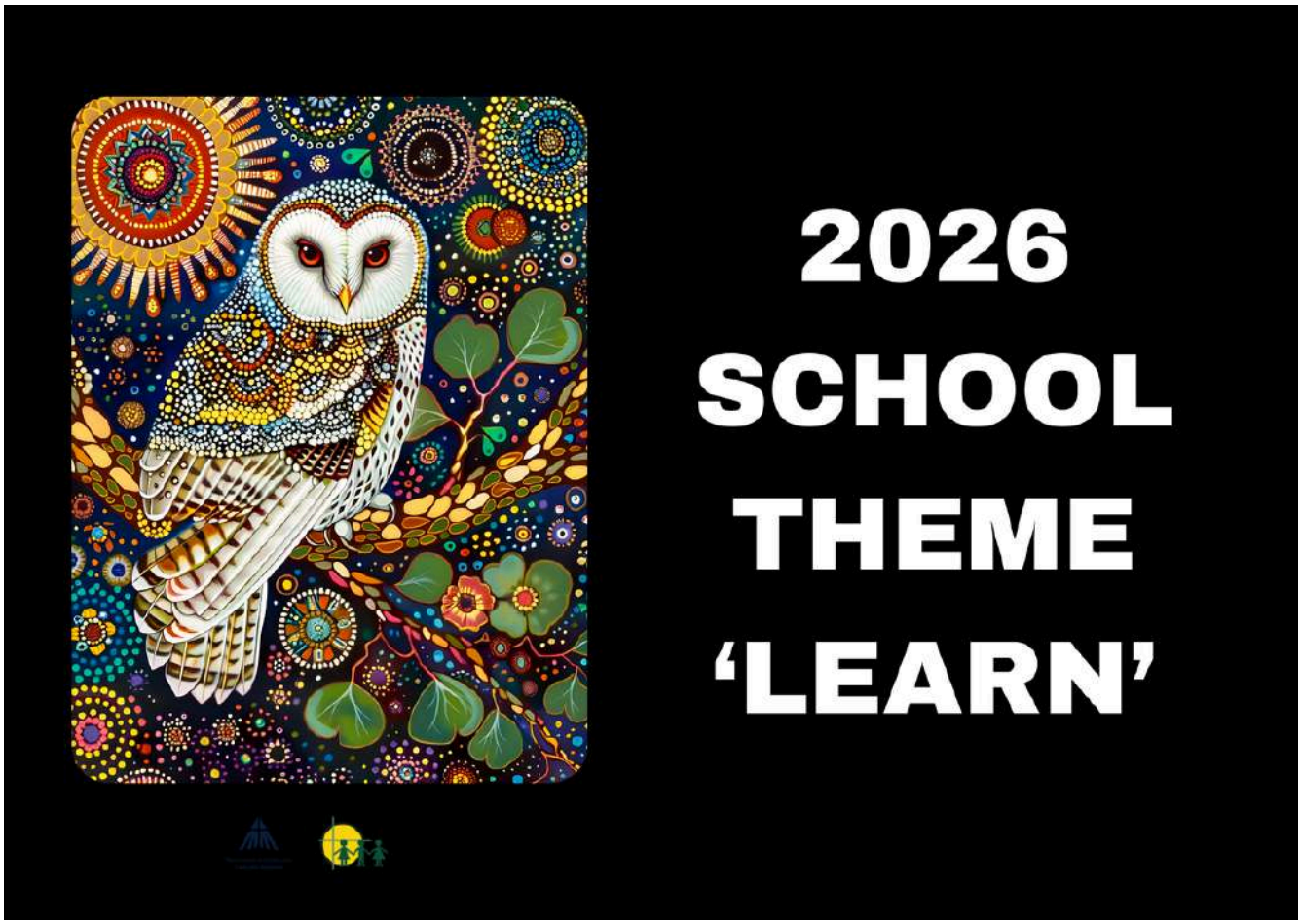


Read online: https://newsletters.naavi.com/i/MODA6k5

Holy Family School

LEARN · 05 Feb 2026

In Faith, We believe, We belong, We learn, We grow

In this issue

Current News

Parish News

Religious Education

Literacy

2026 School Staff

School Psychologist

Wellbeing News

Parent/Teacher Chats

Preparing For 2026

Library News

Community News

Current News

Dear Families,

We have had a calm start to our 2026 school year.

