



# ST. PAUL'S KEALBA

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## KEEPING OUR CONNECTIONS

### Thursday 5th March 2026

Dear Families & Friends of St. Paul's,

Let us begin with prayer:

God of love, we remember that on the night before he died Your son, Jesus, prayed that his friends 'may all be one.' Yet we see so much division in the world. Millions of people suffer when they don't have what they need: food, water, healthcare, education and security. We pray that we may all unite against poverty this Lent, as our sign of hope for a better world. This Lent we pray that our dedication to prayer, fasting and almsgiving will help restore your vision of justice and peace.

With Christ beside me, our lives are formed in faith, hope and love. Saint Patrick, patron saint of our local Church in Melbourne. Pray for us.

Families, I would like to remind everyone of the uniform expectations. In Term 1 & Term 4, we wear the summer uniform. Terms 2 & 3 is the winter uniform. Runners are only to be worn on the day where classes have their designated sports day. Please speak to your child's teacher if you are unsure. Please see the below guide:

Boys Summer Uniform:



Girls Summer Uniform:



Hats are a must in Terms 1 & 4:



Finally, the Parents' Group held it's annual general meeting and have formed a new committee. The Parents' Group committee consists of:

President: Jessica Butt

Vice Preseident: Matthew Gillman

Treasurer: Amanda Diana

Secretary: Arlena Miksic

Other Committee Members: Ben Peters and Dani Broekhoff

The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 2:30 pm in the staffroom. I look forward to working with our new committee and all parents who volunteer their time for special events raising important funds for our school.

Peace,  
**Mr Patrick Pantalone**  
Acting Principal

# 2026 SCHOOL PHOTOS

## School Photo Information



*Are you ready for 2026 school photos?*

St Paul's Primary School

Thursday 19th March 2026

**There's no need to do anything  
before photo day.**

**Further details will be provided when  
portrait and group images are ready.**

**Student access codes and order details will be provided to you  
when images are ready to view and purchase online.**

Arthur Reed Photos Pty. Ltd.  
A.B.N 48 528 494 590  
Telephone: (03) 5243 4390  
Enquiries: [customerservice@arphotos.com.au](mailto:customerservice@arphotos.com.au)



## INFORMA APP FOR PARENTS

The nForma app for parents is a Melbourne-based, secure mobile platform (iOS/Android) designed for Australian schools. It enables parents to access semester reports, track attendance, input absences and complete consent/permission forms in one place. Please ensure you have downloaded this app from your app store.

## Medical Conditions & Medication

- Serious Conditions:** If your child has a serious allergy (e.g., Anaphylaxis) or health condition (e.g., Asthma), a Medical Action Plan (signed by a GP/doctor) must be provided to the office.
- Medication:** If your child requires medication during the school day, you **MUST** complete the appropriate forms at the office before we can administer it.
- Head Injuries:** If your child sustains a head injury, it is our policy to notify you immediately. While you don't always need to collect them, we ensure you are informed so you can decide and monitor them at home later

## Prep 2027 Enrolments: Important Information for Our Families

•It's hard to believe, but it is already time to start thinking about our Prep 2027 intake! We know many of our current families have younger siblings ready to start their school journey, If you have a child due to start school in 2027, please note that all enrolments must now be completed online. We have an amazing school community, and we know that our current families and friends are our best ambassadors. If you know someone—a neighbour, a friend, or a family member—who is looking for the perfect place for their child to start their schooling journey in 2027, please invite them to come and see what makes us unique!

## SECONDARY SCHOOL

Dear Families & Guardians,

As we move into 2026, many of our Year 5 & 6 families are beginning to think about the next big step: the transition to secondary school for the 2027 or 2028 school year.

Whether you are looking at your local government high school, a catholic college, or an independent school, the timelines and processes differ significantly.

