

NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

Next week the students from St Thomas More Catholic Primary School who have undertaken the sacramental preparation will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. We keep all these students in our thoughts and prayers as they continue their faith journey.



SCHOOL PHOTOS

Tomorrow, **Thursday 27th March**, is our school photos day. Please ensure your child wears their full summer academic uniform (no sports uniforms please). Photos can be ordered through the MSP website link that was recently sent to all families and is also included at the end of this newsletter for your convenience.



PROJECT COMPASSION



A big thank you to the school community for the funds raised for Caritas through Project Compassion. So far, the school has raised over \$650 dollars to assist the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. A reminder that next **Friday 4th April** is a Project Compassion fundraiser. On the day students can wear casual clothes and bring along a gold coin donation. Also, families are encouraged to return their home Project Compassion collection boxes by **Wednesday 2nd April**.

HOLY WEEK LITURGY

Next **Thursday 3rd April** at **2:30pm**, the Year 5/6 students will be leading us in a special Holy Week Liturgy in the Hall/Multipurpose Room. Members of the school community are most welcome to join us for this prayerful event.



JUNIOR ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Our Junior Athletic Carnival will be held on the school oval this **Friday, 28th March**. This event is for students in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2. Students in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 can wear their house colours for the day i.e. Red T-Shirt or Green shorts etc. The event will run from 1.15pm – 3.15pm. Parents, extended family members and friends will be welcome to join us from 1.15pm.

PARENT AND FRIENDS FUNDRAISER



Our fantastic Parents and Friends are conducting our annual Easter Raffle fundraiser. The proceeds from the raffle will go towards the purchase of uniforms for senior students to wear during inter-school sports, plus new sporting equipment for all students to use at break times. Online Easter raffle tickets are now available for purchase via the following link:

<https://rafflelink.com.au/stmcpseaster2025>.

There are 25 prizes to be won. The raffle will be drawn at school on **Friday 4th April** at **10:45am**



BEFORE SCHOOL CARE AT 'THE Y'

A Before School Care program, based out of Alfredton Primary School, will begin next term. This service is in conjunction with the after-school care program that is already on offer. The program is designed to provide a safe and engaging environment for children before the school day starts. The service will run from 6:30am to 8:45am each school morning. The service will offer the opportunity for permanent or casual bookings.

If you have any questions or need assistance with bookings, please contact **Emily Griffiths** OSHC Program Director on 03 4311 1500 or at alfredton.oshc@yballarat.org.au



MOBILE PHONE & SMART WATCH PRACTICES

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School recognises that modern society is characterised by many forms of digital technologies. These technologies offer potential for enhancing learning but conversely also present risks to student wellbeing and to student development if not used appropriately. To balance the conflicting aspects of technologies, we support the use of school-based technologies (iPads and Chromebooks) but ban the use of smartphones and smartwatches during the school day. E.g. mobile phones, Apple watches, etc.



We continue to adopt Victorian State Government guidelines that all mobile phones and smartwatches in primary school must be handed to the classroom teacher to be stored during the school day. Students may only access them before 8:45am and after 3:15pm. Smartwatches (unless set to school mode) should not be with a student at all throughout the school day. If a parent needs to communicate with their child or relay an urgent message, please contact the office on 5334 2244. Alternatively, you may prefer to leave a message on your child's phone which they will see upon collection of the device at 3.15pm.

FOUNDATION (PREP) 2026

All Ballarat Catholic Primary Schools have begun the 2026 Foundation (Prep) enrolment process. Please see details attached below regarding this process. Please note that current families will need to also complete the enrolment process, even if they have siblings currently attending the school.

WINTER UNIFORM

Following consultation with a variety of students we will be trialling a new uniform option in Term 2. In Term 2 students will have the following uniform options:

Sports uniform - student may choose to wear shorts, skorts or tracksuit pants

Academic uniform - students may choose to wear their winter pinafore with white school socks or navy tights. Students may also choose to wear grey shorts or grey pants.

A reminder that when wearing the academic uniform, the school jumper is the next layer. Students can wear the soft-shell jacket or the puffer jacket over the jumper.

We encourage parents and students to make common sense decisions on which uniform to wear depending on the weather conditions.

This change will be reviewed at the end of Term 2 before a decision is made in Term 3.

