



St. Mary's School Newsletter

Term 4 - Week 1 - Wednesday 8 October, 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.

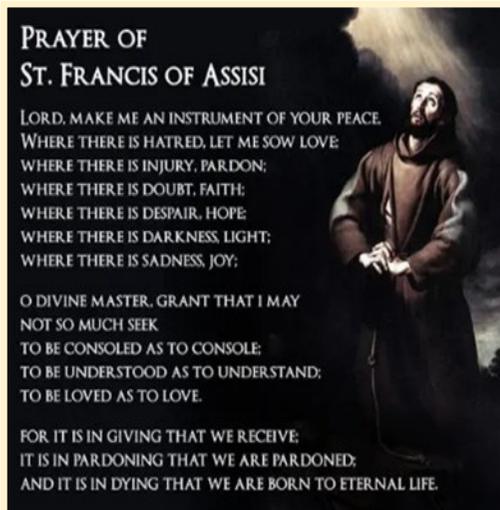
Respect Ourselves - Respect Others - Respect our Environment



Welcome back to the final term of 2025

Term 4 often brings with it a sense of excitement as our younger students realise their position in the school as 'they move up in the world', and some angst for our Year 6 students who transition on to their respective chosen high schools.

The adjacent prayer reminds us to find peace in our daily lives and reflect on the great love of our Lord.



With the warmer weather we remind our families about sun-safety and ask that all students have a clearly labelled school hat, if needed they are available at the front office for purchase. Whilst we have sunscreen available for students, if your child has a sunscreen sensitivity, we ask that you supply a roll-on bottle so your child can replenish their sunscreen during the day when required.

Following the conclusion of the AFL season and the Rugby finals we ask that you remind your children that tackling is not allowed at school. It is my job to mitigate risk and as such a zero tolerance to tackling is enforced by all staff at St Mary's School. Mr Mackinnon will work with the students and provide tags and tag belts to minimise the risk of physical contact and therefore injury.

I have not sent out a Term 4 Planner yet as I am working to lock in dates for our end of year celebrations. I intend to have the calendar finalised and available for distribution next week. My apologies for the delay in this being distributed.

Important Calendar Dates

Term 4 - 2025

Friday 10 October

Monday 3 November

Tues/Thur 11-13 Nov

Tuesday 18 November

Wed/Thur 19-20 Nov

Tuesday 25 November

Tuesday 2 December

Tuesday 9 December

Assembly - All welcome

Student Free Day - Report Writing

Year 5/6 Canberra Camp

1st Day of Foundation Transition 9.00-11.00am

Year 3/4 Valley Homestead, Ovens Valley Camp - TBC

2nd Day of Foundation Transition 9.00-11.00am

3rd Day of Foundation Transition 9.00am-12.45pm

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

- Student's Final Day of Term 4 - TBC

Term 1 - 2026

Tuesday 27th January

Wednesday 28th January

Thursday 29th January

Friday 30th January

First Day for CESL Staff

Staff Preparation

Staff Preparation

CESL Students Commence

Mass Times:

Chiltern - Saturdays 5.00 pm

Rutherglen - Sundays 9.00 am

Wahgunyah - Sundays 10.30am

Phone - 02 6032 9284

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Email - principal@smrutherglen.catholic.edu.au

75-89 High Street, Rutherglen, Vic, 3685

PO Box 146

Office Hours: 8.30am - 4.00pm

Our work with Magnify continues with the roll out of some exciting new programs for 2026. CESL partner organisations are actively working with our system to ensure that our teachers are well supported with all initiatives introduced this year.

Next week we welcome our Multi-Lit partners who will be viewing Literacy lessons in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 as well as our English Interventions of Mini-Lit and Multi-Lit. The results coming through show impressive learner growth which is expected to continue throughout your child's Primary School journey. The structures which are in place only enhance our calm, nurturing learning environments.

