

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,

This week we welcome Clarence (CJ) McCarthy to our staff. Mr CJ is familiar with our school as he was once a former student here. Mr CJ is joining our Inclusion Team and will also be working alongside our First Nations students with Jasmine Ware.

Please take the time through 'Snappy Six' to learn a little more about our new teachers - Natalie and Heath Baker, and Maria La Rocca.

I wanted to take a moment to share a little about our Routines of Learning and why they are such an integral part of our school whether in the classroom or on the playground. You may hear your child talk about 'what we do each day' or 'why we do this,' and that is no accident!

Consistent routines help children feel safe, confident, and capable. When children know what to expect, they can focus their energy on learning, building friendships, and trying new things. Our routines are thoughtfully set up to support independence, positive behavior, and a sense of accomplishment throughout the day.



Each routine—whether it is arriving in the morning, transitioning between activities, or cleaning up—gives children clear expectations and repeated opportunities to succeed. We model these routines, practice them together, and celebrate when children follow through. Over time, this builds self-confidence and helps children take pride in what they can do on their own.

I share with you an incentive that Leah Ergos, our Specialist Art Teacher has introduced this year which supports and teaches routines and expectations. Each week, if a class demonstrates positive behaviour during their art lesson, they will receive a Golden Paint Brush to take back to their classroom. Leah's hope is that this will act as a simple communication tool between classroom teachers and herself to help reinforce and monitor positive behaviour. As an additional incentive, classes



that receive more than five Golden Paint Brushes in a term will earn a reward lesson of their choice. Thank you Leah for putting this into place from the start of this year. It has already generated positive feedback from students, staff, and families.

Another great example of starting the year with a positive message, is from Heath Baker, our new Year 5 teacher. Students are witness to the class mantra as set by Mr Heath, 'RESPECT AND FUN IS HOW WE GET THINGS DONE.' From here, Mr Heath begins his day reminding our students of how they enter the classroom while including - a blessing and greeting, prayer, a reminder of our school motto, 'To Live, To Love, To Grow in Christ, with the emphasis on Live, Love and Grow! Daily routines are in place each day which allows them to know and be familiar with the routines of his class.

Mr Heath also taps into his students interests and knowledge which is then shared with the class

Thank you Mr Heath for establishing clear expectations each day upon students' arrival to school. Our students in your class are flourishing as a result.

Our newsletter will take a different approach this year with my message around our school culture and routines, along with welcoming new families and staff to our school.



Heidi van Bodegraven, as our Deputy Principal and Leader of Teaching and Learning will share all news to you all in our newsletter which will include administration, calendar events and updates.



Maria La Rocca, as our Religious Education Coordinator will share news around what is happening in this space, including parish events and sacramental programs.

I remind you all the importance of working in partnership as we navigate our school year together.

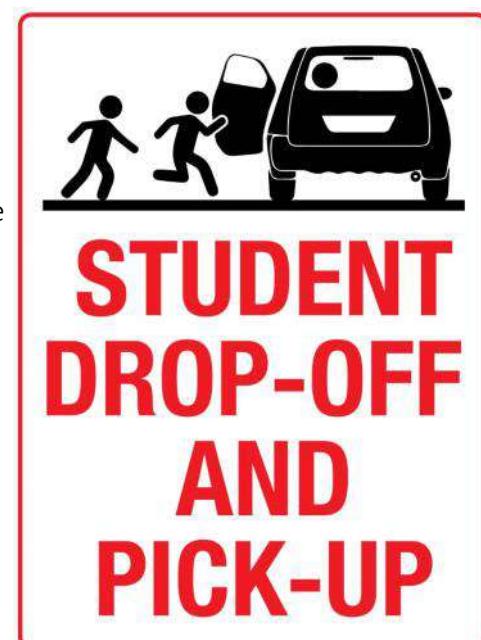
We understand and take on the feedback around changes to morning drop off, however I remind everyone that these changes have been put into place for the purpose of safety to everyone. These changes have not been taken on lightly or without consultation.

Last year we improved and upgraded our school carpark and drop off areas for the purpose of safety and additional parking bays. Please drive safely and slowly when entering our school grounds each day. I am sad to report that we have had some near misses due to parents driving too fast during morning drop off and afternoon dismissal.

