



St Josephine Bakhita

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Courage. Humility. Forgiveness.

Inspired by St Josephine Bakhita we are a community of learners, growing in faith, knowledge, wisdom, and character, to shine as lights of hope in the world.

Dear Families,

Today our school community will be joining millions of Australians to participate in R U Ok? Day, a National Day of Action dedicated to promoting mental health and wellbeing. This important day serves as a reminder that every day is an opportunity to ask, "Are you OK?" and offer support to those who may be struggling.

In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to get caught up in our own busy lives and overlook the people around us who might be facing challenges. R U Ok? Day encourages us to take a step back, check in with others, and genuinely listen to their responses. By doing so, we can make a significant difference in someone's life.

The R U Ok? Day initiative is built around four simple yet powerful steps:

Ask: Take the time to ask someone if they're OK. It might be a friend, family member, or classmate.

Listen: When someone opens up to you, listen without judgment and with empathy.

Encourage Action: Help the person find ways to get the support they need.

Check In: Follow up with them later to see how they're doing and show that you care.

It's natural to feel uncertain about how to respond when someone says they're not OK. However, by simply being present, listening, and encouraging them to seek help, you can make a real difference. If you're not in the right headspace or feel unsure about how to support someone, consider reaching out to another trusted person in their network.

At our school, we want to emphasise the importance of looking out for each other. Whether you're a student, staff member, or parent, you have the power to make a positive impact on someone's life. If you're concerned about someone's wellbeing or need support yourself, don't hesitate to reach out.

If you or someone you know needs immediate support, please contact:

- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800

Let's use R U Ok? Day as a reminder to prioritise our mental health and wellbeing, and to support those around us. By working together, we can create a more caring and compassionate community.

National Child Protection Week

From September 7 to 13, Australia observes National Child Protection Week, a crucial initiative that shines a spotlight on the importance of protecting the rights and wellbeing of young people. This year's theme, "Every Conversation Matters: Shifting Conversation to Action," emphasises the significant role we all play in creating a safe and supportive environment for children.

At SJB, we're committed to fostering a culture of care, respect, and open communication. During National Child Protection Week, our staff will be exploring this important theme with students through various activities and discussions.

How will we be celebrating National Child Protection Week?

- Classroom discussions and activities will focus on themes such as online safety, respectful relationships, and emotional wellbeing.
- Students will learn about the importance of speaking up if they see or experience something that's not right.
- We'll be promoting positive relationships and social skills that help keep our school community safe and supportive.

What can parents and carers do to support?

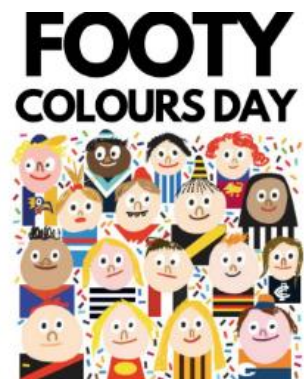
- Talk to your child about the importance of safety, respect, and wellbeing.
- Encourage open communication and listen to your child's concerns.
- Report any concerns or suspicions of harm to the relevant authorities.

By working together, we can create a safe and nurturing environment where every child can thrive. Let's use National Child Protection Week as an opportunity to reflect on our roles in protecting the rights of young people and promoting their wellbeing.

If you have any concerns or would like more information about child protection, please don't hesitate to reach out to our school. We're here to support you and your child.

Footy Day - Friday 19 September

On Friday 19 September we will celebrate the last day of term with a special footy day. On this day the students may come to school dressed in their footy colours (AFL, Soccer, NRL) or their own sports clothes. During the day the students will participate in a rotation of fun activities in their House Teams. Parents may purchase a sausage and donut for their child should they wish to do so. A letter detailing the day and how to order your child's lunch went home earlier this week.



Father's Day /Special Person's Morning

Last Friday we celebrated all the wonderful people in our school community that take on a fatherly role. It was lovely to see so many dads, granddads, mums, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters enjoying some quality time with their child/children. Thank you for taking the time to celebrate with us.