Tips for Families

- **School Tours:** Most secondary schools hold Open Nights and Tours during March, April, and May. We highly recommend checking the websites of your preferred schools now to book a tour.
- **Sibling Claims:** If you have an older child already at a secondary school, ensure you tick the "sibling claim" box on your application to receive priority.

If you have any questions regarding the transition process, please feel free to me on 9366 6033 or at [bmifsud@spkealba.catholic.edu.au](mailto:bmifsud@spkealba.catholic.edu.au)



## INSTAGRAM

Join Our School on Instagram!

We're excited to share the wonderful moments and special events happening at our school!

Follow us on our school Instagram page, to see photos and highlights of our students' learning and achievements and celebrations within our school community.

Stay connected

Celebrate with us

Share in the joy of our school community

We'd love for you to like, follow and share our page with family and friends so everyone can be part of the journey!

Find us here: @sp\_kealba.

Install the Instagram APP to follow our photos and videos.

[https://www.instagram.com/sp\\_kealba?](https://www.instagram.com/sp_kealba?igsh=djVlazU2cHAyYjg=&utm_source=ig_contact_invite)

[igsh=djVlazU2cHAyYjg=&utm\\_source=ig\\_contact\\_invite](https://www.instagram.com/sp_kealba?igsh=djVlazU2cHAyYjg=&utm_source=ig_contact_invite)

Please note: the old school Instagram page... @spkealba is no longer monitored by St Paul's.



# Term 1 Assemblies

Families are welcome to attend their child's year level assembly as well as when you receive notification from your child's teacher that they will be receiving a Principal's Award.

Assemblies are held in the school hall and commence at 2:40pm.

Friday 6th March	SRC
Friday 13th March	Grade Prep
Friday 20th March	Year 1/2



## Levelled Home Readers

### IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT LEVELLED HOME READERS

New testing guidelines have been directed to all Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS). This means that we will no longer 'level' a student's reading ability from 1 to 28. Instead we will focus on developing reading skills through a systematic synthetic phonics approach, building fluency and comprehension skills. In light of this, we are currently in the process of repurposing all home readers.

Our Foundation to Year 2 students will have access to Decodable home readers which will support their developing reading knowledge and strengthen their ability to sound and blend words together. Research has shown that Decodable texts are the most supportive texts for developing readers. The Year 3 - 6 students will have access to home readers which will be kept in classrooms and to library books which they are able to borrow each week during their allocated library borrowing time.

In summary, all students will still bring home a book to read. In Prep to Year Two this will be a decodable home reader and for students in Grades 3 to 6 it will be a library book or a home reader.

Kind regards,

St. Paul's Leadership Team



## How Families Can Support Reading at Home

Reading success doesn't just happen at school — it grows through small, consistent moments at home. Here are simple, powerful ways families can help.

### 1. Read Every Day

Set aside a regular reading time.

Take turns reading with your child — child reads a page, adult reads a page.

Reread favourite books to build fluency and confidence. Reading familiar texts builds automaticity, expression and supports the development of fluency

### 2. Practise Sounds and Words

For younger readers:

Review letter / sounds relationships regularly.

Play “I spy” with sounds (“I spy something that starts with /m/...”).

Practise blending sounds: c-a-t → cat.

Use magnetic letters or write words in sand or shaving cream.

For developing readers:

Practise high-frequency words.

Break tricky words into syllables.

Encourage your child to “sound it out” before helping.

### 3. Talk About the Book

Reading isn't just decoding — it's understanding.

Rich conversation builds vocabulary and comprehension

Ask your child:

What happened at the beginning/middle/end?

Why do you think the character did that?

What do you think will happen next?

Does this remind you of anything?

### 4. Make Reading Enjoyable

The goal is not pressure — it's building a lifelong reader.

Create a cosy reading space.

Let your child choose books.

Use funny voices and expression.

Laugh together at silly parts.

### 5. When Your Child Gets Stuck

Encourage them to:

Look at the first sound.

Blend the sounds.

Look for chunks they know.

Reread the sentence.

Think: “Does that make sense?”