CONCUSSION – IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO BE AWARE OF

If your child has experienced concussion outside of the school setting it is important that they rest for a period of 24 to 48 hours and then gradually return to activities after this time. Returning to school can be a graduated approach with the aim of increasing tolerance to a full day, the same situation could occur with sporting activities. It is always important to check with your doctor and seek medical treatment after a child sustains a concussion.

It is important to inform the school if your child has sustained a concussion outside of school; this is to ensure the school can monitor your child's wellbeing and adapt activities as required.

This factsheet link below from the Royal Children's Hospital is valuable to read and understand.

https://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact_sheets/Head_injury_return_to_school_and_sport/

There is also a great evidence-based app from the Murdoch children's research institute that walks you through what to do in the result of a concussion. <https://www.headcheck.com.au/>

School TV: Update: SOCIAL MEDIA - SPECIAL REPORT

Here is the link to: [Social Media and Comparison Culture](#)

A Special Report: Social Media & Comparison Culture

'Young people today are growing up in a world where exposure to other people's lives is constant. Through social media and other platforms, they are regularly presented with curated highlights - from flawless holiday photos and academic milestones to the latest fashion trends and fitness achievements. This continuous stream of idealised content fuels what is known as comparison culture, where self-worth is often measured by how someone stacks up against others.

For children and adolescents, who are still figuring out who they are, this culture can be particularly damaging. Constantly comparing their appearance, achievements, or social standing to friends, influencers, and even strangers can lead to unrealistic expectations and a skewed sense of self-worth. This relentless need to measure up can contribute to feelings of inadequacy, self-doubt, and anxiety - undermining both confidence and emotional wellbeing.

It's vital that parents and caregivers understand how deeply comparison culture can influence a child's self-perception and sense of value. Left unchecked, it can foster perfectionism and a dependence on external validation, where a 'like' or comment becomes the measure of their worth.

The good news is families have a powerful role to play in helping young people navigate these challenges. This Special Report will help you empower your child to build the resilience and confidence needed to navigate today's comparison-driven world and embrace their own unique path.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this Special Report, and as always, we welcome your feedback.

If you do have any concerns about the wellbeing of your child, please contact the school for further information or seek medical or professional help.' (School TV, 2025)



School Closure days in 2025 (Student free)

Date	Purpose
Tuesday 22nd April	Diocesan 2035 Strategic Plan launch
Wednesday 23 rd April	Religious Education Professional Development
Thursday 24th April	Staff compliance training
Friday 19 th September	FLARE Literacy staff training
Monday 3 rd November	Curriculum planning and reporting

May God bless you all and keep you safe,

Mr Simon Duffy

Principal

Term 1 Calendar, 2025

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 March/ April	24 Classroom Helper Training session 9-11am (Part 1)	25 Foundation 2026- Parent Information Session & Tour 9:15-10:00	26	27 School Photos Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 1/2Stacey	28 Junior School Athletics Carnival for Years F- 2 students to be held at school 1:15-3:15pm
10	31 Classroom Helper Training session 9-11am (Part 2)	1	2	3 Whole School Prayer -Stations of the Cross- focusing on Holy Week and Easter @ 2:30pm led by Year 5/6 classes	4 Casual Clothes Day – gold coin donation Easter Raffle Drawn @ 10:45am K's for Caritas – gold coin donation Last day of Term 1 - 1.45pm dismissal

Term 2 Calendar

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 April	21 Easter Monday – Public Holiday	22 Staff professional development – Student-free day	23 Staff professional development – Student-free day	24 Staff professional development – Student-free day	25 ANZAC DAY - Public Holiday
2 April/May	28	29	30	1 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 3/4 Hare	2
3 May	5	6	7 Year 5/6 Interschool football	8 Mother's Day stall Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 1/2 Classes	9 Mother's Day Breakfast
4 May	12 Interschool Cross Country	13 Admin Appreciation Day	14	15 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 5/6 Smith	16
5 May	19 School Advisory Council Meeting 5pm	20	21	22 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 1/2 Brady	23 Special Person Day
6 May	26 Catholic Education Week	27	28 Year 5/6 interschool Soccer	29 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 3/4 Classes	30 Year 3/4 Mass 9.15am
7 May/June	2	3	4	5 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by 5/6 Dodd	6 Interschool netball
8 June	9 King's Birthday Holiday	10 Year 5/6 Camp	11 Year 5/6 Camp	12 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by Foundation Cudia	13 Yr 5/6 Interschool sport
9 June	16	17	18	19	20 Mass celebrating St Thomas More Feast Day @ 9.15am and Talent Show @ 12.30pm
10 June	23	24	25	26 Assembly @ 2:55pm presented by 1/2 Harris	27
11 June/July	30	1	2	3 Whole School Prayer @ 2:55pm led by Foundation Gannon	4 Last Day of Term 1.45pm finish