School Disco

We will be holding our first school disco on Friday 17th October from 5pm - 6.30pm. More information will be sent home about the event next week.

Important Dates

Below are some of our planned activities for the remainder of the Year. More dates are still to be locked in. Stay Tuned!

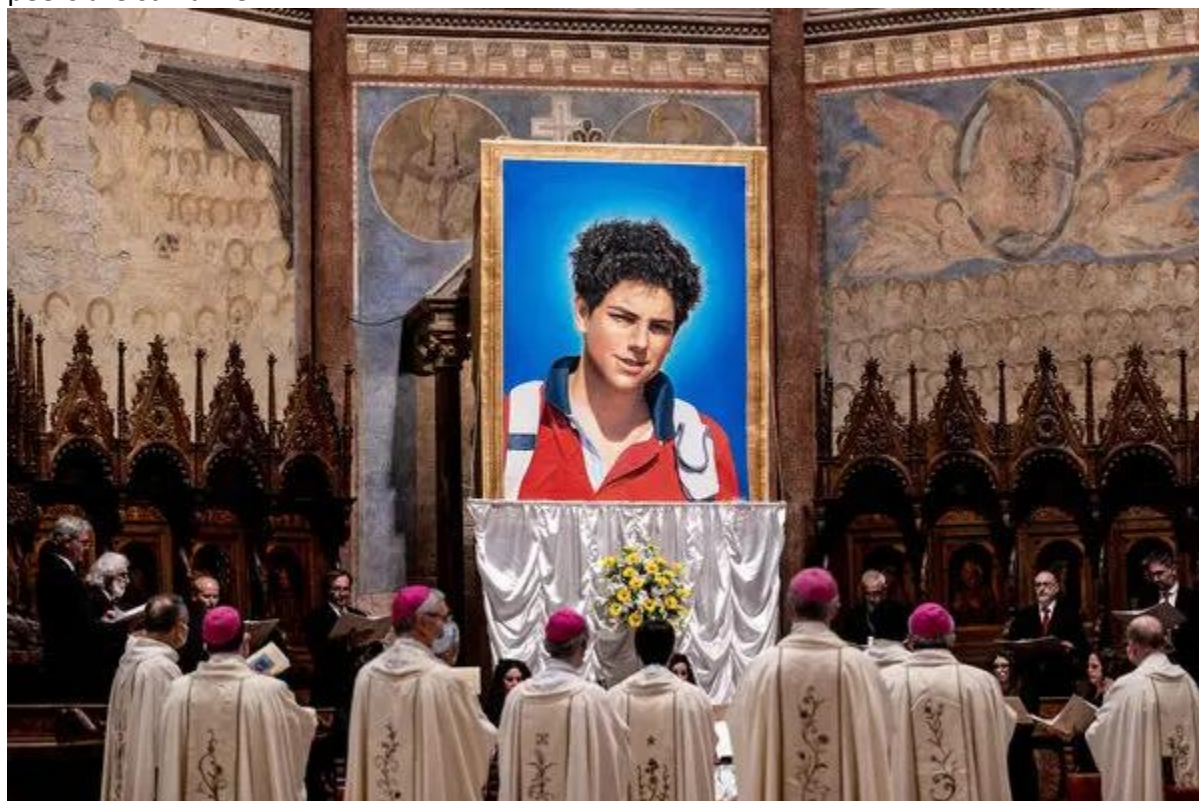
| Date | Event | Year Level |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|
| Friday 12 September | CFA Incursion | All Year Levels |
| Thursday 18 September | Assembly – FPD presenting | All Year Levels |
| Friday 19 September | Last Day of Term / Footy Day | All Year Levels |
| Monday 6 October | First Day of Term 4 | All Year Levels |
| Monday 3 November | Student Free Day | All Year Levels |
| Tuesday 4 November | Melbourne Cup Public Holiday | All Year Levels |
| Tuesday 7 October | Moonlit Sanctuary Excursion | Foundation |
| Friday 17 October | School Disco - 5.00pm -6.30pm | All Year Levels |
| Friday 31 October | Grandparent's / Special Friends Morning | All Year Levels |
| Friday 14 November | Colour Fun Run | All Year Levels |
| Mon 17 - Fri 21 Nov | Swimming Program | Foundation |
| Mon 24 - Fri 28 Nov | Swimming Program | Year 1-5 |
| Tuesday 16 December | Last Day of the 2025 School Year | All Year Levels |

