

St. Paul's Primary School



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TERM 1

WEEK 1: Thursday 29th January, 2026

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 30th January:	Preps attend school from 9.00am – 12.45pm
Monday 2nd February:	Preps attend school from 8.40am – 3.00pm – please collect children from the yard.
Friday 6th February:	Beginning of the Year Mass 10.00am St. Paul's Church, No Assembly
Tuesday 10th February:	Sacrament of Penance Family Night - 6.30pm St. Paul's School
Friday 13th February:	First Assembly for 2026 – Presentation of SRC for 2026 – 2.30pm
Tuesday 17th February:	Safer Internet Information Session – 6.30pm St Paul's School (More information to follow)
Wednesday 18th February:	Ash Wednesday Mass 10.00am St. Paul's Church
Tuesday 24th February:	Sacrament of Penance 6.30pm St. Paul's Church – Year 3 Students
Wednesday 25th February:	2027 Prep Information Session – St. Paul's School, 9.15am
Friday 27th February:	Class Prayer Service JKL, JJG & JSM – 10.00am, School Assembly SRH – 2.30pm
Tuesday 3rd March:	2027 Prep Information Session – St. Paul's School, 9.15am
Friday 6th March:	School Assembly MEF – 2.30pm
Monday 9th March:	Labour Day Public Holiday – School Closed
Tuesday 10th March:	2027 Prep Information Session – St. Paul's School, 9.15am
Wednesday 11th March:	Preps Attend School today and all future Wednesdays
March 11th – 23rd:	NAPLAN
Friday 13th March:	Class Prayer Service JCT, JKC & JEM – 10.00am, No Assembly
Monday 16th March:	2027 Prep Information Session – St. Paul's School, 1.30pm
Friday 20th March:	School Assembly MAR – 2.30pm
Monday 23rd March:	2027 Prep Information Session – St. Paul's School, 1.30pm
Friday 27th March:	Indonesian Day – More information to follow
Monday 30th March:	School Photos – More information to follow
Tuesday 31st March:	Easter Assembly 9.00am, End of Term I – 3.00pm
April 1st and 2nd:	School Closure Days – No School for Students
Monday 20th April:	Term II Commences at 8.40am

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the 2026 school year! I extend a special word of welcome to the new families to St. Paul's and hope that your association with our school community will be a long and happy one. On February 17th, we will celebrate the Lunar New Year – it is the Year of the Fire Horse. We wish those who celebrate the Lunar New Year all the best for the year ahead.

Congratulations to Miss Melissa Dvorscak and her fiancé Michael on the safe arrival of their daughter Florence on Thursday 15th January. Congratulations also to Mr Vaughn Steward and his wife Vessi on the safe arrival of their son Victor on December 28th. We look forward to meeting Florence and Victor in the near future!!

Every year is a very busy year – 2026 will be no different. We have school camps, plenty of excursions and whole school celebrations. In particular we have our Art Show on September 10th – more information will follow later in the year. We also have a school review in 2026 - the review involves two parts. The first part is a School Improvement Review on May 11th and 13th and the second part is a compliance review on September 3rd. Please note there will be no school for children on April 1st and 2nd as staff will be preparing for the School Improvement Review and updating their First Aid skills. This will be the end of Term 1.

In 2026 we welcome Mrs Teagan Desmond back to St. Paul's after parental leave. We also welcome to St. Paul's School Ms Tara Curry, Miss Eliza Dean, Miss Maddy Byrne, Miss Rachel Hanley, Miss Stephanie Rixon (Class Teachers) and Ms Sheree Punchon (Catholic Care Counsellor). I know Teagan, Tara, Eliza, Maddy, Rachel, Stephanie and Sheree will be warmly welcomed by everyone in the St. Paul's School Community. We are very excited for Maddy and Eliza as they became engaged over the holidays – we wish Maddy and Lachlan, and Eliza and Tom, all the very best for the future.

All children should be wearing the St. Paul's hat during Term I. Any students not wearing the hats will be required to sit in the shade. No other hats are permitted to be worn.

I look forward to working with you all during 2026.

