

St Malachy's School



A prayer

Heavenly Father, as we embark on this holiday break, we ask for Your protection over every kilometre travelled. Guard us against accidents, delays, or any harm, and bring us safely to our destination especially over the busy Easter period. Amen

Term 2 Calendar

April:

Tuesday, 22nd: (Pupil Free Day) Staff P.D. @ Hamilton

Wednesday, 23rd: (Pupil Free Day) Staff P.D. @ Horsham

Thursday 24th: (Pupil Free Day) Staff P.D. @ Horsham

Friday, 25th: Anzac Day

Monday, 28th: Term 2 begins

May:

Wednesday, 2nd: Kowree Cross Country @ Balmoral

Tuesday, 6th: Western Trinity Cross Country @ Harrow

Monday, 12th: Little Desert Cross Country @ Kaniva

Wednesday, 14th: (Pupil Free Day) Staff P.D. @ Horsham

Thursday, 22nd: Hip Hop Freestyle Dance

Friday, 23rd: Reconciliation Sacrament Day - whole school celebration @ 10.45 a.m.

Wednesday, 28th: Little Desert Winter Sports @ Horsham

Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Thank you all for your support during Term 1. It has been an action-packed term with swimming, school camps, NAPLAN, and lots of learning happening!

We bid farewell to Gabi and Rosina this Friday as they embark on Family Leave. We wish them both good health and happiness during this special time. Their dedication to teaching and invaluable contributions to the St. Malachy's team have been greatly appreciated.

We are pleased to welcome Anne-Maree into the Year 3/4 class full-time for the remainder of the year and look forward to working with her each day.

Please note that Term 2 classes will commence on **Monday, 28th April**, Week 2 due to public holidays and teacher professional development sessions in Week 1. The public holidays in Week 1 include Easter Monday on April 21st and Anzac Day on April 25th.

We hope you have the opportunity over the school holidays and Easter long weekend to enjoy quality time with your family. Rest up and stay safe.

Warm regards,

- John



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Principal: John O'Sullivan

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL
President: Chris White

Around the rooms

Foundation – Mrs. Craig

This week, we have been busy learning all about the story of Easter, particularly Palm Sunday, in preparation for our last day of school. We are also thrilled to report we know the 7 days of the week (just ask us to sing along to the Adam’s Family song) and are working on the months of the year.

Year 1/2 – Mrs. Stringer

This term, Year 1 and Year 2 students have been busy exploring a variety of exciting topics! In Literacy, we’ve been diving into idioms, learning expressions like “the land of nod” and “hit the nail on the head.” The students have had lots of fun uncovering their meanings! In writing, students are focusing on making their work more interesting by adding detail and creativity.

In Religious Education, we’ve been reflecting on Holy Week and practicing a short play about the Last Supper. The students are excited to bring this important story to life.

In Numeracy, we’ve been sharpening our skills with 2D and 3D shapes, and working on their counting on strategies.

Year 3/4 – Mrs. Thomson/Mrs. Robinson

Can you believe we are at the end of term already! It has been a busy one with camp, swimming and many other events like the drive through easter feast and NAPLAN! We are looking forward to continuing our learning next term where we will continue to work on number concepts in maths and have a new class novel for literacy. This term, we have completed narratives and finished reading ‘Because of Winn-Dixie’ which we all enjoyed. We welcome Mrs. Robinson as our full time 3/4 teacher from the start of next term for the remainder of the year.

Year 5/6 – Ms. Simpson

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Child safety

A reminder to the students to always “buckle up” if you’re on the bus, in the car, in the ute, in the truck, in the plane always including during the holidays!



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.

ANZAC Day – Friday, 25th April

ANZAC Day, next term, falls on Friday, 25th April.

St Malachy’s is always well represented at the service. I invite students to be involved to represent the school in their communities of Harrow, Apsley and Edenhope. I will send a reminder message out closer to the day. Thank you in advance.



