



# eNews Term 1, Week 3, 2025

## Important Dates

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

**School Photos**  
Friday 28 February 2025

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

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

**Ash Wednesday -  
Whole School Mass**  
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 2 April 2025

**Easter Plays**  
Thursday 10 April 2025

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

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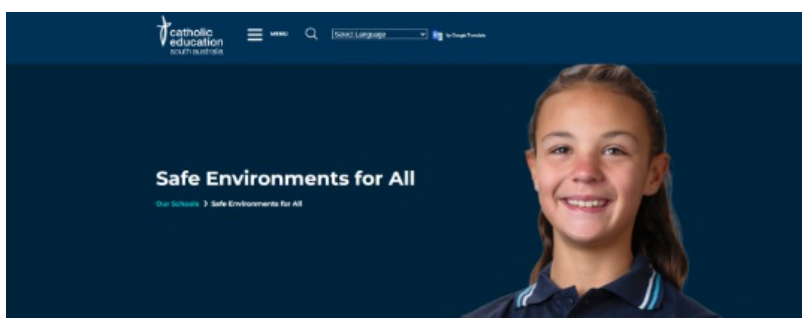
## From the Principal



### From the Principal

Dear Parents, Carers, Teachers, and Students,

### St Joseph's School is a Safe Environment



In Catholic Education South Australia and at St Joseph's School, the safety and well-being of every child is our highest priority. Every child has the right to feel safe and be protected from harm, including bullying, harassment, and neglect. As a mandated child-safe environment, our school follows strict legal, policy, and procedural requirements to ensure the safety of all students. The South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS) requires all Catholic schools to implement child safety policies and provide education on safeguarding. We encourage families to explore the links on the [CESA website](#) for more information on our commitment to child protection, including key policies and guidelines that support a safe and nurturing environment for all children.

At St Joseph's School, we value open and honest communication. If you have any questions about our processes or need clarification, we encourage you to reach out to the leadership team to arrange a time to discuss your concerns. We understand that information shared informally outside the school may not always be accurate, and we are always happy to provide clarity and support. Our commitment is to walk alongside our students and families, offering reassurance and guidance whenever challenges arise.

We are also delighted to celebrate one of our own—congratulations to Summer Williams, whose photo has been featured on the CESA website! It is wonderful to see our students recognised in the wider Catholic education community.

**Mrs Ros Oates**

**Principal**

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## Middle Years School Diary

In the coming weeks, Middle Years staff will be trialling the implementation of the use of student diaries for Years 7 to 9 as a key tool for organisation, communication, and personal responsibility. These diaries will serve multiple purposes, including recording movement throughout the day, tracking homework, storing timetables, and keeping important class notes. By embedding this practice into daily routines, students will develop essential time management and organisational skills that will support their success both in and beyond the classroom.

Research highlights the benefits of structured organisational habits in student learning. According to the Australian Institute for Teaching

and School Leadership (AITSL), "Explicitly teaching organisational skills helps students manage their workload effectively, reducing stress and improving academic outcomes." By integrating diary use into daily practice, we aim to empower students with the skills needed for independent learning.

Families are encouraged to check diaries regularly to stay informed and engaged in their child's learning journey. We look forward to seeing the positive impact of this initiative as we implement it in 2025.

Jo Gibbon

MY Curriculum Coordinator

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

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### **Yondr Pouches and Mobile Phone Policy**

At St Joseph's, we are committed to fostering a focused and distraction-free learning environment. In line with the South Australian Government's ban on mobile phone use in schools, we are implementing Yondr Pouches for students in Years 6 to 9.

In accordance with St Joseph's Mobile Phone Policy, any mobile phone seen being used on school grounds will be handed into the office, where a parent or caregiver must collect it. Phones will not be returned directly to students.

To support this policy, all students in Years 6 to 9 who bring a phone to school will be issued a Yondr Pouch at no cost. These pouches allow students to securely store their phones during the school day, ensuring compliance with government regulations and school expectations.

If a student loses or damages their pouch, parents will be billed for a replacement. We appreciate your support in ensuring a positive learning environment for all students.



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### **Uniform Expectations & Support**

Starting next week, families will be contacted if their child is not wearing the correct school uniform or, at minimum, clothing in our school colours of navy blue. Please note that black attire is not part of the approved school uniform.

We ask all guardians to communicate directly with their child's class teacher if they are experiencing difficulties ensuring their child wears the correct uniform daily. Support may be available through the school for part-payment when purchasing through St Vincent de Paul. You can not arrange this through the shop itself. Guardians need to speak with the Principal.

If your child cannot wear the approved school uniform, please arrange a meeting with the principal to discuss available options. Any adjustments will be documented in the child's personal plan for learning.

## 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.

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## Centenary Gala Dinner – A Night to Remember!

What an extraordinary evening! We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our school community—past and present staff, students, parents, carers and friends—for your generosity and support of our first event to celebrate 100 years of Catholic Education at St Joseph's School. To those who could join us, your presence made the night truly special.