Today is the third meeting of the St. Mary's School Advisory Council which serves as a voice for the school community, and the Council Members will have a briefing by Chaulk Architects providing an update of the master planning process. The briefing will provide an overview of proposed works which will enhance the opportunities available to the families of Rutherglen and surrounding towns in becoming the school of choice for the district.

Wishing you God's Blessings as we walk gently together in Term 4.

Melanie Dusterhoft Mavrick
Principal



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



Use trusted resources like the [eSafety Commissioner website](#) for tips and advice.

www.esafety.gov.au/parents

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

Sounds - /x/ and /y/
 Tricky words - put, as, do, like, very.
 Story book - Edward the Emu. New vocabulary words; amusing, detest, impressive

Geography

Discuss where is our 'special place' and why it is special.

Religion

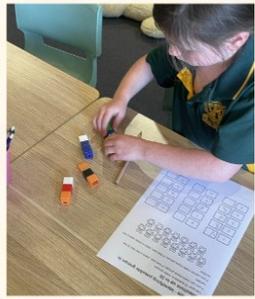
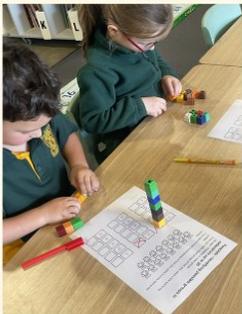
Read Koala Lou to connect with our new unit 'You are Special'

Mathematics

Recognise the difference in a collection of items, sort in different ways.

Our Learning - what equal groups can we make using 15 blocks?

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, put, as, do, like, very



WHAT'S HAPPENING

YEAR ONE



Look What We Learnt



We spent our first morning back chatting and drawing the people we saw, things we ate and funny stories from our holiday break.



This week

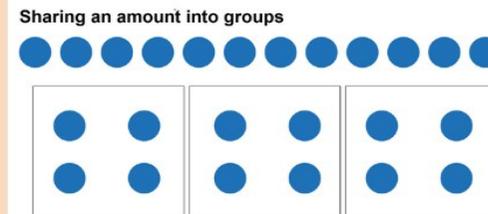
We are designing a post office in our classroom to use as a writing experience opportunity.

If you have any small boxes, blank cards and envelopes, letter writing paper or stickers that you no longer need please send them into the classroom with your child.

Thankyou!



Our learning this week



When we share a collection we put one into each group until all of the collection is shared. Each group needs to be equal. Then we count how many groups we have and how many are in each group.

GRADE 2/3

ENGLISH

Spelling Focus: Spelling rule - plurals - adding the suffix 'es' to nouns

Comprehension and Fluency: Finding the main idea

Grammar: Prepositions

Storybook: The Day the Crayons Came Home - writing focus - Persuasive Writing

TRICKY WORDS

favourite

should

★ shouldn't

PLEASE PRACTISE
WRITING AND
READING OUR TRICKY
WORDS EVERY WEEK



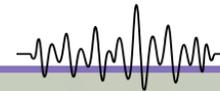
MATHS

We have moved on to Data and have been looking at developing response options when making a survey and evaluating the effectiveness of data.



SCIENCE

New Topic: Physical Sciences - How sound is made.



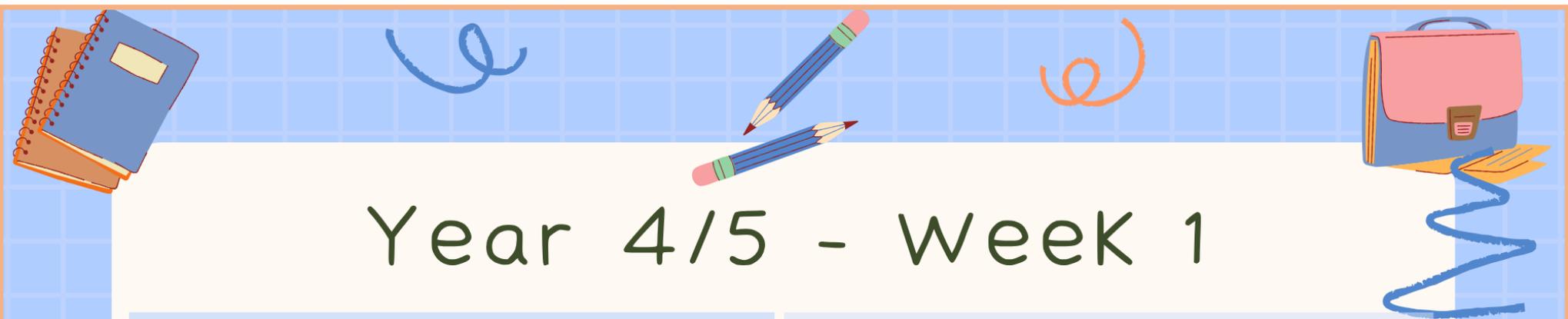
Reminders and Updates:

