



Principal News

Dear Families,

Welcome to the 2026 school year!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome our staff, students and families to what promises to be a productive and enjoyable year. I hope the Christmas break provided time for rest, renewal and connection and that everyone has returned feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead.

It has been wonderful to reconnect with so many of you this morning and hear of your holiday adventures. Although it is only the first day, our classrooms appeared calm and students settled, with routines being established and relationships being built on mutual respect. I have no doubt that this year will begin very positively, as others have in previous years.

We warmly welcome our new students and their families to the St Mary's School community. We also extend an excited welcome to **Evie Jennings, Catherine Connolly, Cassandra Kennedy and Kayla Biggs** who are joining us as new classroom teachers. They are joining a thriving and supportive learning and faith community grounded in Catholic values and traditions that have shaped our school for 184 years since its establishment in 1842.

At St Mary's School, we hold **high expectations for learning and behaviour**, grounded in our Catholic values and our commitment to excellence. We believe every child is capable of growth and success and we strive to create learning environments that are engaging, supportive and challenging. Equally, we emphasise respectful behaviour, personal responsibility and care for one another, ensuring our school remains a safe and positive place for all.

As we begin this new year together, I look forward to a **productive and purposeful partnership** between leadership, staff and families. Trust, collaboration and shared responsibility are central to our success. When we work together with a common vision, our students benefit greatly.

Open and transparent communication is a priority. We encourage families to engage with us, ask questions and share any concerns in a timely manner, knowing that strong relationships are built on honesty, respect and mutual understanding. Together, we can support our students to flourish academically, socially and spiritually.

To stay informed about upcoming activities and events, please make it a habit to read our fortnightly newsletter, particularly the Term Calendars. If you have social media accounts, you may like to follow our official school accounts on Facebook and Instagram.

Everyone is warmly invited to attend our upcoming whole school, beginning of school year Mass on Friday at 10:00am. Everyone is also invited to attend our Family Picnic on Thursday, February 12 between 5:00pm and 7:00pm at Barwon Valley Park in Belmont.

As the term progresses, I look forward to reconnecting with you all. As always, my door is open. I am excited about the opportunities that 2026 will bring and confident that, working in partnership, it will be a rewarding year for our whole school community. Thank you for being part of St Mary's School and I look forward to the journey ahead.

Kind regards, Annice



Annice Lappin
Principal

Playground Update

While the **Jubilee Playground** is now complete, we await the construction of the sunshade and the installation of the covers for their beams. As the old playgrounds have been removed, we have made the decision to allow a limited number of students to play on the new playground in the interim. A number of recess and lunchtime clubs and alternative activities have also been initiated to ensure students are able to fully enjoy their breaks while the school yard undergoes redevelopment.

School Links

2026 Staff Email

Family Handbook

School Website

Parent Portal
password:
mary175



Facebook:
[@St.MarysPrimaryGeelong](https://www.facebook.com/St.MarysPrimaryGeelong)



Instagram:
[stmarys_ps_geelong](https://www.instagram.com/stmarys_ps_geelong)



St Mary's School acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

Dear Families,

I hope you have all enjoyed a peaceful and refreshing Christmas and holiday period and that you have had the opportunity to spend valuable time together. As we begin a new school year, we warmly welcome our students back and look forward to the learning, growth and opportunities that lie ahead.

An important focus at the start of the year is the establishment of strong routines and habits that support student wellbeing and learning. Regular attendance and arriving at school on time are two of the most powerful ways families can set children up for success. Being punctual ensures students begin the day calmly, connect positively with their peers and teachers and do not miss vital learning instruction. Consistent attendance also builds a sense of belonging and continuity, allowing students to fully engage with classroom learning and routines.

At St Mary's, we also place great value on building strong relationships and a connected school community. Throughout this first term, we look forward to welcoming families to a range of opportunities to gather, connect and engage, including our Foundation Parents Morning Tea, the PFA Family Picnic, the Foundation and New Families Parent Welcome Night and parent teacher conversations. We warmly encourage families to join us for year level Masses and to take advantage of the incidental conversations that occur each day with our staff, who are present on the gates at the end of the school day. These moments of connection are central to fostering a welcoming, supportive and faith-filled community.

We thank families for their ongoing partnership in supporting these habits and in engaging with our school community. By working together to prioritise attendance, punctuality and preparedness, we create the conditions for every child to thrive. We look forward to a positive and productive year ahead!