I would like to thank our staff and students for rehearsing our Holy Family routines for behaviour and learning. It is a pleasure to walk around the school and see stduents engaged in their learning and playing cooperatively on the yard.

Tomorrow night we have our first 'community' function for parents. Thank you to our Parents and Friends Executive Team who have organised this event. It promises to be a night of

building connections and sharing a meal with staff and other parents.

Prep Welcome Mass

Father Justel is looking forward to welcoming our 2026 Prep students and their families to our Parish during 10am Mass this Sunday 8th February.

Start of 2026 School Year Mass

On Friday 13th February at 9:15am everyone is invited to join us at Mass to celebrate the beginning of a new school year.

During this Mass we will commission our Year 4 students as Holy Family Mini Vinnies. These students will be presented with their badges.

After Mass, we will all gather outside the church for our FIRE Carrier Commissioning Ceremony.

Please join us for these significant community events.

Parents and Friends Meeting

Our Parents and Friends Committee is a fabulous group to be part of. The main role for this committee is to raise funds to support the education of our students and maintenance of our facilities.

Everyone is invited to join the meeting on Tuesday 10th February at 6:30pm. The focus for the meeting will be our 'Colour Run' to be held on Friday 20th March.

2025 Library Overdues

There are still students who have outstading loans from the library from last year. A copy of these books will be sent home tomorrow. Please have one final look for these items, before we send replacement costs.

Parent/Teacher Chats

Our Year 1-6 classroom teachers are looking forward to meeting all parents next Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon.

This is an opportunity for you to tell our teachers a little bit about your child and his/her strengths, talents, ..

Children's Mental Health Week

'COME AS YOURSELF' DAY

On **Monday 9th February** all students are encouraged to wear an outfit to school that represents them. An outfit which makes them feel most comfortable, confident, and like they truly belong — whether that's cosy clothes, cultural dress, favourite colours, or something totally unique. **Celebrate what makes you, you!**

Children's Mental Health Week encourage a sense of belonging – in friendships, in school, and in our communities. When we feel that we belong, it helps us feel connected to one another and also empowers us to go out into the world and create positive change.

It's really important to help each other out when we can, and to find ways to take care of our minds. One very simple but powerful way to connect with others and create that sense of support and belonging is through kindness.

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday is on Tuesday 17th February. On this day we make pancakes for all students. A note will come home soon listing the ingredients being used.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday signifies the beginning of Lent. Everyone is invited to join our school community for Mass on Wednesday 18th February at 12pm.

School Assembly

We will have our first whole school assembly tomorrow (Friday 6th February) at 2:45pm. Everyone is welcome to join us on the quadrangle.

Holy Family Playgroup

'Holy Family Playgroup' is happening!

This community opportunity will be held at Holy Family School once a fortnight for one hour and will be run by experienced educators and volunteers. The sessions will commence on Friday 20th February at 9:30am.

If you have a Working With Children Check and would like to go on a roster to help out please email office@hfmw.catholic.edu.au

Enrol Now

Soft Plastics Recycling Pick Up

We are looking for volunteers to collect our soft plastics recycling to drop off to the Notting HIll transfer station. If you can assist with this job this term, please email Eithne King

at eking@hfmw.catholic.edu.au

Have a wonderful weekend,

Julie David (Principal)

2026 Term 1 Dates

FEBRUARY

Fri 6 Parent Welcome Event

Sun 8 Prep Welcome Mass (10am)

Mon 9 'Come As Yourself' Day for all students

Tues 10 Safer Internet Day

P&F Meeting (6:30pm)

Meet the Teacher (Prep-Year 6)

Wed 11 Prep Rest Day

Meet the Teacher (Prep-Year 6)

Thur 12 District Swimming

Fri 13 Interschool Sport (1)

Whole School Mass (9:15am)

FIRE Carrier Induction

Tues 17 Shrove Tuesday

Wed 18 Ash Wednesday (12pm Mass)

