



## Welcome to 2025

Welcome back to a brand-new school year! We are thrilled to have all our wonderful students return for 2025.

This term, we are looking forward to an amazing year with the students, particularly as we help the Year 6s develop their leadership roles and responsibilities. In Week 5, the children will be heading to Anglesea for camp, which promises to be a fantastic experience. It will be a wonderful opportunity for them to build friendships, create memories, and set a positive tone for the year ahead. We can't wait to see the students embrace this adventure together!

We are especially looking forward to engaging with our students and building strong partnerships with families. Establishing clear expectations and routines is key to student success, and we're committed to creating a positive and supportive learning environment as we get to know one another.

Additionally, Mrs Trewick and Mrs Carmichael will be actively supporting the Senior classrooms, helping to enhance students' learning and foster leadership opportunities for Year 5/6 students. These include roles such as assembly leaders, wellbeing teams, catholic identity and more.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to Ms. Lupa or Ms. Johns.

We look forward to a fantastic term ahead with your children and appreciate your ongoing support.

Kind regards  
Yvette Lupa and Maree Johns

# MEET THE TEACHER



Yvette Lupa

## ABOUT ME...

I am delighted to be teaching Year 5/6 at St Joseph's for a second year. With over 30 years of experience teaching across all year levels, I have spent most of my career in Melbourne before making the move to a rural lifestyle—a decision that has been truly rewarding. I absolutely love being part of this wonderful community!

Outside of the classroom, I enjoy camping with family and friends, as well as spending as much time as possible on the water—whether it's skiing, kayaking, or surfing. I also cherish quiet moments with a good book. My two teenage daughters keep me busy and always on my toes! I feel incredibly fortunate to be working with the senior students again this year. My goal is to create a positive, engaging, and supportive learning environment where every child feels valued and inspired to grow. I look forward to getting to know each student and guiding them through an exciting year of learning and discovery.

I can't wait for the year ahead and look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child's learning journey.

## A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS...

- COLOUR: Blue
- DRINK: Soda Water
- PLACE: The River
- SOUND: Rain
- ICE CREAM: Strawberry
- MOVIE: Titanic
- HOLIDAY: Rome



**Please don't hesitate to contact me via phone 54841797 or email:**

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# MEET THE TEACHER



Maree Johns

## ABOUT ME...

Hi Everyone,

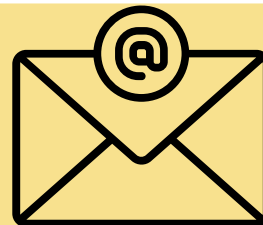
My name is Ms. Johns and I am so excited to be here at St. Joseph's with you. I have been teaching for a long time now, I'll let you try to guess how long. In my time I have had the privilege to work in a few different schools around our beautiful Goulburn Valley – mainly in the Year 3/4 and 5/6 space. I love living and working here.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. In my spare time, you'll find me doing something with horses. I love to do dressage competitions and go to rally days with my Adult Riding Club. Roy is my horse. He is a cheeky palomino who is very, very clever. He makes me laugh a lot and he certainly keeps me thinking. If I'm not spending time with Roy, friends or family, you will find me at the gym doing strength training. I love to lift weights and keep fit. In my down time I enjoy watching a good TV series with my two cats -their names are Gavin and Gretel. I'm very excited to meet you all and learn all about you.

Ms. Johns :)

## A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS...

- COLOUR: Pink, purple and aqua
- DRINK: Coke or Lemon/Lime
- PLACE: Bali or Queensland
- SOUND: Water
- ICE CREAM: Double Chocolate
- MOVIE: The Horse Whisperer
- HOLIDAY: Bali



**Please don't hesitate to contact me via phone 54841797 or email:**

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# OUR LEARNING SUPPORT OFFICERS



Leanne McInnes



Bianca Robins

## A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS...

- COLOUR: Green
- DRINK: Water
- PLACE: Beach
- SOUND: Rain
- ICE CREAM: Honeycomb
- MOVIE: Pretty Woman
- HOLIDAY: Family

## A FEW OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS...

- COLOUR: Blue
- DRINK: Ice Water
- PLACE: Anywhere near water
- SOUND: My children laughing
- ICE CREAM: Choc Mint
- MOVIE: The Notebook
- HOLIDAY: Spending time with my Family and Kids

# MAGNIFY

## **What is Magnify Sandhurst?**

Magnify Sandhurst is a comprehensive and exciting new learning and teaching program that was simultaneously launched across all 51 Catholic schools in the Sandhurst Diocese in Week 1. It combines evidence-based practices in learning and teaching to support each student's unique needs, strengths, and goals.



