



# St. Mary's School Newsletter

Term 3 - Week 8- Wednesday 10 September, 2025

*Always faithful to God, ourselves and others in the spirit of the Presentation tradition.  
St. Mary's is committed to Child Safety and the inclusion of all children.*

**Respect Ourselves - Respect Others - Respect our Environment**



## Welcome to our Week 8 Newsletter

Today we celebrate Fr. Peter Taylor on the anniversary of his ordination. On behalf of the St Mary's School community, I would like to sincerely thank Fr Peter for his spiritual leadership and ministry. Fr Peter's unwavering support and commitment to Catholic education is inspiring.

*Fr Peter: May the blessings you've shared be returned a hundredfold, as you are celebrated for the countless lives you've touched.*

Yesterday I was excited to promote a CESL initiative for Foundation students entering Catholic education in 2026. Next year every child enrolled in Foundation at St Mary's school will receive a speech screener. Qualifying students will then be offered a 20-week intensive intervention to support oral language development. One in four students entering Foundation experience an Oral Language Developmental Delay. This initiative demonstrates CESLs commitment to ensuring we are meeting the developmental needs of each child who is entrusted in our care.

With our Transition to School program fast approaching it is a timely reminder to get your enrolments in. Students must be enrolled to attend the Transition to School sessions. Secure your spot today, and don't forget the best source of advertising for our school is you the parents so please continue to advocate for St Mary's School.

Today is the last day of our Scholastic Book Fair. It was fabulous seeing all the students pour over the books on display and excitedly chatter about what they might buy. Our students certainly do have a love of literature! I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to the parents who jumped in to set up, monitor and take sales. Many hands truly do make light work.

## Important Calendar Dates

### Term 3 - 2025

**Sunday 7 September**

**Father's Day**

**Friday 19 September**

**LAST DAY OF TERM - FOOTY COLOURS DAY!!**

**Please Note: Victorian Bus Children will be picked up by the buses at 2.30pm. NSW buses stay at usual time - 3.30pm.**

**The school will be open for all parents who would prefer their children to finish at normal time, or children can be signed out at 2.30pm.**

### Term 4 - 2025

**Monday 6 October**

**First Day of Term**

**Friday 10 October**

**Assembly - All welcome**

**Monday 3 November**

**Student Free Day - Report Writing**

**Tues/Thur 11-13 Nov**

**Year 5/6 Canberra Camp**

**Tuesday 18 November**

**1st Day of Foundation Transition 9.00-11.00am**

**Wed/Thur 19-20 Nov**

**Year 3/4 Valley Homestead, Ovens Valley Camp**

**Tuesday 25 November**

**2nd Day of Foundation Transition 9.00-11.00am**

**Tuesday 2 December**

**3rd Day of Foundation Transition 9.00am-12.45pm**

**Tuesday 9 December**

**4th Day of Foundation Transition 9.00am-3.30pm**

**Student's Final Day of Term 4 - TBC**

#### Mass Times:

Chiltern - Saturdays 5.00 pm  
Rutherglen - Sundays 9.00 am  
Wahgunyah - Sundays 10.30am

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PO Box 146

Office Hours: 8.30am - 4.00pm

Just a reminder if you haven't done so already, please jump on and complete the Orima survey. This data provides valuable data to the school and CESL and the more data we get the more accurately we can analyse it.

Next week marks the last week of yet another successful term. We had much to celebrate this term including NAIDOC Day, Mary Mackillop Feast Day, St. Mary's Feast Day, Bookweek, the F/1/2 excursion to Echuca, the Athletics Carnival, Father's Day and much more. None of these events can go ahead without the tireless dedication of our staff. Please take a moment to thank them when you see them for always going above and beyond to ensure your children, our students, have the very best experiences afforded to them.

Tomorrow marks RUOK Day? RUOK Day is in its 16th year with this year's theme being – Ask RUOK Any Day. Please check in on your family, friends, neighbours and all you encounter and ask RUOK? If you or someone you know needs support, you can find information by following this link:

[Where can I get help | R U OK?](#)



Wishing you God's Blessings as we continue our journey together striving for excellence in everything we do.

Melanie Dusterhoft Mavrick  
Principal



## Speech Pathology Screener

Did you know **1 in 4** children commence school with oral language difficulties?

