



# NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

Welcome to all students, staff and families to the start of the 2025 school year. It has been great to see so many excited and happy faces as I visited classrooms today. A special welcome also to the new families and students who have joined our St. Thomas More Catholic Primary School community this year. I look forward to getting to know you all throughout the year and hope that you enjoy your time at our wonderful school.

We understand that the start of the school year can be both an exciting but, also, stressful time for families. I want to remind you that our staff are here to support you and your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

**We begin our school year with our school prayer.**

Dear Lord,

Bless our St Thomas More School community where we Live, Learn and Thrive,

Help us to Live with your Love.

Help us to Learn with your Spirit.

Help us to Thrive with your Blessing. Amen.



## FORTHCOMING SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY

A reminder that **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February** is a student-free school closure day. Staff will be participating in a professional development day focusing on the curriculum area of literacy.

## FAREWELL

I would like to inform the school community that Mrs Donna Simpson has decided to retire. Donna has worked in our front reception area over the last 14 years. We wish Donna all the best in her well-earned retirement and future endeavours. We will all certainly miss her friendly smile.



## JUBILEE YEAR 2025 - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, centred on the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope." A Jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years, or during other years as called for by the Pope. Through a series of rituals, acts and commitments, the goal of a Jubilee year is to inspire and encourage holiness of life among the faithful and therefore to strengthen the Church's witness to God's loving mercy in and for the world. Throughout this year, at school, we will be focusing on being *Pilgrims of Hope*.



## EXCITING NEWS – STMCPs HAS JOINED THE MHIPS INITIATIVE IN 2025

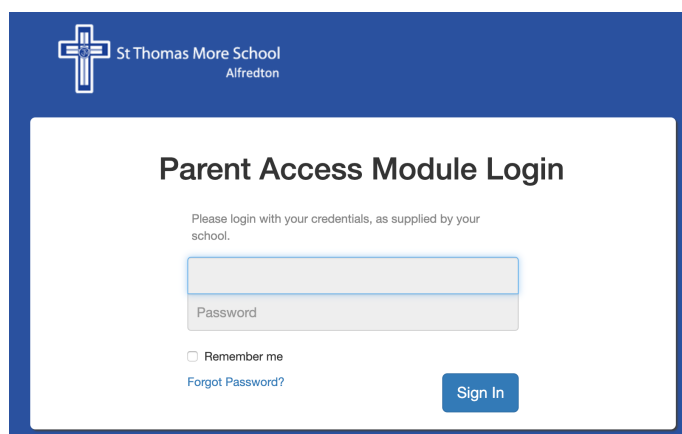
We are pleased to announce that St Thomas More Catholic Primary School will join the **Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHIPS)** initiative in 2025. This important program, developed by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the Victorian Department of Education, aims to promote positive mental health and wellbeing in primary school students. As part of the MHIPS initiative, our school will gain access to resources, training and a framework to support early identification and response to students' mental health needs. The program emphasises building capacity in schools to foster resilience, emotional regulation and overall wellbeing, ensuring that all children have the tools they need to thrive both academically and socially. We are excited about this opportunity to strengthen our commitment to student wellbeing and look forward to working closely with the MHIPS team to create an even more supportive environment for our students.

The **FOUNDATION PARENT READING INFORMATION** sessions will be held tomorrow, **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January** from **9am -10.30am** and then repeated later that evening at **6-7pm**. All Foundation parents are very welcome and encouraged to attend.

Our **BEGINNING OF SCHOOL YEAR MASS** will be held on **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February**, at **9.15am** in the school's multipurpose room. All members of the school community are most welcome to join us in celebrating this special mass.

## PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

You are invited to attend a 10-minute Parent Teacher meeting with your child's teacher on either **Monday 10<sup>th</sup>** or **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February**, between 2.30pm and 5:30pm. These interviews will be held in your child's classroom. The purpose of these meeting is to have time with your child's teacher so that they can gain a deeper understanding of your child and both yours and their expectations and aspirations for 2025. We deliberately make these meetings an opportunity for the teacher and parent/s to talk privately in the absence of the child. Staff will supervise children outside on the playground if required whilst the meetings occur. Bookings for the interviews are open and can now be made through the PARENT ACCESS MODULE (PAM) <https://pam.stmalfredton.catholic.edu.au> and follow the instructions.





## ATHLETICS CARNIVAL FOR YEAR 3 – 6 STUDENTS

Our annual athletics carnival will be held on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February** for students in Years 3 to 6. Students will arrive at school and be bused to and from Llanberris Athletics Reserve. More details to come (Please note that the Foundation/ Year 1/ Year 2 student Athletics carnival will be held at school on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March**).