Save the Date.....

Save the date for Cancer Council Biggest Morning Tea with Ponytail Chops for the creation of wigs.

Tuesday, 21st October 2025 @ 6.30 p.m.

Venue to be confirmed at a later date

This is a save the date notification for anybody out in the broader community who would like to join me in a fundraiser for the Cancer Council and the proceeds of the funds raised from donations and Ponytail chops goes to the Cancer Council. The ponytail is used to make wigs for sufferers of hair loss from cancer treatments.

The ponytail is required to be 20cms in length 1-2cm down from where you require the hairdresser to cut. This is then plaited, and the hairdresser prepares for the transport to the manufacturer.

This is being put out to everyone, young and old who wish to support this event. It would be great if we get about 10-15 ponytails.

For any further information, please contact Debbie McLeish 0439 357392



St. Malachy's Drive through lunches



Woolworths **NETSETGO!**

**Join in the joy
of Australia's
leading grassroots
netball program!**

- ☀️ Smaller group sizes means more touches and more fun
- ☀️ Safe space to build confidence, make friends, and be part of a team
- ☀️ Age-based stages are designed to welcome all levels of experience

**COME CATCH
THE FUN!**

Visit netball.com.au/netsetgo



Keeping your child home when unwell

To help prevent the spread of illness, we kindly ask families to keep children home if they are feeling unwell. Even mild symptoms can quickly spread in a school environment, affecting both students and staff. Common colds, flu, and other respiratory infections can be easily transmitted, so keeping unwell children at home helps protect the wider school community.

Please be aware that there is currently an outbreak of whooping cough (pertussis) in Victoria, including in some of our surrounding communities. Whooping cough symptoms often begin like a common cold, with a runny nose, mild fever, and cough. The cough then becomes more severe, leading to bouts of intense coughing followed by a "whooping" sound, difficulty breathing, and sometimes vomiting.

If your child has been diagnosed with whooping cough, they must remain at home for 21 days from the onset of symptoms unless they have completed at least five days of an appropriate antibiotic course.

We appreciate your co-operation in keeping our school a safe and healthy place for all students and staff. If you have any concerns, please consult your GP or local health service.



LIMESTONE COAST
MOTORCYCLES | SMALL ENGINES | BICYCLES

**Come & Try
Day - All Ages**

**Sunday April 13th
8:30am - 10:30am
680 McCalman's
Road
Corndale, Vic, 3311**

If you've never held a
licence, this one is for you!!
Complimentary 3 month
recreational licence when
you Come & Try!!

Enquiries to csmmc210@gmail.com or find us on Facebook



You're invited...

Friday 4th of April
From 9am-10am

At St. Malachy's School, under the shelter

Come along and see our students re-enact

The Easter Story

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE
END OF TERM 1

**St Malachy's
Cookbook**

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We are wanting to put together a St Malachy's cookbook!
We are requesting recipes from families and community
members before the end of Term 1 (4th of April), so we
can collate the books and you can order them later in the
year. The book will feature children's artworks.
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We are requesting:

Foundation Families: Snacks and Accompaniments
Year 1/2 Families: Soups + Side dishes
Year 3/4 Families: Main Dishes
Year 5/6 Families: Desserts

Questions:

Can I submit a recipe that is not assigned to my year level?
Yes of course you can if it is a special dish!
Can I submit a recipe if I am not a student but a
community member? Definitely!
Will all recipes be included? If we get double ups of the
same recipe, we will not include both.
Can I submit more than one recipe? Certainly!

How to submit:

Digital copies of recipes are preferred to assist in the editing
process, however written and printed recipes are also
accepted. Please either drop your recipe into the front
office or attach your recipe to a message to the St
Malachy's facebook page. Please ensure method and
quantities of ingredients are clear.

DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR FAMILY NAME IN THE
RECIPE, YOU CAN EVEN RENAME YOUR DISH TO
INCORPORATE YOUR NAME IN A CREATIVE WAY IF YOU
WISH!

