

ST JOHN XXIII PRIMARY SCHOOL



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



*Be the Light
Be the Hope*

Newsletter No 1

5th February , 2025

2025 St John XXIII School Theme

Be the Light, Be the Hope

Discover the hidden power within you! Uncover the powerful message of Matthew 5:14 and unlock your potential to be the guiding light in a dark world. According to Matthew 5:14-16, Jesus Christ teaches us to be a light of the world, illuminating the darkness and bringing hope to those around us.

As Disciples of Christ, we are encouraged to let your light shine before others this year. Be the Light, Be the Hope through our school - within each of our families, within the parent/teacher communities, within our classroom communities, and within our entire parish community.



*Be the Light
Be the Hope*



St John XXIII Primary School
Thomastown East

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2025 School Year.

We are all looking forward to an exciting year with you and your children. A special welcome to all the Preps and new students to the schools. Welcome back to our fabulous students, staff, parents and friends of St. John XXIII school. The children in all the classes were very excited to be back with their friends and teachers. It was great to see such happy and enthusiastic students in their classrooms.

We have a number of events happening in the coming weeks please see list of dates below. Opening of the School Year Mass for Year 1 -6 students. Welcome BBQ and meet the Teacher afternoon, Sacrament of First Reconciliation, Ash Wednesday Mass whole school and the school athletics carnival.

STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is absent or is going to be absent from school, parents are required to notify the school of the absence through Operoo, email or telephone by 9.00 am. If parents or guardians have not notified the school of the absence, then the school will contact the parents. Parents still need to provide an explanation for their child's absence to meet their legal responsibility.

MEDICATION POLICY

Policy regarding the administration of medication at school. This is a direction from Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS).

Parents of students who require medication to be administered at school will need to complete a Medication Authority Form (available on Operoo or at the office) to comply with MACS and St. John XXIII Policy.

Medication prescribed or over the counter (eg Panadol/Nurofen, Zyrtec/ Claratyne) will require the authorisation form signed by a AHPRA registered medical practitioner or Pharmacist.

The medication must be in the original packaging. Prescribed medication must have the child's name on the packaging.

VICTORIA STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS CAMP, SPORTS and EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

If you hold a Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, you are eligible to apply for a one-off payment of \$150 per child to be used towards your child's camp, sports and/or excursion expenses. Application forms for CSEF are available from the Office or on Operoo. A copy of your card is required.

Applicants must hold:

- A current Health Care Card or Pensioner's Card as of 29th January 2025.
- The card must be in the name of the Parent, NOT THE CHILD.
- It is a one-off payment of \$150 per child for excursion, camps and sport.

If you have a current health care card or pension card, please contact the office to obtain a significant reduction on your school fees. Your fees could be as low as \$15 a week for ten months. This is a significant saving if you hold of one these cards and have filled in the appropriate forms

SCHOOL SAVING BONUS (SSB)

The Victorian State Government will providing families who qualify for CSEF a further \$400 School Saving Bonus a total of \$550 per child. The SSB can only be used to purchase uniform, text books, excursions , camps, swimming and sports programs, incursions. More information will be distributed to us shortly.

Some points to remember;

- You must receive the CSEF to be eligible
- Families will not be given money directly, accounts will be credited
- Keep your receipts for any uniform you have purchased, proof will be required

FAMILY CONTACT SHEET

Students were given a sheet with a copy of the contact details that we have in our system. Could parents carefully check that all details are correct and make any changes if required. Please return the sheet back to your child's class teacher as soon as possible.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association is a very active and vital part of our school. The PA raises funds to purchase extra equipment for YOUR CHILD. Devices, playground equipment, books etc. Therefore, I urge as many parents as possible to attend the

**Parents' Association Annual General Meeting & First Meeting
Monday 17th February at 7.00pm. in the Discovery Centre.**

We need all your support and assistance to ensure that we have a strong Parents' Association. We have a very dedicated, hardworking, and committed team but more members are needed. We meet once or twice a term (if needed). Through its fundraising, school fees have been able to be kept at the level you are paying now. It is also a very social and informative meeting.



All Students will be required to be in the New School uniform in 2026.

We have limited number of new 'older' style uniform that can only be worn in **2025**.

We will be selling these items for only **\$10 each** and can be purchased from the school hall, between 3-3:15pm daily until Friday 14th Feb. In person sales only.

There are Polo tops - long and short sleeve, sports tops, some Garb pants and a few jumpers. First in, best dressed !!!!!!!!!

Kind regards

Frank Vetrone
PRINCIPAL

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We require volunteers to support our Welcome BBQ on Thurs 13th Feb. Please add your name at the link below if you are able to assist.

