

# Star of the Sea Catholic College Newsletter

Tuesday 2nd December 2025

## From the Principal

Two days ago saw the beginning of Advent. Many families would have started opening the first door on their Advent calendars yesterday to see what chocolate was behind them as the countdown to Christmas begins. It is a time of preparation as we get things ready for Christmas, but also a time of reflection.

Unfortunately, the lead up to Christmas can also be one of the noisiest times of the year. As we walk down the streets to do our Christmas shopping we hear Christmas carols blaring out of shops and we hear advertisements for things people want us to buy. It is not only noisy to our ears but Advent is also a visually "noisy" time as we see ads around everywhere trying to sell us something.

It's hard to escape the noise, especially when we are trying to reflect on what it is about our lives that we would like to change in the lead up to Christmas. But there are always opportunities to retreat into the quiet and to be attentive of the world around us.

On Friday, one of our staff members noticed a poppy growing through the asphalt of our car park at school. Often we take these sorts of things as a sign of hope, the idea that even in the roughest of environments, beauty can still shine through. So it is appropriate that this was noticed in the lead-up to Christmas. Christmas itself is a great sign of hope, that into a world of violence and sadness and pain, a baby is born who will grow up to talk of peace and love and kindness.



Recently I watched a movie called *The Remains of the Day*, which was set in the early 1930s in England. One of the things I noticed was not the background noise, but the background silence. Because it was set in a time before TVs, computers or the Internet, when people sat down in the evening to do something, they did so in silence. For us today, sitting in silence can seem strange, almost uncomfortable. Even when I am out in my backyard of an evening I can still hear the sounds of the industries from Bell Bay. But it is only in the silence that we can truly reflect and become able to hear what God is asking us to be.

So the challenge for us in the four weeks leading up to Advent is to find those times of silence and to look for those signs of hope. If we fail to do this, Christmas becomes just another day in the calendar, a day that we work very hard to make our house look good for, but in the end it has no purpose or meaning. Christmas without some reflection leading up to it becomes just another day when we have "something on."

God calls us, but most of the time God calls us in the silence. It is only in these times that we can truly discover just what it is that God is calling us to be.

**Richard Chapman**  
Principal



*Attentiveness,  
Hospitality  
and  
Compassion.*

*Silence is the language of God, all else is poor translation. -*

*Rumi*

*Star of the Sea Catholic College acknowledges the Leterremairener people as the traditional custodians of the land on which our school stands.*



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Star of the Sea Catholic College

## Religious Education and Faith Development

Heart

Spirituality



Attentiveness

Hospitality

Compassion

### Nano Nagle

Nano Nagle carried her lantern for others.

She prayed, cared for and educated others.

She was kind.

We could be like Nano Nagle;

carry lanterns for others and believe in God.

Amen.



By Willow Wynne

<u>Stars of the Week - 27th November 2025</u>		
Kinder	<b>Jasmine Bishop</b>	For the clever things she finds out by using her iPad to do great research.
Prep	<b>Parnika Bandaru</b>	For a wonderful start to her time here at Star of the Sea and being so willing to have a go at so many new things. Welcome!
Grade 1/2	<b>Rafael Tilain</b>	For being an excellent role model to other students and always trying his best.
Grade 3	<b>Evie Jacobs</b>	For consistent application and focus in Mathematics. Well done Evie!
Grade 4/5	<b>Sophia Giles</b>	For demonstrating excellent leadership qualities.
Grade 5/6	<b>Oscar Smith</b>	For demonstrating an excellent science presentation on an animal adaptation to another class. Your enthusiasm and knowledge on this topic were impressive!

## Staff Movements

Mrs Harmer is on Professional Learning on Thursday.  
Mrs McGillivray is on Professional Learning on Thursday.  
Mrs Tame is on leave on Thursday

## Year 10 Exams

Our Year 10s have started their exams which will take place all this week. We wish them the best of luck!