Kind regards
Kathryn Pepper

Religious Education

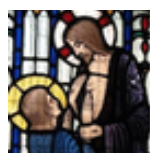
On Sunday September 7 - Rome, Pope Leo declared two new saints of the Catholic Church - Carlos Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati. This is of particular celebration for the St Thomas the Apostle parish as Saint Carlos Acutis is the namesake for our third primary school in the parish, to open in 2027.

Carlos Acuti's extraordinary story is a beacon of hope for Catholics young and old. Acutis died of Leukemia at age 15 in 2006, and many of his friends and family are living testament to his magnificent life story. It is not often a saint is canonized and their parents, teachers, friends and peers are still alive.



Vatican News has an article and some footage of the canonization of both saints on the following link [Canonization of Acutis and Frassati](#)

Everyone is born original, but most end up dying as photocopies. Carlos Acutis



St Thomas
the Apostle

St Thomas the Apostle Parish News can be found on this link:
<https://stthomasap.org.au/parish-news>

First Holy Communions



Over the next two Sundays, September 14th and 21st at 2pm, children from the St Thomas the Apostle Parish will make their First Holy Communion. Maclaine in yr 3-5 will make this special sacrament on Sunday the 21st. Please keep Maclaine in your thoughts and prayers as she makes this very special milestone on her sacramental journey.



[A message from Bishop Greg on Child Safety Week](#)

Click on the link



Student Wellbeing

This Thursday 11 September is R U OK? Day.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, we will be completing activities at school this week aimed to teach students how to ask R U OK? any day of the year, and how to handle situations at an age appropriate level.

Students will have the opportunity to work in multiage groups to explore different ways they can check in on people.

You don't need to be an expert to reach out - just a good friend and a great listener.

Use these four steps and have a conversation that could change a life:

1. Ask R U OK?
2. Listen
3. Encourage action
4. Check in



Supporting Mental Health at Home

Apps you can download to help:

- Raising Healthy Minds
- Smiling Mind



- Raising Children's Network
- Beyond Blue
- <https://www.vic.gov.au/promoting-mental-health-and-wellbeing-home>



External Services:

- Paediatricians
- Psychologists/counsellors
- Orange Door (formerly Child FIRST)





SchoolTV

Wellbeing for School Communities

Our school has partnered with SchoolTV – a trusted resource that prioritises student mental health and wellbeing. Because parenting doesn't come with instructions, SchoolTV is now accessible through our school to help you navigate some of the more complex issues young people face. It provides practical strategies and trusted guidance to support your child.

Parenting is a learning journey, and with a little help from SchoolTV, you can engage in meaningful conversations with your child on topics that may sometimes feel awkward or difficult to address.

SchoolTV covers a vast range of topics, each featuring interviews with leading global experts and a carefully curated selection of resources from key organisations.

We encourage you to explore and utilise this platform, as it serves as a valuable tool in building relationships, fostering connections, and deepening understanding. By breaking down barriers, it helps pave the way towards better mental health and wellbeing for young people.

To stay informed about the latest topics, we also recommend signing up for 'Get Alerts'. This feature ensures you receive updates as new content becomes available, and you can easily register through the link provided within each topic.

Parents and caregivers play a crucial role in shaping a young person's life, and SchoolTV is here to support you in nurturing confident and informed parenting.

Explore SchoolTV today!

<https://sjbclydenorth.catholic.schooltv.me/category-latest-newsletter>

FOUNDATION PMP

During Term 2 and 3, the Foundation students have taken part in the PMP (Perceptual Motor Program) during sport lessons.