Warm Regards,
Deborah Boland



Deborah Boland
Deputy Principal

Year 5/6 – Humanities: Civics and Citizenship

In Year 5 and 6, students develop a deeper understanding of Australia's democratic system. They explore the values, principles and institutions that underpin our democracy, including the influence of the Westminster system and the roles of local, state and federal governments. Students learn about elections, law-making and law enforcement, as well as the rights and responsibilities of Australian citizens. They also examine different perspectives on contemporary civic issues, investigate how groups work together for change, and explore the concept of global citizenship, encouraging active, informed and responsible participation in society.

Spotlight on Learning

Core Knowledge Focus Areas Term 1

As you read the year level learning outlines below, we encourage families to engage in conversations with their children about what they will be learning this term. Taking time to talk together about these areas of learning helps children make meaningful connections, build confidence and see the value of their learning at school. This focus across the school also demonstrates how St Mary's Core Knowledge scope and sequence carefully builds on the knowledge taught in previous years, ensuring learning is connected and cumulative.

Foundation – Personal and Social Capability

In Foundation, students explore what it means to be a learner and a valued member of the St Mary's community. They develop self-awareness by learning to recognise, name and express their emotions in familiar situations, building a growing vocabulary to describe how they feel. Children also begin developing resilience by identifying their personal strengths and learning how trying new things helps them manage challenges. Through social learning, students identify the different groups they belong to, such as family, class and community and practise the skills needed to build friendships, include others and form positive relationships with peers and adults.

Year 1/2 – Personal, Social and Ethical Learning

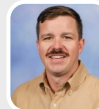
In Years 1 and 2, students develop an understanding of right and wrong and learn why shared values, rules and responsibilities are important in school and community life. They explore how emotions and dispositions such as honesty and kindness influence behaviour and decision-making, particularly when people may disagree. Students also strengthen their ability to recognise and express emotions, show empathy for others and use simple coping and help-seeking strategies, supporting positive relationships and responsible choices.

Year 3/4 – Humanities: Civics and Citizenship

In Years 3 and 4, students are introduced to the foundations of government, democracy and citizenship. They learn about key democratic values, how decisions are made in communities and the role of local government in providing everyday services. Students explore why rules and laws exist, the difference between them and why they are important for fairness and safety. They also investigate how people participate in communities and learn about the diverse cultural, religious and social groups that make up Australian society, fostering respect and understanding of others.



Bernie Hellard
Learning Diversity
Mental Health &
Wellbeing Leader



Nicholas Coots
Wellbeing
Leader, Physical
Education
Teacher

Helping Your Child Settle Back Into School After the Holidays

The holidays are a time of fun, relaxation, and quality family moments. However, transitioning back to school can be a challenge for some children. As parents, you play a vital role in helping your child ease back into their school routine with confidence and enthusiasm. Here are some tips to support your child as they return to school after a break.

Re-establish Routines

A consistent routine helps children feel secure and prepared. In the days leading up to the first day back, gradually return to the school schedule. This means:

- Setting regular bedtimes and wake-up times
- Encouraging healthy breakfasts to start the day right
- Organising school supplies and uniforms the night before
- Discussing the morning routine to ensure a smooth start

Build Excitement About School

Help your child see the positives in returning to school by reminding them of the things they enjoy, such as:

- Seeing their friends again
- Favourite subjects and seeing your teachers
- Exciting upcoming events for the term

You can ask questions like, *"What are you looking forward to most?"* to shift their focus to the excitement of learning and socialising.

Encourage Social Reconnection

After time away, some children may feel shy or disconnected from friends. You can help by:

- Encouraging them to remember friends' names and what they enjoyed together before the break
- Setting up playdates or after-school meet-ups
- Role-playing conversations to help ease social anxiety

Refresh Their Memory

A long holiday break may mean that some lessons and skills have faded. You can help by:

- Asking your child to share what they remember from school before the break
- Encouraging light reading or educational activities at home

Offer Encouragement and Support

It's normal for children to feel a little anxious about going back to school. Reassure them by:

- Listening to their concerns and validating their feelings
- Reminding them of past successes
- Encouraging a positive mindset: *"You've got this!"*

By preparing ahead and staying positive, you can make the transition back to school smooth and enjoyable for your child. Here's to a great start after the holidays!

Student Specialist Days— wear sports uniform

Tuesday:

Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 S & E

Wednesday:

Year 1/2 and Year 5/6 T

Thursday:

Foundation

Friday:

Year 5/6 may wear their sports uniform on this day (optional).