## Year 10 Final Week

Next week is our Year 10s final week at Star of the Sea.

On **Tuesday 9th December** they will have their Big Day Out and Service Day combined.

On **Wednesday 10th December** they will have their final day at school, which includes a morning tea with the staff and the traditional *run through the corridors*.

On **Wednesday 10th December in the evening at 6:00pm in the Church** they will have their final prayer and Awards evening.

On **Friday 12th December** they will have their Leaver's Dinner.

## NHSSA Athletics Results

The results from the NHSSA Athletics have come through. Here are some highlights:

- Overall for Division 2B, Star of the Sea won with an impressive 485 points (next closest was 274).
- Star of the Sea came 2nd in the senior grades of Division 2B.
- Star of the Sea came 1st in the junior grades of Div 2B.
- Star of the Sea Year 7s alone would have come 2nd against all Division 2A schools.
- Ella MacFarlane (Year 7) has been selected to represent the Northern Team at the State athletics carnival December this year in Shot Put.

## 2026 Book Sales and Uniform Sales

Our book packs for 2026 will be ordered online through Phil Hughes Office Solutions. We will be providing more information about this soon.

When the lists come out for the book packs, there will be some items that it will be compulsory to purchase through Phil Hughes, while there will be other items which parents can choose whether to purchase through Phil Hughes or somewhere else (or bring in from home). This will vary with each year level. However, all students need all of the items listed for the year level on the book pack list.

We are doing this as feedback from parents suggested they would like a choice as to where to get their book pack items from.

Our Uniform shop will be open Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th February 2026. However, we are also hoping to have the purchasing of uniform items available on our Flexischools app by January 1st. This will allow families to order what they want over the app and then simply pick it up from the front office on those days. However, if you think your child will need to try something on to see if it fits, it will be better to come into the Uniform shop rather than order and then have to send it back.

## Starlight Fundraiser

Bria Jarman (Year 7) is going to participate in the 'Starlight Superswim Challenge for Sick Kids' in February. Her challenge is to swim 10kms in the month of February 2026 and raise \$1,500. This works out to be 15 x 25 metre laps a day. Money raised goes to the Starlight Children's Foundation. The link to donate to this great cause is: <https://superswim.org.au/b-jarman>

## Primary Transition Morning

Next Monday 8th December we will hold our Primary Transition morning. This will see our Primary students moving into the classes they will be in next year with their teacher for next year. This will happen in the two lessons before recess. We will inform parents of this year's Grade 3 students, who will be split into different classes next year, which class they will be in before the day.

## Enrolments for 2026

Enrolments for 2026 for new students for all year levels are now open **and we are currently conducting enrolment interviews for those who have handed their enrolment forms into the school.** *Little Stars*, our Kinder transition program, has begun.

## School Lunches this Week

School lunches for this week are as normal:

**Wednesday**- 3s to 6s

**Friday** - Preps to 2s

## Social Media Age Restrictions



From 10 December young people under-16 will not be allowed to create or hold accounts on certain social media platforms. The restrictions are likely to apply to Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X (formerly Twitter) and YouTube, among other platforms.

We encourage families to visit [eSafety.gov.au](https://esafety.gov.au) to find out what's changing, and how your family can prepare. The [@eSafetyOffice](https://esafety.gov.au) website includes information, tips and resources for parents and carers, and young people to help prepare for the change.

As a school, we have shared information with students about the upcoming changes and answered students' questions as they have arisen. We will continue to share information in the coming weeks to support students and families with this change.

## It's time to fill our school with colour!

**Our School Colour Fun Run is this Friday December 5th.**



- We will hold this event in the afternoon, after lunch.
- Parents are welcome to come along to watch the event.
- Times for individual classes will be published on Compass this week.
- Students will need a white or black top for this event.
- If there is any final fundraising to add to the fundraising portal please update this **before** Friday.