Through PMP, students have had the opportunity to:

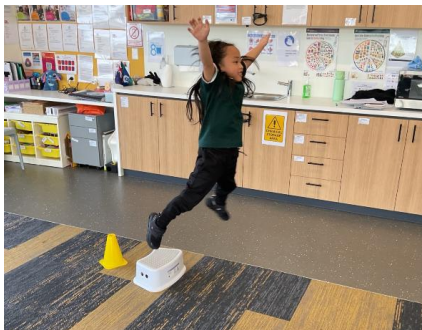
- Develop a range of fundamental movement skills, including both locomotor and non-locomotor skills such as crawling, balancing and hopping.
- Practise hand-eye coordination, locomotion, eye-tracking, balancing and fitness skills.
- Build their PMP vocabulary by using language such as *forwards*, *backwards* and *along*, and showing these movements with equipment.

This program would not be possible without the amazing support of our parents and family helpers. A big thank you to our Foundation helpers for your ongoing assistance each week!

Looking ahead to next term, Foundation students will take their sport lessons outside, where they will be learning a variety of ball skills and athletic events.

Ebony Marcolongo

Specialist Teacher



Maths in Every Culture: Share Your Traditional Games

At St Josephine Bakhita Catholic Primary School we believe learning happens best when it's meaningful, engaging — and fun! That's why we're on the lookout for **traditional or cultural games from around the world that involve mathematics**. Whether it's counting, measuring, strategy, or problem-solving, we want to bring these rich, diverse experiences into our classrooms.

Do you know a game from your culture that teaches **math skills in a playful way**? It might be a game you grew up playing with family, one that's still enjoyed in your community today, or even a lesser-known gem that deserves the spotlight.

We're especially interested in games that:

- Involve **counting, logic, patterns, shapes, or numbers**
- Can be played by children aged 5–12
- Reflect **cultural traditions, languages, or stories**
- Can be adapted for use in a classroom

By sharing these games, you'll be helping our students:

- Discover new ways of thinking about maths
- Celebrate cultural diversity in fun, hands-on ways
- Build global awareness while learning through play

How You Can Help:

If you know of a game (or can ask someone in your family or community), please get in touch! You can:

- Send us a written description of the game
- Share photos or videos (if available)
- Come and chat to us about the game

Please contact: pamela.mckillop@sjbclydenorth.catholic.edu.au and
sarah.manaelski@sjbclydenorth.catholic.edu.au

Let's celebrate the many ways maths is woven into cultures around the world — and inspire our students to see maths as something meaningful, joyful, and universal.

Thank you for helping us make learning an adventure for everyone!

Learning Awards

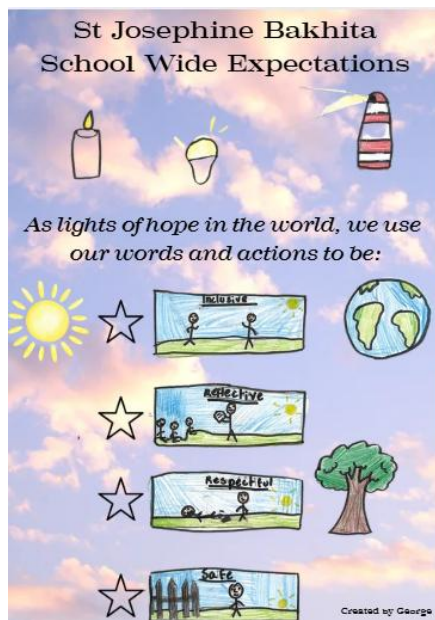
Our learning awards focus on our School Wide Expectations

Inclusive, Respectful, Reflective, Safe

| Foundation PD | Foundation M | Foundation C |
|--|--|---|
| Mila- Inclusive Leo P- Respectful | Leon-Safe Jide- Inclusive | Brandon - Respectful Caia - Inclusive |
| Year 1-2 M | Year 3-5 F | Specialist |
| Meera - Respectful Fateh - Reflective | Ridhan - Inclusive Baljodh - Reflective | Riley FC- Safe Angelina 3-5F- Reflective |

These awards will be given out at our assembly on **Thursday 17 September at 2.45pm.**

All families are warmly invited to attend.





