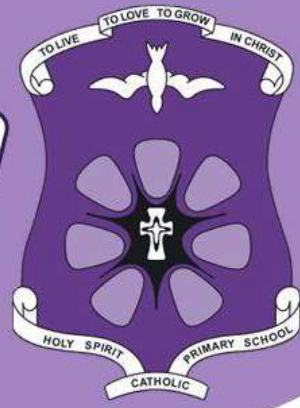


NEWSLETTER

"TO LIVE, TO LOVE, TO GROW IN CHRIST"



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A School Prayer

*We give you our school.
We give you all the teachers and staff who work here,
We give you all the children who study here.
We pray our school would be place of great discovery, adventure and creativity.
May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love,
A place where everyone is respected and all are deeply valued.
We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen

Dear Families,

I hope that your term has started well as we prepare for the end of the year.

We are delighted to welcome Heather Thompson as our new Year 3/4 teacher. We also extend a warm welcome to Jasmine Ware, our new AIEW, along with Jack Neale, Raquel Caldwell, and Maria Tsikouris, who have joined our Inclusion Team



We are also pleased to welcome a few new students who have joined us this term—Hawaiki and Amazon-Reign. I know you will all make them feel very welcome.

Last week our students participated in our **mission liturgy and markets**. A chance for us to focus on those in Zambia and raise awareness and funds for those in need. We thank you for your support with this. Over \$2000 was raised as a result of your support - thank you

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our **Tell Them From Me** online survey. Your feedback is greatly valued and appreciated. We are now reflecting on what is working well and identifying areas for growth as part of our ongoing strategic planning.

With input from parents, students, and staff, several key themes have emerged that will guide our focus moving forward:

Technology and Digital Learning

- Computer Lab & Wi-Fi Improvements We have met with Catholic Education NT (CENT) and Area 9 to begin the process of upgrading our computer lab and improving Wi-Fi access, scheduled for 2026.
- New Staff Devices All teachers will receive new desktop computers suited to their professional needs — this process is already underway.
- Digital Literacy Focus We have requested support from CENT to enhance staff development in this area.

Communication and Class Placement

- Families have requested to know their child’s class teacher before the school year begins. Due to enrolments continuing through January, class structures can only be finalised once school resumes. We understand this is not ideal, but appreciate your understanding as we accommodate new families moving to Darwin.

Student Facilities

- Construction of new student toilets is currently underway and will be completed by the end of November.

Student Learning and Support

- We are working closely with CENT to strengthen extension and enrichment opportunities for students.
- Students shared positive feedback about PE, Indonesian, and The Arts — thank you to Abby Caldwell, Jo Masters, Putu Wartu, and Leah Ergos for their wonderful work.
- There is also interest in expanding Science offerings, which we are exploring as a potential STEAM focus for 2026.

School Culture and Environment

- It was wonderful to hear feedback that our school is welcoming and inclusive for new students and families. We will continue to build on this strength.
- Students have asked for a review of playground equipment, including more swings — we’ll explore this in future planning.
- We recognise the increasing workload on staff and are working with CENT to identify ways to better support teachers.

Communication & Canteen

- We are simplifying communication by reducing the number of platforms we use — by next year, we aim to consolidate through Toddle.
- Families have suggested more canteen options on Fridays — please share your ideas with us!

All feedback from the survey has been shared with staff and will be discussed with our School Board. The themes above represent the areas most frequently mentioned, and our leadership team will continue to review additional points raised.

Last week you should have received from our teachers their **newsletter update** for the term ahead, sharing with you all the great learning activities in place. If you haven’t received your class newsletter , you can access them by following the links provided below.

[Transition](#)

[Year 1/2](#)

[Year 3/4](#)

[Year 5/6](#)

Today we welcomed our 2026 Transition students for our school readiness program - *Footsteps in Faith and Learning*. The aim of the program is to familiarise students and their families with our facilities and to experience fun and engaging learning activities that introduce them to the environment, routines, and structure of a primary school.

If you have not yet submitted an enrolment application for 2026 for Transition or another year level, please do so soon. If you know families with a child eligible for Transition next year, encourage them to contact our front office. Our leadership team is always happy to speak with new families.

If your circumstances have changed and you will not be **returning to Holy Spirit in 2026**, please notify us in writing. Or complete our online [Termination of Enrolment form](#). This assists us in preparation of the new school year when confirming staffing and number of classes. We are currently working with our teachers to finalise class structures for next year, and with early notification this allows us to lock in our teachers and inform them of their class.

