



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 Parents and Carers,

Next Friday, 31st October is World Teacher's Day. On this special day, we express our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated teachers and support staff (ESOs/Admins) who bring passion, dedication, and commitment to their roles, inspiring and nurturing our children to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Following the inspiring example of St Josephine Bakhita, our staff are motivated to deliver compassionate, kind, and caring support to every student, embodying the values of our school community. We are deeply grateful for their tireless dedication and unwavering commitment to providing outstanding education and care for our children.

On this day we will also come together as a school community to celebrate Grandparents (special friends) Day. This is a special day where we give thanks for the inspiring people in the lives of our students. An RSVP letter was sent home with the children last week detailing the morning. A copy can also be found at the end of this newsletter. We look forward to welcoming many grandparents / special friends on this day.

The 31st of October is also a day when the nation acknowledges a 'Day of Daniel', an initiative promoting child safety awareness and education in memory of Daniel Morcombe. The day encourages schools and communities to come together to teach children about personal safety. By wearing a touch of red and participating in activities, we show our support for child safety and pay tribute to Daniel's memory. More information on how our school will acknowledge this day can be found in this newsletter.

Colour Run

SJB will hold their first fundraising event, Monty's Colour Fun Run on Friday 14 November. Information was sent home last week to families detailing how you can help with fundraising. If you need any help with creating your profile, please contact the school office. Every dollar raised will go towards purchasing new sports and probiotics equipment for the children to use.



Staffing Updates

Congratulations to Mrs Phillips and her husband Brendan on the recent announcement that they are expecting their second child next year in April. We wish Brooke, Brendan and Addie all the best as they await the special arrival of their precious baby.

Mrs Hardy's last day at SJB before she heads off on her parental leave will be Thursday 6th November. It has been a privilege to be a part of her pregnancy journey. We wish Gabby, Dale and Frankie all the best for the safe arrival of baby number two in December. We can't wait to hear the exciting news!

School Disco

Last Friday night we held our first school disco! It was well attended, and the children had an absolute ball. A **VERY BIG THANK YOU** to the amazing team of parents and staff, who worked behind the scenes to purchase items for the disco, set / clean up and supervise the event. Without their wonderful support the event would not have been possible.

Thank you also to St Germain Coles and Spotlight Fountain Gate for generously donating a voucher for the school to put towards decorations and popcorn at the disco. Your support is greatly appreciated.



School Fees

A gentle reminder that we ask that all school fees are finalised with the Office by the end of November. If you have any concerns regarding the school fees, please contact the Office. We understand that family circumstances can change, and we are here to support families in any way we can.

2027 Foundation (Prep) Enrolments

We're now inviting applications for 2027 Foundation student enrolments. If your child is starting school in 2027, please contact our Office to request an application form or download it from our website. To secure a spot, kindly complete the enrolment process before the end of the year. After this time, enrolments will be open to the broader community, and we cannot guarantee placement.

SJB has talent!

We are looking to hold a mini talent show on Wednesday 5 November for any student who would like to showcase their talents, sharing them with the rest of the school. If your child would like to sing, dance, play an instrument, tell some jokes etc, please let your child's teacher or the office know. We would love to learn all about your child's talents.