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Child Safe Standards

Working With Children

St Josephine Bakhita has zero tolerance towards child abuse and is therefore committed to complying with the Ministerial Order No. 1359 – Implementing the Child Safe Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises. All parents/guardians wishing to help in the classroom or attend excursions **MUST** have viewed and completed the **PARENT HELPER INDUCTION VIDEO** and **QUESTIONNAIRE** and hold a current **WORKING WITH CHILDREN CARD**.

Further details are available from the school office or the Justice Department website. All parent/guardian helpers must sign in at the office before proceeding to the classrooms. Your current Working with Children card must be displayed at all times when working in the classrooms and attending excursions.

Volunteer Induction

Are you ready to volunteer at our school? Before you start, please complete our online volunteer induction. This important step ensures you're familiar with our school's policies, procedures, and expectations.

The online induction can be found on our school website under Child Safety and involves:

<https://www.sjbclidenorth.catholic.edu.au/child-safety/st-josephine-bakhita-volunteer-induction->

- Watching our induction video
- Reading through associated policies
- Completing a short quiz
- Signing our Volunteer Code of Conduct
- Providing the school with your WWCC card which has been linked to the school

By completing the online induction, you'll be ready to make a positive impact on our school community. If you have any questions or need help, don't hesitate to reach out. We look forward to having you on board!





About Us

We are 'Mothers who Pray for their Children', a Catholic movement with Marian devotion. Originally from Brazil, our foundress Angela Abdo was called to pray along with other mothers who desired to pray and intercede for their children. Our mission is to establish networks of mothers who come together in the Church to pray and be formed in their faith. Brazil already has over 150,000 members, with Australia being the first English speaking country to adapt the movements resources. With many groups already established in Australia, we have been able to extend the movements reach to France, Germany, Spain, USA and South Africa. With the help of our members and their talents, the movement has continued to grow. All it takes is for a mother to say "Yes!".

Why pray with us?

Being a praying mother is never giving up on your children. accepting the mission to evangelize them, being attentive to their spiritual needs, and placing yourself as an unceasing intercessor at the feet of the Lord.



*"The restoration of families
through the power of prayer!"*

Contact Mary Krotwaar on
0417 391 298 or email
info@motherswhoprayerfortheirchildren.com
for more information or
to join a prayer group near you.



motherswhoprayerfortheirchildren



motherswhoprayerfortheirchildren



motherswhoprayerfortheirchildren



SEPTEMBER

Holidays

SPORTS WEEK

SEP 22

INFLATABLE ARCHERY & DODGEBALL DAY

\$97 - \$9.70*

Today we are starting our program off with some inflatable fun along with a dodgeball championship



SEP 23

SOCCER COACHING & REVERSE ART DAY

\$90 - \$9.00*

One of our experienced coaches will be visiting as well as the children getting creative with some awesome art activities



SEP 24

BOTANIC GARDENS EXCURSION

\$135 - 13.50*

We are off to the Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne with ropes courses, adventures through the gardens. We will also be having BBQ lunch



SEP 25

GRAND FINAL & AFL COACHING DAY

\$90 - \$9.00*

We are celebrating the AFL Grand Final with a football coach and some footy games all day



SEP 26

GRAND FINAL EVE PUBLIC HOLIDAY - CLOSED

DISCOVERY WEEK

SEP 29

SCIENCE EXPLOSION DAY

\$80-8.00*

Test out some science experiments and watch the explosions with our fun science activities



SEP 30

MASTERCHEF CHALLENGE DAY

\$90 - 9.00*

Today we will be having a cook off and fun masterchef challenges!