The Magnify program focuses on strengthening core areas like literacy and numeracy, building supportive classroom environments and integrating Catholic values in daily learning. We are committed to improving outcomes and providing a program where every student can flourish, inspired by the mantra, "Every Student, Every Teacher, Every School, Every Day!"

## **Key Features of Magnify Sandhurst**

Magnify Sandhurst aims to enhance learning outcomes through several key components:

- **Structured and Evidence-based Learning:** Using the latest neuroscience and a structured, knowledge-rich curriculum, we ensure students build deep understanding. A low-variance curriculum provides students with a consistent learning experience and reduces the amount of preparation and planning required by teachers, allowing teachers to focus on individual student needs.
- **Magnifying Literacy and Numeracy:** Providing targeted support and resources to improve reading, writing, and math skills at all levels. Special focus on Structured Literacy in F-2 and sequential programs from Years 3-6.
- **Instructional Coaching for Teachers:** Each teacher receives a dedicated coach and program to learn and practice the best techniques to meet students' learning needs. We are investing in our teachers to provide the best possible learning outcomes for students in our Catholic schools.
- **Calm Classrooms and Positive Learning Environments:** Promoting calm, supportive, and positive learning environments through common practices, expectations, and social norms, our work includes a new program for student social and behavioural learning. Our classrooms will have a consistent approach throughout each Sandhurst school to support all students to learn in a calm, orderly learning environment.



# MAGNIFY

## Key Changes for students

With Magnify Sandhurst, you will see:

- Expanded Literacy and Numeracy Blocks: Your child will have more intensively focused time on literacy and numeracy skills, especially in the early years. The curriculum will be sequenced to ensure all students continue to cover all components of the Victorian Curriculum. There will be targeted support for reading and mathematics at every level.
- Streamlined Curriculum: Teachers will implement a clear and structured curriculum that prioritises essential knowledge and skills. At St Joseph's student are engaging with the following programs;
  - F- 2 - InitialLit (English), Ochre (Mathematics)
  - 3 - 6 - Ochre (English and Mathematics)
- Personalised Learning Support: Every teacher will work with a coach to apply the latest techniques for meeting individual student needs, helping all students—whether they excel or need additional support.

## How families can be involved

Education is a partnership, and we encourage families to stay engaged in your child's journey with us. Here's how:

- Participate in Learning Conversations: Look forward to regular updates on your child's learning milestones. We aim to keep you informed and involved every step of the way.

This approach is a wonderful opportunity and allows us to access contemporary professional learning, resources and work closely with with all schools/leaders/educators and experts within our Diocese and beyond.

We are all very excited to begin this learning journey and look forward to sharing it with you throughout the year.

### Our Partners



# ENGLISH

The new OCHRE program is a comprehensive literacy program aligned with the Victorian Curriculum. It focuses on developing key reading and writing skills through various components, including orthography (the study of spelling and word patterns), word building, and vocabulary development. The program aims to strengthen students' understanding of how words work, improve spelling skills, and enhance their ability to decode and build new words.

Each day, students will participate in a review that includes practicing orthography and word building activities, helping them gain confidence in their writing and reading. This program is designed to support students' growth in both narrative and persuasive writing, providing a strong foundation for their literacy development throughout the year.

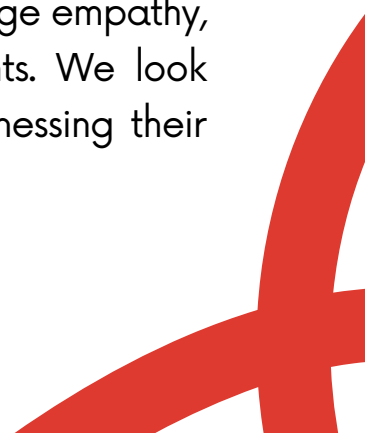
Along with this, students will be reading *The War Horse* and participating in related activities to develop their literacy skills.

This term, our literature-based novel study will focus on *The War Horse*. Using the Ochre Foundations, we will explore key themes such as resilience, identity, and the impact of war on individuals and communities. Through rich discussion and critical thinking, students will engage deeply with the text, making meaningful connections to history, culture, and personal experiences.