## Final Words Of Encouragement for Families

Small, consistent practice builds strong readers.

Five to ten minutes a day can make a powerful difference over time.

Together, school and home create confident, capable readers.

## NUMBER ACTIVITIES

Here are some simple, fun number activities parents & children can do at home for 5-15 minutes using everyday household items.

### 🧒 Prep / Foundation

#### 1. Count Everything

Count toys, steps to the bedroom, apples in the bowl. Ask: "How many altogether?"

#### 2. Number Hunt

Find numbers around the house (clocks, phones, food packets).

Put them in order from smallest to largest.

#### 3. Roll & Count

Roll a dice. Count out that many blocks, cars or snacks.

#### 4. Make Number Stories

"You have 3 teddies. I will give you 2 more. How many now?"

#### 5. Build a Number Line

Write 0-20 on paper. Jump along it while counting forwards and backwards

### 🧒 Years 1/2

#### 1. Skip Counting Games

Count by 2s, 5s, 10s while clapping or jumping.

#### 2. Shop at Home

Set up a pretend shop. Use coins to "buy" items and add totals.

#### 3. Fact Families

Use 3 numbers (e.g., 3, 4, 7) and make addition and subtraction facts:

$$\text{e.g. } 3 + 4 = 7 \quad 4 + 3 = 7 \quad 7 - 4 = 3 \quad 7 - 3 = 4$$

#### 4. Card Game Addition

Flip two playing cards & add the numbers together. Highest total wins.

#### 5. Measure Me!

Measure height using string or blocks. Compare: Who is taller? shorter?

### 🧒 Years 3/4

#### 1. Multiplication War

Flip two cards each & multiply the numbers. Highest product wins.

#### 2. Cooking Maths

Double or halve a recipe.

Talk about fractions ( $\frac{1}{2}$  cup,  $\frac{1}{4}$  spoon).

#### 3. Time Challenge

Ask: "If it's 3:45pm now, what time in 30 minutes?"

#### 4. Area Hunt

Use Lego or tiles to make rectangles. Count rows  $\times$  columns to find area.

#### 5. Budget Game

Give a \$20 limit & plan a pretend party within budget.

### 🧒 Years 5/6

#### 1. Real-Life Percentages

Calculate discounts while shopping.

"What is 25% off \$40?"

#### 2. Family Survey

Collect data (favourite fruit, sport). Create different graphs to show the results.

#### 3. Mental Maths Challenge

Take turns asking quick questions:

$$\text{e.g. } 6 \times 8, 240 \div 6, 15\% \text{ of } 200$$

#### 4. Fraction & Decimal Cooking

Convert 0.5 to a fraction.

Compare  $\frac{3}{4}$  and 0.75.

## **DATES FOR NAPLAN 2026**

**NAPLAN (National Assessment Program - Literacy And Numeracy) is a national annual assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, in Literacy (English) & Numeracy (Mathematics). The assessments cover skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation, and numeracy.**

### **NAPLAN TIMETABLE FOR OUR YEAR 3 & YEAR 5 STUDENTS:**

#### **WRITING**

**Wednesday, the 11th of March**

#### **READING:**

**Thursday, the 12th of March**

#### **CONVENTIONS OF LANGUAGE**

**(spelling, grammar and punctuation)**

**Friday, the 13th of March**

#### **NUMERACY**

**Tuesday, the 17th of March**

#### **NAPLAN CATCH UPS**

**Wednesday 18th & Friday 20th March**

**Good luck to all our NAPLAN students in Year 3 & Year 5!  
Remember to just try your best!**

# 2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

## TERM 1 CALENDAR

- Whole School Welcome Picnic – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
- Prep Information Night – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 6:30 pm, school hall
- Whole school closure day/teacher development day – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February
- Grade ½ Information Night – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 6:30 pm, school hall
- Labour Day Public Holiday - Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March
- NAPLAN opens for grades 3 & 5 – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March
- Parents Group Meeting – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2:15 pm
- Reconciliation Family Night – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 6:30 pm school hall
- Harmony Day Mass – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 9:30 am
- Grade 5/6 Information night – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 6:30 pm school hall
- School Photo Day – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March
- Harmony Day Celebrations – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March
- Sacrament of Reconciliation - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 12 pm St Paul's Church
- Dental Van visit – Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March
- Easter Bonnet Parade and Easter Raffle Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1 pm
- Last day of Term One – Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1:40 pm