Prep Rest Day

Fri 20 Interschool Sport (2)

Mini Vinnies Soccer Event

Play Group commences (9:30am)

World Day of Social Justice

Wed 25 SAC Meeting (5:30pm)

Wed 25 Prep Rest Day

Fri 27 Interschool Sport (3)

MARCH

Wed 4 Prep Rest Day

Division Swimming

P&F Meeting (6:30pm)

Thur 5 Twilight Sports Day

Fri 6 School Closure Day (Vision for Engagement)

Sun 8 International Women's Day (Give To Gain)

Mon 9 Labour Day Public Holiday (School Closed)

Wed 11 NAPLAN commences

Year 4 Reconciliation/Eucharist Info Night

Fri 13 Year 3-6 Athletic Trials

Sun 15 Catholic Education Week (Christ Beside Me-Walking in the Footsteps of St Patrick)

Tues 17 St Patrick's Day

Wed 18 Open Day (all day)

Fri 20 Community Colour Run (Major Fundraiser)

Mass of St Patrick (St Patrick's Cathedral)

Sat 21 Harmony Day

World Down Syndrome Day

Tues 24 Sacrament of Reconciliation (5pm)

Fri 27 Halogen Young Leaders Day

Summer Sport Gala Day (TBC)

Tues 31 EMR Swimming

APRIL

Thur 2 End of Term 1 (1pm finish)

Holy Thursday

Fri 3 Good Friday

Sun 5 Easter Sunday

Parish News

Ash Wednesday Mass
Begin the Lenten season with prayer and reflection as we receive ashes, a symbol of repentance and renewal
Mass times: 9.15am, 12noon, 7.00pm
Adoration and Confession 6.00pm

Religious Education

Dear Families,

Welcome back to a new year filled with new hopes and dreams.

I trust that you have all spent quality time with family and friends and are just as excited as school starting as the children are.

Term 1 is a busy time in the school calendar as we prepare the Year 4 children for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which aligns closely to the season of Lent.

This sacrament is one of the two sacraments of healing (the other is the Anointing of the Sick). Over time, it has also been known as this sacrament of Penance or the sacrament of Confession. Today, we refer to it as Reconciliation, the sacrament of *forgiveness,* the reassurance of God's reconciling and forgiving love for the those who seek it.

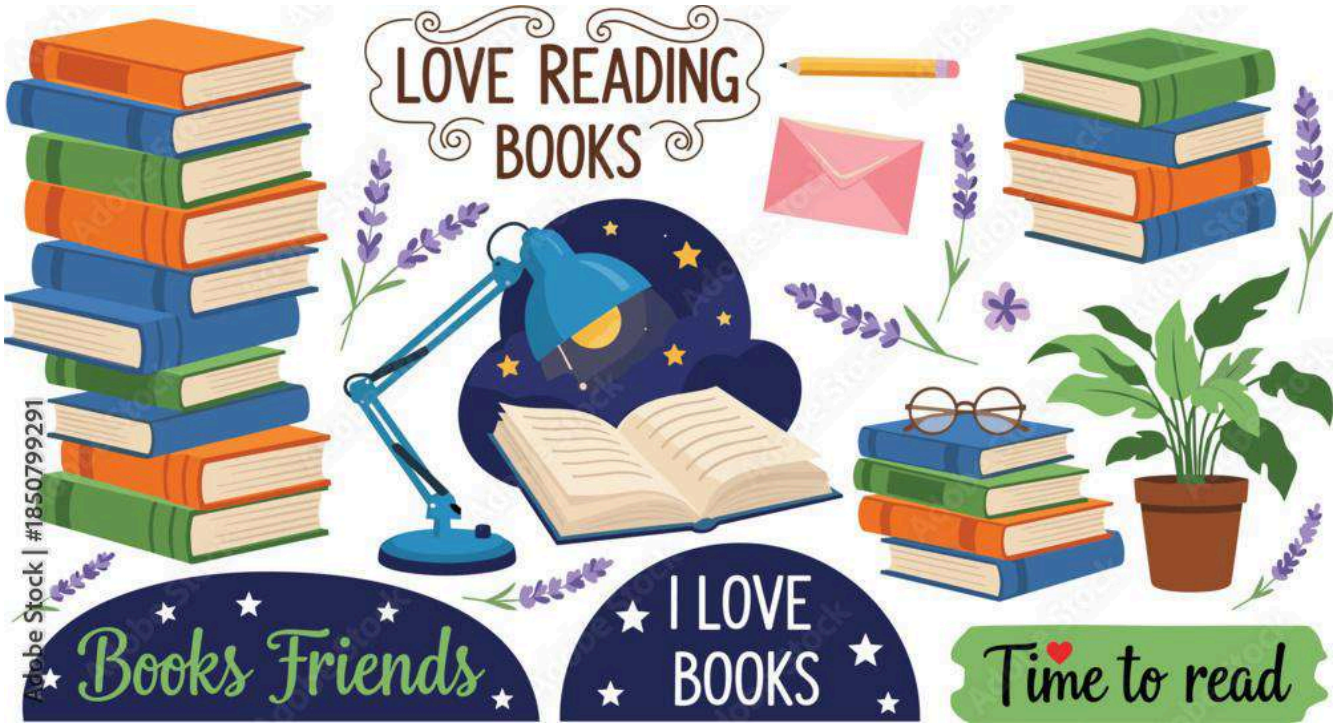
In preparation for the season of Lent, the Year 4 Mini Vinnies will be holding a fundraiser on Friday, 20 February, *Kick Poverty Away*. This fundraiser is for Project Compassion, Caritas, which we support in conjunction with our school parish. Students will collect their soft plastic rubbish and turn it into soccer balls. Many children around the world do not have access to many basic items which we take for granted. This initiative helps our students develop a deeper understanding of the impact of poverty locally and globally.