ST MARY'S SCHOOL
GEELONG

**St Mary's School is committed to
Child Safety.**

**We promote the safety, wellbeing
and inclusion of all children.**

Term 1 School Calendar, 2026

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	JAN 26 Australia Day Public Holiday	JAN 27 STUDENT FREE DAY	JAN 28—First Day for Students Foundation Students finish at 1:30pm Newsletter 2027 Foundation Enrolments Open	JAN 29 Foundation Students finish at 1:30pm	JAN 30 Foundation Students finish at 1:30pm Beginning of Year Parish Mass; 10:00am, all students
2	FEB 2 2:50pm School Assembly (Year 5/6) Student Leadership 2027 School Tour Bookings Open via school website	FEB 3	FEB 4 Foundation Students REST DAY	FEB 5 Music Bus Commences	FEB 6 Chess Club Commences
3	FEB 9	FEB 10	FEB 11 Foundation Students REST DAY Newsletter	FEB 12 PFA Family Picnic; 5:00 –7:00pm	FEB 13
4	FEB 16 2027 Enrolment School Tour; 9:15am PSG Meetings # 1 3:00pm School Assembly (Year 3/4Q)	FEB 17 SHROVE TUESDAY P&T Conversations; 3:30 to 6:00pm	FEB 18 ASH WEDNESDAY Foundation Students REST DAY P&T Conversations; 3:30 to 6:00pm Interschool Cricket/Basketball	FEB 19 School Fees: DDR Fortnightly & Quarterly Commences	FEB 20 School Fees: DDR Monthly Commences (Sat FEB 21—Sacrament Enrolment Mass)
5	FEB 23 2027 Enrolment School Tour; 9:15am	FEB 24 Parish Mass; 10:00am Yr 5/6	FEB 25 Foundation Students REST DAY Newsletter PFA Meeting 7:00pm Interschool Volleyball	FEB 26	FEB 27 WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO DAY Foundation & New Families Parent Welcome Night (Sat FEB 28—Sacrament Enrolment Mass)
6	MAR 2 2027 Enrolment School Tour; 9:15am F-4 Swimming Week School Fees: DDR Annual processed. Annual Fees due (NB 28/2/26 falls on a w/ end)	MAR 3 F-4 Swimming Week	MAR 4 F-4 Swimming Week	MAR 5 F-4 Swimming Week	MAR 6 F-4 Swimming Week World Day of Prayer (Year 5/6)
7	MAR 9 SCHOOL CLOSED Labour Day Holiday	MAR 10	MAR 11 NAPLAN Begins Newsletter	MAR 12	MAR 13 MANNIX Feast Day (students wear Red & casual clothes) PFA FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY
8	MAR 16 3:00pm School Assembly (1/2 Crystal) Catholic Education Week	MAR 17 PSG Meetings # 2	MAR 18 SAC Meeting; 7:00pm	MAR 19 2027 Enrolment School Tour; 9:15am	MAR 20 2027 Enrolment School Tour; 9:15am Lunch Order Day-Hot Pastries Parish Mass; 10:00am Yr 3/4 & Foundation Mass of St Patrick (Melb)
9	MAR 23 School Cross Country (Yr 3-6)	MAR 24	MAR 25 Sacrament of Confirmation (Yr 6) 5:00pm Newsletter	MAR 26 PSG Meetings # 3 Music Bus—Final	MAR 27 Parish Mass; 10:00am Yr 1/2 & Yr 5/6 Chess Club —Final
10	MAR 30 2027 Enrolment School Tour; 9:15am 3:00pm School Assembly (5/6 Sapphire)	MAR 31	APR 1 2027 Foundation Enrolments Close Open Classrooms; 3:15-4:15pm	APR 2 HOLY THURSDAY End of Term 1; students dismissed 1:00pm	APR 3 GOOD FRIDAY

School Fees & Levies

Billing of the **2026 Annual Fees & Levies** to families as at 27 January, 2026, is currently being finalised. Full details of charges are available on the school's [website](#).

Any queries regarding Fees & Levies, including changes to your current Fee Commitment payment option, can be directed to Jacqui Kol (Admin Finance) at:

schoolfees@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au

Phone 5229 9453 option 2 'Fees/Accounts'.

To arrange a meeting to discuss Private Fee Agreements please contact Annice Lappin (Principal) at: principal@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au



DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENT SCHEDULE

As per families' DDR Forms. [DDR Form link](#).

