

# St Malachy's School



## Prayer

Dear Lord,  
We lift our prayers to You for all those affected by the recent bushfires in the Grampians, Goroke and our local communities. We pray for those who have suffered loss of homes, livelihoods and the precious wildlife that surrounds us in our beautiful part of our state.  
Please watch over the brave volunteers and dedicated fire personnel who risk their lives to protect others. Keep them safe and strengthen them in their efforts. May those impacted by these fires find comfort, support and the resilience to rebuild. We also pray for the many animals affected, that they may find refuge and care.  
Amen.



## Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2025 school year! It has been wonderful to see how well our students have settled in. Our returning students have smoothly transitioned into their new classes, as if they had never been away. After some first day nerves, our new students have also embraced life at St Malachy's with enthusiasm. The sound of children playing, laughing and learning has quickly filled our school once again. Despite the summer heat and ongoing bushfire concerns in the region, the year has begun on a positive note.

We extend a warm welcome to all our new students and their families. This year, we are delighted to welcome 10 new Foundation students as they begin their educational journey with us, along with four new students joining across other year levels. We hope you and your families feel at home at St. Malachy's, form wonderful friendships, embrace challenges and develop a lifelong love of learning.

We are also excited to welcome two new staff members to our school community:

- Cassandra Stringer joins us as the new Year 1/2 teacher.
- Carine Bezuidenhout takes on the new role of Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader/Teacher for six hours per week.

We look forward to the contributions they will bring to our students and school.

### **Farewell to Fr. George and welcome to Fr. Cay**

After five years of dedicated service in the Western Border Parish, Fr. George will be leaving our community at the end of February to take up the role of Parish Priest in Camperdown, Timboon, Terang, and Mortlake. His new ministry begins on March 1st, and while we will miss him dearly, we are grateful for his support, friendship, and guidance over the years.

### **Pupil free day**

Next Thursday, 13th February will be a school closure day. All teaching staff will be attending a Structured Literacy workshop in Horsham.

Looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!

-John



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**SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
President: Chris White

# Term 4 Calendar

## February:

**Saturday, 8th:** Henley

**Tuesday, 11th:** School photos

**Tuesday, 11th:** Opening Mass @ 5 p.m.

**Wednesday, 12th:** Western Trinity Swimming @ Casterton

**Thursday, 13th:** School closure day/pupil free day

**Wednesday, 26th:** Little Desert Swimming @ Horsham

## March:

**Tuesday 4th:** Shrove Tuesday

**Tuesday, 4th:** Kowree Swimming @ Goroke

**Wednesday 5th:** Ash Wednesday

**Monday, 10th:** Labour Day

**Wednesday, 12th–Friday, 14th:** Year 5/6 Camp @ Melbourne

**Thursday, 20th–Friday, 21st:** Year 3/4 Camp @ Grampians

**Thursday, 27th:** Parent-teacher interviews

## April:

**Friday, 4th:** Term 1 ends

## Foundation rest day

Reminder to families that during Term 1, Wednesdays are a rest for the Foundation students. This gives the students a chance to settle into routine and recharge their batteries with the rest day.



## 2025 School photos

Next Tuesday, 11th February, school photos will be taken. Ordering online slips will be sent home for you to place any orders with Andrew. If you'd prefer an envelope, there are a few at the office; see Barb.

All students have their photos taken regardless if any orders have been placed or not.

**If you want siblings pictures taken, these must be ordered online before the day.**



## 2025 Henley gate roster and parade

St. Malachy's families take care of the gate @ Henley and Sarah Ferguson has done an amazing job of pulling together the roster; thanks Sarah.

### **Gate 1:**

2.00–3.30 p.m. – Taylor and Oliver families

3.30–5.00 p.m. – Mulraney and Merrett families

5.00–6.30 p.m. – Tischler and Holland families

6.30–7.30 p.m. – Irving and Whitehead families

### **Gate 2:**

2.00–3.30 p.m. – West and Wall families


3.30–5.00 p.m. – S. Robinson and Hillyer families


5.00–6.30 p.m. – Wilson and Sarah Ferguson families


6.30–7.30 p.m. – White family & **need another family :)**

## Opening mass and farewell

To farewell and thank Fr. George, we invite you to join us for our Opening School Mass on:

 Tuesday, 11th February

 5:00 PM

 Followed by a cuppa and a chance to gather as a school community.

Additionally, we warmly welcome Fr. Cay Trinh, who has been appointed by Bishop Paul to serve the western part of our parish. Recently ordained in November, Fr. Cay is beginning his ministry and we look forward to working with him as he embarks on this new chapter.



Fr. Cay Trinh, Fr. Paddy Mugavin, Fr. George Kuruvila and Fr. John McKinnon at a recent gathering.

## End of day travel

Your child will need a bus pass in order to travel on a different bus or if their pick up or drop off location changes from their regular travel arrangement. To request a bus pass, please contact Edenhope College on 5585 1277, write a note or text the school mobile on the morning of travel so this can be organised. If there are changes to your child's travel arrangements, **please notify the school before 2:30 p.m.** We realise things can change last minute so anything after 2.30 p.m., please call and talk to us directly to ensure we can make the changes to the lists. When exiting the school at 3:20 p.m., students walking or being picked up by car, will be walked out with staff member/s. Any students who need to cross the road will be supervised by a teacher at the crossing as per our Child Safe Policy.