Term 2 parent updates to assist with planning.

Tuesday 29th April (Week 2) EUCHARIST SACRAMENT

The school will support the parish with the sacramental program for student making the Sacrament of First Communion (First Eucharist). The parent information session will be held at school at **9am** on **Tuesday 29th April**.

Thursday 8th May (Week 3) – MOTHER’S DAY STALL

Mother’s Day stall will be run by the Parent and Friends Association (P and F). All students are encouraged to bring along \$5 to purchase a Mother’s Day gift.

Friday 9th May (Week 3)- MOTHER’S DAY BREAKFAST

Mother’s Day breakfast will be hosted by the Parents and Friends (P and F) between 7:00-8:45am. Bacon and egg rolls and fruit juice will be served to all. This year there will be no tickets required to attend the event. More details to come closer to the date.

Friday 23rd May (Week 5) - SPECIAL PERSONS DAY

Special Persons Day will be held between 1.30 - 3.15pm. The format for the day invites “Special Persons” to come into school at 1.30pm and wait outside in the school yard until the students come out at 1.45pm. Our “Special Persons” will then have time with the children outside. They may like to bring along some food to share. At 2.20pm the students and special people will come into the classrooms. Students will have the opportunity to show their work to their special person/people and include them with activities in the class. At 2.45pm students and special people will make their way to the Multipurpose Room for Whole School Prayer. The day will conclude at 3.15pm.

Friday 20th June (Week 9) - ST THOMAS MORE FEAST DAY AND TALENT SHOW

Our Feast Day Mass will be held at 9:15am in the Multipurpose Room to which parents are invited. “*St Thomas More’s Got Talent*” show will be held at 12.30pm - more details to come.



Enrolment Information for Prospective 2026 Foundation (Prep) Students

at Catholic Primary Schools in the City of Ballarat

A single enrolment application process is in place for all families seeking Foundation (Prep) enrolment for the 2026 school year at a Catholic primary school within the City of Ballarat (see school list contained in this document), including families with children already in one of the eleven schools. Note that information collected through the enrolment process is collated on a common database shared by the eleven schools.

Families seeking enrolment should follow the steps below to apply by **Thursday 22 May 2025**.

Application Process

1. Contact/visit the website of the school/s you are interested in enrolling your child at – see school list.
2. Engage with the school's process for conducting information sessions or school tours
3. Complete the online Expression of Interest - Application for Enrolment form by 4.00pm on Thursday 22 May 2025 by visiting the [DOBCEL website](#) (click link). Note that this link will not be live until Monday 10 February 2025 at 9.00am.

Important:

- You will be asked to indicate your first, second and third preference schools.
- You will be required to upload your child's Birth Certificate and Baptism Certificate (if applicable).
- If you are unable to access the online form, contact Danielle at enrollments@dobcel.catholic.edu.au for assistance. Your query will be attended to as soon as possible.

Key 2025 Dates

Foundation (Prep) enrolment applications open	Monday 10 February at 9.00am
Expression of interest period closes	Thursday 22 May at 4.00pm
School principals meet to determine allocation of placements	Wednesday 4 June
Placement offers sent	Friday 13 June at 12.00pm
List of schools with vacancies published	Friday 13 June at 12.00pm
Placement acceptance closes	Friday 20 June at 4.00pm

Important:

- Each Catholic Primary School will make offers of enrolment in line with the [Diocese of Ballarat Enrolment Policy](#) which takes into consideration a variety of factors. Completing this expression of interest process does not guarantee an offer of enrolment in a City of Ballarat Catholic primary school.