This year in Religious Education, we will continue to build students' knowledge and experiences of prayer. Students will participate in a variety of prayer experiences, including classroom prayer, masses, paraliturgies, Christian meditation and special prayer services.

All members of our school community are valued and welcomed, and we look forward to sharing our diverse cultural backgrounds and learning from one another throughout the year.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.
Matthew 19:14

Vicky Pejic
Religious Education Leader


LOVE READING BOOKS
Books Friends
I LOVE BOOKS
Time to read
Adobe Stock | #1850799291

Literacy

Dear Parents and Carers,

Starting the Day with Paired Fluency

From next week, all classrooms will begin each day with **Paired Fluency Routines from 9:00–9:10am**. This daily reading routine supports students to build confidence, accuracy, and expression when reading. To ensure your child gains the full benefit of this program, i **essential that children arrive at school on time and are ready to begin learning at 9:00am**. Late arrivals can disrupt this focused reading time and may result in children missing valuable learning opportunities.

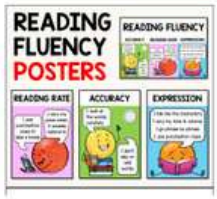
What are Paired Fluency Routines?
Paired Fluency is a structured reading activity where students work with a partner to practise reading aloud. Students take turns reading short texts, providing encouragemen and supporting each other to read smoothly, accurately, and with expression. Teachers guide this process to ensure it is purposeful, supportive, and engaging.

How will Paired Fluency look across different year levels?

Prep – Year 2 (P–2):
In the early years, Paired Fluency focuses on:

- Developing phonics knowledge and decoding skills
- Building confidence when reading aloud
- Reading simple texts accurately and smoothly
- Developing early comprehension through discussion

Students may read together, echo read, or take turns reading short sections of text. Teachers provide close support and guidance to ensure children feel successful and motivated.



