

# NEWSLETTER

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



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School Prayer*

*O Holy Spirit,*

*Help us to make this school a place where we can Live, Love and Grow in Christ.*

*Give us the Gift of Wisdom so that we may know what is right and wrong.*

*Give us the gift of Courage to say yes to what you ask of us.*

*May we see you today, during our time of work and play*

*Amen.*

Dear Families,

Our newsletter begins with our school prayer which we pray together at Monday morning assembly along with our motto - ***To Live, To Love, To Grow in Christ.***

It is important that we continue to reflect and come back to our school prayer and motto as a reminder of who we are and the work we undertake each day.

Through morning assembly we sing our national anthem and share our acknowledgement of country also.

Welcome to all students, staff and families at the beginning of our school year together whether new or returning. We pride ourselves on the education provided as well as professional work of all our staff.

Thanks to our staff from Community of Learners and Vacation Care who provided excellent service to our children these school holidays.

Welcome to our new staff joining us this year. Our new teachers this year – Natalie and Heath Baker and Maria La Rocca. Our new Inclusion Support Assistants include – Jack Neale (returning), Clarence (CJ) McCarthy, Bree Hodgson and Grace Beddoe.

Maria La Rocca joins us as our Assistant Principal - Religious Education Coordinator. Maria joins our executive leadership team also. We are very excited to have Maria with us as she has a wealth of experience and knowledge in this space. Maria will be working closely with our Parish Priest, Fr Dave Callaghan and the clergy of Holy Spirit and St Martin de Porres to bring forth and share our Catholic faith and mission.

Many building projects as you are aware that occurred at the end of 2025 and into the beginning of this year. Our new student toilets opened on Thursday.

Our undercover outdoor learning area on our oval is under construction and will be completed this term. Once

completed, this is a space for our students and staff to utilise for some outdoor learning and activities. Also another great area during recess and lunch, and of course at After School Care. Currently there have been some delays with works not completed due to weather conditions over Christmas and the new year. Once completed, I know you will join us in celebrating this new space available to our children. With this work, please note that some of our play areas are fenced off to ensure our workers can complete their work and for the safety of our children and staff.

We have booked Casuarina Aquatic and Leisure Centre on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February from 4:00-6:30pm for a family night. Please come along so that you can meet with new and existing families. Please bring along food to share with your family. A reminder to parents that you are to be present on the night to care for your child as this is not a supervised school event. Our staff will be in attendance to meet with you socially.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February is also Darwin Defence Expo at the Darwin Waterfront. You do not need to be a defence family member to attend as it is open to everyone. Please come along as Chris Crimmings, our Defence School Mentor and I will be there. This is a great opportunity to learn about what is available to everyone living in Darwin.

Our Whole School Opening Mass is scheduled for Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February from 8:30am in our church. There will be a special blessing of staff, students and families during this time. Please lock into your calendars and join us for this important mass.

On Wednesday you were presented with the name of your child's classroom teacher for the 2026 school year. At the conclusion of last year our staff worked collaboratively in placing students into their class group. Our teachers know students well, particularly in the learning context and with this, careful decisions were made to ensure that classes were created with a good balance of learning needs. Please have faith and trust in the decisions of our staff and allow our children the chance to settle into their new classroom.

We understand that at the beginning of the year children are excited about returning, but with the new year we know there can be some anxiety and uncertainty. Our focus for the beginning of the school year is about providing our children the opportunity to get to know their teacher and the routines of their class. It is also about building relationships with their new classroom teacher. It can take some time for children to settle, and we ask for your support and patience through this. Please be sure to keep in close communication with your child's teacher throughout the year to discuss any concerns or additional support that may be required.

I am proud to introduce our teachers for the 2026 school year.

**Our classroom teachers:**

Transition Room 8 – [Marina Gomez](#)  
Transition, Room 9 – [Georgia Tsikouris](#)  
Year 1/2, Room 2 – [Maria La Rocca](#) and [Chloe Ting](#)  
Year 1/2, Room 4 – [Sinead McDonnell](#)  
Year 1/2, Room 6 – [Valerie Roussos](#)  
Year 3/4, Room 14 – [Heather Thompson](#)  
Year 3/4, Room 15 – [Kimberley Justice](#)  
Year 3/4, Room 17 – [Natalie Baker](#)  
Year 5, Room 11 – [Heath Baker](#)  
Year 5, Room 13 – [Joshua Hodgson](#)  
Year 6, Room 10 – [Nikita Jason](#)  
Year 6, Room 12 – [Siobhan Webb](#)

**Specialist Teachers:**

Indonesian – [Jo Masters](#) and [Putu Warti](#)  
The Arts – [Leah Ergos](#)  
Physical Education – [Abby Caldwell](#)

**Inclusion Support Coordinator**

To Be Advised

**Inclusion Support Practitioner**

[Shinobu Hirahara-Henley](#)

Today you will have received your child's year level newsletter providing you a brief overview of what your child will be learning this term. Please take the time to read this important information so you have dates at hand.