Yours sincerely,

Damian Casamento

PRINCIPAL

The class groupings, teachers and staff for 2026 are set out below:

Year Prep

Mrs Michelle Favero and Mrs Teresa Germano (**PMF**)

Mr Matthew Kowalczyk (**PMK**)

Miss Eanya Tone (**PET**)

JMA

Year 1

Miss Ellen McKitterick (**JEM**)

Mrs Kathy Chow (**JKC**)

Mrs Michelle Casamento and Mrs Teagan Desmond (**JCT**)

Year 2

Miss Kayla Lacey (**JKL**)

Mrs Jennifer Gualtieri and Mrs Rhiannon Micallef (**JJG**)

Miss Sarah Mercieca (**JSM**)

MMA

Year 3

Miss Emma Finnegan (**MEF**)

Miss Maddy Byrne (**MMB**)

Miss Amanda Mach (**MAM**)

Year 4

Ms Amanda Rowe (**MAR**)

Ms Tara Curry (**MTC**)

Miss Vivienne Nguyen (**MVN**)

SMA

Year 5

Ms Christine Sursock and Mr Luke Nulty (**SCL**)

Miss Stephanie Rixon (**SSR**)

Ms Anna Stavropoulos (**SAS**)

Year 6

Ms Claudia Capuano and Mrs Kylie Ponce Rios (**SCK**)

Miss Eliza Dean (**SED**)

Miss Rachel Hanley (**SRH**)