ANNUAL

Processed on 28 February each year *

QUARTERLY

Processed on the third Thursday in February, May, August and November

MONTHLY

Processed on the 20th of each month * (February to November x 10 payments)

FORTNIGHTLY

Commences on the third Thursday in February (February to November x 20 payments)

(*Payments falling on a weekend will be processed on the first business day following)



FEE & LEVIES COMMITMENT AGREEMENT

NEW FAMILIES to the school
Please complete an [agreement](#)

CURRENT SCHOOL FAMILIES

Only complete a New Agreement if you wish to make a change to your current arrangement (i.e. Split Billing)

Family School Fees Statements

Families are billed annually for School Fees & Levies at the commencement of each school year for their enrolled child(ren). Any student commencing or leaving during the school year will receive rebates as per the Principal's discretion. Financial support is available through the **Victorian Government's Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund** and the **School Fees Concession Program**. Information and Application Forms for these will be available at the start of 2026 for eligible families wishing to apply.

Payment of School Fees

All families are required to have a **Fee & Levies Commitment Agreement** in place. The preferred payment option by **Direct Debit** either **annually, quarterly, monthly** or **fortnightly**. Families selecting payment by Direct Debit also complete a **Direct Debit Authority Form**, which will continue to operate for the length of time the family has any child(ren) enrolled in St Mary's School Geelong or amounts still owing following departure from school. Amounts payable for your chosen option are adjusted accordingly each year. **Please note: Families who request individual split billing will need to complete separate Fee & Levies Commitment Agreements and their payments will be adjusted accordingly.**

Alternatively, families preferring to make a one off, **lump sum, full payment** at the beginning of the year can do so by cash, credit/debit card or EFT prior to **28 February, 2026**.

If families are unable to comply with either of these methods of payment you are asked to **make an appointment with the Principal** to organise a **Private Fee Agreement**, which will be reviewed each year.

If school fees are not paid, and there is no approved payment arrangement in place, your child(ren)'s enrolment will be reviewed. Legal advice may also be sought for outstanding accounts to be forwarded to a commercial collection agency with any additional collection costs (if applicable) payable by the family.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Education Curriculum is GST exempt, and as such GST does not apply to School Fees & Levies. However other activities of a recreational nature (e.g. Food on School Camps) do attract GST and is charged accordingly.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Parents/Carers/Guardians holding a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent as at first student day, **28 January 2026**, may be eligible for the Victorian Government's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) which assists eligible families by providing payments to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. In 2026 the amount will increase from \$154 to \$400 for eligible primary school students. The allowance will be paid directly to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions/incursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. Application forms are available [here](#) for application in 2026.

NOTE: Families who qualify for CSEF may also be eligible for Fee Assistance through the School Fees Concession Program.

PFA Secondhand Uniform Sales

Please see [here the price list](#) and contact/order details. **EFTPOS Sales only.**

Parents & Friends' Volunteer Register

The PFA raises funds for school resources, equipment and programs and organises social events for the school community. Many parents have expressed they are not able to attend P&FA meetings but could be available to assist by volunteering.

Please complete this [form](#) if you are happy to be included on a register of volunteers.

School News

2026 SCHOOL DATES

Term 1
27 January -
2 April

Term 2
20 April -
26 June

Term 3
13 July -
18 September

Term 4
5 October -
18 December
*Last day for
students
15/12*

2026 STUDENT FREE Days

TERM 1

Tuesday 27 January

TERM 2

Monday 20 April

Tuesday 21 April

Friday 5 June

TERM 3

Friday 14 August

Monday 17 August

TERM 4

Monday 16 November

Wednesday 16 December

Thursday 17 December

2026 SCHOOL CLOSURE Days

TERM 1

Monday 9 March; Labour Day

Friday 3 April; Good Friday

TERM 2

Monday 8 June; Monarch's Birthday

TERM 4

Monday 2 November

Tuesday 3 November; Melbourne Cup

Friday 18 December

2026 Sacramental Dates

The 2026 Sacramental Dates have now been published and can be found below. If your family is aware of any reason that your child will be unable to attend their Sacramental celebration, please notify Annice as soon as possible by emailing:

principal@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au at your earliest convenience.



Sacrament of Confirmation (Yr 6)

Wednesday 25 March
5:00pm
St Mary's Basilica



Sacrament of First Eucharist (Yr 4)

Sunday 9 August
2:30pm
St Mary's Basilica



Sacrament of Penance (Yr 3)

Friday 27 November
12:00pm
St Mary's School

nForma: Parent login required for 2026 School Year

St Mary's School has commenced using the **nForma** application (replacing Operoo) for access to student care profiles, school reports, first aid notifications and other communication to school families.