From Carine

If you are one of the parents or carers concerned about the time your child/ren spend online, especially with the holidays coming up, you are not alone. A survey of 3,520 parents of children aged 2–17, during July/August 2018 publishes some concerning data:

Luckily, there is no need to feel helpless or without resource. The eSafety website suggested some guidance for parents and carers on helping children maintain a healthy balance between online and offline activities. The key points include:

1. **No magic set limit for screen time:** The appropriate amount depends on factors like age, content, maturity, and family routine. Quality of online activity is as important as the quantity of screen time.
2. **Impact on well-being:** Excessive screen time can affect sleep, exercise, and social connections. Parents should consider if online activity is interfering with overall health and well-being.
3. **Signs of negative impact:** Watch for changes like disinterest in social activities, tiredness, headaches, poor school performance, obsession with specific websites or games, or withdrawal from family.
4. **Addressing concerns:** Open communication is key. Ask questions, avoid disapproval, and explore underlying issues like cyberbullying or mental health concerns. Schools may also offer support.
5. **Managing online time:** Stay engaged with your child's activities, encourage offline hobbies, and play games (online and physical) together. Involve them in creating a balanced family plan for screen time and offline activities. (See the link at the bottom of this article for a great template to create a family-tech agreement for 5–8-year olds.)
6. **Use technology wisely:** Consider using parental controls and apps to monitor and limit online time, but explain these tools to your child.
7. **Set boundaries:** Establish device-free zones and times, such as no screens in bedrooms or during meals, and set a "no screens" rule at least an hour before bed.

Visit these sites for more information and resources:

<https://smedenhope.catholic.schooltv.me/newsletter/internet-addiction>
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/resources/family-tech-agreement>

Contact Carine for the electronic version of a family tech plan that also incorporates values that you would like your family to be known for.

(Source: Big Life Journal)

FAMILY TECH PLAN FRAMEWORK

CONNECTING OUR SCREEN TIME TO OUR VALUES



Too much time online is a reality of modern parenting:

52%

of parents with kids and

68%

of those with teens
think their children spend
too much time online.

FAMILY TECH PLAN SAMPLE ANSWERS

Choose from these ideas if you need some inspiration when creating your Family Tech Plan.

WHAT TYPE OF SCREENS CAN BE USED?

- We use **educational apps and websites that support learning** and skill development.
- We use **productivity tools for organising tasks, schedules, and assignments.**
- We use **creativity apps and websites that encourage art, music, writing, and content creation.**
- We use **communication platforms to stay in touch** with friends, family, and peers.
- We use **health and wellness apps for tracking exercise, nutrition, and mental well-being.**
- We use **e-book readers to read digital books and educational materials.**
- Our **devices have parental controls** and appropriate content filters.
- We **don't use apps or websites that violate family values, safety guidelines, or personal boundaries.**

WHEN CAN SCREENS BE USED?

- Screens are turned **off after 8 p.m.**
- Screens are turned **off one hour before bedtime.**
- Screens are **plugged into the central charging location** during meals and/or family time.
- Screens stay turned off **before school.**
- Screens are put away **during social gatherings.**

WHERE CAN SCREENS BE USED?

- Screens stay **out of the bedroom.**
- Screens stay **out of the bathroom.**
- Screens must be **plugged into the central charging location** when it's not established "screen time."
- Devices must be left behind **during family hikes or walks.**
- Our **designated study areas** or calming areas are screen-free.

HOW LONG CAN SCREENS BE USED FOR

- We use screens for up to [# minutes] **per weekday.**
- Screens are available for up to [# minutes] **after school hours.**
- We turn off screens during **designated outdoor/playtime**, which lasts [# minutes].
- We use screens for up to [# minutes] **before school hours.**
- We use screens **during travel or commutes** up to [# minutes] per journey.
- We use screens up to [# minutes] per day **during weekends and breaks from school.**