We are fortunate to have Laura McCormack as our **school counsellor** from Catholic Care. Laura meets with many of our students during this time which is funded by our school. With the increased needs of support for our students and families, we have Laura with us for a five-day fortnight. While there is a waiting list, we still encourage you as parents to utilise this service where you see the need. The referral form is available in our front office. Please know that counselling sessions are confidential and that the conversations between your child and the counsellor will be shared with you alone.

Our teachers are in the process of finalising assessment and data in readiness of your child's academic report which will be sent to you all prior to the end of our school year. I remind you all the importance of **regular school attendance**. Every day at school counts. Please refer to the table as provided through our newsletter on page 7 as an indicator of how repeated absences can have an impact on student learning and their results.

I take the time to remind you all the importance of keeping **cool and hydrated** as the heat and humidity rise. It is important that our children come to school with a water bottle each day, including their school hat to wear when outside. In addition, a good night's sleep is important for us all. Our library is open during lunch for our children who wish to stay away from the heat and join in some quiet activities in the air-conditioning. We thank you for your support around this.



This week's newsletter also includes links to our [Cyclone Policy and Procedures](#) and [NT Extreme Weather](#) Policy. There are occasions with extreme weather conditions in the afternoon that we are required to alter how parent pick-up looks in the afternoon. Please take a moment to review these, as they outline important safety measures for afternoon pick-up during extreme weather events.

As we move through the final part of the school year, please take note of the **key dates** below. We encourage families to stay connected through our school communication platforms and check in with your child's classroom teacher for any updates or additional events.

October

- ⇒ **24** – Year 5/6 Excursion to Holy Family School
- ⇒ **29** – FIFL Program for 2026 Transition Students (8:30–10:15am)
- ⇒ **30** – Bandana Day
- ⇒ **31** – World Teachers' Day

December

- ⇒ **3** – Academic Reports Emailed to Families
- ⇒ **10** – Year 6 Graduation Mass and Activities
- ⇒ **11** – Last Day of School for Students

November

- ⇒ **4** – Year 5/6 Melbourne Cup Fundraiser – *Crazy Hat Day*
- ⇒ **5** – Final FIFL Program for 2026 Transition Students (8:30–10:15am)
- ⇒ **7** – Swimming Carnival
- ⇒ **11** – Remembrance Day Service (10:45am)
- ⇒ **14** – Defence Family Gathering (1:30pm)
- ⇒ **27** – Whole School Production – *The Christmas Star*
- ⇒ **28** – Final Awards Assembly

Handwritten signature of Paula Sellars in black ink.

Mrs Paula Sellars
Principal

Inclusion Matters!

We're thrilled to share some exciting updates from our inclusive school community, where everyone is welcomed, valued, and supported to thrive!

Warm Welcome to Our New Team Members!

A big shout-out to our newest staff members: Miss Jasmine, our new AIEW, who's already building strong, meaningful connections with our First Nations students and their families. We're so excited to have her on board!

We also extend a warm welcome to our new ISAs Mr. Jack, Miss Maria, and Miss Raquel (you might recognise her from OSHC). Our students have embraced them with open arms, and they're already forming fantastic working relationships. Here's to new beginnings and continuing our vibrant school community!

LEGO-tastic News!

Congratulations to Miss Shinobu, Miss Suzana, and Miss Neeli for completing their LEGO training. We're buzzing with excitement to launch our play-based social skills LEGO groups starting in Week 4, pending parental permission - keep an eye out for the Operoo forms. These groups will be a fun, neuro-affirming way to foster connection and collaboration among our students. Stay tuned for more.

Championing Inclusion at the NT Catholic Education Inclusion Forum

Miss Shinobu and I had the privilege of attending a two-day Inclusion Forum with Inclusion Support Practitioners (ISPs) and Inclusion Support Coordinators (ISCs) from across the Catholic Education NT Network. We dived into inspiring discussions about supporting students through key transitions—whether it's starting primary school, moving year to year, or stepping into middle school.