Important Dates for Term 4

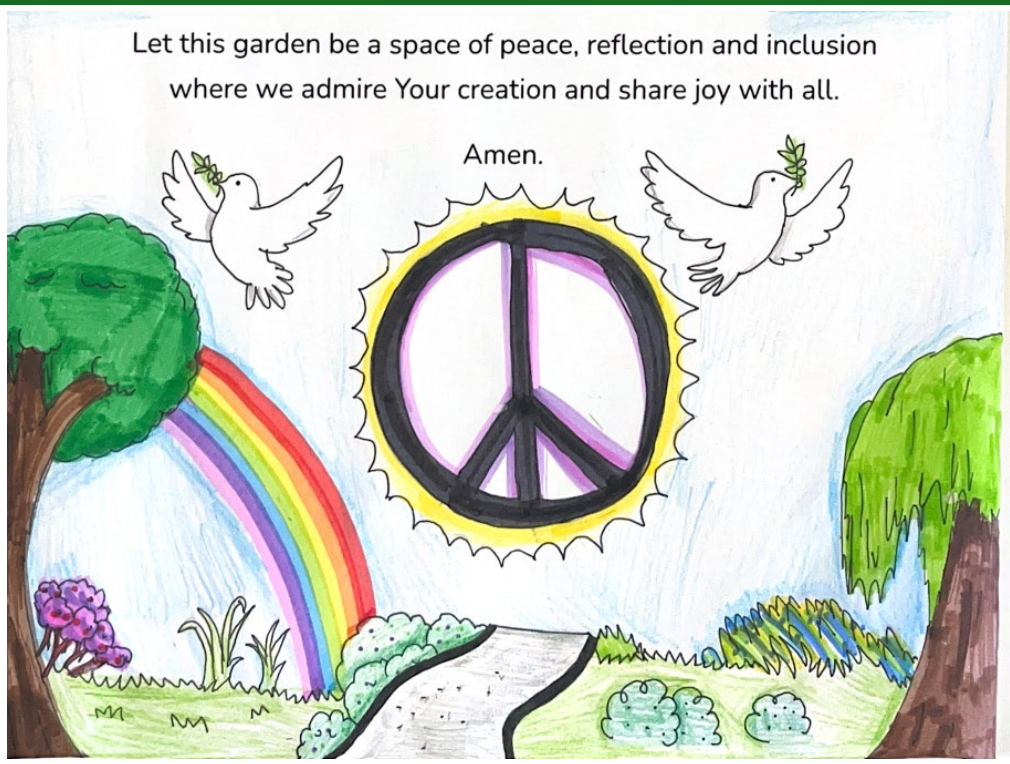
Please note a change in date for the Whole School 2026 Orientation and the Whole School Excursion.

Date	Event	Who	Time
29/10	2026 Foundation Information Night	New families for 2026	6.30 -7.30pm
30/10	Assembly – Year 1-2 Presenting	F-5 / Families	2.45- 3.15pm
31/10	Grandparents/ Special Friends Morning	F-5	9.00– 10.45am
3/11	School Closure Day – No School	F-5	All Day
4/11	Melbourne Cup Holiday	F-5	All Day
5/11	SJB Talent Show	F-5 / Families	2.15-3.15pm
13/11	Assembly – FC Presenting	F-5 / Families	2.45- 3.15pm
14/11	Colour Run Fundraiser	F-5 / Families	2-3pm
17-21/11	Swimming Program	Foundation	45min sessions
19/11	Whole School Mass	F-5 / Families	9.00 – 10.00am
21/11	Life Saving Victoria Incursion	F-5	9.00-10.30am
24-28/11	Swimming Program	Years 1-5	45min sessions
27/11	Assembly – FM Presenting	F-5 / Families	2.45- 3.15pm
3/12	2026 Orientation Session	2026 Foundation -6	9.00 – 10.30am
10/12	Whole School Excursion	F-5	All Day
11/12	Assembly – FPD Presenting	F-5 / Families	2.45- 3.15pm
15/12	Family Games Afternoon and Christmas Carols	Families	5.00 – 7.00pm
16/12	Last Day of School End of Year Mass Christmas Nativity Play	F-5 / Families	9.00 – 10am 2.15 – 3.15pm
27/1/26	Staff Return for 2026 School Year	Staff	All Day
28/1/26	Staff Professional Learning Day	Staff	All Day
29/1/26	Foundation Students Begin School	2026 Foundation Students Only	All Day
30 / 1/26	Year 1-6 Students Begin School	Years 1-6 and Foundation students	All Day
All other dates in 2026 will be communicated to families once they are approved.			

Kind regards
Kathryn Pepper

Religious Education

This week's newsletter prayer was written by the year 3-5 students after creating their prayer garden - situated outside their classroom. Thank you George for the beautiful illustration.