SPECIALISTS/SUPPORT TEACHERS

Literacy/Numeracy Support – 5-6

Teacher Release/Classroom Support

Learning Diversity Support

Physical Education Teacher

Library Teachers

Visual Arts Teacher

Performing Arts Teacher

Indonesian Teacher

Technology Teacher

STEM Teacher

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

LIBRARY TECHNICIAN

VIETNAMESE INTERPRETERS

BURMESE INTERPRETER

WELLBEING SUPPORT

SCHOOL NURSE

LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICERS

Miss Nadia Juzva

Mrs Nancy Sacco

Ms Louise Sposato

Mrs Monica McIntyre

Mrs Jazmin Moscosa

Mr Vaughn Steward

Ms Blerina Cakeri

Mrs Dianna Grillo

Mr Daniel Collison

Mrs Kaylene Di Lorenzo

Mrs Ngunsang Laithang

Ms Narelle Mullenger

Mrs Lea Noad

Ms Claudia Capuano

Mrs Ha-Anh Nguyen, Mr Luke Nulty

Mrs Rhiannon Micallef, Mrs Teresa Germano

Mrs Stephanie Garcia

Mr Chris Bye, Mr Luke Nulty

Ms Michele Micallef, Ms Laura Cook

Mrs Amanda Gallus

Ms Lynette Grixiti

Mrs Santi Sherry

Mr Joshua Turner

Mr Adam Fazekas

Ms Trish Morris

Mrs Helen Diomides

Mrs Karen Martin

Miss Diana Nguyen

Ms Lan Nguyen

Mrs Ngunsang Laithang

Ms Narelle Mullenger

Mrs Lea Noad

Mrs Nicole Campagna

Ms Lan Nguyen

Mrs Phuong Do

Mrs Elizabeth Gatt

MAINTENANCE

CANTEEN

POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP

Principal Mr Damian Casamento

Religious Education Leader/Child Safety Officer/

Mental Health in Wellbeing Leader

Student Wellbeing Leader

Numeracy Leader

Learning Diversity Leaders

Mrs Kara Brizzi

Physical Education Leader

Mrs Annamaria Schembri

Arts Leaders

Mr Chris Bye

Prep Leader

Junior Leader

Middle Leader

Senior Leaders

Mr Rob Kilpatrick

Mrs Marlene Haber

Mrs Jacqui Batty

Deputy Principals

Miss Lisa Peplow

Ms Cathy Doran

Mrs Louise Collison

Mrs Claudia Razi

Mrs Libby Morganti

Literacy/Inquiry/Learning Leader

Family Engagement in Learning Leader

Technology Leader

Ms Lynette Grixiti

Mr Matthew Kowalczyk

Mrs Kathy Chow

Miss Emma Finnegan

Mrs Claudia Razi and Ms Claudia Capuano

Mrs Louise Collison

Mrs Annamaria Schembri

Mr Joshua Turner

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

After School Care – Camp Australia

Miss Kylie Hayes, Mrs Irije Demeri and Ms Sarah Tanveer

CATHOLIC CARE COUNSELLOR

Ms Sheree Punshon

LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

Many thanks to the parents/carers and teachers for making the Learning Conversations yesterday such a success. It was an ideal chance for teachers to meet parents/carers and for an exchange of information to take place. Thank you for the way you used the online booking system to make your appointments. Thanks also to Mrs Kerry Westgarth, Mrs Trish Morris and Mrs Helen Diomides who made themselves available during the holidays to assist families with the bookings for Learning Conversations. Please remember to make an appointment to see your child's teacher at any time if you have any concerns.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026

The following dates are very important for **ALL** students who will be attending secondary school in 2028 – our current Year 5 students. If applications for Catholic Secondary School are not in by Friday 14th August, 2026 your child will not be enrolled in your school of choice.

14th August 2026: Applications close for 2028 Year 7 students in Catholic Secondary Colleges – our current Year 5 Students

16th October 2026: Offers posted to prospective 2028 Year 7 applicants

6th November 2026: Final date for families to accept offers made by the Secondary School

SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2026

The dates for the celebration of the Sacraments and the Family nights in 2026 are:

Sacrament of Penance Family Night (Year 3) Tuesday, February 10th at 6.30pm – St. Paul's School

Sacrament of Penance (Year 3) Tuesday, February 24th at 6.30pm – St. Paul's Church

Sacrament of Eucharist Family Night (Year 3) Tuesday, April 28th at 6.30pm – St. Paul's School

Sacrament of Eucharist (Year 3) Friday, May 15th at 6.30pm – St. Paul's Church

FEES/LEVIES

Your child's levies are now due. Please pay all levies promptly. School fees are due on February 6th. Account statements were emailed to you on Wednesday, 28th January 2026. You can pay your school fees and levies with a credit card or by direct debit from a nominated bank account or from your Centrelink payments. If you would like this to happen, please come to the office to complete a form.

CANTEEN

The canteen opened today - the full menu is available. CDF Pay has also opened to order lunches online. You will be able to use cash as well as CDF Pay to pay for lunch orders - see below for more information on how to use CDF Pay. Hard copies of the 2026 price list were sent home last year and the pricelist is also on the Audiri App. Volunteers are needed to assist in the canteen. We would be very grateful to have your assistance even if it can be for only a couple of hours per week. Please see Marlene or Jacqui in the canteen if you can help.

ANAPHYLAXIS

There are several children at school who suffer from allergic reactions to various forms of food, plants, bites and stings. The Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) does not recommend the banning of particular items. This is based on the premise that for school age children, an essential step is to develop strategies for avoidance in the wider community as well as at school. All staff have undertaken anaphylactic training and will have it renewed this term. The school has a thorough policy, action plan and procedures for each child, including first aid response and medication storage, to ensure the wellbeing of all students. Please visit www.allergy.org.au for more information.

BEFORE SCHOOL CARE

The yard is supervised from 8.25am every morning. Parents are asked not to send their children to school before this time. Class teachers are at school but they are unable to supervise children because they will be preparing for the day's activities. Before School Care Program operates every morning. Parents who need to drop off their children early will need to use this service. Kylie Hayes, Irije Demeri and Ms Sarah Tanveer are the co-ordinators of the program. They can be contacted on

FIRST AID

We would appreciate any donations of boxes of tissues for our first aid supplies. Thank you for your continued support.

ST PAUL'S PARISH FEAST DAY - 2026 PROGRAM

Monday 9th Feb - 7pm

Italian Mass

Tuesday 10th Feb - 7pm

Vietnamese Mass

Wednesday 11th Feb - 7pm

Maltese Mass

Thursday 12th Feb - 7pm

Spanish Mass

Friday 13th Feb - 7pm

Pilipino Mass

Saturday 14th Feb - 6pm

English Vigil Mass, followed by the Family Dance.

Sunday 15th Feb - 3pm

Mass with Benediction followed by the procession with the statue of St Paul.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

CDFpay App Available for Online Lunch Orders



Please download the CDFpay App from Apple/Google Store and complete the account registration to be able to start ordering lunches online for your child(ren).

