



**100 YEARS**  
1925-2025  
**ST JOSEPH'S**  
SCHOOL

# eNews Term 1, Week 2, 2025

## Important Dates

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**Early Closure - 2:00pm**  
Friday 7 February 2025

**Year 3 Prayer Service**  
Wednesday 12 February 2025

**Community Prayer - 8:50am**  
Tuesday 25 February 2025

**School Photos**  
Friday 28 February 2025

**Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day**  
Tuesday 4 March 2025

**Ash Wednesday - Whole School Mass**  
Wednesday 5 March 2025

**Year 2 Prayer Service (tbc)**  
Wednesday 5 March 2025

**Adelaide Cup Public Holiday**  
Monday 10 March 2025

**Year 7 Camp - Aldinga**  
Wednesday 12 March 2025

**Year 1 Prayer Service**  
Wednesday 12 March 2025

**St Patrick's Day**  
Monday 17 March 2025

**St Joseph's Day**  
Wednesday 19 March 2025

**Whole School Mass - St Joseph's Day**  
Wednesday 19 March 2025

**Harmony Day**  
Friday 21 March 2025

**Reception Prayer Service**  
Wednesday 26 March 2025

**SPORTS DAY**  
Friday 28 March 2025

**Pupil Free Day**  
Monday 31 March 2025

**Year 4 Mass**  
Wednesday 2 April 2025

**Easter Plays**  
Wednesday 9 April 2025

**Easter Plays**  
Thursday 10 April 2025

**Last day of School**  
Friday 11 April 2025

## From the Principal



Dear Parents, Carers, Teachers, and Students,

Welcome back to the start of a new school year! I hope all families enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break valued time together. Week 1 was a great success, with both new and returning students settling smoothly into school routines.

This year is particularly special as we celebrate our school's **Centennial year!** To mark this incredible milestone, we are hosting **school tours this Friday**, followed by our **GALA Night on Saturday evening**—a night of celebration, community, and reflection on our rich history. This event is a wonderful opportunity for our school family to come together, honour our past, and look forward to an exciting future. We look forward to sharing the highlights of these events in next week's newsletter.

A reminder that **St Joseph's School newsletters** are distributed on Fridays of every odd-numbered week (Weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9). As Week 1 was a short week, we are sending out today's special **Beginning-of-the-Year Edition** to keep you informed.

We look forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Dates for your diaries:

**Tuesday, 4th February** – 10.30 am Road Crossing Training Year 5&6 and interested Middle Years students.

**Wednesday, 5th February** – 6.00 pm Middle Years Meet and Greet BBQ night

**Friday, 7th February** – Early finish 1.45 - 2 pm (refer to notice sent home)

**Saturday 8th February** – 6 pm 100 Years Gala Night – Murray Bridge Racecourse

## SCHOOL UNIFORM (see the information attached further in the newsletter)

As a school, we have been reviewing the uniform policy, particularly in relation to tracksuit pants, t-shirts, and shorts/skorts. Since the beginning of last year, some accommodations have been made during this review process.

In the coming weeks, additional uniform items approved by the committee last year and will be available for purchase at St Vincent de Paul. These items are more affordable than those listed in the 2022 uniform policy. Further details will be communicated in the school newsletter as we need to get back some consistency of students wearing the correct uniform.

I asked that all students prioritise wearing the uniform items available at St Vincent de Paul or, alternatively, ensure their clothing aligns with the school's designated dark navy-blue colour. **Please note that black is not part of the approved school uniform colours.**

If your child is having difficulty wearing the current school approved items of clothing, please arrange for a meeting with the principal to discuss. Any personal changes will be recorded on a child's personal plan for learning.

**Mrs Ros Oates**

**Principal**

## School Canteen

Welcome to our new canteen convenor, **Mrs. Bronwyn Van Dalen!** Bronwyn has been assisting in the canteen since last year and is now stepping into the role following Wilma Sullivan's retirement at the end of 2024. She brings a fresh new approach to the canteen and warmly welcomes any parent or guardian volunteers who are available to assist. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Louise O'Neil or Luke Woods in administration for more information on the process.

In a June 2024, newsletter addition, I reminded our families that **St Joseph's School Canteen** operates as a cashless service as much as possible.

All orders for the canteen products must be made through the school **Qkr! App**.

**This week we changed the cut-off time for orders to be 8 am every morning due to yard play changes and having to get food distributor orders in on time.**

We kindly ask that students do not bring cash to school. Cash on site poses a security risk, and we have recently observed instances where children bring cash notes to purchase items for friends, often without parental/guardian knowledge.

We prefer not to but occasionally accept coins less than five dollars. We cannot accept cash notes in the canteen. Any purchases attempted with cash notes will be declined. Parents and guardians will be notified if a student brings cash notes to school.

Please ensure that all purchases are for your child/ren only. At times, we also have children ordering more than five of the same items (ice-creams/blocks) and then giving these away to their friends.