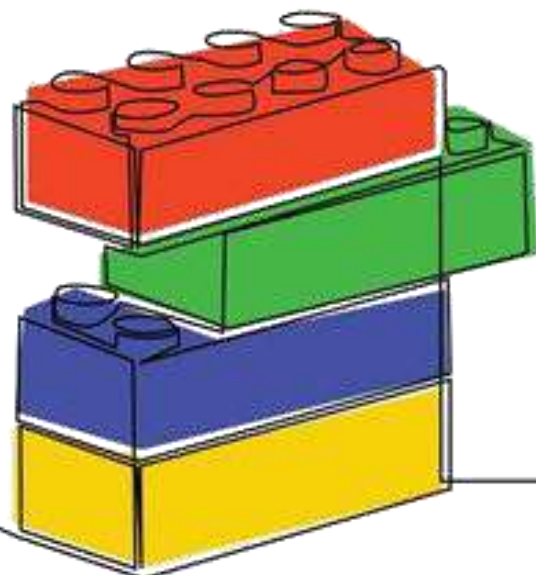
We also explored ways to extend and support our gifted and talented students, strengthen support processes, and make the most of NCCD data. Plus, we focused on celebrating our students and families with language backgrounds other than English, including our English as a Second Language/Dialect learners.

A special highlight was affirming conversations around the importance of Soundfield Systems in our classrooms to ensure every voice is heard. The forum was a fantastic opportunity to lean into our connections, share ideas, and strengthen our network to better support every student across our schools.

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to me directly at hs.isc@nt.catholic.edu.au



Miss Claire
Inclusion Support Coordinator



SCHOOL TERM CALENDAR – 2025

TERM 4	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	ASSEMBLY
<u>Week 3</u> October 30 th Sunday Ordinary Time	20	21	22 FIFL program 8:30am – 10:15am	23 Year 5/6 casual dress day	24 Year 5/6 @ Holy Family	No Friday Assembly
<u>Week 4</u> November 31 st Sunday Ordinary Time	27	28	29 FIFL program 8:30am – 10:15am	30 Bandanna Day P&F Meeting @ 2:00pm	31 World Teachers’ Day Youth Ministry Gathering	Year 3/4 Room 14 Room 15 Room 17
<u>Week 5</u> November 32 nd Sunday Ordinary Time	3	4 Melbourne Cup - crazy hat day 5/6 fundraiser	5 FIFL program 8:30am – 10:15am	6	7 Swimming Carnival REWARD AFTERNOON	No Friday Assembly
<u>Week 6</u> November 33 rd Sunday Ordinary Time	10	11 Remembrance Day Service from 10:45am	12	13	14 Awards Assembly Defence Family Gathering @ 1:30pm	Year 1/2 Room 2 Room 4 Room 6
<u>Week 7</u> November 34 th Sunday Ordinary Time	17 Year 6 Captains 2026 speeches and voting from 8:30am	18 MITIOG	19 Step Up 1.30 -2.30pm Year 3/4 girls sports day with Abby	20 Board Meeting @ 4:45pm	21	No Friday Assembly
	Advent - 1st Week					
<u>Week 8</u> November/December 1 st Sunday Advent	24	25 Step Up 1.30 -2.30pm	26	27 Whole School production at AANT Centre	28 Final Awards Assembly – Christmas Raffle Last Day of <i>All About Reading</i>	Transition Room 8 Room 9
	Advent - 2nd Week					

Optimistic October 2025

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



1 Write down three things you can look forward to this month

2 Find something to be optimistic about (even if it's a difficult time)

3 Take a small step towards a goal that really matters to you

4 Start your day with the most important thing on your to-do list

5 Be a realistic optimist. See life as it is, but focus on what's good

6 Remind yourself that things can change for the better

7 Look for the good in people around you today

8 Make some progress on a project or task you have been avoiding

9 Share an important goal with someone you trust

10 Take time to reflect on what you have accomplished recently

11 Avoid blaming yourself or others. Find a helpful way forward

12 Look out for positive news and reasons to be cheerful today

13 Ask for help to overcome an obstacle you are facing

14 Do something constructive to improve a difficult situation

15 Thank yourself for achieving the things you often take for granted

16 Put down your to-do list and do something fun or uplifting

17 Take a small step towards a positive change you want to see in society

18 Set hopeful but realistic goals for the days ahead

19 Identify one of your positive qualities that will be helpful in the future

20 Find joy in tackling a task you've put off for some time

21 Let go of the expectations of others and focus on what matters to you

22 Share a hopeful quote, picture or video with a friend or colleague

23 Recognise that you have a choice about what to prioritise

24 Write down three specific things that have gone well recently

25 You can't do everything! What are your three priorities right now?

26 Find a new perspective on a problem you face

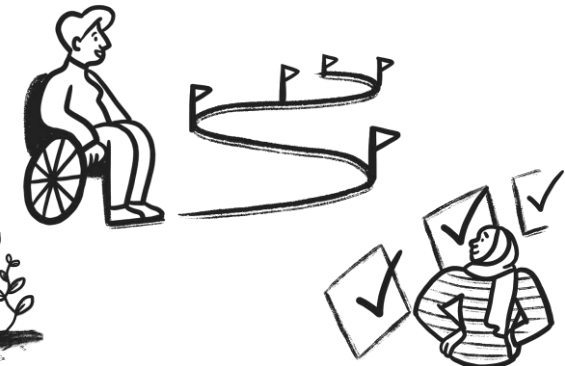
27 Be kind to yourself today. Remember, progress takes time