**We do!**

**Coming 2026**



**Who: All Foundation Students enrolled at St. Mary's School**

**What: Qualifying students to receive 20-week Tier 2 Intensive Intervention.**

**Enrol Now**



<https://www.smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au>

A graphic for 'Attendance Matters'. It features a central image of hands stacked together, with a lightbulb icon above it. The text 'Attendance MATTERS' is written in large, bold letters. Below it, the text 'Attending the Early Years = Greater Chance of Success' is written. At the bottom, the text 'establishes positive habits | builds positive relationships | maximises opportunities to learn | supports problem solving' is written. There are also several colorful circles and lines scattered around the text.

better health  
better future  
better outcomes

## Attendance MATTERS

Attending the Early Years = Greater Chance of Success

establishes positive habits | builds positive relationships | maximises opportunities to learn | supports problem solving

Work with your school to support your young person



WHAT'S HAPPENING  
IN THE  
FOUNDATION ROOM?



English

Moving on with 2 new sounds next week. **/z/** and **/zz/** and reviewing **/sh/ /qu/ /ee/**  
Students will practise reading and writing all tricky words and focus on their personal goal of words to learn.



History

Students will experiment with whipping cream in different ways, such as how it was done in the past to how it is done today.  
What has changed and why do they think change was made.

Mathematics

Continue to look at sharing equally between 2 and 3.  
Sharing equally with 1 left over.  
Practice friends of 10 and counting back from 30

Religion

Students will explore their understanding of 'journey'. This will prepare them to learn about Moses' journey with the Israelites to the promised land (The Old Testament).

We all had a fabulous day at Twisted in Echuca



**Tricky Words to practise daily**  
is, a, I, the, my, was, you, to, they, that, said, are, he, she, me, be, we, were, has, look, one, his, here, them, there, all, ball, tall, call, little, go, so, no

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## YEAR ONE



Look What We Learnt: Twisted Science, Echuca



# GRADE 2/3

## ENGLISH

**Spelling Focus:** contractions e.g do not (don't), will not (won't).

**Comprehension and Fluency:** Inferring - using clues in the text and what we already know to make inferences when reading texts.

**Grammar:** Adverbs to make our writing have more POWER

**Storybook:** Under the Southern Cross

Please use this checklist when reading with your child at home to help with their reading fluency

## Reading Fluency Checklist



**Accuracy**

I read the words accurately



**Rate**

My reading rate is just right – not too fast and not too slow!



**Expression**

I read with expression –NOT like a robot!



**Punctuation**

I read in phrases and show I understand the punctuation in the text.

## TRICKY WORDS

though  
can't  
don't



PLEASE PRACTISE  
WRITING AND  
READING OUR TRICKY  
WORDS EVERY WEEK

## IMPORTANT

• Reader's back every Monday



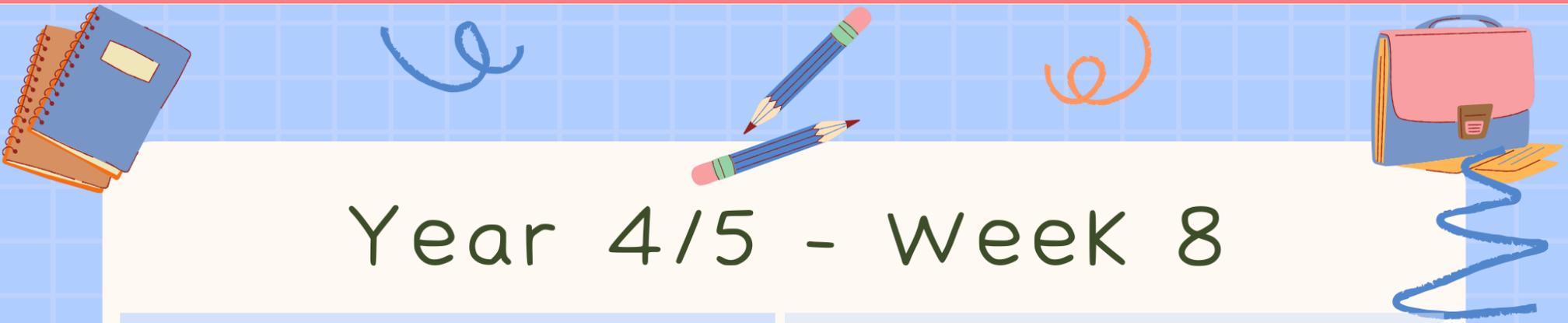
## SCIENCE

This week we have learnt to recognise how humans waste and spoil Earth's resources and identify ways they can care for and protect our natural environment. We will also design a poster and create some artwork out of recycled materials.



