

# ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## *Staying Connected No. 4* *3 March, 2026*

### **School Closure - Friday 6 March and Public Holiday- Monday 9 March**

Hi Everyone,

As previously advised, school will be closed to students on Friday 6 March.

This day will provide dedicated time for all staff to engage in important preparation work as part of our **2026 School Review Year**.

During this time, staff will be completing **MACS professional practice matrices**, supported by evidence that helps identify where we are currently positioned in our teaching, learning and engagement practices.

This work is an important part of the School Review process. It allows staff to:

- identify our current strengths
- recognise areas for continued growth
- ensure alignment with the **MACS Vision for Instruction and Vision for Engagement**
- prepare collectively for the upcoming Review process.

The focus of the day is thoughtful professional reflection, ensuring that our future planning is grounded in authentic evidence of current practice.

This preparation forms an important part of our commitment to **Reset, Restart, Refocus**, ensuring clarity, consistency and a shared understanding of practice across our school as we continue to strengthen outcomes for all students.

The school is also closed on Monday 9 March for the Labour day Public Holiday.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Anthony McCluskey".

**Anthony McCluskey**  
Principal

# PRINCIPAL AWARD



## 2026 TERM DATES

**TERM 1:** Friday 30 January - Thursday 02 April (Good Friday 03 April)

**TERM 2:** Monday 20 April - Friday 26 June

**TERM 3:** Monday 13 July - Friday 18 September

**TERM 4:** Monday 05 October - Tuesday 15 December  
(Year 6 finish Friday 11 Dec)

# SRC Report

23rd February

Today the SRC met for the very first time in 2026. In our meeting, we discussed the role of the Student Representative Council in our school. We learnt that it is the role of the SRC to give a voice to each of our classes. We will do this by having short regular meetings with our class every fortnight. We will then take this information to our meetings to explore our Social Justice actions, how to improve the school and to celebrate the good things that happen here at St Mary MacKillop Primary School. We look forward to a great year working together to make our amazing school a great place to be!



### 2026 Class SRC Representatives:

Gabriella Horvatic 3B, Sofia Mehmet 3R, Ivy Meskovski 3Y, Jacob Toth 4B, Charbel Haddad 4R, Monique Riggio 4Y, Noah Buhagiari 5R, Aubrey Hein 5B, Jovie Sacco 5Y, Abigail Tinaro 6B, Iris Phan 6R, Selina Chai 6Y.

### 2026 School Captains and Vice Captains:

Sofia Banovski, Lara Kvesic, Scarlett Tartaglia, John Toth, Vi Nguyen, and Shariah Calleja.

### SRC Leaders:

Ms Lind and Mrs Mulford

# SMMPS *Literacy* LINK

Welcome to the SMMPS Literacy Link where we will share some advice on how you can support your child's Literacy and share some of their learning throughout the year.

Literacy begins at home and grows stronger through the partnership between families and school. It is at the heart of everything we do as a school community. Every bedtime story, dinner table conversation, library visit, and note tucked into a backpack helps build the skills and confidence children need to thrive. When we work together, students, families, and staff create a culture where words have power, stories build empathy, and learning extends beyond the classroom walls. Together, we are growing confident readers, thoughtful writers, and lifelong learners.

## This Edition - Home Reading Tips

Why do we need to do reading at home?

Children need a lot of practice to develop their reading skills to the point of fluency. Ten to fifteen minutes daily reading at home with a supportive adult can make all the difference. This will enable children to apply their letter - sound knowledge to reading simple text. Reading at home should be a successful and positive experience for your child.

How can I support my child when reading at home?

When your child gets stuck on a word, encourage them to have a go at sounding out the word. If necessary, demonstrate what this looks like first. Remember to praise with abundance when your child is successful at working out a word or when your child goes back to have another go. Never tell your child to 'guess' a word or use the picture to help them. Always keep the focus on letters and sounds. Learning to read initially requires a lot of effort for many children and at this early stage much patience is required. It is important to build up confidence and allow them to enjoy success as they work out words with your help.