Catholic Primary Schools

St Thomas More Primary School

Location: 100 Cuthberts Road, Alfredton
Website: www.stmalfredton.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5334 2244

St Patrick's Parish Primary School

Location: 119 Drummond St South, Ballarat
Website: www.spballarat.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5332 7680

St Alipius Parish Primary School

Location: 106-108 Victoria St, Ballarat East
Website: www.saballarat.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5331 1816

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Location: 100 Fortune Street, Ballarat East
Website: www.sfxballarat.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5331 6311

St Columba's Primary School

Location: 306 Howard Street, Ballarat North
Website: www.scballarat.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5332 4894

Lumen Christi Primary School

Location: 111 Whitelaw Avenue, Delacombe
Website: www.lcdelacombe.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5336 2015

Please apply to these schools directly

St Mary's Primary School

Location: 131 Powells Road, Clarkes Hill
Website: www.smclarkeshill.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5334 5280

St Patrick's Primary School

Location: 1564 Old Melbourne Road, Gordon
Website: www.spgordon.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5368 9495

St Michael's Primary School

Location: 29 Smith Street, Daylesford
Website: www.smdaylesford.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5348 1261

Siena Catholic Primary School

Location: 150 Eleanor Drive, Lucas
Website: www.slucas.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5334 3906

Emmaus Catholic Primary School

Location: 1503 Geelong Road, Mt Clear
Website: www.emtclear.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5330 2266

St Aloysius Primary School

Location: 800 Ripon Street South, Redan
Website: www.saredan.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5335 8177

St James' Primary School

Location: 260 Albert Street, Sebastopol
Website: www.sjsebastopol.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5335 8750

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Location: 480A Gillies Street, Wendouree
Website: www.olhcwendouree.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5339 4726

St Brigid's Primary School

Location: 98 Inglis Street, Ballan
Website: www.sballan.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5368 1015

St Augustine's Primary School

Location: 125 Napier Street, Creswick
Website: www.sacreswick.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 5345 2106

PHOTO DAY IS COMING



MSP Photography

Ballarat

T 03 5333 5577

E ballarat@msp.com.au

www.msp.com.au

PHOTO DAY: Thursday 27th March 2025

HOW TO ORDER

Ordering online is quick and easy using the steps below!

If you have an existing account, please use those login details. Once logged in, you will be able to add additional children and place sibling photo orders.

Step 1

Click on the link below to access your ordering portal.

<https://stthomasmoreballarat-vic.msp.photos>

If you are new to the school, please follow Step 1 and Step 2.

Step 2

Click 'Sign in with Student Details'

[Sign in with Student Details](#)

Enter your child's surname and date of birth. You will be prompted to create an account. Please note that sibling photo orders must be placed by **Midnight on Wednesday 26th March 2025, to be included in student family list, that is sent to the school early on photo day.**

The portal does not have a cut off ordering date, however any orders placed more than 7 days after photo day will no longer be at the bulk discounted price and will revert to the standard pricing cost.





Queries: Call Coach Sean
0411 602 204



BALLARAT SCHOOL HOLIDAY SPORTS PROGRAM

Mon 7th to Thur 24th April

Kids need to bring along a big packed lunch, large refillable drink bottle, hat & sunscreen. Dress in comfortable sports clothing!

No sessions FRI 18th April (Good Friday), MON 21st April (Easter Monday), FRI 25th April (ANZAC Day)



All kids welcome! Over these Easter Holidays, Kelly Sports will be running our Holiday Program with tonnes of fun to be had with all kinds of sports, fun activities, challenge days, and more!

**\$60
per child
per day**

Eastwood Leisure Centre - Ballarat
8am - 5pm Weekdays
Kinder - Grade 6
Enrol online

www.kellysports.com.au/greater-ballarat





SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Monday 7th & 14th April 2025 | 9am - 3pm
City Oval, 1431 Mair Street, Lake Wendouree

\$55 per person

AFL Victoria in partnership with the Western Bulldogs to coordinate School Holiday Programs.
An action packed day of footy activities, inflatables, giveaways & the Bulldogs mascots.

Participants of other supported clubs are most welcome also.



AusKick Registrations



SuperKick Registrations

For further enquiries please contact Mat Begbie from AFL Victoria on [mat.begbie@afl.com.au](mailto:mat.begbie@ afl.com.au)