## MATHS

We are solving multiplication and division word problems using bar models.



# Year 4/5 - Week 8

## English

We are getting right into our novel, 'The Wild Robot' which is fantastic to see. The students have been exploring new vocabulary that appears in the book. We are also learning about how robots are changing our world. We will be revisiting persuasive texts and build towards and independent writing assessment.

## Mathematics

The students will be learning to convert between decimals and fractions. We will complete a rich task as a form of assessment for this unit of work. We will then begin our new topic of 'Location' which will include some engaging, hands-on activities.

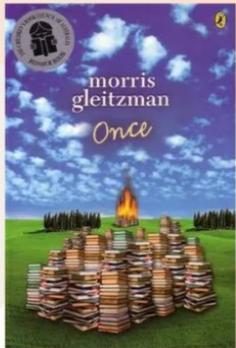
## Science

The year 4/5 students are beginning a new topic of Weather and Climate change. Students explore how weather and climate shape our world, including their impact on places like the Arctic and Australia. They also consider how human activity influences climate and ways to reduce our impact.

## Religion

We will begin our new Unit "For Creation, Praise" in Religion this week. The kids will be Students recognise and appreciate the beauty of God's creation, demonstrate responsibility in caring for it, and explore the first creation story in Genesis.





# Year 5/6 - Week 8



## English

As the students complete their substantial research project on World War 2 they will have the opportunity to present their work to the class. All students have produced 8 to 12 slides of factual information supporting their learning and their understanding of the novel, *Once*



## Science

Geography - The study of the Earth. Students will investigate the world in which they live and the places they may well travel too. This week the geographic region is North America. The students are challenged by a quiz at the end of each lesson.

## Mathematics

The final topic for third term is in the measurement strand and looks at standard increments of length, volume and weight. All students will participate in practical application of these concepts measuring precise amounts before comparing amounts for the best economical value.

## Religion

The Bible and the Sacred Scripture -. Students are finding references to the significant figures in the Old Testament section of the Bible as well as short video clips. We will round off this terms work with a look at Jonah and Daniel. The assessment for this topic will be an interpretive artwork with an annotated description



# NOTICEBOARD:

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**BTS**  
BORDER TRIATHLON SERVICES

in partnership with Rotary Rutherglen and Destination Rutherglen

## 2025 RUTHERGLEN WOMEN'S TRIATHLON

**EVENTS AVAILABLE**  
 KIDS (7 to 9 all genders): 500m run / 2km bike / 60m swim  
 KIDS (10 to 12 all genders): 1km run / 5km bike / 120m swim  
 SHORT (12+): 3km run / 10km bike / 200m swim  
 LONG (16+): 6km run / 20km bike / 400m swim  
 Team entries welcomed (Long course only)

**REGISTER HERE >>>**



**SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER**  
RUTHERGLEN POOL, HIGH STREET

Kids & Adult event singlets available to purchase. Orders must be in by 30 September. Designed & supplied by Foher.co



*Daisy Cow* SOAP & SKINCARE    Rotary Rutherglen    Destination Rutherglen    FOHER<sup>CO</sup>



## Online safety

*Working together to create a culture of safety online*

**HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE BE SAFE ONLINE**  
 We are committed to helping students navigate the online safety world, respectfully and responsibly. We encourage all families to have regular conversations at home about online behaviour, privacy and respectful interactions.

**WORKING TOGETHER**  
 Children and young people are constantly connected, and while technology offers many benefits, it also brings risks such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and privacy concerns. By working together - parents, carers and educators we can support children to make safe and informed choices online.

**AGE RESTRICTIONS**  
 We remind parents many social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok and Discord have age restrictions of 13+ in place for a reason. These platforms collect data, expose users to public content and may carry risks such as cyberbullying, online grooming or the spread of harmful materials. Even though your child may meet the age requirement, they still need guidance in managing their digital presence. Here is a recommended guide to assist you to support your child online.

**REGULAR CONVERSATIONS**  
 We encourage families to talk openly with their child and young people about:

- ✓ Upholding the School Student Code of Conduct
- ✓ Responsible use of apps and devices
- ✓ The legal age and expectations for using social media
- ✓ What they post online can have legal consequences
- ✓ Respectful communication and consent online
- ✓ Where to go for help if something goes wrong

 **eSafety COMMISSIONER**

Use trusted resources like the [eSafety Commissioner website](https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents) for tips and advice.  
[www.esafety.gov.au/parents](https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents)

September 2025 - Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd.

## Staff Email Addresses

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