Reader Folders back every Monday

Show and Tell now every Wednesday and Thursday - This week - Mac and Joe

Hats! - Please make sure all students have their hats as this Term is NO HAT NO PLAY!





Year 4/5 - Week 1

English

The students are continuing our Wild Robot novel and practising summarising chapters using a set structure. We are also continuing on with a persuasive letter about why we should/shouldn't have robots in our personal homes.

Mathematics

The students are exploring how to write relevant and specific questions for data collection. We are also introducing the students to Microsoft Excel and using the Sum, Count and Sort functions to organise digital data.

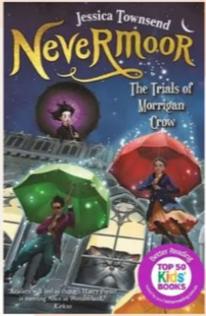
Science

The year 4/5 students are beginning a new topic "The Water Cycle". We will complete a vanishing water observation. We will also learn what the water cycle is and use topic specific words to describe each phase.

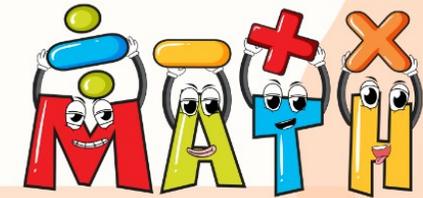
Religion

The Year 4/5 class will be learning to read Bible references in order to locate particular stories. We will also be familiarising ourselves on how the Bible is organised.





Year 5/6 - Week 1



English

Welcome to the mystery and intrigue of *Nevermoor*. This terrific novel follows the life and accidental adventures of Morrigan, an unusual yet gifted child. Morrigan is unaware of her gift, however those close to her seem to know ...

Mathematics

This week we introduce the topic of Data. This will involve students posing meaningful questions, devising strategies to collect relevant data and selecting the best method of presenting this information to a wider audience.

Science

The topic to commence Term 4 will be World Geography. Students will travel the world and engage in learning on climate, culture and currency. This is an interesting curriculum area and can ignite a curiosity for future travel.

Religion

As we begin the term our focus for the first 4 weeks will be “Living as Disciples”. This is both a knowledge and practical based learning area. Students will read the scriptures, hear stories and parables based on the Gospels. Practically it is about the way we treat our *neighbour*.



NOTICEBOARD:

Proudly presented by **BTS** BORDER TRIATHLON SYNDICATE
 in partnership with Rotary Rutherford and Destination Rutherford

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 Rutherford | Destination Rutherford | FOHER^{co}



SAVE THE DATE
 RUTHERGLEN

 **HALLOWEEN SAUSAGE SIZZLE & GAMES**

LIONS CLUB PARK,
 DOUGLAS STREET, RUTHERGLEN
 FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER 2025



 **Become a Foster Carer today**

Find out more about caring

All children and young people deserve to be safe, have a sense of belonging and be supported to reach their full potential.

Ever thought about caring? Find out more by contacting our friendly team or visiting www.umfc.com.au


 Upper Murray Family Care
 For further information
 P: 02 6055 8000
 E: fostercareenquiries@umfc.com.au



Staff Email Addresses

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