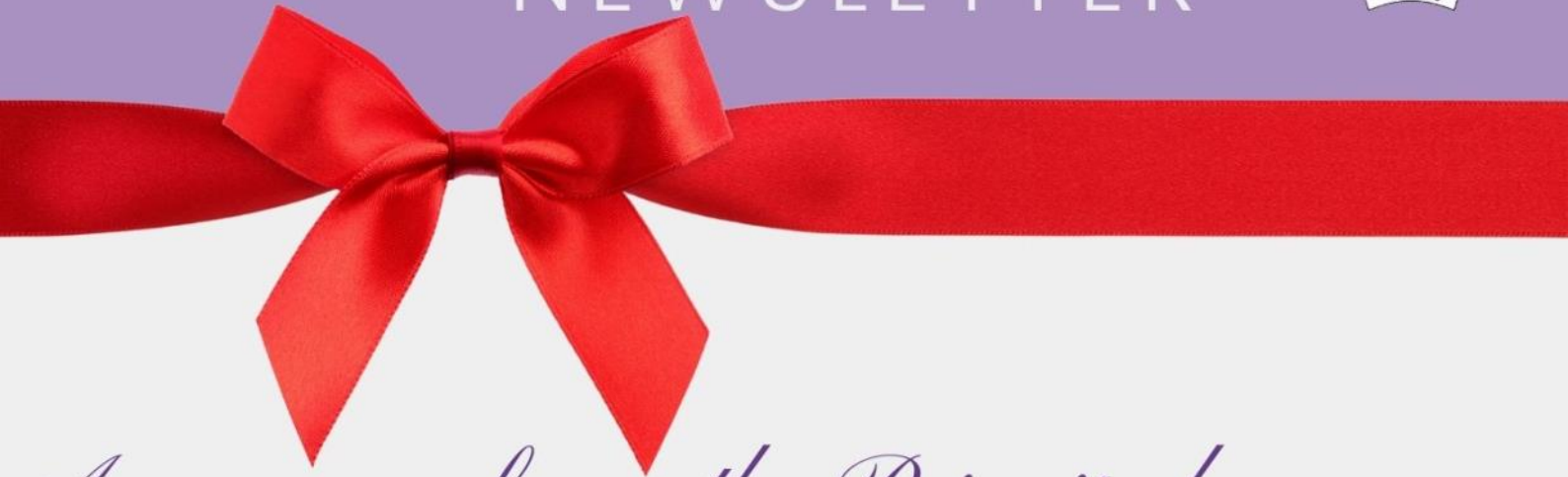


Christmas

NEWSLETTER



A message from the Principal

O Loving God,

At this holy time of year, we remember those who are facing hardships and ask you to fill them with strength and courage.

Let us live with humanity in our hearts.

*Remind us about what we should be reflecting on
namely the true meaning of Christmas,*

*when we celebrate the Incarnation and are reminded that you loved us so much that you sent your only Son to die
for us. (Jn 3:16).*

*Christ is our most treasured gift, and as the Light of the World he taught us to show compassion and generosity to
others.*

*We are called to be faith-filled and hopeful;
men and women for others.*

Amen.

Dear Families,

As I write our final newsletter for the year, I remind us all of our motto - To Live, To Love, To Grow in Christ. I share with you so that we can acknowledge and share the celebrations of our year together and all that we have accomplished.

A Christmas Star - our production

A huge thank you to Leah Ergos for her outstanding dedication and creativity in leading our Christmas production. Leah had a dream and a story to share with Holy Spirit and it all came into fruition last Thursday evening.

Her hard work made this year's school production truly special, and we are so grateful for the time, care, and enthusiasm put into





every step of the process. Thanks also Abby Caldwell, Amanda Murphy, Heidi van Bodegraven, Maria and Pedro Rigas, Leanne Roussos and Ella Wevill, for your work and support behind the scenes. I wish to also acknowledge Luci Caldwell from Dream Media as Creative Director who supported our school through our production. A recording of the night will be made available to you all with details to follow in how to access. To Amanda Murphy, not only a parent and staff member but a person who also contributed through her amazing solo singing performance - I still have goosebumps. This was by far the best concert to date from our children and staff. Be very proud Holy Spirit!

Tropical Cyclone Fina

Thank you for your support and understanding following Tropical Cyclone Fina. While we have had a bit to clean up in the past week, we are pleased to share that our grounds are nearly ready to be fully reopened. We appreciate everyone's understanding and cooperation as we worked to ensure the safety of our students and staff. I wish to acknowledge Asset Construction, Ace Arbor and RD Fencing who were on site first thing last Monday morning to assist in making our school grounds safe. To Fr Dave Callaghan, our Parish Priest, who was on site first thing following the cyclone to check our grounds and his availability both Sunday and Monday in assisting with our fallen trees.