## RECONCILIATION PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

The parent information session for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February** at **9:00am**.



# SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2025

RECONCILIATION - Term 1  
Grade 4 & Above

Parent Information Session @ STM - Tuesday, 18th February 9am  
Parent Information Session @ St Patrick's Cathedral - Thursday, 20th February 5.30pm  
Presentation of Candidates at Masses - St Patrick's Cathedral  
Saturday, 1st March 5.30pm / Sunday, 2nd March 10.30am and 5.00pm  
Saturday, 15th March 5.30pm / Sunday, 16th March 10.30am and 5.00pm  
Saturday, 22nd March 5.30pm / Sunday, 23rd March 10.30am and 5.00pm  
Sacrament of Reconciliation - St Patrick's Cathedral  
Tuesday, 1st April @ 5.30pm - St Patrick's and Siena Co-ordinating  
Wednesday, 2nd April @ 5.30pm - St Thomas More Co-ordinating

## LUNCH ORDERS

The online canteen will recommence tomorrow. The online canteen is available each Thursday and Friday throughout our school terms. Orders close at 8am on the days that the online canteen is open. A small percentage from all canteen items sold goes towards P&F fundraising at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School. The company that runs the online canteen is called QuickCliQ. Please note, if lunch orders were placed for your child/ren in 2024, you will need to change their class to their 2025 classroom number so that their order gets delivered to their new/current classroom.



**Need help**

Phone or email us - Monday to Friday, 7.30am - 4.00pm

Call 1300 11 66 37 | [support@quickcliq.com.au](mailto:support@quickcliq.com.au)

### How to get started

- QuickCliQ is free to set up and easy to use
- Register at [www.quickcliq.com.au](http://www.quickcliq.com.au)
- **SIGN UP** and complete the registration form
- Receive a link via email to **ACTIVATE** your account before logging in
- **ADD STUDENT**, add your child's details, select their school and save to your account
- **ADD CREDIT** to your online wallet before ordering
- Select **MEAL ORDER** and you're good to go

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

The phasing out of the former school uniform has now concluded. All students are now expected to wear the 'new' uniform. All uniform components can be purchased at Crocker's in Ballarat (located at 4 Armstrong Street North, Ballarat).

A few uniform reminders.

**Hats** - Students must have a school hat to wear in the playground in Terms 1 and 4.

**Earrings** - Students may only wear sleepers or small studs.

**Nail Polish** - Students are not to wear nail polish to school.

**Tattoos** - Students may not wear visible temporary tattoos or transfers

**Hair** - Students with hair length below the collar of their shirt or dress must tie it back. Students must not have their hair coloured and are required to wear conventional haircuts only.

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School ~ Cnr Cuthberts Rd & Elaine Ave, Alfredton 3350.

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## ANAPHYLAXIS

Several of our students at school are anaphylactic and for their families, sending them to school can be very stressful, not knowing which foods they might come into contact with. To assist with limiting accidental exposure to food allergens we request that parents assist us in maintaining a safe environment by making the choice not to pack nuts or peanut butter, in your child's lunchbox.

## 2025 FEE PAYMENT AGREEMENTS

A reminder that families should have returned their 2025 Fee Payment Agreement. If you are yet to do so, we ask that you please return the form ASAP. If you have any questions or queries, please contact the office.

## School TV: Week 1, 2025

### School Transitions

'Whether it is starting school for the first time, moving up to a higher grade or embarking on a journey through secondary school, there is no doubt that any school transition is a very exciting time for children and parents. It means that the children are growing up!



However, for many it may also be a very anxious and stressful time for both parents and children. Parents need to be aware of their child's feelings during any school transition and minimise anxiety, so the process is an enjoyable experience for all. It is important for children to attend transition or orientation programs offered by schools. Familiarisation is often key to reducing stress levels. It is also important for parents to talk to their children about their expectations and being more responsible for their own needs.' (School TV, 2024)

I look forward to a great year of working alongside all the members of our school community. May God bless you all and keep you safe throughout 2025,

Mr. Simon Duffy,  
Principal

## SOME MORE SMILING FACES FROM DAY 1 2025!





# Staffing 2025

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

<b>Principal:</b>	Mr Simon Duffy
<b>Deputy Principal:</b>	Mrs Trish Caldow
<b>Religious Education Leader:</b>	Mrs Dympna Turner
<b>Wellbeing Coordinator:</b>	Mrs Kelly McMahon
<b>Teaching and Learning Leader:</b>	Mrs Jo Wheelahan