Casuarina Aquatic Pool and Leisure Centre carpark is available for parents to utilise.

Your support with the above is required to ensure the safety of everyone.

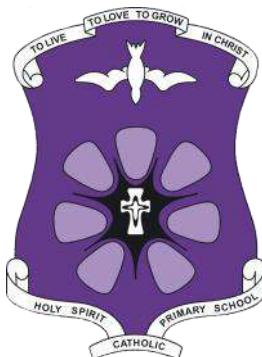
For any feedback, please forward directly to me as opposed to individual staff where you have concerns in this area.



I thank you for choosing Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School as your child's place of learning. Please remember that as we work together we are reminded of our motto - To Live, To Love, To Grow in Christ. This is demonstrated through our words and actions.

We look forward to seeing you all at our Opening Mass this Friday in our church from 8:30am. A great chance for us to gather in prayer and set the scene for the year ahead.

Blessings,



A handwritten signature of "Paula Sellars" in black ink.

Paula Sellars
Principal
Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School

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e. principal.holyspirit@nt.catholic.edu.au
w. www.holyspiritnt.catholic.edu.au



Welcome to Catholic Education NT

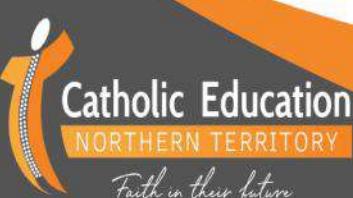
As a Catholic community, we recognise and honour the inherent dignity of each individual.

We commit to working in partnership with families, and all those supporting our students, to provide a safe and respectful environment.

We ask that all visitors speak and act respectfully towards all of our staff and students.

Threatening or abusive language will not be accepted. If this occurs you will be asked to leave the school premises, and if necessary, the police will be called.

The wellbeing of our students and staff is our priority and we thank you for working with us to ensure every student can learn and thrive.



School Community Code of Conduct

Our vision: *Inspired by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we commit to educational excellence, equity and fullness of life for all.*

As a Catholic community, we recognise and honour the inherent dignity of each individual.

We commit to working in partnership with families, and all those supporting our students, to provide a safe and respectful environment.

You are Invited:

- to celebrate and worship with us on our school grounds
- to experience an inclusive and supportive school culture
- to share your ideas and feedback in a respectful manner
- to participate in and support the wellbeing and learning opportunities offered in our classrooms and extra-curricular events.

We work in Partnership:

- by following directions provided by school staff
- by following the school's procedures for communicating using social media, email, phone and face to face
- by listening to and working with staff to resolve questions and conflicts

We are all Safe & Respectful:

- by speaking and acting respectfully towards staff, students, families and other visitors by using appropriate language and tone
- by refraining from taking any pictures, sound recordings or film footage of students or staff without permission from the school
- by remaining in designated areas at all times
- by respecting the need to make appointments or to wait for written replies

Unacceptable Behaviour includes:

- swearing, threatening or racist language
- physically threatening behaviour
- damage to school property
- use of social media, phone or email to intimidate or bring staff or the school into disrepute
- entering school grounds while affected by, or with the intent to supply, alcohol or illicit drugs

Breaches of this code may result in you being asked to leave the school grounds or police being called and your child's enrolment being reviewed.

Toddle – Our Learning & Communication Platform

Last year, we began transitioning to Toddle as our primary platform for learning, communication, and showcasing classroom learning. This exciting step forward allows families a genuine window into their child's learning journey beyond traditional updates.



Parents can access Toddle via the Toddle Parent App using the email address the school has on file. When prompted, select 'School/Organisation' and enter the code: cent

As teachers update student portfolios, assign work, and provide feedback, more features will gradually become visible to families.

Toddle also allows you to message your child's classroom and specialist teachers. Please note this messaging feature is for informal communication only and will be checked at staff convenience. For formal matters, please continue to use email. For time-sensitive messages (such as after-school changes), please contact the front office.

You can manage your notifications using the settings cog within the app.

If you experience any issues accessing Toddle, your child's classroom teacher can assist or provide a QR code to help you connect quickly.