A special thank you to the Gala Organising Committee for their tireless efforts in bringing last Saturday's event to life. We sincerely appreciate the time and dedication to planning such a significant occasion.

A particular acknowledgment goes to our Marketing Administrator, Mrs. Georgia Pfeiffer (née O'Neil), whose outstanding coordination and organisation were instrumental in the event's success.

Our incredible MCs, Mr Josh Law and Mr Michael Gates, guided the evening's speeches and presentations with professionalism, humour, and energy—creating a vibrant and engaging atmosphere.

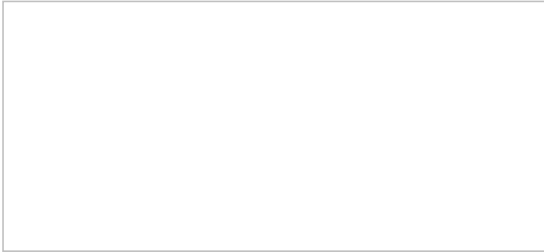
Finally, we sincerely thank our current staff for their contributions throughout the weekend, from ensuring the school looked its best for tours to welcoming visitors and supporting the Gala Night itself. Your dedication is truly appreciated.

Below is a list of our generous sponsors—thank you for making this event possible!

- Daish Irrigation
- First National
- Badem Constrction
- Wise Crash Repairs
- Graham Edwards Crash Repairs

Check out all of our photos here: [St Jo's 100th Gala](#)

Thank you to our amazing photographer for the night - Steven Duncan from SVENSTUDIOS



Check out more of his work here: [Fun Wedding Photography And Videography! | SvenStudios](#)

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Welcome our new Teaching Staff

St Joseph's School welcomes



**S'JOSEPH'S**  
SCHOOL  
IN ALL THINGS KINDNESS

# THE NEW TEACHING team.



**Sheree Biddle**  
Reception



**Sarah March**  
Reception



**Tesa Rudangta**  
Year 4



**Evan Wrobel**  
Year 5



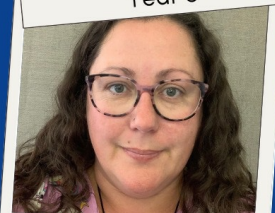
**Taryn Kopania**  
Year 5



**Finlay Malone**  
Year 4



**Chloe Anderson**  
Year 6



**Joanne Randell**  
Year 6



**Catherine McCole**  
Middle Years - SQTP



**Nastasha Castelluzzo**  
Year 1



**Karrie Taylor-Tucker**  
Year 5



**Joanne Ferguson**  
Visual Arts

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Religious Education



### **“A WINDOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH KINDNESS”**

The world can be a scary place. Every time you turn on the news or scroll through social media, there’s another tragedy. It’s overwhelming and can make you feel helpless. It becomes easy to think that your actions don’t matter, that the world’s problems are too big, or people are too far gone. We can’t let those thoughts become our lifestyle. We need to continue to choose kindness when it’s most difficult, because that’s when the world needs it most.

Every single time we choose kindness, we’re making the world a better place. There is no gesture too small. We can be an example. We can make an impact. We can make a difference.

Our school’s motto is “In All Things Kindness”. Kindness or being kind is one of those words that we often use to describe someone or an action when we can’t think of another ‘better’ word to use. It may seem like a simple word but when you really think about it, it is a very powerful word. Acts of kindness and kind words can build us up and improve our self-esteem.

The manner and words we use when we speak to each other have more power than we think. How many times have you pondered on or been hurt by someone in what they have said to you. Research is continually showing us that the words parents and teachers use to their children can have a massive impact on how that child feels about themselves and their place in the world. If you are continually being told that you are ‘dumb’ or ‘stupid’, the message will eventually take root, and you will believe it and may become unwilling to try or have a go at anything. Likewise, if you are being told that you are ‘loved’ or ‘special’ because of whom you are, faults and all, you will be more willing to take on the challenges in life.

Words of praise and encouragement nourish self-esteem and strengthen relationships. Words spoken with enthusiasm stimulate interest and motivate learning. Challenging words can express our high expectations and prompt us to excel. Skilful questioning can promote deeper thinking and reflection. Our gift of speech can build up both the community and those we work and play with.

It is sometimes said that a way of gauging the authenticity of a Catholic school is simply to listen to the way people speak to each other. Jesus spoke to people in ways that changed their lives.

Jesus spoke words of gentleness: “Come to me all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads and I will give you rest.”

Jesus spoke words of reassurance: “Courage, my daughter! Your faith has made you well.”

Jesus spoke words of challenge, grounded in compassion: “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to cast a stone.”

May our classrooms, playgrounds and homes be places of many kind words and actions whose echoes are truly timeless. As Thumper said in the classic story of Bambi, “If you don’t have something nice to say, don’t say anything.”

“Kind words can be short and easy to speak,

But their echoes are truly endless.”