For our duty of care and safety for everyone at Holy Spirit we have in place changes to gate opening times in the morning. Our crossing flags will be out each day from 7:00am to 5:30pm each day. Access from Gsell Street, Angelo Street and our driveway will now be open from 7:45am each day as opposed to 7:00am. When dropping off your

children we ask all parents to park in our carpark and walk children into school. A reminder to children who are not registered at Before School Care that their arrival time for drop off is 7:45am as this is when our duty of care begins. Anything prior puts your child at risk as they are unsupervised during this time. As principal of our school, I am present each day from 7:45am in our assembly and basketball court to provide duty of care to your children.

Please follow the link to our [school uniform policy](#) to keep you informed. A reminder that all children are to come to school each day with the approved shirt, shorts/skorts, black socks and shoes along with our school hat. When your child is not in the correct uniform, you will receive a notification from us to remind you of our policy.

Check in with Yola at the front desk to get your Back to School Voucher if not yet accessed so that you can utilise the \$200 made available by our NT Government. This voucher is available till the end of Term 3 so please ensure you take advantage.

Student Award Assembly takes place each fortnight as opposed to weekly. This will be in our Multipurpose Room for Term One to provide everyone with an air-conditioned space to gather. This will take place in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 of each term. When your child is to receive an award you will be informed by your child's teacher in advance so you can make arrangements to be present.

Monday morning assembly will still take place each week in our outside assembly area as this allows us to share messages and information for the week ahead. We shall continue to gather each day in our assembly area from 8:10am to allow children to move to class in a safe and organised manner. We encourage you to be present for morning gatherings each day, however ask that you wave and kiss your children goodbye prior to their teacher walking them to class.

Through our first newsletter we have also provided our Term One calendar to keep you informed of all important dates. Please lock important dates into your calendar.

I remind you all the importance of working in partnership with your child's class teacher. Your child's teacher is always your first point of contact.

Thank you for choosing Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School as your place of learning.

Blessings,

*Paula Sellars*

Mrs Paula Sellars  
Principal



# SCHOOL TERM CALENDAR - 2026

TERM 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	ASSEMBLY
<u>Week 1</u> January 3rd Sunday Ordinary Time	26 Australia Day Public Holiday	27 Staff Professional Devel- opment- Housekeeping	28 Staff Professional Development-	29 Students and staff resume	30	No Assembly
<u>Week 2</u> February 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time	2 Morning Assembly @ 8:15am	3 All About Reading begins Specialist classes begin	4 School Counsellor begins	5 P&F Meeting @ 2:00 pm	6 Awards Assembly Family Gathering @ Casuarina Aquatic & Leisure Centre (4:00-6:30pm)	<b>Year 6</b> Room 10 Room 12
<u>Week 3</u> February 5th Sunday Ordinary Time	9	10 Safer internet day	11 Newsletter	12	13 Opening Mass @ 8:30m	No Assembly
<u>Week 4</u> February 6th Sunday Ordinary Time	16	17 Shrove Tuesday Project Compassion Launch at the Cathedral (MLR)	18 Ash Wednesday Liturgy @ 8:30am	19 BOD Ceremony @ the Cenotaph School Board Meeting @ 4:30pm	20 Awards Assembly	<b>Year 5</b> Room 11 Room 13
<u>Week 5</u> February 1st Sunday of Lent	23	24	25	26	27 Netball Gala REWARD AFTERNOON	No Assembly



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><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>



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.**



# Keep Holy Spirit Bully-Free!

*Kindness is Key*

**PAUSE**



**PAUSE**  
BEFORE YOU ACT

**EMPATHISE**



THINK ABOUT HOW  
**OTHERS** WOULD FEEL

**PLAY**



ACT IN **KINDNESS**  
PLAY IN PEACE

**BULLYING IS WHEN SOMEONE REPEATEDLY  
HURTS, TEASES, OR PICKS ON ANOTHER  
PERSON ON PURPOSE.**





# *Together,* **We Stop Bullying!**

**PAUSE**



**PAUSE**  
BEFORE YOU ACT

**EMPATHISE**



THINK ABOUT HOW  
**OTHERS** WOULD FEEL

**PLAY**



ACT IN **KINDNESS**  
PLAY IN PEACE

Kindness is key, let's all agree: keep Holy Spirit, Bully-Free!



## *Kindness is Key*

**PAUSE**



**PAUSE**  
BEFORE YOU ACT

**EMPATHISE**



THINK ABOUT HOW  
**OTHERS** WOULD FEEL

**PLAY**



ACT IN **KINDNESS**  
PLAY IN PEACE



# **Holy Spirit is Bully-Free!**