28 Ask yourself, will this still matter a year from now?

29 Plan a fun or exciting activity to look forward to

30 Identify three things that give you hope for the future

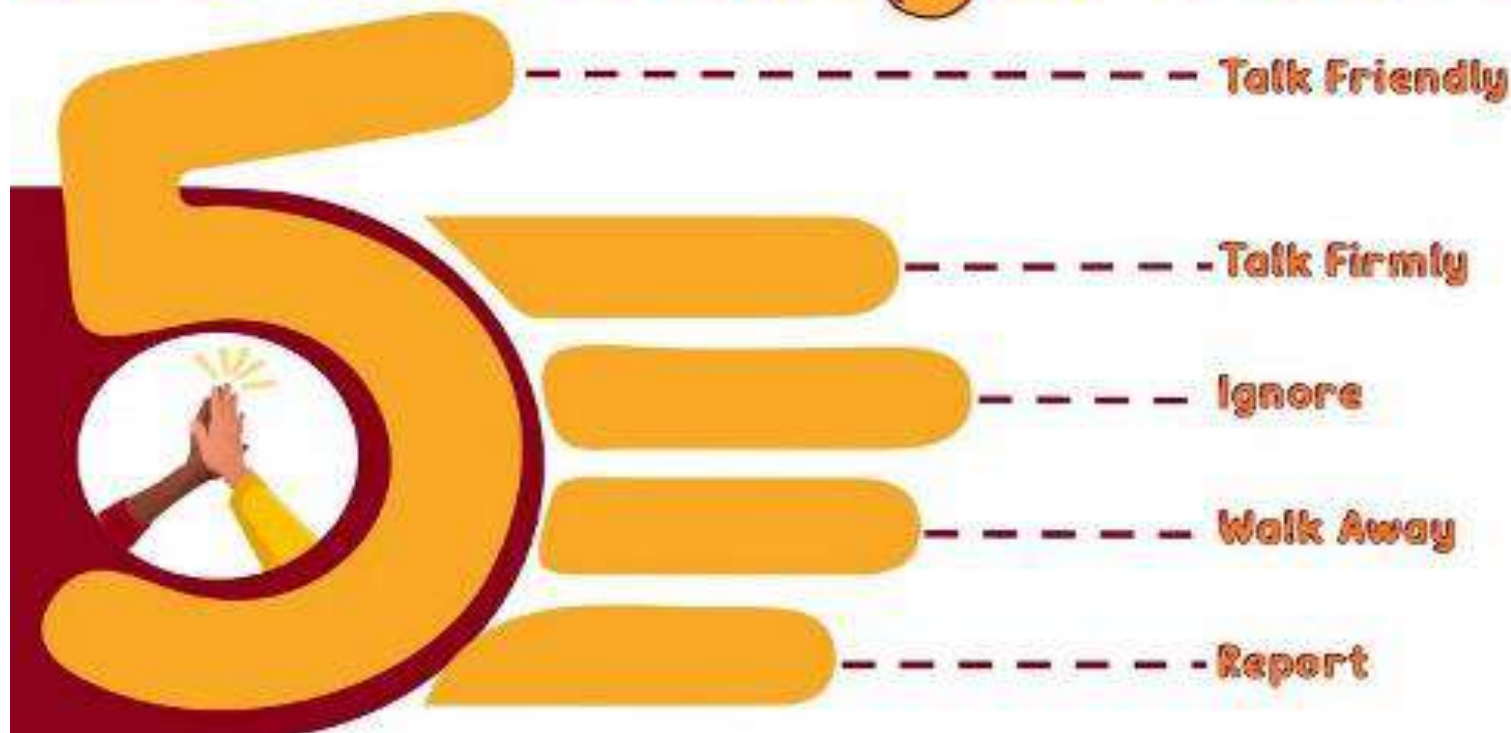
31 Set a goal that brings a sense of purpose for the coming month



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together

Do the High Five



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.

