day	
<u>Week 9</u> March 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent	NAPLAN	25	26	27	28  Awards Assembly	Year 1/2 Room 2 Room 4 Room 6
	24					
<u>Week 10</u> March/April 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent	31	1	2  World Autism Awareness Day	3  Awards Assembly  REWARD AFTERNOON	4  SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY	Transition Room 8 Room 9

# TERM TWO CALENDAR, 2025

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	ASSEMBLY
<b>Week 1</b> April Holy Week	14 Morning Assembly @ 8:15am	15	16 Newsletter Easter Raffle Drawn	17 Holy Week presentation at 1::45pm in our Church	18 Good Friday	No Assembly
<b>Week 2</b> April 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Easter	21 Easter Monday	22	23 Awards Assembly	24 Anzac Ceremony @ 8:30am MPR (	2525 Anzac Day	Student Leadership



SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

1

Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness

2

Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world

3

Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive

4

Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words

5

Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them

6

If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down

7

Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day

8

Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food

9

Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others

10

Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face

11

Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee

12

Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying

13

Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today

14

Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do

15

Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly

16

Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity

17

Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant

18

Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels

19

Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today

20

Focus on what makes you and others happy today

21

Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else

22

Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult

23

Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them

24

Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do

25

Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted

26

Choose to spend less time looking at screens today

27

Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are

28

Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible

29

Choose a different route today and see what you notice

30

Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling

31

Discover the joy in the simple things of life



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS






Happier · Kinder · Together

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

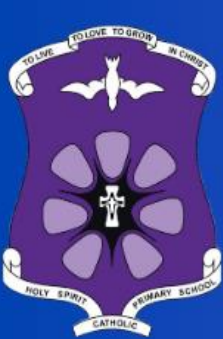
Regular school attendance is very important for all our children.

**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><b>Your child's attendance is above 95%</b></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><b>Your child's attendance is 90 – 94%</b></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><b>Your child's attendance is 85 – 89%</b></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><b>Your child's attendance is 80 – 84%</b></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><b>Your child's attendance is below 80%</b></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>





Enrol  
now

# Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School's Community of Learners

## -Early Learning Centre -

With a team of passionate educators,  
we create an unforgettable learning experience for your child.

\* Caters for 3-5 year olds

\* Book a tour :

<http://www.holyspiritnt.catholic.edu.au/contact-us/book-a-tour>

\* Open 7:00am - 5:30pm

\*closed- public holidays & two weeks over Christmas

\* Enrol Now:

<http://www.holyspiritnt.catholic.edu.au/early-learning-centre>

## ABSENCES AND LATE STUDENTS

### Holiday?

If your child/ren are going to be away during the school term please notify the front office by e-mail, phone, Operoo, or the [school website](#).

### Leaving?

If your child is leaving the school, please notify the office in writing (email accepted) or by completing a '[Termination of Enrolment](#)' form on Operoo

### Late?

If your child arrives to school after the first bell (8:10am), please send them to the front office to be signed in. If they are not signed in they will be recorded as an unexplained absence.

### Sick?

If your child is sick please notify the front office by e-mail, phone, operoo or the school website. Your child's absence will only be recorded as a notified absence if you advise the school on the day of absence or provide a medical certificate.



## 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.