If you have any questions, please call the CDFpay powered by Flexischools Parent Support Line on 1300 361 769 and they will get back to you directly.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSION FUND (CSEF)

Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund is Government Funding to assist families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities. Centrelink health care card holders and Pensioner Concession card holders may be eligible for a payment of \$154. If you think you qualify for the CSEF, please contact the office for a form. Please complete and return the CSEF form to school, along with a copy of your Centrelink Card.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOING PROCEDURES FOR SCHOOL PERFORMANCES, ASSEMBLIES, SPORTING AND OTHER SANCTIONED SCHOOL EVENTS

St. Paul's Primary School allows members of the school community to take photographs and videos of their children at school assemblies, class presentations, performances, sporting events etc.

In accordance with the Privacy & Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic), Copyright Act 1968 (Cth) & Education Department guidelines, members of the school community are restricted to only photograph / video their children. These images must not be published on social media or in any other form without the prior consent of parents & guardians whose children may unintentionally appear in the images.

The school does not permit any member of the school community or invited guest to take photographs / videos of the bi-annual school production.

Note: The school does not own or control any photographs or video taken by members of the school community or invited guests.

SWIMMING SPORT

If you have a child who is a member of a swimming squad you may wish to nominate them for the Maribyrnong Division Swimming Sports on Tuesday March 10th at Brimbank Aquatic Centre, 90 Taylors Rd, Keilor Downs, VIC 3038. Your child is able to nominate for two individual events. You will need to be able to transport your child to and from the event. Please see Mr Chris for more information.

OPERATION SCHOOLS BACK

Local Police together with members of the Highway Patrol are running an operation to mark the start of the school year. Operation Schools Back will target the safety of students arriving and departing school with the major focus being the enforcement of the 40kmph school zones. Motorists are asked to be vigilant before and after school as there will be increased pedestrian, road and pushbike traffic. Please allow an extra 5 minutes to find a safe and legal park to ensure your children's safety.

STARTING SCHOOL: THE EARLY WEEKS

Your child might need some support when school starts. Here are some simple things you can do to help these first few weeks go smoothly:

Try to drop off your child at school before the bell goes in the morning. Also pick your child up on time. If you're late it could make your child feel very anxious.

- If your child is worried about being separated from you, look for ways to distract your child at school drop-off. For example, you could try meeting a friend at the gate or walking to school with another child and parent.
- Make after-school time a bit special, with a snack and time for you and your child to chat.
- Be patient if your child wants to blurt out every little detail about school, or clams up completely. You could try saying something like, 'Tell me one good thing about your day', rather than asking a lot of questions.
- Be flexible with snacks and meals. Your child will probably be very hungry after school. If you give your child a small, healthy snack straight after school, it'll help to keep them going until dinner.
- Don't expect too much academic progress too soon. If your child is happy and seems to be enjoying school, that's a real achievement. The rest will come later.
- Remember that it's common for children to play with many different children and also to play on their own sometimes. It takes a while before they settle into a group of friends.
- If your child doesn't seem to be settling well, or tells you about teasing or bullying, speak to your child's classroom teacher.

SPORTS NEWS

The School Sport Victoria (SSV) Team Vic representative program provides a development platform for Victoria's emerging student athletes to participate in the annual School Sport Australia (SSA) Championships.

SSV coordinates the selection process for Team Vic teams in partnership with relevant state sporting organisations in the following sports:

- Australian Football 12 Years and Under Boys
- Basketball 12 Years and Under Girls
- Basketball 12 Years and Under Boys
- Cricket 12 Years and Under Boys
- Football (Soccer) 12 Years and Under Boys
- Netball 12 Years and Under Girls

Students and families must consult with Mr Casamento and Mr Chris to ensure they have the skill level to trial and represent their school at a national championship level. Registration for a Division trial incurs a NON-REFUNDABLE \$35 fee.

Details of all procedures and other available sports can be found at the following link <https://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/team-vic> .

The St Paul's Community acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we teach, learn and pray.

We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait people have to Country and pay our respects to Elders, past and present as we commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