Years 3 – 6:
In the upper years, Paired Fluency focuses on:

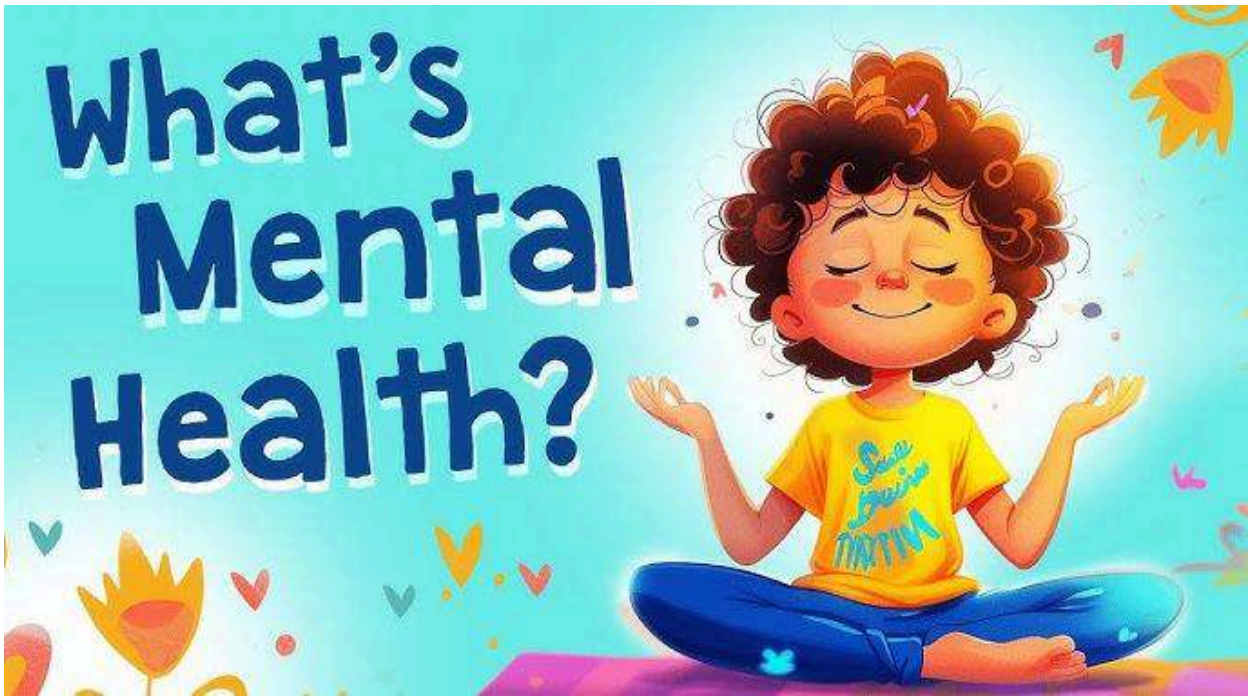
- Improving reading rate, accuracy, and expression
- Developing phrasing and intonation
- Strengthening comprehension and understanding of more complex texts
- Building independence and confidence as readers

Students will practise reading longer and more challenging texts, support each other with feedback, and engage in short discussions to deepen their understanding.

2026 School Staff

Name	Position	Days
Tracey Ryan	Admin	M, W and F
Rana Ghopur	Admin/Bursar	T, Th and F
Julie David	Principal	M-F
Eithne King	Deputy Principal	M, T and F
Stephanie Italiano	Prep	M-F
Zachary Flack	Year 1	M-F
Kate Buffham	Year 2	M-F
Amanda Marvelli Eithne King	Year 2	M,T,Th,F W
Cristina Vezzu	Year 3	M-F
Michelle Luong Katrina Davis	Year 4	M, T, F W, Th
Di Dimovski	Year 4	M-F
Andrea Smith Barb Grabau	Year 5	M-Th
Vicky Pejic Kath Burman	Year 5	M, T, W and F Th
Juliette Foenander Kath Burman	Year 6	M, T, Th, F W
Becc Lark	Year 6	M-F
Susan Michelsson	PE	W, Th and 0.1 F
Katrina Davis	STEM	M, T
Beck Rawlins	Performing Arts	W, Th
Di Herrmann	Auslan	W, Th