Importantly, Toddle enhances — not replaces — the strong relationships between teachers, students, and families.

Consent2Go Replacing Operoo

With Operoo decommissioned in Australia, we have moved to Consent2Go.

Families should have received an invitation to create/update their child's profile. With excursions and camps coming up, it is important this is completed promptly.

Consent2Go provides a secure and efficient way to manage:

- Excursion permissions
- Medical and emergency information
- Event payments

This system replaces paper forms and ensures all student information is up to date and easily accessible when needed.

NAPLAN 2026 – 11–23 March

Students in Years 3 and 5 will participate in NAPLAN testing from 11–23 March.

NAPLAN provides valuable information about student progress in literacy and numeracy. There is no specific preparation required, as the assessments reflect everyday classroom learning.

Families wishing to view the types of questions can visit the official NAPLAN site and public demonstration tests: <https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan>

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CORNER

We encourage all eligible students to participate, as the data supports both individual learning and whole-school improvement.

We also respect the decision of families who may choose to withdraw their child. If you have concerns, please speak with your classroom teacher or contact me directly, as withdrawal paperwork is required.

School Laptop Device Programme (Years 3–6)

Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School offers a laptop device programme for students in Years 3–6.

This programme provides families with the opportunity to purchase a designated student device through the Edunet portal for use in daily classroom learning and at home. The devices available on the portal have been carefully selected by the school, in consultation with NT Schools, Edunet and Area 9, to ensure they are fully compatible with the NT Schools Network.

To maintain network security and functionality, only devices purchased through the Edunet portal are permitted for use at school. Students are not able to bring personal devices from home, as these cannot be connected to the school network.

Participation in the program is optional and remains a family choice.

Purchase options and payment plans are available via the online portal:

<https://holyspiritps.technologyportal.com.au/>

Or by scanning the QR Code below:



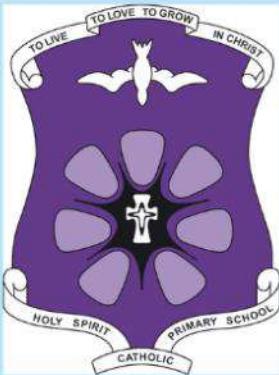
Warm Regards,



Heidi van Bodegraven
Deputy Principal
Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School

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HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARTNERS WITH EDUNET FOR OUR
RECOMMENDED LAPTOP DEVICES



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
DOWNLOAD DEVICE GUIDE

Years 3 to 6



EDUNET 1300 338 638



Welcome to a New Year of Faith

Religious Education – 2026



Dove of the Holy Spirit

A Welcome from the Religious Education Leader

I am very excited to be joining Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School as Religious Education Leader and Assistant Principal. Although I have only been in the role for a short time, I have already been struck by the kindness, courtesy and strong sense of faith evident among our students, staff and families. From my early experiences at the school and parish liturgies, it is clear that Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School is a community shaped by welcome, generosity and genuine care for one another.

My husband and I are delighted to now call Darwin home. It is a wonderful place, filled with hospitable, knowledgeable and generous people who have made our move both smooth and welcoming. Living in Darwin has been a joyful new chapter for our family, and we are grateful for the kindness shown to us by the school and wider community. We look forward to continuing to settle in and becoming even more involved in this vibrant and caring city.

As we begin the year, I am looking forward to a joyful and prosperous time of learning and faith formation together. I am also especially excited to guide and teach the Year 1/2 Room 2 class with my team teaching partner, Ms Chloe Ting. I look forward to journeying with you all throughout the year and beyond.



Psalm for the Term Ahead

From Book of Psalms 127:1

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.”

This Psalm reminds us that everything we do in school—learning, teaching, growing in faith—is grounded in God’s care and guidance.

Scripture for Encouragement

From Epistle to the Philippians 4:13

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

A hopeful message for students, families and staff as they begin the year—trusting that Christ walks with us in every challenge and joy.

Growing Together in Faith

As we begin a new school year at Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School, we give thanks for our welcoming and faith-filled community. From the classrooms to the parish, the kindness and courtesy shown by our students, staff, and families reflect the values at the heart of our school.

