



St. Joseph's Primary School

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Newsletter No. 35

Friday 21st November 2025

Events Calendar...

Next Week ...

Monday 24th November

- Grandparents Day

Friday 28th November

- Transition Day #2 – 2026
Foundation Students

Sunday 23rd November

- Welcome BBQ for Fr. Arun
after Mass

Advance Notice ...

Monday 1st – 4th December
- Year 5/6 Camp Wilkin

Monday 1st December
- Scholastic BookClub orders
due

Tuesday 9th December
- Step Up Day
- Transition Day #3 – 2026
Foundation Students

Wednesday 10th December
- Swimming – all year levels

Thursday 11th December
- Swimming – all year levels

Friday 12th December
- St Joseph's Swimming Carnival
12:30pm – 3pm - all year levels

Tuesday 16th December
- End Of Year Mass & Last Day
of Term 4 (students)

Please note dates may change for
various reasons.

**All dates can be found on the St
Joseph's App and website.**

St Joseph's is a Child Safe school.
We promote the Safety, Wellbeing &
Inclusion of all students.

Dear Families,

SANDHURST AWARDS

Yesterday I had the utmost privilege of attending the inaugural Sandhurst Awards, a new initiative of Catholic Education Sandhurst. The Sandhurst Awards is a way to celebrate the vibrant spirit and mission driven excellence across our diocese. Over 300 educators, students and parents from across our 51 schools and six ELC's gathered in Bendigo to celebrate the vibrant spirit and mission driven excellence within Catholic Education Sandhurst. These awards recognise the educators, learners and teams who truly reflect the core of our mission and values. This is a way of celebrating the people who teach, lead, support, and serve with faith, compassion, and excellence. A special congratulations to **Will & Lily** for being recognised for their leadership. **Will** being awarded the *Inspirational Student Learner Award* and **Lily**, the *Inspirational Student Leader Award* – a wonderful achievement – Well done!



Sandhurst Awards
2025

GRANDPARENTS DAY – MONDAY 24TH NOVEMBER

Monday promises to be one of the biggest days of the school calendar with our annual **Grandparents' Day**. We can't wait to welcome our grandparents and special people and for them to see our students proudly share their learning space. The students have been working very hard on something special to share with everyone.

Schedule for the day:

- **9:30am** – Classroom visits
- **10:30am** – Whole school assembly (student performances)
- **11:00am** – Shared morning tea

We kindly ask families to bring a plate of food to share for morning tea.



Students are asked to wear SPORTS UNIFORM on Monday.

welcome

WELCOME Fr. ARUN

We invite everyone to join us for a Welcome BBQ for Fr. Arun this Sunday after Mass, as we gather to warmly welcome him into our community.

Enjoy the weekend,
Justin



Parish Priest: Fr. Aran Kumar Korlakanti

Email: stpatker@bigpond.com

Presbytery Number: 5452 1041

Sunday Mass Timetable: Cohuna – 8.30am ** Kerang – 10:30am ** (Saturday evening) Pyramid Hill – 6:30pm
2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH MASSES BEING KERANG 9:00am COHUNA 10:30am.

For all Week Day Mass Times please see the Parish Bulletin issued each Sunday.

OR Contact: Presbytery - 5452 1041 St Joseph's School - 5452 1426

Reconciliation & Communion at home is available: by arrangement with Father.

Christmas Eve Mass Kerang : 5pm**Christmas Day Mass Kerang : 10:30am**

PBiS Award – Monday 17th November '25 Respect of Self, Others and Environment

F-HJ	Arya P Respect for... Others by always helping her classmates when the need arises.
F-BE	River L Respect for... Self by continuing to challenge himself with his learning and thinking outside the box.
1-DK	Aria E Respect for... Self for being a focused and engaged learner.
2-AM	Deborah P Respect for... Self by continuing to work hard learning her Tricky Words and recognising them when reading.
34-JB	Hudson C Respect for... Others by looking out for others in the classroom.
45-CO	Ivy C Respect for... Self by remaining focused and completing tasks with care and effort.
56-KS	Ayla W Respect for... Self for always being willing to add ideas to our class discussions and listening to others' responses.