## **REMINDER - Late Arrivals/Early Departures**

School commences with the first bell at **8.45am** for students to enter their classroom and prepare for learning. Learning commences with daily review at 9.00am and late arrivals do miss important learning opportunities. Please ensure students are at school prior to the first bell. It does also alleviate anxiety for some who do not like coming into school late. Your assistance is appreciated by classroom teachers.

All parents/caregivers who are dropping off late or collecting students early please report to the school office.

It is a legal requirement that all schools keep up to date records of students throughout the school day.

Please also remind your student to see the front office if arriving late.

### **First Aid - Medication for Students: Policy Update**

Due to policy updates we will no longer be able to store or administer medications such as Panadol, Nurofen, pharmacy only medications (including zyrtec & claratyne) or other non-prescribed medications at school.

The First Aid and Infection Control Policy states: Non-Prescribed: School staff are not permitted to store or administer any non-prescribed medications including analgesics (paracetamol and aspirin).

This is because analgesics and other non-prescribed medications can mask signs and symptoms of a serious illness or injury.

As a result of this policy; medications will only be allowed on school property with a document signed by your doctor. This could include an action plan, letter or treatment plan.

This means that from the beginning of 2025 we will no longer accept medications for your child without doctor's instructions.

We thank you in advance for your support keeping all of our children safe.

### **Concussion - Important information**

If your child has experienced concussion, it is important that you follow recommended medical advice. Returning to school can be a graduated approach with the aim of increasing tolerance to a full day, the same situation could occur with sport. 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 the school setting so we can monitor for ongoing symptoms and adapt activities if 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/](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/>

## **Staying Connected with Teachers**

Our staff is excited for a fantastic term ahead, focusing on both learning and your child's well-being. We value open and respectful communication and are dedicated to partnering with families.

### **Communication Tools:**

- **Seesaw App:** Use this app for regular updates on classroom activities and events.
- During teaching hours or supervision duties, teachers cannot engage in in-depth conversations or check emails and Seesaw messages.
- For urgent matters, please get in touch with the office so they can relay messages promptly. Alternatively, you can schedule an appointment for face-to-face discussions.
- **Newsletters (fortnightly Fridays of the odd weeks of term)**

### **Response Time:**

- Staff will respond to emails/seesaw app and messages within 48 hours during business hours. Please note that responses will not be made after hours or on weekends.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

## St Joseph's School is Allergy Aware

At St Joseph's School Murray Bridge, we are committed to the safety and well-being of all students, including those with severe allergies. We have students at risk of anaphylaxis, a life-threatening allergic reaction, particularly to nuts and eggs. While these students learn to manage their allergies, we ask for your support in reinforcing good habits:

- No food sharing
- Hand washing after eating
- Alerting an adult if a friend shows signs of an allergic reaction

Our staff are trained in severe allergy management, and while we cannot guarantee an allergen-free environment, we take precautions to reduce risks. Nut and egg products **are permitted**, but we encourage awareness and responsible practices.

For more information, visit [www.allergyfacts.org.au](http://www.allergyfacts.org.au) or [www.allergy.org.au](http://www.allergy.org.au).

We kindly request that parents and guardians who wish to bring in food items for birthday celebrations consider minimising the use of nuts and eggs. To ensure the safety of all students, please notify the classroom teacher in advance before bringing any food to share, so that families of children with allergies can be informed.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe environment for all students.

View this article online to read more

## Uniform Policy - in Brief

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## Uniform Policy - in Brief

### **New 2025! R-9: Smart Play Uniform**

- wear with suitable sports sandals/sneakers. Every day – Smart Play without any additions or mixing in other colours. **Added in 2025** navy skort and smaller zip-up jackets.

### **7-9 ONLY: Formal 'Day' Uniform**

**Items** (corporate – wear for families/students who prefer a formal uniform) with sports or formal black shoes. **Added in 2025** navy skort and plain navy tracksuit pants (no logo). NOTE: Students in 7-9 who are captains must wear formal uniforms to special events.

**Socks/Hats:** School-coloured, over-the-ankle navy school socks with stripes. **New in 2025**, parents can purchase their own plain navy over-the-ankle high socks elsewhere, and students can wear them with all uniform items if preferred. Wide-brimmed school hats with logos must be worn.

**School Bags:** St Joseph's School bag is preferred and available at St. Vinnies.

### **IMPORTANT to Note:**

Skorts and plain navy tracksuit pants will be available in February 2025. An additional long-sleeved navy top will also be added soon. To celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of St Joseph's – School Beanies will be available for purchase at the school shortly.

If your child does not have the correct uniform items, the classroom teacher will contact parents/carers to discuss.

If your child feels cold, they can wear navy stockings and navy puffer jackets. Beanies, scarves, and gloves are permitted before and after school over the school uniform.

**SAPSASA jumpers can be worn for one week after the competition week.**



**New 2025! Skorts and track pants**

### **Smart Play R-9**



### **Formal 'Day' Uniform Years 7-9**

(corporate – wear for families/students who prefer a formal uniform) with sports or formal black shoes. The zip-up jacket is now available for order for all students. Primary students can now wear these jackets.