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

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## **From the Classroom - Receptions**

As we commemorate 100 years of St. Joseph’s School, we are thrilled to share the exciting start of the 2025 academic year with our

Reception cohort. They've eagerly embraced new classroom routines, mastered attention signals, and engaged in high-impact learning through innovative whiteboard activities. Alongside making new friends and visiting the church, they are embarking on an inspiring journey of literacy and discovering their unique gifts and talents. We look forward to celebrating their growth and achievements throughout this special year!

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Major Sponsors - STJOMB Gala Night



School Photo Day



# SCHOOL PHOTO DAY



FRIDAY  
28TH  
FEBRUARY



**ST JOSEPH'S  
SCHOOL**  
IN ALL THINGS KINDNESS



Rural City of Murray Bridge - Parking around Schools



# Common Traffic Signs

The Rural City of Murray Bridge has implemented a comprehensive traffic management and parking scheme in the streets surrounding your child's school to help make it a safe place.

Going against the road rules places not only your child's life at risk, but those of others. Tragedies can occur if care is not taken to abide by these rules. Below are some explanations of signs that are placed around schools to ensure your child stays safe.



### No Parking Signs

Drop off and pick up only. You must not queue or wait here. The driver must remain with the vehicle.



### No Stopping Signs

You must not stop in a 'No Stopping' area at anytime. Drop off and pick up is not allowed even for the briefest



### Bus Zone Signs

You must not stop within a bus zone at any time. This zone is only available to public buses.



### Bicycle Lanes

It is illegal to stop, park or drive your vehicle in a bicycle lane. These lanes are for the safety of cyclists, including children riding to school

### Yellow Kerb Lines

An unbroken yellow kerb line is a no stopping line and therefore the same rules apply as for a 'No Stopping' sign.

### Obstruct Driveways

A vehicle must not obstruct an entrance way or crossing point to a property, even if it is your own.

### Reserves, Footpaths & Verges

It is an offence to drive or park on a reserve, footpath or dividing strip and could cause an accident, injure a person or damage property.



*Keeping  
our kids  
SAFE*





# Parking Around Schools

Due to the chaotic nature of traffic around schools at peak times, streets can be an extremely dangerous place for children.

Young children have not yet fully developed their cognitive abilities and therefore their perception, judgement and awareness of potentially dangerous situations is not adequately developed to enable them to cope with the road traffic.

Children are not easily visible and often act impulsively, which means if you are driving around a school take special care, to ensure we keep our children safe. Remember that children copy grown-ups - encourage good road sense by watching them closely and leading by example.

## 5 Helpful Tips for School Zones

As parents and caregivers we have a great responsibility to ensure children stay safe in school zones. We also play a key role in educating children about road safety.

Here are 5 helpful tips for safety in school zones:

1. Allow enough time to take your child to the school gate safely and without rushing.
2. Always observe parking signs and speed limits in and around school zones. They are designed to keep your child safe.
3. Talk about signs and traffic lights with your child. Identify and discuss places where it is safe to get out of the car and cross the road.
4. Teach your child how to cross the road using the 'stop, look and listen' process - stop at the kerb, look and listen for traffic and then decide whether it is safe to cross.
5. Park a few streets away and walk your child to school. This is also good exercise and helps teach your child road safety rules.

## Behaviours to Avoid

- Speeding
- Double Parking
- Parking too close to an intersection
- Parking across driveways
- Parking too close to pedestrian crossings



Rural City of Murray Bridge  
2 Seventh Street, Murray Bridge SA 5253  
E: [contactus@murraybridge.sa.gov.au](mailto:contactus@murraybridge.sa.gov.au)  
T: 8539 1100

[www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au](http://www.murraybridge.sa.gov.au)



*Keeping our  
kids SAFE*



## LIV Golf - MyGolf, Powered by Ripper GC





Year 7 student Levi Ashton was asked to attend the Media Photo Shoot for the Ripper GC and Mygolf announcement yesterday, Thursday 13th February.

Pictured above with Australian professional golfer; Cameron Smith.

## First Nations Tennis Program - Come and Try



# FIRST NATIONS *Come and Try*

Tennis SA are inviting children who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander between the age of 5 and 17 years of age to come out and give tennis a try. This will be a one-hour clinic and will be delivered by qualified tennis coaches.

A free program for the rest of the year will become available if numbers permit. More information will be available at the come and try.



Venue Marchand Street, Murray Bridge  
(Courts next to Church)

Date Monday 3 March

Time 4:30pm to 5:30pm

Cost FREE

Register now!

Contact [ldoughty@tennis.com.au](mailto:ldoughty@tennis.com.au)

**REGISTER  
TODAY!**



Government of South Australia  
Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing

Eden Academy



# We're Opening in Murray Bridge

Enquire for 2025



1300 898 617 | 46-48 Mannum Rd, Murray Bridge

Enquire Now:

[Murray Bridge | Eden Academy](#)

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