Please note that while most of our school grounds are open, our playgrounds we await certification that they are safe for our children to play. Until we receive this certification, part of our school grounds we shall continue to keep closed until confirmed safe.

End of Year Mass

On Monday, we gathered to celebrate our year together through mass. This was a beautiful celebration for all those able to join us. Thank you to our students and staff from Year 3/4 for preparing and presenting this. Thank you everyone for your very generous donations again for our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper Appeal. We presented your donations to volunteers from St Vinnies during our mass.

During this time, we announced our Year 6 Student Leaders for 2026. Congratulations:

- School Captains – Lily Thompson & Yianni Roussos
- School Vice-Captains – Bridget Kane & Krystal Gino
- Angelo (Red House Captains) – Matthew Hughes & Jack Harker
- Gsell (Blue House Captains) – Tristan Krajsek & Ellie Murphy
- Strele (Green House Captains) – Fiona Begley & Ehva Ergos
- McAuley (Yellow House Captains) – Yianni Skyllas & Stella Rigas



Staffing Updates

Our teaching staff for next year will be finalised before the end of this year. We thank you for your patience and understanding, and we shall provide an update as soon as all new staff contracts have been signed.

Ann Gray and Claire Dekuyer will both be concluding their time with us at the end of this year. Both Ann and Claire joined our school at the beginning of 2024 and we thank them for all they have contributed during this time. Ann shall be retiring after a very distinguished teaching career here in Darwin. Did you know that Ann was married in our church here at Holy Spirit many years ago? Claire will be working at St Mary's so that she can be closer to her young family next year as her husband through defence will be deployed for most of the year. It is important for Claire to be close and available to her three young children next year. Please be sure to thank both Ann and Claire

for their contribution and support to our students, staff and families. Both will be missed for all they have contributed to our school community.

Potential Class structures for 2026

Our staff are currently working hard to finalise the potential class groupings for 2026. We still have a little way to go before everything is confirmed and ready to share in full, but we appreciate your patience during this process. With our increased enrolments, we have 12 classes for 2026 as opposed to 11 planned for the new year.

A request for a specific teacher cannot be accommodated, as we encourage children to develop strategies for working with a range of teachers who each bring individual strengths to the learning environment. Our teachers know your students best and how they work and socialise with their peers. We are not able to accommodate last minute requests for our children. Please have faith and trust in our teachers and what they know and have prepared in readiness for 2026.

This week we have provided our students with what we call 'Step Up'. An exciting opportunity for children to spend time in their proposed new class for next year. This helps students get to know their potential future teacher, classmates, and routines. The aim of these sessions is to provide a positive transition in readiness of the year ahead.

I can share that our proposed class groupings for 2026 are as follows. Please note that things can change very quickly over the Christmas holidays so hence the reason for not making any formal announcements this year.

- Transition, Room 8
- Transition, Room 9
- Year 1/2, Room 2
- Year 1/2, Room 4
- Year 1/2, Room 6
- Year 3/4, Room 14
- Year 3/4, Room 15
- Year 3/4, Room 17
- Year 5, Room 11
- Year 5, Room 13
- Year 6, Room 10
- Year 6, Room 12

Specialist classes for 2026 include:

- The Arts
- Physical Education
- Indonesian
- STEAM

Academic Reports

Today you will have received your child's academic report for this semester. We encourage you to take the time to celebrate your child's achievements and the progress they have made throughout the year. If you would like to discuss any aspect of your child's report, please make the time to speak with your child's classroom teacher before the end of the year.

Year 6 Graduation

It is that time of year when we celebrate our graduation ceremonies. Next week, our Year 6 students will graduate after seven wonderful years in primary school. We are incredibly proud of our 31 Year 6 graduates and wish them all the very best as they begin their high school journey next year.



Transition Graduation

Our Transition children will also enjoy a small graduation to celebrate their first year of primary education. This first year is an important milestone, helping them establish positive learning routines and laying the foundations for many wonderful learning experiences to come.

Community of Learners (COL) Christmas Party

A reminder to all parents who have children in COL that we have our party for the children tomorrow afternoon from 2:00pm in our Multipurpose Room. Santa will be coming along to deliver presents to all our children. We hope to see you tomorrow.

Coloured sand recall update

I am pleased to report that we have carried out all required steps following the recent recall of a range of coloured sand products. We have worked with NT Worksafe and Catholic Education NT Work, Health and Safety Manager throughout this process.

All coloured sand products which were on site at the school have been removed by a licensed asbestos contractor. We have carried out specialist cleaning and air monitoring in the rooms where recalled sand products were stored which returned negative results. All our spaces are now back in use and I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during this time. The safety of the children in our care is paramount and always comes first.