Laura Dell'Aquila	Visual Arts	W, Th
Verity Curtain	LDL	T, W and 0.1 Th (Term 2)
Julie David	LDL	Term 1
Katrina Davis	POL Release (REL, IT)	W, Th
Barb G	Year 5 SG	F
Eithne King	PBL/Mental Health	W, Th
Julianne Kelly	Learning and Teaching/Literacy	T, W and Th
Michelle Luong	Teaching and Learning/Maths	2 days
Juliette Foenander	Wellbeing/Mental Heal	1 day
Amanda Mase	Digital Technologies	1 day
Danielle Littlejohn	LSO	M-F
Kim Sundstrom	LSO	2 days
Asma Khadim	LSO	M-F
Ingrid Hale	LSO	3 days
Molly Rae	LSO	M, T, W and F
Tara McDonald	LSO	M, T, W and Th
Nabila Bou ezz	LSO	3 days
Miriam Keuneman	LSO	M, T, Th and F
Christine Kemp	LSO	3 days
Alannah Phillips	LSO	3 days
Georgia MacDonald	LSO	2 days
Claudia Heil	LSO	2 days
Tania Christopher	LSO	4 days



School Psychologist

I am pleased to write that Holy Family will continue to provide psychological support to our families this year.

Dr Alexa Kambouropoulos holds a Ph.D. in Psychology. Alexa is a very passionate and empathic psychologist who works with both children and adolescents who are experiencing a range ofpsychological issues such as anxiety and mood disorders, autism spectrum disorders, interpersonal, learning, and behavioural disorders, study/exam stress, and adjustment difficulties (social & situational). Dr Alexa draws on psychological modalities such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, client-centred, play and solution-focused therapy with psycho-education. Dr Alexa firmly believes that acollaborative and parental partnership approach will produce the most successful outcomes for thechild.

Given Alexa's passion is baking and creative crafts, she utilizes these as part of her play therapy inindividual and group sessions. Alexa finds these modalities encourage quieter children to engage indialogue, develop their confidence and social skills.

Please find below, some brief information regarding the process of therapy:
1.GP referral and parental consent form needs to be submitted before commencingtherapy. The parent, guardian and or the class room teacher can refer the child to therapy.

2. On receiving the above, Alexa meets with the child to introduce herself and build rapport.
3. Point 2 is followed up with a brief parental chat to gather more information about thechild. If necessary, Alexa also seeks further insights from the classroom teacher regardingthe child.
4. During the 10 sessions, Alexa regularly keeps in touch with the parent(s) and providesfeedback regarding the child. Under the MHCP, there is no monetary costs involved to theparent.
5. After the completion of the 10 sessions, if the parent wishes to continue the services,Onpsych invoices the parent the same amount as what Medicare charges which is $124.306.

If you have any questions, please feel welcome to call me (0417 011 665) and or email on: AKambouropoulos@onpsych.com.au

Wellbeing News

Children's Mental Health Week, 9-15 February, 2026

The theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2026 is **'This is My Place'**, which aims to support children and young people to help them feel they belong. CMHW was started in 2015 to give a voice to all children and young people and raise awareness of their mental health.

Our sense of belonging as individuals, in our friendships, in school and in communities, plays a vital role in our mental health and wellbeing. To know our place and really feel part of our environment is a basic human need and has powerful and long lasting impacts in lots of areas in our lives, including our physical and mental health, education, employment and relationships. When we feel that we belong, it empowers us to contribute to the world and make a real difference.

The students will participate in a Mental Health Week activity to help them feel a greater sense of connection and belonging to their classmates, school and community.

When we feel we belong, we may:

- feel included;
- feel nurtured;
- be able to voice our opinions;
- feel more supported to be ourselves;

Parent/Teacher Chats

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

3rd February 2026

2026 Parent/Teacher Chats

Dear Year 1-6 Families,

It is wonderful to see how well the students have settled into routines and learning this year.

2026 is our year to build stronger connections to with families in our school community. This focus is known to enhance student outcomes and a sense of belonging.

> Education is a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, motivated students and enthusiastic parents with high expectations.
>
> *Bob Beauprez*

I am inviting all parents in Years 1-6, to book a 10 minute appointment with your child's class teacher on either Tuesday 10th or Wednesday 11th February.

The focus of this meeting is for parents to share information about their child and family. It is not a time for teachers to tell you about your child's achievements in his/her 8 days at school so far

Some of the information that you could share with your child's 2026 Class teacher could be –

- How your child has settled into his/her 2026 class
- What you are doing at home to support your child's learning
- Any social/emotional/behavioural needs that could impact learning
- Cultural beliefs and practices that staff may need to be aware of when supporting your child
- Parent/Carer expertise to enhance learning opportunities through dialogue with students (e.g. Doctor, builder, fireman, police officer, ...)