## Ongoing change of travel

Many students will have a change of travel arrangement on a regular basis such as Auskick every Thursday. Simply send a text to the school mobile to inform us that this adjustment will be for the duration of the term. This will minimise confusion at end the end of the day.

## Housekeeping start of the year

**School day: 8.50 a.m.** is when school starts and we encourage students to arrive by **8.40 a.m.** and this allows them time to put their backpacks in their lockers and have a play before the bell. **No students are to be onsite before 8.30 a.m.** as the school grounds are not supervised.

**Permission forms & P.A.M.:** As we move forward with P.A.M. (Parent Access Module) as our communication platform, you will have received notification that the medical form is available for you to review your child/ren's details. **This must be done AS SOON POSSIBLE** to allow excursions to be consented to.

The plan is to have the Parental Permission to View PG form, Photograph/Recording Permission form and the 2025 Use of Electronic Devices Agreement form all available for you to view on P.A.M. and then you "sign/approve" through there. Keep an eye out for the notification when they've been uploaded. Be patient with us if we hit a few bumps in the road with setting it up. For our new families, you will have received an email with instructions on how to set up P.A.M. Any problems, please contact the school.

### CHURCH MASS TIMES

1st Sunday: 9 a.m.  
2nd Sunday: 9 a.m.  
3rd Sunday: 11.15 a.m.  
4th Sunday: Lay led @ 10 a.m.

## Healthy lunch boxes and drinks

If your child does not like what's in their lunchbox, we will encourage them to eat the contents of their lunch box and to take home what they don't eat and tell parents instead of throwing it in the bin. This gives parents a chance to see what is being eaten and also minimises food wastage and fattening the magpies and birds.

Please encourage your child to have water in their drink bottles and not cordial/juice/sugary drinks.

We know children can be fussy eaters and as we settle into the school routine, please ensure that your child brings a piece of fruit, carrot, cucumber or a healthy option if they do not like fruit. We're noticing some lunch boxes are full of sugary foods and we like to encourage healthy eating at our school. Please contact your child's teacher if you'd like to discuss options.

**PLEASE REMIND YOUR CHILD/REN NOT TO SHARE THEIR FOOD AS WE DO HAVE ANAPHYLACTIC STUDENTS AT OUR SCHOOL AND WE NEED TO KEEP EVERYONE SAFE.**

## Swimming program

Last Friday, we kicked off our swimming program and the students (and staff) loved getting into the pool on a hot day. This will be happening on Fridays so students are welcome to leave their swimming bags in their lockers during the week.



A Pool membership form was sent home last week for families to sign up for a pool membership or you may choose to pay the \$4 weekly fee. Thank you to the families who messaged to let us know they had pool memberships.

## SchoolTV

Check out SchoolTV for a variety of subjects and topics. It's a great resource for everybody; the link is on our website.



How does this affect brain development and academic achievements?





## Absences and late arrivals

The school rolls are marked @ 9.05 a.m. and if your child is absent from school, a computer generated text is sent to a parent's mobile on file asking for a reason why your child is absent.

We are required to log in all absences and the reason why for audit purposes. If you know your child is going to be absent, you can log it in through P.A.M. or alternatively, send a text to the mobile.

If you're arriving late with your child, please do not "sneak" your child in by avoiding the front door but enter via the front door. This allows Barb to change the roll to late arrival and not send out an absentee text when your child is actually at school.

Thanks for your support with this.

## Aqua bubbler water fountain

An Aqua Bubbler Water Fountain has been ordered for the school. The children will have access to filtered, chilled water to fill up their water bottles. The Aquabubbler will be plumbed inside and located outside the art room. We hope the students will have the healthiest kidneys in Edenhope!



## Henley float in parade

The theme for this year's float is The Day the Crayons Quit!

**When: Saturday, 8th February**

**Where: Lions Park @ 1.30 p.m.**

**What to wear: Come dressed in your favourite crayon colour.**

Families are encouraged to get creative with their children. Some hats and props will be provided by the school. Please collect your child/ren from the roundabout afterwards.



## Casterton swimming

You are invited to join us in making a splash at the Casterton Pool, Wednesday, 12th February, for the Western Trinity Swim Carnival (Year 1 to Year 6). Students will be competing in swimming events and activities, earning points for their House team. Students can wear House Team colours to and from school (generally a coloured top with school shorts). Bathers, goggles, all food and drink must be brought to school. Students will travel to and from Casterton on a bus.

Please look out for the P.A.M. (Parent Access Module) email seeking your consent for your child's participation. Any questions? Please call us so we can answer them!

## Child safety



### The importance of water safety

Water play is a fun activity for children with many benefits – from developing their motor skills to exploring their senses. However, playing with water comes with risks. Drowning is a leading cause of death for Australian children; it only takes 20 seconds and a few centimetres of water for a child to drown. Babies and toddlers are at a higher risk of drowning as they do not understand the dangers of water and are top heavy, so they cannot always lift themselves out of water when they fall – no matter how shallow it is.

Near drownings, also known as 'non-fatal drownings', can have serious consequences and lead to permanent injuries.

### Key points to remember

- Never leave a child alone around water. Always watch children in, around and on water.
- A child can drown within 20 seconds, and a drowning child may make no noise or splash.
- Restrict access to all water sources – from large pools to small ponds.
- Empty baths, buckets and paddling pools immediately after use.
- Learn child first aid and CPR to help your family in an emergency.
- Build your child's knowledge of and confidence around water.
- Learn the water hazards around your home and backyard.
- Call an ambulance (000) in a drowning or near-drowning emergency.