SACRAMENTS 2026 Through St Thomas the Apostle Parish

St Thomas the Apostle parish is seeking expressions of interest for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation (Grade 3 and above), the Sacrament of First Holy Communion (Grade 4 and above), and the Sacrament of Confirmation (Grade 6 and above). If your child is a Baptised Catholic and would like to receive these sacraments in 2026 please let the parish know your intention for your child to do this.

Your child will be supported by the school to make these special sacraments, and will complete them with members of St Thomas the Apostle school, and children in local non-Catholic schools.

St Thomas the Apostle Parish Sacrament Intention 2026



Or use the following link

<https://forms.office.com/r/fLhk13X0hN>

Feel free to contact Pamela McKillop - Religious Education Leader - at the school if you have questions



St Thomas
the Apostle

St Thomas the Apostle Parish News can be found on this link:

<https://stthomasap.org.au/parish-news>

LEARNING AND TEACHING

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!



Student Wellbeing

Executive Functioning



Executive functions are brain processes that help us manage our thoughts and actions.

Some students need support in managing their executive functions and are unable to begin tasks without it.

Below are some strategies to support students with **some** of their executive functions.

Executive Function	Strategies at Home:
 1. Planning	1. Family calendar: track family activities on a calendar everyone can see 2. Weekly planning sessions: Have family meetings to discuss what's on for the week. 3. Model planning behaviour: Create shopping lists or plan events/activities together.
 2. Organisation	1. Designated study area: Create a clutter-free study area with necessary supplies. 2. Use baskets or bins: Organise tasks using clearly labelled containers (homework, drawing etc.) 3. Regular check-ins: Check in each day about household jobs/responsibilities.
 3. Time management	1. Set routines: create clear routines for homework, jobs or fun! 2. Task lists: Encourage the use of daily or weekly task lists with items to tick off. 3. Model time management: Demonstrate effective time management strategies through your actions (like calculating breakfast, teeth, getting dressed etc.)
 4. Working memory	1. Memory games and puzzles: Encourage use of games and puzzles that focus on memory based activities. 2. Active reading strategies: promote highlighting, note-taking and summarising when reading. 3. Environmental organisation: Help organise study spaces to minimise distractions and optimise accessibility.
 5. Meta-cognition Thinking about our own thinking	1. Reflective discussions: Have regular conversations about the steps to complete things. 2. Goal setting: Work with your child to set specific, achievable goals and discuss steps to reach them 3. Model meta-cognitive thinking: Share your own thinking process when solving problems or making decisions

 6. Emotional regulation	1. Model emotional regulation: Demonstrate self-regulation strategies and support through co-regulation (breathing, following steps, setting goals, physical exercise etc.) 2. Safe space: Create a dedicated area where family members can go to self-regulate. 3. Emotion vocabulary: Teach your child about a wide range of emotions so they are able to articulate their feelings.
 7. Flexibility	1. Predictable routine with built-in flexibility: maintain a consistent routine but include opportunities for learning by discussing changes to routines. 2. Play games promoting flexible thinking: Engage in board games, card games or puzzles requiring strategy changes. 3. Practise problem-solving together: Engage in family projects where plans might need to change
 8. Attention & ability to shift focus	1. Model focus strategies: Demonstrate ways of paying attention to one task at a time (use visual timers or visual reminders) 2. Scheduled breaks: Incorporate regular breaks during activities to maintain focus. 3. Physical activity: Encourage movement/brainbreaks during activities to support concentration and refresh the mind.
 9. Task initiation	1. Visual reminders: Use charts, checklists or sticky notes as visual reminders for tasks 2. Environment organisation: Keep necessary materials organised and easily accessible 3. Family involvement: Work alongside the young person to support task initiation
 10. Persistence	1. Problem solving discussion: Engage in discussions about approaching difficult tasks and developing strategies 2. Breaks and downtime: Ensure regular breaks to help manage fatigue and support self-regulation 3. Encouragement: Praise young people for their efforts and persistence in completing tasks.

Child Safety

Next Friday 31 October, we will be participating in Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson as part of Day For Daniel. Students and staff are invited to wear a touch of red on the day to help raise awareness of the importance of Child Safety.