Academic Award – Monday 17th November '25

F-HJ	Molly M... For identifying how many tens and ones to read 2-digit numbers e.g. 4 tens and 6 ones makes 46!
F-BE	Albie J... for being such a great helper in the classroom in setting up our daily organiser each day.
1-DK	Gilbert M... For taking his time to produce great quality work in all subjects.
2-AM	Zara R... For recalling spelling strategies taught during explicit spelling lessons to help her correctly spell words.
34-JB	Denika B... For her recount of camp using wonderful descriptive language.
45-CO	Mia B... For her remarkable improvement in spelling accuracy.
56-KS	Emaline M... For confidence in presenting the Remembrance Day service and for her continued brilliance in understanding new Maths strategies. Zac W... For his great focus and independence, allowing him to apply new learning to a task, especially in Maths.



Congratulations

AROUND THE SCHOOL



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

...to students who celebrate their birthday on the following days...

NOVEMBER

22nd – Alex O
23rd – Mianna C
26th – Reign H
27th – Lily F
28th – Reo W

Canteen

Canteen Days:

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

All canteen orders need to be placed on *CDFpay* by *Flexischools* before 9am each morning. Just a reminder to double check which date/day you are placing your order.

Stacey Turner - Canteen Manager

Term 4 – Canteen Roster

Friday 28 th November	Nic Henry
Friday 5 th December	Kate Adams
Friday 12 th December	Canteen Closed

Term 4 Canteen Specials

Term 4 Specials 2025

Tuesday 11th November
Wedges
GF Alternative Available



Tuesday 25th November
Sushi Rolls
GF Alternative Available



Tuesday 18th November
Taco Bowls
GF Alternate Available



Tuesday 16th December
Ice Cream Cones
GF Alternate Available



Gluten Free Alternatives Available where possible

Congratulations to this week's PBiS winners!



School Newsletter

Please contact Bree in reception if you would like to receive a hard copy of the newsletter each week.

Bus Families



Parents must notify the school of all changes to school bus arrangements either by phone 54521 426

or email admin@sjkerang.catholic.edu.au

Lost Property

There are a number of unclaimed jumpers, snack/lunch containers & drinker bottles waiting for someone to claim. These items are all in the lost property box for collection.



Scholastic BookClub



Scholastic BookClub orders are due by Monday 1st December.

Introducing

SCHOLASTIC
Book Clubs LOOP
for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Clubs
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.
To order and pay for Scholastic Book Clubs by credit card visit:
www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP



Grandparent's Day



Swimming

This year all students will participate in a mini Swim Program over 3 days at the Kerang Swimming Pool. On **Wednesday 10th** and **Thursday 11th December** all classes, will have the opportunity to participate in a 40-minute swim session with a focus on Water Safety. Students will be shuttled to the Pool by bus. On **Friday 12th December**, ALL students will have the opportunity to participate in the St. Joseph's Swimming Carnival from **12:30p.m. - 3p.m.**

Coming Home Next Week:

- Swim Ability Form- To share/update your child's swimming skills with the school
- Swim Program Permission Form
- Swimming Helpers- Parent Form



Kristy Hayes
Physical Education

Fete Success



I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who contributed to making the Fete such a successful community event. Its success would not have been possible without our wonderful volunteers and the generous donations from our families and supporters. This year, we were fortunate to raise more than \$4,000, which will go towards the development of our new Sensory Room.

- Justin Colville



2026: Financial Assistance

CSEF

Families who hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent may be eligible for Camps, Sport & Excursions Funding (CSEF). CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps & sporting activities. The 2025 one-off \$400 School Saving Bonus is not happening in 2026; that was a 2025 initiative. However, the Victorian government is increasing the funding for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) to \$400 per eligible primary and secondary school student, effective from January 1, 2026. Forms are available at the school office and will need to be returned at the start of next year with a copy of your current concession card.



Education and Training

For more information, please see website:

[Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund | vic.gov.au](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx)
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>



School Fees Concession Program

Families holding a valid Health Care Card (HCC) are eligible for a significant reduction in School fees for the upcoming year, including all fees and levies.