## ADMIN STAFF:

Mrs Renee Whitefield, Mrs Fran Dunn, Mrs Olivia Burge

## CLASSROOM TEACHER

<b>FOUNDATION:</b>	Mrs Sarah Gannon, Mrs Nicole Cudia, Ms Bethany Edwards
<b>YEAR 1/2:</b>	Ms Tess Harris, Ms Ella Stacey, Ms Susan Calleija, Mrs Melinda Turkenburg/ Mrs Kylie Blachon, Ms Brigid Brady/Ms Jenny Bird
<b>YEAR 3/4:</b>	Ms Sarah Calleija, Ms Talee Hare, Mr Mark Woodhart, Mrs Genevieve Hawkes/Mrs Lauren Larkin, Mrs Michelle Gittings/ Mrs Sue Larkin
<b>YEAR 5/6:</b>	Mrs Fiona Dodd, Mrs Kath Davis, Mrs Lisa Baker, Mr Haydn Smith, Mrs Teresa De Bono/Ms Kate Edmends

## SPECIALIST TEACHERS

<b>Physical Education:</b>	Mrs Melissa Willey
<b>STEM</b>	Mrs Jessica Sartori
<b>Performing Arts:</b>	Ms Sue Larkin
<b>Visual Arts:</b>	Ms Hayley Robertson
<b>Languages (Japanese):</b>	Mrs Denise Buttler
<b>ICT</b>	Mrs Lauren Larkin

## LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICERS:

Mrs Amanda Barham, Mrs Jo Bayles, Mr Craig Buesnel, Mrs Imma Edwards, Ms Tanya Evans, Mrs Rebecca Findlay, , Ms Elle Hammill, Mrs Donna Heys, Ms Darcy Irvin, Mrs Michelle Larkin, Mrs Nikita Martin, Mrs Angela Pearson, Ms Georgia Pidgeon, Mrs Penny Sheppard, Ms Tracey Simpson, Mrs Pru Stott

<b>Learning Diversity leaders:</b>	Mrs Dympna Turner and Mrs Kelly McMahon
<b>Pastoral Care worker:</b>	Ms Tina Handley
<b>Library management:</b>	Ms Tanya Evans
<b>Maintenance/ Gardens:</b>	Mr Phil Dunn

# Term 1 Calendar, 2025

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Jan/Feb	27 Australia Day – Public Holiday	28 Staff resume for 2025 Student free day	29 Students resume school Parent Morning Tea 8.45am- 9.15am	30 Foundation Parent Literacy Learning sessions 9-10.30am repeated 6-7 pm	31
2 Feb	3	4	5 Foundation students - Rest Day	6	7 Opening Year School Mass 9.15 am
3 Feb	10 Parent/Teacher Meetings 2.30 – 5pm	11 Parent/Teacher Meetings 2.30 – 5pm	12 School Closure Day - Pupil-free day. Staff professional development	13	14 School Athletics Day For Years 3-6 students held at Llanberris Athletics Reserve
4 Feb	17	18	19 Foundation students - Rest Day	20	21
5 March	24 School Advisory Council Meeting 5:00pm	25	26 Foundation students - Rest Day	27	28
6 March	3	4 Shrove Tuesday	5 Ash Wednesday Foundation students - Rest Day	6	7
7 March	10 Public Holiday - Labour Day	11	12 NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5	13 NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5	14 NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5
8 March	17 NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5	18 NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5	19	20	21 NAPLAN Assessments Yr. 3 and 5
9 March/ April	24 Classroom Helper Training session 9-11am (Part 1)	25	26	27 School Photos	28 Junior School Athletics Carnival for Years F- 2 students to be held at school
10	31 Classroom Helper Training session 9-11am (Part 2)	1	2	3	4 Last day of Term 1 1.45pm dismissal



QUERIES: TEXT SEAN 0411 602 204



# TERM 1 SPORTS!

**TUESDAYS  
MULTI-SPORT**

Soccer, Footy, Cricket,  
Tennis & Crazy Games

3.20pm  
-  
4.20pm

**MONDAYS  
KIDS CHOICE**

Kids get to pick the games  
they want to play

3.20pm  
-  
4.20pm



SIGN UP AT  
ANY TIME  
DURING  
THE TERM

\$18+GST  
PER  
SESSION



## STM PS

Pick up 4.20pm  
front car park

ENROL ONLINE  
[WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/](http://WWW.KELLYSPORTS.COM.AU/)  
GREATER-BALLARAT