Throughout the unit, students will:

- ✓ Analyze the novel's themes, characters, and historical context
- ✓ Explore moral and ethical dilemmas faced by the characters
- ✓ Develop their comprehension and inferencing skills through guided discussions
- ✓ Engage in creative writing tasks inspired by the novel
- ✓ Reflect on the emotional and social impacts of war

This novel study will not only strengthen literacy skills but also encourage empathy, critical reflection, and a deeper understanding of historical events. We look forward to guiding the students through this powerful text and witnessing their insights and growth.



# MATHEMATICS

The OCHRE Maths program is designed to support students' mathematical learning in line with the Victorian Curriculum. Throughout the year, we will focus on building foundational skills in areas such as Number, Measurement, Shape, and Data. Each lesson includes a daily review that reinforces key concepts, ensuring that students grasp and retain important mathematical ideas.

The program incorporates hands-on activities, problem-solving, and direct instruction to help students apply their learning in real-world contexts. By using the OCHRE approach, we aim to build students' confidence and fluency in mathematics, making it a rewarding and engaging experience for them throughout the year.

This term, our Year 5/6 class will engage in a comprehensive mathematics program using the Ochre Maths curriculum. In addition to our focus on large numbers and their properties, we will explore various other key topics to enhance your child's mathematical understanding.

Key topics include:

- Addition and Subtraction Problem Solving: Students will apply various strategies to solve complex addition and subtraction problems, enhancing their computational skills and problem-solving abilities.
- Perimeter and Area: We will explore how to calculate the perimeter and area of various shapes, including composite figures, to strengthen spatial reasoning and measurement skills.
- Data Representation and Interpretation: Students will learn to collect, represent, and interpret data using different types of graphs and charts, fostering their ability to analyze and draw conclusions from data sets.

These topics are designed to build a solid foundation in mathematics, promoting critical thinking and practical application of skills. We encourage you to support your child's learning by discussing these concepts at home and exploring their real-world applications.

## Essential Assessment

Students will continue using the Essentials Assessment Program throughout 2025. This program supports both summative and formative assessment in all areas of Mathematics, including Shape, Number and Algebra, Geometry and Statistics. It allows for pre and post testing on each unit, tailored to individual needs. The program provides ongoing, personalised assessments and curriculum to help students build on their current knowledge and understanding.





# RELIGION

## People of Prayer

This term, our Year 5/6 students will explore Unit 1 – People of Prayer, focusing on the importance of prayer in our daily lives and how it strengthens our relationship with God.

Key learning areas include:

- ◆ Jesus as a person of prayer within the Jewish tradition
- ◆ The significance of prayer in personal and communal faith life
- ◆ The connection between prayer and action in daily living
- ◆ Different types of prayer, including thanksgiving, praise, sorrow, petition, and adoration

Students will engage with Scripture to examine Jesus' prayer experiences and the prayer life of early Christians, including Peter and Paul. They will also reflect on the meaning of formal prayers, such as The Lord's Prayer, and explore how prayer provides guidance, comfort, and a sense of connection to faith.

Through discussions, reflections, and creative activities, students will deepen their understanding of prayer's role in their lives and create a personal prayer booklet.

## ***Lent & Easter – How can Lent Transform our Lives***

This unit will encourage students to reflect on the season of Lent as a time for growth, renewal, and deeper connection to their faith.

Key learning areas include:

- ◆ The significance of Lent in the liturgical calendar and its connection to Easter
- ◆ Jesus' journey through suffering, death, and resurrection as a model for transformation
- ◆ The call to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as acts of faith and service
- ◆ How personal choices and actions during Lent can lead to positive change

Students will engage with Scripture to explore Jesus' teachings on sacrifice, compassion, and renewal. Through discussions, reflections, and creative activities, they will consider how Lent can inspire them to grow spiritually and make meaningful contributions to their community.

This unit will help students develop a deeper understanding of Lent and Easter as a journey of transformation, both personally and within the wider world.

# INQUIRY

## Ethics and Emotions

This term, in our Inquiry topic Ethics and Emotions, students will explore ethical dilemmas and reflect on the values of honesty, respect, and loyalty. They will engage in discussions about how the media and others influence their thoughts and actions, and they will consider how being a fan of someone or something can shape their identity.

As part of this unit, students will write a story that includes a moral lesson, helping them to apply their learning in a creative way. Additionally, they will create an 'Identity Presentation,' where they will share aspects of who they are with their peers. This unit is designed to help students think critically, express themselves, and better understand the importance of values and ethics in their daily lives.