Thank you for your support. Please email emma.canning@sjthomastowneast.catholic.edu.au for further information

volunteersignup.org/C9KHH

To sign up, just follow the instructions on the page. It only takes a few seconds to do.

Prep 2026 & 2027 Enrolments Open



All current families who have a child starting school in 2026 are asked to complete an enrolment application form as a matter of priority

All families are also asked to share this information with friends and family not currently enrolled at St John XXIII who have a child commencing in 2026, or 2027.



Book a Tour



Enrol Now

All forms also available on our website

<https://www.sjthomastowneast.catholic.edu.au/>

St John XXIII Welcome BBQ & Meet the Teacher

**Thursday 13th February
5 - 7 pm**

At St John XXIII Primary School

All students and their families are strongly encouraged to attend this informal event which is your opportunity to meet the staff including your child's teacher.

The BBQ is also be a great way to meet other families and build connections.



A formal Welcome to Country performed by a Wurundjeri Elder will be held at 6 pm.

All families are asked to be present at this time.

BYO snacks / picnic, drinks, picnic rug / chairs

A free sausage sizzle will be provided

**RSVP for catering purposes via the
Operoo form**





All students are required to wear the St John XXIII school hat between 1st September until 30th April. Hats can be ordered via the Operoo form or at the school office.

Preps wear the yellow school hat, while Year 1-6 students wear the green school hat.

Class Sports Days

Students are required to wear their sports uniforms on the days outlined below:

Prep	Tuesday and Thursday
Yr. 1/2 B (Ms Kuhar) & Yr. 1/2 C (Mr Whitty)	Tuesday and Friday (swimming)
Yr. 1/2 A (Mrs Libro/Mrs Zannino)	Thursday and Friday (swimming)
Yr. 3/4 A (Miss Tran) & Yr. 3/4 C (Miss Dean)	Wednesday and Friday
Yr. 3/4 B (Mrs Bonola / Mrs Lowe)	Thursday and Friday
Yr. 5/6 C (Mrs Holton)	Wednesday and Friday
Yr. 5/6 A (Miss Rizzardo) & Yr. 5/6B (Mr Dinneen)	Thursday and Friday

Important Dates

Please check school closure dates as there have been some changes to the previously advised dates

- Tues 11 Feb: Start of School Year Mass 9am (all welcome) Yr 1-6
- Thurs 13 Feb: Meet the Teacher/Welcome BBQ (5-7pm)
- Mon 17 Parent Association AGM & First Meeting 7pm
- Tue 18 Feb: 5/6 Level Mass
- Thurs 20 Feb: Prep 2026 School Tour 9:15 am
- Sat 22 & Sun 23 Feb: Sacrament Enrolment Masses
- Mon 24 Feb: Free Dress Day (\$2 donation required)
- Tues 25 Feb: Literacy Open Classroom 2:15 pm
- Mon 3 March: Prep 2026 School Tour 9:15 am
- **Tues 4 March: School Closure Day** (Staff Professional Learning)
- Wed 5 March: Ash Wednesday Mass 9am (all welcome) All Classes
- Tues 11 March: 3/4 Level Mass
- Wed 12 March: NAPLAN Commences (Year 3 & 5)
- Tues 18 March: 1/2 Level Mass
- Tues 25 March: Prep Level Mass
- Wed 26 March: Year 3 Reconciliation 6:30 pm
- Tue 1 April: School Photo Day
- Fri 4 April: School Athletics Day
- **Fri 4 April: Last Day of Term. 1 pm finish.**

Important Dates - Continued

- Mon 21 April: Easter Monday Public Holiday
- Tues 22 April: Term 2 Commences
- Wed 23 April: Assembly 2:45 pm. 3/4B present. (Day change due to public holiday)
- Friday 25 April: ANZAC Day Public Holiday
- Mon 28 April: **School Closure Day** (Staff Professional Learning)
- Sat 1 June: Year 4 Eucharist
- Mon 8 - Wed 10 Sept: Year 5/6 Phillip Island Camp
- Wed 10 - Thurs 11 Sept: Year 3/4 Campaspe Downs Camp
- Sat 13 Sept: Year 6 Confirmation

CELEBRATING CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS AT SCHOOL

If your child celebrates a birthday at school and you want to provide a treat for the children, the following guidelines apply due to the number of children with known and unknown allergies.



Baked goods (both homemade and bought) such as cakes, biscuits cupcakes, loose lollies in lolly bags and chocolates etc. are **NOT** to be provided to celebrate birthdays. Wrapped lollies and water based icy poles, are acceptable. Unacceptable goodies will not be distributed and will be sent home.