The focus for each lesson includes -



Jelly Surprise

For children aged 0 to 6, Jelly Surprise is our second **FREE** digital animated children's book that helps children understand how their **body clues** and feelings help them **recognise** when they are in a **safe** or **unsafe** place.

- Supported by an Educator Toolkit with Early Years Learning Framework for Australia V2.0 links.
- Conversation starters linking the content to **Recognise, React, Report**.



2025 - ABCSL Lower Primary

For children aged 7 to 9, the theme explores **safely navigating online** spaces and identifying what is **real** versus what is **fake**.

ABCSL Lower Primary is an animated digital resource that resource equips children with the knowledge to **question** what they experience and **seek help** if they feel unsafe.

- Real-life scenarios.
- Supported by an Educator Toolkit with Australian Curriculum V9 links.
- Practical activities to help kids **Recognise, React** to and **Report** unsafe situations.



2025 - ABCSL Upper Primary

For children aged 10 to 12, the theme explores how easily **chat-bots** and **AI companions** can invade children's lives and the **spaces** where they hang out.

ABCSL Upper Primary is an animated video resource to help equip children with the knowledge to **question** what they experience and **seek help** if they feel unsafe.

- Real-life scenarios.
- Supported by an Educator Toolkit with Australian Curriculum V9 links.
- Practical activities to help kids **Recognise, React** to and **Report** unsafe situations.

During the afternoon, we will come together as a school community to reinforce the importance of being able to Recognise, React and Report. We will then help to raise awareness for Child Safety by participating in the 'Walk for Daniel' within our enclosed grassed area.



Day for Daniel



Friday 31 October 2025



We're supporting important conversations
around Australia about how to keep kids safe!
Let's all work together to protect Aussie kids.

DanielMorcombe.com.au

Learning Awards

Our learning awards focus on our School Wide Expectations

Inclusive, Respectful, Reflective, Safe

Foundation PD	Foundation M	Foundation C
Ariana-Mae- Reflective Hanvika- Reflective Rasheen- Safe Annbel- Respectful	Amanda- Respectful Zane- Reflective Anik- Reflective Prayan- Safe Aryssia- Safe	Saswin - Respectful Joel - Inclusive Angelyn - Reflective Anaad - Reflective Yuvraj - Respectful
Year 1-2 M	Year 3-5 F	Specialist
Mikayla - Inclusive Uday - Respectful Helayna - Safe Lia - Reflective Sarah - Inclusive	Ezac - Reflective Prisha - Reflective George - Inclusive Oscar - Respectful Ryan - Respectful	Rafael FC- Respectful Leo P FPD- Reflective

These awards will be given out at our assembly on **Thursday 30 October 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!





MELBOURNE CUP CELEBRATION CURRICULUM DAY



3rd November 2025

6:30am to 6:30pm

Melbourne Cup Activities from 9am

St Josephine Bahkita OSHC Room

NEW TO OSHC?

- 1/ Scan QR Code
- 2/ Fill out the form
- 3/ Book in your dates



STAYING SAFE AROUND THE SCHOOL



Dear St Josephines Bakhita Parents & Carers,

We have concerns raised to council about parents driving unsafely around your school precinct. To keep all students and pedestrians safe, please follow these recommendations around your school precinct.

Please note Wild Goose Way and surrounding streets are 40km speed zone (new signs being installed) along Wild Goose Way and around the school precinct.

Please do not perform U-turns or pull into driveways near the school frontage on Wildgoose Way – this is dangerous for all pedestrians and drivers. We recommend driving further along the road and utilising the roundabouts or side streets away from the school to turn around safely.

Please do not use the staff carpark as a drop off pick up zone or park in this area – this is strictly for staff only.

Please note the pedestrian crossing outside the school is a **PRIORITY PEDESTRIAN** crossing, meaning that drivers must give way to pedestrians and let them cross the road. **Please be aware of pedestrians at all times.**

CASEY.VIC.GOV.AU



For more information visit:

www.casey.vic.gov.au/safe-around-schools

Drivers sharing the road with pedestrians - Transport Victoria