## Kindness Day

Yesterday we celebrated Kindness Day, a time to focus on what we can do to promote kindness and ways to care for others. We can all learn more about the ways we can show kindness. Together we wrote messages of kindness across our school, reflected on the ways we can show kindness to others and shared Kindness Cupcakes to remind us that kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give.



# Emotion of the week

## Embarrassment

The feeling of embarrassment happens when we have self-conscious discomfort in response to a minor incident witnessed by others. (Brené Brown) The thing about embarrassment, though, is that it is only fleeting - it doesn't last long. Most of our embarrassment stems from either committing a social mistake, being the centre of attention, or being in a sticky social situation. And we can feel embarrassment on behalf of someone else, which is why we sometimes shut our eyes during episodes of Kath and Kim.

### Calendar Term 4 2025

<b>Friday 5th December</b>	Colour Run
<b>Monday 8th December</b>	Advent Prayer; Primary Transition morning
<b>Tuesday 9th December</b>	Year 10 Service Day and Big Day Out
<b>Wednesday 10th December</b>	Last day for Year 10s; Year 10 Final Prayer and Awards
<b>Thursday 11th December</b>	Primary Nativity Play 12:05pm Primary Assembly 2:00pm
<b>Friday 12th December</b>	Year 10 Leavers Dinner, George Town Christmas Parade
<b>Monday 15th December</b>	Advent Prayer
<b>Tuesday 16th December</b>	Last day for students; End of Year Assembly
<b>Wednesday 17th December</b>	Last day for staff

### **SetUp for Success**

The final SetUp for 2025 will be held tomorrow 3rd December at the usual time, between 9:00am and 10:30am in the Kinder room

Next Wednesday 10th December will be SetUp Christmas party which will run from 10:30am till 11:30am.



### **Term 4 Primary Assembly Roster**

The following classes will be leading assemblies over the coming weeks. **Please note that this roster may change**

<b>WEEK 8</b>	Thursday 4th December	12.05pm	Kinder
<b>WEEK 9</b>	Thursday 11th December	12.05pm	Primary Nativity
	Thursday 11th December	2.00pm	Final Primary Assembly

# Social media age restrictions

## What you need to know

**From 10 December 2025 Australian young people under 16 will not be allowed to create or hold accounts on certain social media platforms.**

Delaying account access allows more time for young people to build digital literacy and greater resilience.



### How will it work?

Under the law, the responsibility lies with the age-restricted platforms to find and deactivate existing accounts held by under-16s and to prevent under-16s from creating new accounts.

**There are no penalties for under-16s** who access an age-restricted social media platform, or for their parents or carers.

### Social media platforms

The age restrictions are likely to apply to **Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, X and YouTube**, as well as other platforms. [See the latest list.](#)

**Most standalone gaming and messaging apps**, as well as many services that support health and education, will not be affected by the new law.

### Information and resources

Visit eSafety's social media age restrictions hub to find out what's happening and how to prepare.

The hub includes practical guidance for parents and carers and young people, including get-ready guides and actions plans to prepare for the change.



For more **information and resources** to help you prepare, visit  
**[eSafety.gov.au](https://esafety.gov.au)**

# Get ready for the social media age restrictions

## 8 step action plan for parents and carers



This is a summary of the [Get-ready guide for parents and carers](#), where you can find more details and tips.

**Step 1.** Read eSafety's [FAQs for parents and carers](#) to find out what's changing and why.

**Step 2.** Start having open, ongoing conversations with under-16s about their social media use, how they feel about the new law and what they can do to get ready. Use eSafety's [conversation starters for parents and carers](#).

**Step 3.** Use the table on this page to help your child list the online platforms and apps they have accounts with, as well as the key people, groups, communities and services they connect with on each. Check the [latest list of age-restricted platforms](#) to find out which accounts they're likely to lose.

Platforms and apps	Are they age-restricted?	Important people, groups, communities and services



You can also suggest that your child check eSafety's [Get-ready guide for under-16s](#), which has an action plan they can fill out themselves.