The link to book a time with your child's teacher is below –

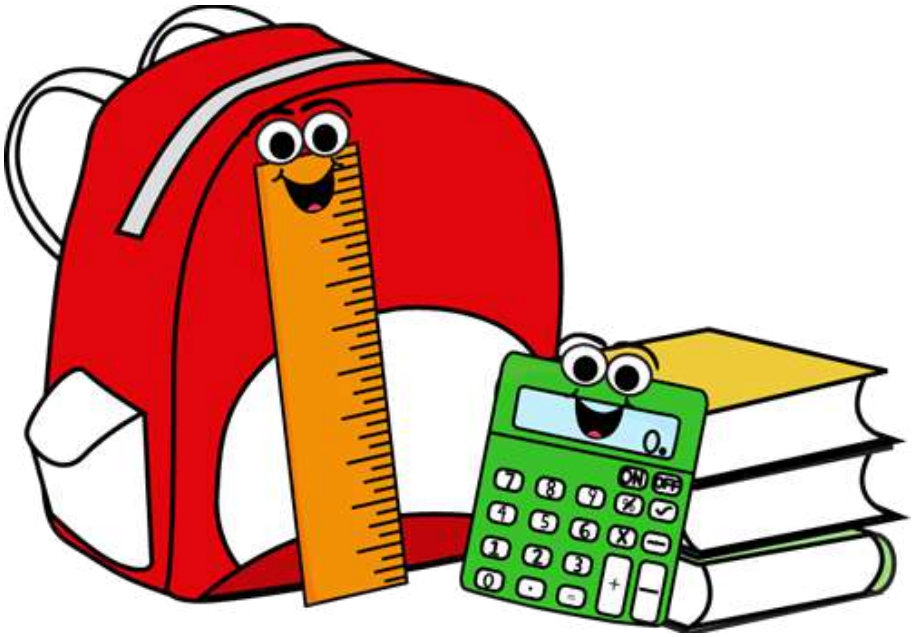
Booking Link

https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code/u5cre

Please contact the Administration Staff if you are having difficulty booking a time 9807 3300.

Yours sincerely,

Julie David (Principal)



Preparing For 2026

There are a few things that need to be organised now in preparation for the 2026 school year, and some further things to prepare in January.

Medical Action Plans

All children who have a current medical plan (Anaphylaxis, Allergy, Asthma or Medical) have received a new blank plan for 2026. This needs to be completed by your doctor and returned on the first day of next year along with any medication required. A note will accompany the new action plan.

Booklists

Booklist items for the 2026 year are organised as follows-

Year Prep-4 stationery items-

All required items will be bulk ordered through school and delivered to Holy Family ready for the 2026 year. Charges for these are added to the curriculum levy to be paid in 2026.

Year 5/6 stationery items-

Some required items are bulk ordered through school and delivered to Holy Family ready for the 2026 year. Charges for these are added to the curriculum levy to be paid in 2026.

*Other required stationery items are to be supplied from home. Please see attached documents outlining what is required and the process for ordering through Campion books.

Items to bring from home (all levels)

Thre are other items that will also be need to be brought from home on the first day of school. Please see what is required for each level below. These items can be brought to school on the day of your child's assessment interview. Please have these items in a bag with each item clearly labelled. This will allow a smoother transition on your child's first full day at school

Next year, all students in Years Prep-6 will be expected to have the green 'communication bag' that was purchased in Prep.