If your child stumbles over a tricky word that can't be sounded out, simply give them the word and ask them to repeat it.



## Positive Behaviour for Learning at St Mary MacKillop

In 2026, our school will renew its focus on Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) — an evidence-based, whole-school framework that promotes a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment.

PBL supports students by explicitly teaching and reinforcing positive social, emotional, and behavioural skills, with clear and consistent expectations across the school.

### Key Characteristics of PBL:

- **Defined Expectations:** We identify 3–4 clear, positively stated school-wide expectations.
- **Explicit Teaching:** Students are taught what these behaviours look like in different settings (e.g., classroom, playground).
- **Positive Reinforcement:** Staff acknowledge and reinforce students who demonstrate expected behaviours.
- **Consistent Responses:** Staff use fair, consistent, and logical responses to inappropriate behaviour.

### What Are the Benefits of PBL?

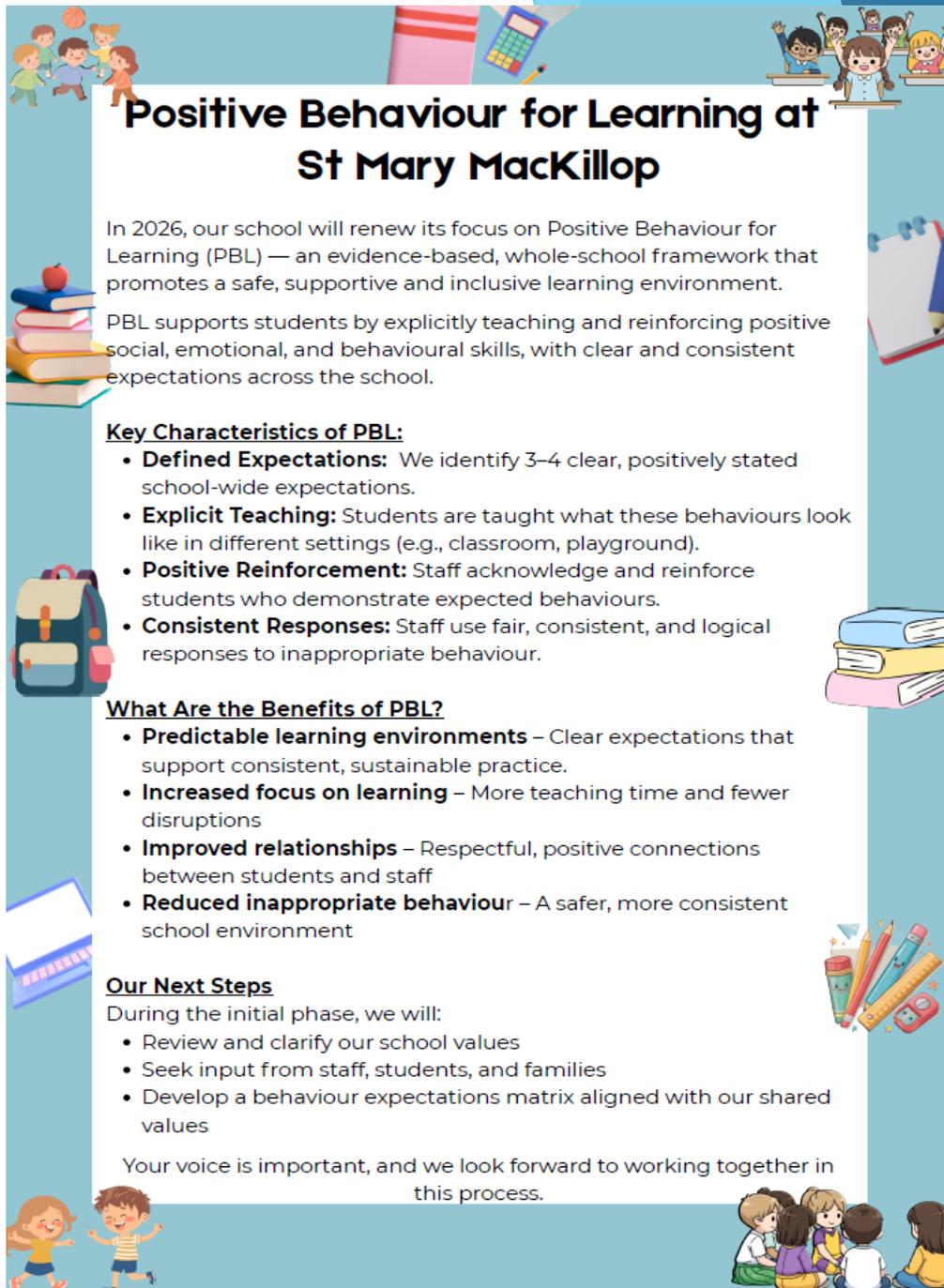
- **Predictable learning environments** – Clear expectations that support consistent, sustainable practice.
- **Increased focus on learning** – More teaching time and fewer disruptions
- **Improved relationships** – Respectful, positive connections between students and staff
- **Reduced inappropriate behaviour** – A safer, more consistent school environment