# RRRR and TRP



This year we are excited to continue our partnership with The Resilience Project. This project delivers emotionally engaging programs to schools, providing practical, evidence-based mental health strategies to build resilience and happiness. Students and families are invited to learn and understand about the benefits of Gratitude, Empathy and Mindfulness, and easy ways to practise these in everyday life. We also incorporate Emotional Literacy is also incorporated into the program as it is foundational contributor to positive mental health.

In addition to TRP, students will also continue learning based on the Resilience Rights and Respectful Relationships (RRRR) program This is mandated and taught in government and Catholic schools and many independent schools from Prep to Year 10. Respectful Relationships focuses on treating everyone with respect and dignity. It is taught as part of the Personal and Social Capability and Health and Physical Education areas of the Victorian Curriculum.

Students will participate in lessons and activities that will help them learn and practise social skills, develop emotional literacy and self-management skills and apply them in a positive way to learning, life and relationships.

The RRRR resources cover eight topics for each level.

- Emotional Literacy
- Personal and Cultural Strengths
- Positive Coping
- Problem Solving
- Stress Management
- Help Seeking
- Gender and Identity
- Positive Gender Relationships.

This term students will work within the topics of Emotional Literacy and Personal and Cultural Strengths.

Emotional Literacy Unit Aims:

- Explain the influence of emotions on behaviour, learning and relationships
- Analyse factors that influence their ability to regulate emotions

Personal and Cultural Strength Aims:

- Describe the range and influence of personal and cultural qualities and strengths
- Monitor their awareness of the various ways they call on their personal strengths and cultural strengths
- Assess the situations where I may be useful to draw on particular strengths to deal with challenging situations

Across the school, the delivery of the TRP curriculum runs in conjunction with Rights, Resilience and Respectful Relationships (RRRR) resource as a part of our holistic approach to wellbeing.



Mr Davison

## TECHNOLOGIES

Cybersafety in Year 5/6 – #GameOn

This term, our Year 5/6 students are engaging with #GameOn, a program designed to develop responsible and informed online behaviors. Students will explore key cybersafety concepts, helping them become more aware of the benefits and risks associated with their online activities.

Through interactive discussions, videos, and activities, students will examine how personal information is shared online, strategies for creating strong passwords, and ways to manage their digital footprint. They will also investigate the impact of online activities on health, wellbeing, and relationships while developing practical strategies for staying safe.

Key learning experiences include:

- ◆ Digital Reflection – Mapping their online habits to better understand digital behaviors.
- ◆ Online Safety Awareness – Watching and analyzing #GameOn episodes to explore real-life scenarios.
- ◆ Personal Information & Privacy – Identifying what information should and shouldn't be shared.
- ◆ Password Security – Learning how to create and manage strong passwords.

Parents can support this learning by discussing online safety at home and reviewing privacy settings together. By equipping students with essential cybersafety skills, we are helping them navigate the digital world with confidence and responsibility.

## SCIENCE - YEAR 5/6

Reversible & Irreversible Changes – Science in Action!

This term, students are diving into chemistry by exploring reversible and irreversible changes in materials. Through hands-on experiments and engaging activities, they are learning to identify changes that can be undone, like melting and freezing, and those that cannot, such as burning and rusting.

Students will investigate the science behind recycling and conduct experiments, including building a water filter to observe how materials can be separated. They will also explore solubility, testing which substances dissolve in water. Cooking pancakes will provide a delicious demonstration of irreversible change, while mixing plaster will show how new materials are formed through chemical reactions.

These activities help students develop their scientific inquiry skills, understand how chemistry impacts daily life, and appreciate the role of science in solving real-world problems. Through guided reflections, they will also consider broader implications, such as the importance of clean water and sustainable waste management.

By the end of the term, students will confidently explain key scientific concepts and demonstrate their understanding through presentations, discussions, and creative tasks. We look forward to seeing their curiosity and critical thinking in action!



Ms McEvoy

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Welcome to another exciting year in Physical Education! This year promises to be filled with fun, movement, teamwork, and opportunities to grow stronger, both physically and mentally.

A goal of PE this year is to not just building physical strength and endurance, but also fostering important skills like leadership, collaboration, and resilience. Students will have opportunities to set personal goals, celebrate achievements, and cheer each other on as a team.

We are kicking off the term with a badminton program. Students will work on developing essential skills like striking, hand-eye coordination, and strategic movement. Badminton is a fantastic way to improve fitness, agility, and focus and of course, have a great time while playing.