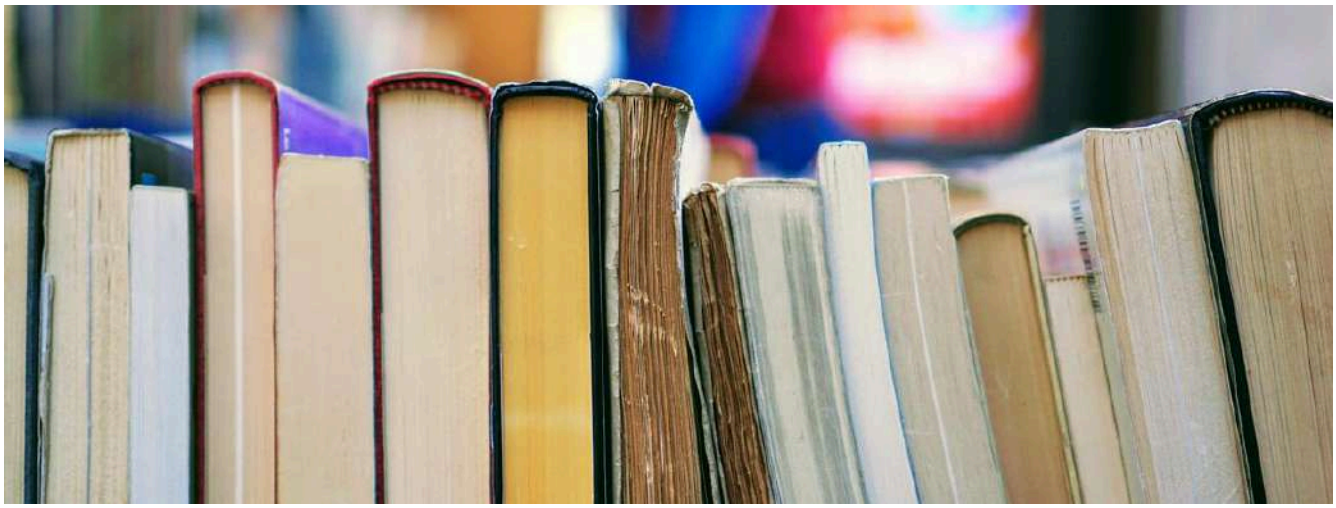
If your child does not have one, they can be purchased online via our school CDF Pay, during second hand uniform sales (new ones not second hand) or at PSW. They can also be purchased at our front office.

8360396
Scholar Bookbag

Holy Family School
ITEMS TO BRING FROM HOME
-PREP-
All required stationery items are bought in bulk and charged through Curriculum levies at the beginning of the school year. These are delivered directly to the classrooms.
1 'PRIMARY PETE' BOOKBAG
(purchased through P.S.W uniform shop)
1 SCHOOL LIBRARY BAG
(GIVEN OUT IN 2025)
1 PAIR OF HEADPHONES
1 BOX OF TISSUES
1 PACKET OF CHUX WIPES
1 PACKET OF DISINFECTANT WIPES
1 ART SMOCK
(LONG SLEEVED)

Holy Family School
ITEMS TO BRING FROM HOME
-YEAR 1-
1 'PRIMARY PETE' BOOKBAG
(RETAIN FROM PREP)
1 SCHOOL LIBRARY BAG
(RETAIN FROM PREP)
1 PAIR OF HEADPHONES
1 BOX OF TISSUES
1 PACKET OF DISINFECTANT WIPES
1 ART SMOCK
(LONG SLEEVED)
All required stationery items are bought in bulk and charged through Curriculum levies at the beginning of the school year. These are delivered directly to the classrooms.

Holy Family School
ITEMS TO BRING FROM HOME
-YEAR 2-
1 'PRIMARY PETE' BOOKBAG
(RETAIN FROM PREP)
1 SCHOOL LIBRARY BAG
1 PAIR OF HEADPHONES
1 BOX OF TISSUES
1 PACKET OF DISINFECTANT WIPES
1 ART SMOCK
(LONG SLEEVED)
All required stationery items are bought in bulk and charged through Curriculum levies at the beginning of the school year. These are delivered directly to the classrooms.



Library News

Dear Families,

Our new library space is almost ready for the students! We are very excited to be able to open very soon for class borrowing.

We are looking for anyone who may be able to assist each morning, anytime from 9-10am to scan in books that have been returned and to reshelve. Please email Eithne if you're able to assist with this.
eking@hfmw.catholic.edu.au

2025 Library Overdues

There are still students who have outstading loans from the library from last year. A copy of these books will be sent home tomorrow. Please have one final look for these items, before we send for replacement costs.

Community News