	Your child's attendance is above 95% 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.
	Your child's attendance is 90 – 94% '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.
10 days missed = 2 weeks absence	
	Your child's attendance is 85 – 89% '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.
	Your child's attendance is 80 – 84% '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.
	Your child's attendance is below 80% '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.

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



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.



HOLY SPIRIT
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Enrol now for
2026

FOOTSTEPS IN FAITH & LEARNING

School Readiness Programme for 2026 Transition Students

ORIENTATION SESSIONS

Wednesday 22nd October, 8:30 – 10:15am

Wednesday 29th October, 8:30 – 10:15am

Wednesday 5th November, 8:30 – 10:15am

We recommend children attend all 3 sessions

Your child must be enrolled to attend this programme

*"To live, To Love,
To Grow in Christ"*

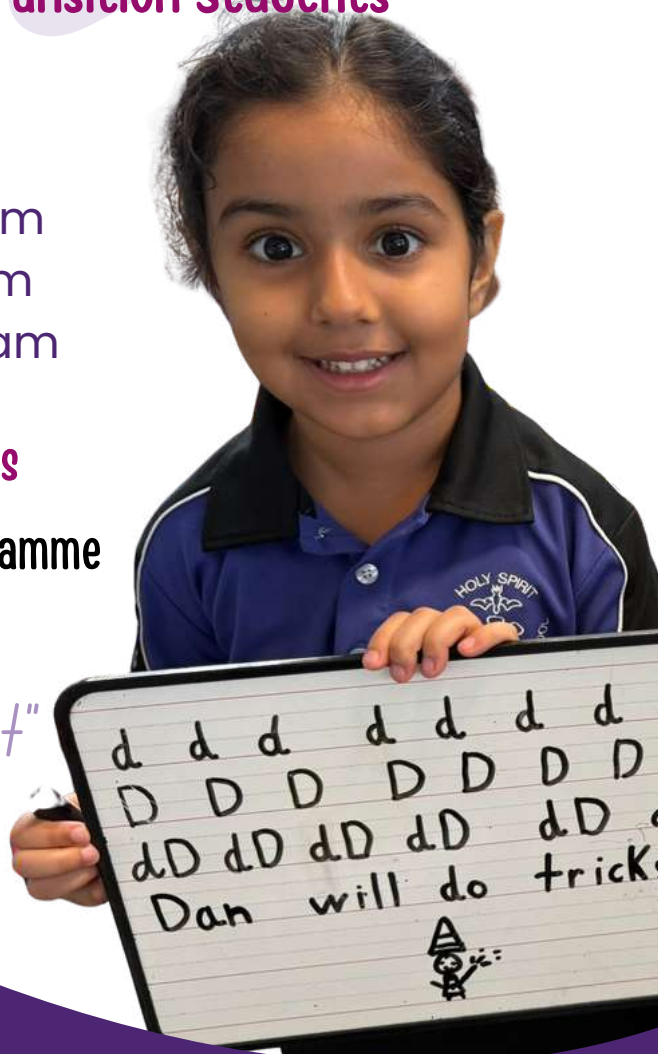
☎ 08 8927 3411

📍 Gsell Street, Wanguri. NT

🌐 holyspiritnt.catholic.edu.au



Enrolment Form





Autism online workshop sessions for parents & carers National

Join us for an online workshop where you will have the opportunity to listen, share and learn with parents and carers who support young autistic people from across all states.



Free workshop



Session 1: Diversity of autism

Tuesday 21 October, 2025
12:00pm - 1:30pm (AEDT)

Session 2: Understanding sensory processing

Tuesday 28 October, 2025
12:00pm - 1:30pm (AEDT)

Session 3: Understanding behaviour

Tuesday 11 November, 2025
12:00pm - 1:30pm (AEDT)

Session 4: Working in partnerships

Tuesday 18 November, 2025
12:00pm - 1:30pm (AEDT)



For more information and to register, scan the QR code or click [here](#).

4 Workshop sessions

Learn more about autism and ways to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

- This online workshop is four short sessions spread over four weeks.
- Each session contains unique information and attending all will provide the best learning.
- These workshops are interactive online sessions, delivered via Zoom. Each session has a separate registration.

For enquiries email Renee Christie:
rchristie@positivepartnerships.com.au



0416 553 130

Positive Partnerships is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education. The views expressed within this program do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Australian Government Department of Education.