To Apply:

- Provide a copy of your HCC to the school office.
- Complete a Camps, Sports & Excursions (CSEF) form.
- Set up a direct debit arrangement at the school.
- Complete School Fees Concession Program form. Please see reception for a copy of this form.

Opening The Doors Foundation



OPENING THE DOORS FOUNDATION
Keeping Koorie Kids in an Education of their Choice

Opening The Doors Foundation

Supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in Victoria with educational funding such as school uniforms, books, school camps and other school associated costs. Applications for 2026 grant are now open.

Key Dates:

- Applications Open - 10th November 2025
- Applications Close - 2nd of April 2026 (strict deadline)
- ALL Vouchers expire on - 31st of May 2026

Families eligible for Opening the Doors need to complete the online application:

<https://www.openingthedoors.org.au/apply-now>

For more information, please see website:

<https://www.openingthedoors.org.au/>



School Fees

All families will have recently received a fee statement. As the school year draws to a close, we ask that families please finalise their school fees before the end of term. Families on direct debits or payment plans will continue as scheduled/agreed. Any families who are experiencing financial hardship are asked to please contact the school to arrange a meeting with Justin.

If any families who would like to organise their 2026 school fees to be paid as direct debits, please contact Bree for more information.

Families who already direct debit, a letter was sent home with the eldest in the family today with next year's scheduled payments.

Please return by the 28th November 2025.

Community Events & Information – See School Facebook page for full details.

Saturday 6th December – Community Christmas Carols – 5pm – Atkinson Park Kerang.



MHiPS News

Dear St Joseph's Community,



This week, I wanted to share some information and useful links about the up-coming social media delay/ ban for children under 16. For many students these changes won't have a real impact as they most likely don't have access to social media. However, for some students this may impact their social connections or change what that looks like as they head off to high school.

From 10 December 2025, the Australian Government will introduce new laws designed to protect young people online by restricting access to social media for those under the age of 16. This landmark reform marks a major step forward in addressing growing concerns about the impact of social media on children's mental health and development.

These changes aim to create a safer, more balanced digital environment by shifting responsibility back onto social media platforms to verify user ages and reduce exposure to harmful content. For many families, this is a welcome and long-awaited move that recognises mounting evidence linking early social media use with anxiety, poor sleep, body image concerns and reduced wellbeing.

While regulation is an important milestone, it cannot replace parental guidance. Families continue to play a vital role in helping children navigate the online world with awareness and confidence. This is an opportunity to review technology use at home, set healthy boundaries and start open conversations about digital behaviour. By understanding what these new regulations mean and why they matter, parents and caregivers can feel empowered to support their children's online safety and wellbeing through this period of change. To stay informed about how these laws will work in practice, visit the **eSafety Commissioner** website for updates, tools and guidance.

You can also [click on this link](#) to see some of the key points about the changes and some ideas for having these conversations at home.



Wishing you all good mental health,

Kate Dunstan
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader

New Social Media Age Restrictions



Social media age restrictions

What you need to know

From 10 December 2025 Australian young people under 16 will not be allowed to create or hold accounts on certain social media platforms.

Delaying account access allows more time for young people to build digital literacy and greater resilience.

How will it work?

Under the law, the responsibility lies with the age-restricted platforms to find and deactivate existing accounts held by under-16s and to prevent under-16s from creating new accounts.

There are no penalties for under-16s who access an age-restricted social media platform, or for their parents or carers.

Social media platforms

The age restrictions are likely to apply to Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X and YouTube, as well as other platforms. [See the latest list.](#)

Most standalone gaming and messaging apps, as well as many services that support health and education, will not be affected by the new law.

Information and resources

Visit eSafety's social media age restrictions hub to find out what's happening and how to prepare. The hub includes practical guidance for parents and carers and young people, including get-ready guides and actions plans to prepare for the change.

For more information and resources to help you prepare, visit esafety.gov.au

Community Christmas Carols



KERANG COMBINED CHURCHES

Community Christmas Carols

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2025
5PM ATKINSON PARK KERANG

- *items by local schools *all your favourite Christmas Carols
- *assorted food van options
- *coffee *cold drinks
- *Rotary train
- *face painting *craft activities