Facility Upgrades

Our toilet upgrades are now nearing completion. We extend a sincere thank you to Asset Construction for their hard work and dedication in delivering this project. Next year, we will hold an official opening of the new bathrooms, made possible through a successful grant from the Federal Government.

Our next project will see the old shed on the oval transformed into a storage facility and an [open outdoor learning area](#). We have attached the drawings for you to view. Tenders have been called, and we hope to award the contract soon. This project is scheduled to begin in the new year.



Computer Upgrades

We're excited to share that an order has been submitted to upgrade all the computers in our lab! Following the Tell Them From Me survey results, we've listened to your feedback and are putting this improvement in place for next year. These new computers will provide our students with enhanced learning opportunities and a modern, engaging digital environment.

OSHC and COL closing date for 2025 and opening date 2026

The opening and closing dates for OSHC and COL have been confirmed for this year—be sure to mark them in your calendars! Our last day for our children is Tuesday 16th December and we reopen on Wednesday 7th January. This allows our team to enjoy some well-deserved time with their families over the festive season. We wish everyone a joyful and safe holiday period!



Dates for 2026 to lock into your calendar:

- ⇒ Jan 29 — Students Commence academic school year
- ⇒ Feb 13 - Opening School Mass
- ⇒ Feb 17—Shrove Tuesday
- ⇒ Feb 18—Ash Wednesday Liturgy
- ⇒ Feb 19—School Board meeting
- ⇒ March 10 & 11—Parent/Teacher Interviews
- ⇒ March 11 to 23—NAPLAN testing period
- ⇒ April 2—Last Day of Term
- ⇒ April 3—Good Friday

As our final newsletter for the year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and blessed Christmas and the holiday season. May God bless you all and keep you safe whether staying in Darwin, traveling interstate or overseas. I wish all members of our school community the very best into the future as we continue 'To Live, To Love, To Grow in Christ'.



Mrs Paula Sellars
Principal



Religious Education Corner



*God of Love,
Your son Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. He is your sign of love.
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,
As we wait and prepare for His coming.
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Saviour.
Amen*



Welcome Mrs Maria LaRocca

We congratulate and welcome Mrs Maria LaRocca as our new Religious Education Coordinator beginning the 2026 school year. Maria comes to us as an experienced educator and a person who has experience in leadership also. Maria is currently in Darwin and will be coming to school on Friday to meet with students and staff. I am sure you will all make Maria feel very welcome at our school.

The Advent Season

Last Sunday marked the beginning of the Season of Advent, the special time each year when we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Advent is a uniquely joyous and hopeful season in the Church year. It is symbolised by the wreath and candles which are lit each Sunday during this period to mark a new focus. The themes explored each week include hope, peace, joy and love.



As shared by Fr Dave at weekend mass, Advent is a time for us to 'wake up' and be reminded about what is important to us and getting it right. It is a reminder about keeping Jesus central in our lives.

At Holy Spirit, we begin our preparations early so that our children can experience the four weeks of waiting and preparing. A prayer slideshow was prepared for use across the school each day, with the focus on each theme every week.

Mini Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Thank you to so many of you who have contributed to this important appeal that assists those families who are struggling during this time. If you have yet to contribute and you wish to donate, it is not too late. All donations will be accepted in our front office up until the end of next week.

Children's Mass

On Sunday we celebrated our last Children's Mass for the year. It was again a beautiful service as led by our children. We have identified through our strategic plan the need to work more closely with the parish from next year. One of our focus areas will be to increase student participation from Holy Spirit. More details to be shared in the new year about how this will look.

Sacramental Dates 2026

Lock into your calendars the dates for all Sacramental Programs for 2026 as these are all confirmed.

- Confirmation - Sunday 14th June at 9:30am mass
- Reconciliation - Thursday 10th September @ 5:00pm
- First Holy Communion - Sunday 13th September at 9:30am mass

Australian Catholics Magazine

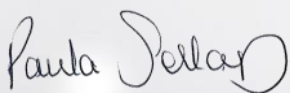
Please do not forget about this free subscription. This is published quarterly and is a great resource offering reflections, stories, and updates from the Church in Australia and beyond, helping families feel connected to the wider Catholic community.

Log-in details: <https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/acmagazine>

Username: parents@nt.catholic.edu.au

Password: acparents

Blessings to you all as we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ.



Mrs Paula Sellars
Principal





Inclusion Corner

Dear School Community,

As Term 4 draws to a close, I wanted to share a few exciting updates from the Inclusion Corner and wish everyone a wonderful Christmas break.

Our LEGO Clubs have started with a bang! The students, and staff, have absolutely loved the first sessions – so much creativity, collaboration and fun. Thank you all for the enthusiastic start. These programs will pause over the holidays and will kick off again around Week 3 or 4 of Term 1, 2026. The team can't wait to keep building!