OCT 01

ANIMALS & INFLATABLE EXCURSION

\$135 - 13.50*

We will be heading on an excursion where we will have inflatables and animal interactions



OCT 02

SILENT ESCAPE ROOM INCURSION

\$115 - 11.50*

We have Supreme Incursions coming to visit with a silent escape room! Can you solve all the clues?



OCT 03

CELEBRATION DAY

\$90 - \$9.00*

The holidays are almost over and we are having a party to celebrate!



*PRICES ARE DETERMINED BY EACH FAMILY'S CHILD-CARE SUBSIDY ELIGIBILITY - TO FIND OUT MORE PLEASE VISIT CENTRELINK ONLINE TO COMPLETE YOUR ACTIVITY TEST
*MAX PRICE & MAXIMUM CCS ELIGIBLE



HOMEBASE



EXCURSION



INCURSION



Admin - 0479 125 796
Regional - 0423 970 703





HOLIDAY PROGRAM IMPORTANT INFO

VENUE DAYS

During our venue days, you are welcome to drop off your child at anytime throughout our opening hours. This Vacation Care all five venues will be open from 6:30 am until 6 or 6:30 pm depending on Venue. If there are any special events on during a venue day, these will be communicated with you via email prior to the day. Our dedicated coaches work hard to ensure a fun and engaging program is planned for these days with a range of sports, craft, cooking activities planned and so much more!

EXCURSION DAY

During an excursion day, the times where we leave the venue via bus may change. These times will be communicated to all parents via email a week prior to the week the excursion falls on. If you're ever unsure on the time please reach out to your service coordinator or our admin team.

BOOKING CHANGES

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations are only permitted **2 weeks prior** to the beginning of vacation care. To have a cancellation and not be charged for the booking ensure you contact us at least 2 weeks vacation care begins.

CHANGES

If you wish to modify any bookings this is the same as cancelling. You will need to notify us at least 2 weeks before the start of vacation care in order for us to change your booking date.

REFUNDS

Unfortunately we are not able to issue any refunds if you attempt to cancel within 2 weeks of vacation care starting. This is due to having resources, staff and transportation secured based off your booking.

CHILDCARE SUBSIDY

Before attending our Vacation Care program you will need to ensure you have your CCS active through Centrelink. If you attend without CCS, you will be required to pay full fees for your bookings with DS Sports. If you have any questions please reach out to our admin team.

SIGN UP TO YOUR VENUE



BASS VALLEY
6:30-6:30



TOPIRUM
6:30-6:30



KURRUM
6:30-6:30



BUNYIP
6:30-6PM



TURRUM
6:30-6PM

WHAT TO WEAR?

We ask that children wear comfortable, closed toe shoes and weather appropriate clothing for the day.

WHAT TO BRING?

Children need to bring a Backpack with lunch, morning tea, water bottle and a hat. In the case of a water activity day, a change of clothes, towel and a plastic bag for the wet clothes would be needed.

WHAT NOT TO BRING

We ask that children do not bring the following items as DS Sports will not be responsible for any damage/loss of valuable belongings. We ask you do not pack phones, iPads, devices of any kind and pocket money for spending.

CHILDRENS SAFETY

All children will be provided with a bright orange vest for excursion days to ensure DS Sports children are easily identifiable in the public.

DISCLAIMER

Excursions are subject to change due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Your service coordinator will notify you via email or text regarding changes.

MEDICAL INFO

If you have a child attending our services with a medical condition we will require their medications alongside a completed action plan before your child can attend. All medication must be in original packaging, labeled clearly with your child's name, dosage and expiry date. Additionally, parents must complete a medication consent form at the centre when dropping your child off. Please speak to your service coordinator who will be able to assist you with this.

FEE STRUCTURE

When enrolling with DS Sports you will need to set-up Direct Debits to ensure smooth payment of fees. Your fees get direct debited on the **Thursday** of each week for that week of care. Please ensure funds are available for the direct debits so it doesn't affect your future bookings. If you miss a payment, please make sure to contact us or make a payment on the Xplor Home App.