### Our Next Steps

During the initial phase, we will:

- Review and clarify our school values
- Seek input from staff, students, and families
- Develop a behaviour expectations matrix aligned with our shared values

Your voice is important, and we look forward to working together in this process.





# EXPERIENCE CRC NORTH KEILOR

## GRADE 5 IMMERSION PROGRAM

CRCNK are running a Grade 5 Immersion Program throughout Terms 2 & 3. Students engage directly with our inspiring staff and our Year 10 student leaders for an exciting & fun hands-on Immersion program.

From interactive projects to collaborative activities, this unique experience provides Grade 5 students with an opportunity to explore high school subjects in a safe and supportive environment and gain invaluable insight into what student life is like at CRCNK.

- Sessions run from 3:45pm - 5pm
- Students are required to attend in their school uniform
- A parent/carer is required to attend for the duration of each session and are invited to attend presentations by members of our Leadership Team.

Each program will run on a Thursday after school for 3 consecutive weeks. The dates for the Term 2 programs are as follows -

**Term 2:** 14th May, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

*Dates for Term 3 will be released closer to the time.*

**Students will be required to attend all 3 sessions in one program.** Places are limited so register online via our College website using the link below.

SCAN ME



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

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## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER 2026

### TERM 1

#### Wednesday 4 March

2027 Prep Information and Tour @ 9.30am

#### Friday 6 March

School Closure for MACS Review 2026

#### Monday 9 March

Labour Day Public Holiday

#### Tuesday 10 March

Reconciliation Family Faith Evening @ 7pm-MPR

#### Thursday 12 March

2027 Prep Information and Tour @ 9.30am

#### Wednesday 11 March to Monday 23 March

Naplan for Years 3 and 5

#### Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 March

School Photos

#### Thursday 26 March

Year 3 First Reconciliation @ 12pm

#### Thursday 2 April

End of Term 1: Students finish @ 1pm

### TERM 2

#### Monday 20 April

School Closure for MACS Review 2026

#### Tuesday 21 April

First day of Term 2

#### Friday 1 May

2027 Prep Enrolments Due

#### Wednesday 6 May

Wonder of Life Ed-Year 5 @ 6.30pm-more details to come

#### Thursday 7 May

Wonder of Life Ed-Year 6 @ 6.30pm-more details to come

#### Monday 11 May

2027 Prep New Family Interviews commence

#### Monday 18 May

2027 Prep Letter of offer issued

#### Wednesday 20 May

Holy Communion Family Faith Evening @ 7pm-MPR

#### Friday 29 May

2027 Prep Letter of Acceptance due

#### Saturday 30 May

Sacraments of the Holy Communion @ 10.30am and 12.30pm

#### Monday 8 June

King's Birthday Public Holiday

#### Wednesday 10 June

Confirmation Family Faith Evening @ 7pm-MPR

#### Monday 15 June

2027 Prep Existing Family Interviews commence

#### Saturday 20 June

Sacrament of Confirmation @ 10am and 12pm

#### Friday 26 June

End of Term 2 Students finish @ 1pm