Following on from the Operoo communication sent to all families on 11 December, 2025, please ensure all parents have created individual logins and set up your child's medical profile.

If you experience any issue with login, please contact [Jackie Vaotangi](#) in school administration who will assist.

Reminder, your email must be registered with the school database for nForma to recognise your email to login to the portal. For further information and how to download the Parent App, please see the [How to Guide Link](#).

PARENT & TEACHER CONVERSATIONS: Book via nForma

Bookings for the conversations will be via nForma Portal for parents, using the nMEET module on nForma. **Please look out on the nForma App in the next week for the details.**

Sacramental Enrolment Masses

Information regarding the upcoming Sacramental Enrolment Masses will be shared shortly with families of students in Years 3, 4, and 6. Please ensure you read and respond to the **nForma Notice** as soon as possible.

Family Enrolment Masses for St Mary's School are 21 or 28 February at 6:00pm.

We look forward to walking this faith journey together, supporting our students in their spiritual growth, and celebrating the richness of our Catholic traditions as a school community.

School Reminders



CLASSES BEGIN AT 8:50AM AND END AT 3:15PM

School **gates close at 8:50am** each morning, when the first bell rings. Students arriving after 8:50am are required to be signed in by a parent/carer/guardian at the school's administration, please bring your mobile device. School **gates open at 3:10pm** each afternoon, with students being dismissed at 3:15pm.



STUDENT ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Families are required to inform the school of their **child's absence with a reason** via email to:

absence@smgeelong.catholic.edu.au and their **child's classroom educator** prior to 8:50am on the day of absence.

This also includes part day absences (e.g. to attend appointments or early pick ups). **NEW in 2026** - enter your child's future absence via their profile on **nForma**. **How to guides are linked to the Family Handbook.**



EATING TIMES

Fruit Break - Thank you for ensuring that the small fresh fruit or vegetable snack packed is easy to eat whilst students are working and does not require peeling or cutting.

10:55am - 11:05am - Supervised Eating Time (Play Break #1).

1:35pm - 1:45pm - Supervised Eating Time (Play Break #2).



SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

School Assemblies are scheduled throughout the term and are advertised in the school's termly calendar. On assembly days, the **Parish and Front Gates open at 2:55pm** for families to access the school's atrium.

Assemblies begin promptly at 3:00pm and conclude by 3:15pm.

School PHOTO Day

School Photo Information

Are you ready for 2026 school photos?

St Mary's School

Friday 27th February 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.**

**Students wear
full summer
School
Uniform.**

Sibling and
family photos
are taken on
the day.

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





St Mary's School
Parents & Friends' Association
invite you to our

2026 Family Picnic

Thursday 12th February • 5-7pm

Please join us at
Barwon Valley Fun Park, Belmont
BYO picnic, rug & deck chairs

Some St Mary's School staff will be in attendance,
but not supervising students.
Families are responsible for the supervision of their children.



DRIVE THRU PROCEDURES

DRIVE TOWARDS MCKILLOP STREET EXIT

DRIVE BETWEEN YELLOW LINES

DROP OFF/PICK UP IN YELLOW ZONE ONLY

DRIVERS REMAIN WITH VEHICLES AT ALL TIMES

STRICTLY NO OVERTAKING

SPEED LIMIT WALKING PACE



DRIVE THRU REMINDERS

Drive towards the McKillop Street exit

- On entry, drive towards the McKillop Street exit to avoid congestion
- Always drive between the yellow lines

Adults are to remain in their vehicle at all times

- Please farewell or greet your child in your car
- Students need to manage their school bag and belongings independently

Students exit the vehicle along the footpath area, **no earlier than 8:30am**

- Students walk into the school grounds by walking along the footpath, not the drive thru area

The Drive Thru gate closes at 8:50am & 3:30pm

- **MORNING DROP OFF:** Between 8:30am and 8:50am ONLY
- **AFTERNOON PICK UP:** Between 3:15pm and 3:30pm ONLY

IMPORTANT NOTICE

For children who require assistance with their school bag or need an extra hug or kiss, please use an alternative drop off/pick up arrangement:

- **FRONT GATE:** Park your vehicle in the Haymarket Car Park. This will allow you to leave your vehicle and assist your children with their school bag. Please remind your child about road safety when walking across the unmanned crossing.
- **PARISH GATE:** Park your vehicle in Yarra Street. This gate is also a good option for families who walk to school. Please note, the Parish Car Park is for school staff only.

Families are reminded to take care and obey parking signs when picking up and dropping off children around schools.