School  
Calendar



THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
**ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION**

*Keilor Downs – Kealba*



10<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Families,

We are pleased to advise that our Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) ST Paul's program will be offering **Friday afternoon care for Term 1**, starting on the 20th of February 2026, on a **trial basis**. Please note only children who are enrolled with the OSHC service will be able to attend the program.

To register your child:

- Visit our website: **St Mary of the Assumption Parish** → OSHC section, where you will find the registration link : <https://www.smartcentral.net/v2/>
- Or contact the Parish Office on **9364 0440**

Our current OSHC service hours are:

- **Before School Care (BSC):** Monday to Friday: 7:00am – 9:00am
- **After School Care (ASC):** Monday to Friday: 3:15pm – 6:00pm

In addition, we will be providing OSHC on:

- **Early dismissal days** (when school finishes at 1:00pm)
- **End-of-term school days**

If your child requires a casual session on one of these days you need to contact the program the day before prior to 6pm. The applicable end of term rate will be charged accordingly. Please note a 24-hour notice cancellation is required.

We look forward to supporting our families by expanding our service availability and thank you for your continued support of our OSHC program.

***Melinda Xerri***

Key Responsible Person  
St Mary of the Assumption  
Outside School hour Care  
Keilor Downs/Kealba



**2026**

**Miniroos & Juniors  
Community**

**LAST SPOTS AVAILABLE**

U7's to U12's  
Boys and Girls

**Use the QR code to register for a trial**



## Get Active Kids Voucher Program is NOW OPEN!

Do your children love sport and getting active?

You may be eligible for up to \$200 to put towards the cost associated with your child's sport and active recreation activities. To be eligible children must be Victorian residents, aged 18 and under and named on a valid Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, as well as Medicare card. The Get Active Kids Voucher Program helps eligible families get their kids involved in organised sport and active recreation activities by providing financial support for the cost of membership and registration fees.

Eligible children may be able to receive up to \$200 each. Sporting pursuits, swimming lessons and outdoor active recreation programs are examples of eligible activities under the Program. The Program encourages kids to re-engage or to participate for the first time in new activities by reducing the cost of participation which can be a significant barrier to participation. You can claim one voucher per eligible child.

To find out if you are eligible, how to apply, what costs are covered and more, visit [www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers](http://www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers)





Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



Catholic  
Regional College  
North Keilor

## YEAR 7 2028 Information Evening Thursday 26 March at 7pm

### Discover

*What Our School Has to Offer!*

We invite families to join us for an information session with our College Principal Mr Tullio Zavattiero and members of our College Leadership Team to learn about:

- Our Vision and Mission
- Curriculum Offerings
- Wellbeing
- Enrichment & Immersion Opportunities
- Sports Academy
- The Year 7 2028 Enrolment Process & Timeline



At CRCNK we are committed to creating a welcoming, respectful and safe school environment.

Everyone is known, loved, challenged to grow and contribute to our learning community.

**Come along and discover the North Keilor difference!**

Register  
Now

Register online via the enrolments page on our College website

[www.crcnk.vic.edu.au/enrolment/year-7-2028](http://www.crcnk.vic.edu.au/enrolment/year-7-2028)



1C Santa Monica Drive  
NORTH KEILOR VIC 3038  
9361 5900

[www.crcnk.vic.edu.au](http://www.crcnk.vic.edu.au)

*2026 Year of Faith*

*"Our attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ."  
Philippians 2:5*