A big shout-out to our Transition students who have continued their social-communication sessions with Chip the therapy dog and Miss Kristy. The highlight of the term? Taking Chip for walks around the school – the excitement was contagious!

We're also delighted to welcome our newest Inclusion Support Assistant, Miss Natalia. She is a former student of our school, so it's extra special to have her back as part of the team. We welcome back Miss Sam, we are always happy to see her at school.

Lastly, some personal news: as recently announced, I'll be finishing up at the school at the end of this year to focus on family commitments. It's been an absolute privilege to work with our amazing inclusion students, their families, and this wonderful school community. Your kind messages and warm wishes over the past few weeks have meant more than you know. You'll all hold a very special place in my heart, and I'm already looking forward to the random "Hi Miss Claire!" waves when we run into each other around Darwin.

Wishing everyone a safe, relaxing and joyful Christmas holidays. May peace and hope fill your hearts and homes this holy season.

Miss Claire
Inclusion Support Coordinator



CHRISTMAS - END OF YEAR - CLOSURE NOTICE

This newsletter segment serves as official notification of the Christmas end-of-year closure for both Holy Spirit Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) and Holy Spirit Community of Learners (COL). The last day of operation for 2025 will be Tuesday, 16th December, and services will re-open on Wednesday, 7th January 2026.

We hope this provides families with ample time to make any necessary arrangements for the holiday period.

For OSHC Families

Please email oshc.hs@nt.catholic.edu.au with any holiday plans prior to the closure.

The Vacation Care program for the December/January period was advertised in Week 5 of Term 4 (week commencing 3 November).

Please note that bookings closed in Week 8 on Wednesday, 26 November 2025.

For COL Families

Please email col.hs@nt.catholic.edu.au with any holiday plans prior to the closure.

A reminder that two weeks' written notice is required for the holiday rate to apply.

If your child will not be returning in 2026, two weeks' written notice is also required to finalise the [termination of enrolment](#).

SEMESTER DATES 2026

Semester One 2026	
Term 1	Thurs. 29 Jan - Thurs. 2 April
Term break	Mon. 7 April - Fri. 10 April
Term 2	Mon. 13 April - Fri. 19 June
Semester break	Mon. 22 June - Fri. 10 July
Semester Two 2026	
Term 3	Tues. 14 July - Fri. 18 Sep
Term break	Mon. 21 Sep - Fri. 2 Oct
Term 4	Mon. 5 Oct - Thurs. 10 Dec
Please visit the school website if you would like to view term dates for years 2026 through to 2027	

FRONT OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The front office is closed 16 December 2025 - 16 January 2026 (inclusive)

As there will be only be a small number of staff at the school during the break, we ask that you please call the office before coming in to ensure we are open for your visit.

Office hours will be 9:00am - 3:00pm.

ABSENCES AND ENROLMENT TERMINATION

Leaving?

If your child is leaving the school, please notify the office in writing ([email](#) accepted) or you can complete the

'[Termination of Enrolment](#)' form

Returning to school after the academic year commences?

If your child will be returning after school starts in 2026, please notify the front office by completing the "[Late Return to School](#)" form or by emailing the front office (admin.holyspirit@nt.catholic.edu.au) with your child's return date.





2026 - School Fees

Families are advised the following school fees for 2026 apply. If the level of increase creates any hardship for you, please make an appointment with the Principal to discuss the circumstances.

[View 2026 school fees - Transition to Year 6](#)

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE & OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

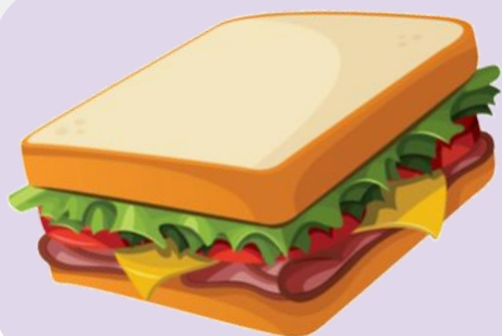
ELC - Community of Learners (fees subject to change)		
One Child	\$510.00 per week	\$135.00 per day
<i>Effective January, 2026</i>		
OSHC - Before School Care (fees subject to change)		
One Child	\$16 - booked rate	\$20.00 - casual rate
<i>Effective January 29, 2026</i>		
OSHC - After School Care (fees subject to change)		
One Child	\$41.00 - booked rate	\$51.00 - casual rate
<i>Effective January 29, 2026</i>		
OSHC - Vacation Care (fees subject to change)		
One Child	\$365.00 per week	\$105.00 per day
<i>Effective April 2026</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.



REMINDER

The canteen is closed, this
Friday 5th of December.

2025 in Pictures



MRS SELLARS

AND STAFF WISH
YOU ALL

A HAPPY & SAFE CHRISTMAS