Enrolment Masses for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation

On Saturday 22nd February or Sunday 23rd February, the children in the parish who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation) First Holy Communion and Confirmation are to attend **one** of the following parish masses as part of the Sacramental program:

- - Saturday 6:30 pm
- - Sunday 11:30 am
- - Sunday 6:00 pm

These Masses mark the time when candidates are officially enrolled and recognised by the Parish, and they ask for prayers and support from the St. Luke's community.

Your child will receive an enrollment card closer to the date. Please complete the card with your child's name and a parent/guardian's signature. On the day of the Mass, your child should bring the completed card with them.

During the Mass, the Parish Priest will invite your child to come forward and place the card in the sacrament enrollment box.

Warm regards,

Teresa Bonola

Religious Education Leader

Teresa.Bonola@sjthomastowneast.catholic.edu.au


LUNCH ORDERS FROM 'LUNCH MUMS' BEGIN NEXT WEEK ON MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY

LUNCH ORDERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS ONLY.


ORDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 8.00AM ON THE DAY.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD'S 2025 CLASS IS LISTED ON THE APP

Instructions on how to set up a new account below.




STEP 1.




Visit My School Connect
Visit <http://www.myschoolconnect.com.au> and register as a parent.

STEP 2.




Setup a child
Upon first login, setup your child/children.

STEP 3.



Enter student details
Don't forget to add in all essential fields; name, school, class and any allergy information.


STEP 4.



Allow your child to order for themselves
Setting **'yes'** here will allow your child to login online and order.

PRO-TIP!
This is a great way to teach your child to manage their spending and choose healthy food. Remember to always supervise.

STEP 5.



Set a daily spend limit
You can either enter a **'\$dollar amount'** or select **'unlimited'**. The daily spend will only apply to your child's account.

STEP 7.



Add funds to your account
Visit the **'Top up and financial history'** section to add funds into your account by following the following steps:

Top up

- Select payment type: Bank Account or Credit Card
- Select a \$dollar amount
- Enter payment details

Auto top up

- Select payment type: Bank Account or Credit Card
- Add top up parameters; minimum balance & auto top up amount

ATTENTION ALL REAL ESTATE AGENTS



There are times across the year that we require real estate boards to promote various events.

We are currently planning for these opportunities.

We are seeking local agents to support St John XXIII Primary by supplying boards to be displayed in the local area.

To show our thanks, your company would be publicly acknowledged through our newsletter and social media.

For further details email
emma.canning@sjthomastowneast.catholic.edu.au

St John XXIII
Primary School
Thomastown East





TERM 1, 2025 - REGISTER NOW @

CHESSFORSCHOOLS.COM.AU

SPECIALISED CHESS COACHING

Since 2002, we have been providing our popular Chess For Schools program in schools throughout Melbourne and Greater Geelong



'I am thrilled with the tremendous success of the chess program run by Chess for Schools. The students' adoration for the program is evident as they eagerly anticipate lunchtime on Tuesdays, bursting with excitement. The instructors' dedication, patience and attentiveness foster an engaging and nurturing learning environment, igniting the children's passion for chess as their skills flourish'.

Jessica Ward, Teacher - Loreto Toorak.

HOW CAN CHESS BENEFIT YOUR CHILD?

- Educational:** Improved IQ, critical thinking, concentration, analytical skills, memory.
- Social:** Develop new friendships, social interaction skills, sportsmanship.
- Emotional:** Confidence, self-esteem, resilience through winning and losing games.

CLASS STRUCTURE:

Different lessons are taught each week from a structured syllabus ranging from tactics, strategies, master openings, traps & special moves. After the lesson children are paired up in a fun tournament play off. Prizes are awarded to the top 3 players at end of term.

BOOK HERE



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CLASS DETAILS - ST JOHN XXIII PRIMARY

DAY	TIME	LOCATION	DATES	COST
Thursdays	11:00am - 11:45am	Library	06 February to 27 March	\$145 per child per term

"Alex loves chess club and gets very upset if he misses a session. His chess has definitely improved and his teacher, Anita feels that it helps with his math in class in terms of concept and thinking. Keep up the great work!"

Katherine Lambert: Hampton Primary School



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

SMC

PRAY AND
PERSEVERE



St Monica's College,
Epping

**APPLICATIONS FOR YEAR 7, 2027
NOW OPEN**

APPLY NOW



**Applications close
Friday, 15 August 2025**

Contact Us

 registrar@stmonicas-epping.com

 (03) 9409 8800



PARADE COLLEGE

OPEN DAY



REGISTER HERE



Sunday 23rd February
9.30am - 1.30pm

WWW.PARADE.VIC.EDU.AU
1436 PLENTY ROAD, BUNDOORA