Students wearing SMART Watches

As communicated in the St Mary's School Family Handbook, **Smart watches and other wearable digital devices are not to be worn during school hours.** This is to ensure that students are not distracted from learning. Parents/Carers/Guardians who choose to allow their child to bring smart watches and other wearable digital devices to school must communicate this with the classroom teacher. The smart watch or other wearable digital device must not be worn, be switched off and securely stored in the student's school bag, while at school.

School Reminders

Art



St Mary's School Families

Welcome back, I hope everyone had a great holiday.

A friendly reminder to please send an **art smock for your child** to protect uniforms during art classes. An old oversized shirt or t-shirt, clearly labelled with their name would be fine. Art can be a very messy activity so it is important for the students to wear something to prevent little accidents.

Thank you in advance for your assistance, I look forward to another great year of amazing creations.

Liza Rosati
Visual Arts

2027 FOUNDATION STUDENT ENROLMENT

The application for enrolment period is now open for students commencing school in Foundation 2027.

New families and current school families are invited to book a [school tour](#) (this is optional) and [apply for enrolment](#) via the school website.

Foundation 2027 enrolments close on Wednesday 1 April, 2026.



FOUNDATION 2027 SCHOOL TOURS in 2026

Monday 16 February; 9:15am

Monday 23 February; 9:15am

Monday 2 March; 9:15am

Thursday 19 March; 9:15am

Friday 20 March; 9:15am

Monday 30 March; 9:15am

Tour Bookings Open Monday 2 February, via the school website.



FOUNDATION 2027 Enrolments Close

Wednesday 1 April, 2026.



FOUNDATION 2027 Applicant Interview with the School Principal

Monday 27 April

Tuesday 28 April

Wednesday 29 April



The Music Bus has opened 2026 Enrolments

If your child wishes to join for Term 1, 2026, please complete the EOI link below:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ee4627a5204c46158e1ab17e7c8069c6>

Lessons are available at school in Keyboard, Guitar, Ukulele, Drums and vocals.

Lessons will be held on a Thursday morning.



[Geelong Parenting
Calendar, Term 1 2026](#)



Community News

CHESS CLASS DETAILS

DAY: FRIDAY

TIME: 1:35-2:15pm

LOCATION: Upstairs Library

DATES: 6 Feb—27 Mar

COST: \$145 per child, per term

Chessforschools



TERM 1, 2026 - REGISTER NOW @
CHESSFORSCHOOLS.COM.AU

SPECIALISED CHESS COACHING

Since 2002, we have been providing our popular Chess For Schools program in schools throughout Melbourne and Greater Geelong



'I am thrilled with the tremendous success of the chess program run by Chess for Schools. The students' adoration for the program is evident as they eagerly anticipate lunchtime on Tuesdays, bursting with excitement. The instructors' dedication, patience and attentiveness foster an engaging and nurturing learning environment, igniting the children's passion for chess as their skills flourish'.

Jessica Ward, Teacher - Loreto Toorak.

HOW CAN CHESS BENEFIT YOUR CHILD?

Educational: Improved IQ, critical thinking, concentration, analytical skills, memory.

Social: Develop new friendships, social interaction skills, sportsmanship.

Emotional: Confidence, self-esteem, resilience through winning and losing games.

CLASS STRUCTURE:

Different lessons are taught each week from a structured syllabus ranging from tactics, strategies, master openings, traps & special moves. After the lesson children are paired up in a fun tournament play off. Prizes are awarded to the top 3 players at end of term.

BOOK HERE



CHESSFORSCHOOLS.COM.AU



*International
Women's Day*

**Community Evening
with Abbey Holmes**

Tuesday 10th March, 2026

Drinks and nibbles from 5.30pm

Main address 6.30pm

Become a foster carer

You can change a life by opening your heart and home to vulnerable children and young people in your community. Throughout the region there continues to be a high demand for foster carers who can provide nurturing care and support on weekends, school holidays, short-term or long-term.

Mackillop supports foster carers with comprehensive training, ongoing advice, respite care and an around the clock helpline.

If you'd like to find out more about this incredibly rewarding journey, get in touch with Mackillop today.

Contact us today

mackillop.org.au/fostercare 1300 791 677

Scan the QR
code for more



Mackillop Family Services acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and their Elders in each of the Communities where we work.



As a Rainbow Tick organisation, Mackillop values an inclusive culture where lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, gender diverse, intersex and asexual people (LGBTIQ+) have the right to be safe.



**Mackillop
Family
Services**