This year, we look forward to strengthening our relationship with Christ through learning, prayer, and service. Supported by the guidance of Father Dave and the wider Church, students across all grades will be invited to deepen their understanding of the Gospel and live out the values of compassion, respect, and hope each day.

As we move through Term One, we also begin preparing for the Easter journey, the most important season in the Church year. This is a time of reflection, renewal, and great joy—reminding us of God's enduring love and the promise of new life.



The Catholic Easter Journey – 2026

Date	Key Event
17 Feb 2026	Shrove Tuesday – A day of preparation before Lent, marked by prayer, generosity and sharing pancakes
18 Feb 2026	Ash Wednesday – Lent begins (prayer, fasting, and giving)
29 Mar 2026	Palm Sunday – Jesus enters Jerusalem
2 Apr 2026	Holy Thursday – The Last Supper
3 Apr 2026	Good Friday – The Passion and Crucifixion
5 Apr 2026	Easter Sunday – The Resurrection of the Lord

Kind Regards,



Maria La Rocca
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 w. www.holyspiritnt.catholic.edu.au



SCHOOL TERM CALENDAR - 2026

TERM 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	ASSEMBLY
<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 School Board Meeting @ 4:30pm	20 Awards Assembly	Year 5 Room 11 Room 13
<u>Week 5</u> February 1st Sunday of Lent	23	24	25	26	27 Netball Gala REWARD AFTERNOON	No Assembly
<u>Week 6</u> March 2 nd Sunday of Lent	2	3	4 Newsletter	5 P&F Meeting @ 2:00 pm	6 Awards Assembly Minnie Vinnies Gathering at St Paul's (MLR) Year 5/6 (Holy Family) from	Year 3/4 Room 14 Room 15 Room 17
<u>Week 7</u> March 3 rd Sunday Lent	9	10	11	12	13 Year 6 excursion – Darwin Military Museum Year 5 excursion – Parliament House Defence Gathering @ 1:30pm	No Assembly
		Parent/Teacher Interviews (1:00 – 5:00pm)		NAPLAN TESTING		

Friendly February 2026

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.



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.

SNAPPY SIX – NEW TEACHERS

SNAPPY SIX

Name: Mrs La Rocca
Favourite Colour: Blue
Favourite Food: coffee (3 shots) yes, super strong
Favourite Book: Harry Potter series
Favourite Sport: Easy swimming
What do you like best about Holy Spirit School?
The people and students.

APRE



SNAPPY SIX

Name: Mrs Baker
Favourite Colour: Blue
Favourite Food: Chocolate of course!
Favourite Book: The very Hungry Caterpillar
Favourite Sport: Baseball
What do you like best about Holy Spirit School?
Mrs Sellars' Term 1 80's Playlist! I also love the sense of community at Holy Spirit and the warm welcome that we have received from staff, students and families.

Room 17 - Teacher



SNAPPY SIX

Name: Mr Heath
Favourite Colour: GOLD
Favourite Food: Jaffa Ice Cream
Favourite Book: The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe
Favourite Sport: Fishing
What do you like best about Holy Spirit School?
Our School Spirit uplifted by the Holy Spirit.

Room 11 - Teacher



SCHOOL STAFF – CONTACT

Executive staff:

Principal - [Paula Sellars](#)
Deputy Principal - [Heidi van Bodegraven](#)
APRE - [Maria La Rocca](#)

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 - TBA
Practitioner - [Shinobu Hirahara-Henley](#)

ELC and OSHC

COL Director - [Tanya Dukes](#)
OSHC Coordinator - [Michelle Donnelly](#)

Administration and Finance

Administration – [Yola Gray](#)
Finance Officer – [Tammy Richards](#)
Finance Officer – [Lee Chong](#)



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.

COMMUNITY NOTICES



**GOOD CLEAN FUN
ALL GIRLS**

Jingili Water Gardens

Thursdays 5pm-6pm

Starts March 5th 2026



5-7 years



8-12 years



COMMUNITY NOTICES



PERFORMING ARTS WORKSHOPS

For Children & Young People

ENROL NOW!
CORRUGATEDIRON.ORG.AU



Australian Government



Creative
Australia