Later in the term, students will participate in a wheelchair program. This unique experience offers the chance for students to learn how to use a wheelchair and also learn how to get themselves around in a wheelchair. Students will play familiar and exciting games using the wheelchairs which aim at promoting inclusivity, teamwork, and a new perspective on physical activity.

Additionally, throughout the year, students will have the chance to use their skills and teamwork in events such as cross country, athletics carnival, swimming program and various other sports. These events are a wonderful way for students to challenge themselves, celebrate progress, and cheer on your peers in a spirit of fun and community.


Here's to an active, healthy, and fantastic year ahead!





# Mrs Carmichael


## VISUAL ART

This term, our Year 5 and 6 students are embracing the bold and expressive world of mural art, drawing inspiration from the Rochester Mural Festival to explore the themes of Life, Love, and Music through a variety of artistic techniques.

 Life Art: Students will create deconstructed self-portraits, using imagery and words to represent their identity, passions, and experiences in a unique and abstract way.

 Love Art: Through an artist study of Jim Dine's "Little Hearts," students will explore expressive brushstrokes, layered textures, and bold colour choices to create heartfelt artworks inspired by this renowned artist.

 Music Art: The energy and vibrancy of the 1980s will come to life in their music-inspired pieces, where students will experiment with colour, volume, and movement to capture the rhythm and excitement of this dynamic era.

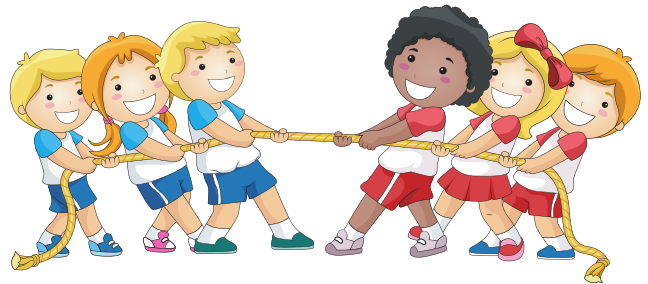
We can't wait to see their creativity shine! While some will be kept under wraps for our Art show later in the year, keep an eye out for these wonderful artworks displayed at school. 

# AUSLAN

*with Tim*

In Term 1, students will learn Auslan signs to help them communicate in the classroom and with their peers. They will practice asking and answering questions like "Do you want to play cricket with me?" and "Do you want to work together?" as well as responding with "Yes, I want to" or "No, I don't want to, thank you." They will also learn practical signs for everyday activities, such as "Put your hat on," "Where is your jumper?" "Open the writing book," "Open the door," "Read silently," and "Time to pack up." As well, how to talk about the weather and time, students will sign phrases like "Today is hot," "Tomorrow will be hot," "Yesterday was cold," "Two days ago," and "In two days." These signs will help them express themselves more confidently and communicate clearly in Auslan.

Tim, our language assistant, will continue to support and guide students in their Auslan learning each Friday. He will reinforce the signs and skills students are developing throughout the week, helping them grow in confidence and fluency. In addition to classroom learning, Tim will also introduce new signs based on topics of interest, making the experience fun, engaging, and relevant to the students. His support will ensure that students not only build their Auslan vocabulary but also develop a deeper understanding of how to use the language in everyday situations.



**We're dedicated to promoting physical literacy and a lifelong love of sports**



### Supporting kids

Physical activity is so important for our children. At Kelly Sports, we're committed to helping kids learn the fundamentals of sport, improving their motor skills and coordination through multi-sport programmes. Not only does this boost their skills and fitness levels, but it also gives them the confidence to join local clubs or teams, embarking on a lifelong relationship with sport.



### Supporting parents

Life is busy, and it can be hard to fit everything into each day. That's why our programmes run before, during and after school, as well as in the holidays, making it easy for parents to give their kids quality sports coaching, even if they're stuck at work.



### Supporting schools

With pressures to increase numeracy, literacy and reporting, teachers have become more stretched than ever before. Kelly Sports' expert coaches offer in-school programmes to help principals and teachers, giving young learners a love for sports. We also provide professional development sessions for teachers, aiding with sports skills, lesson planning, materials and activities, and fundamental movement skills programmes at preschools or kindergartens.



### Qualified coaches

All our coaches complete comprehensive training to ensure that they have the knowledge and the skills to deliver top-quality training sessions.



### Peace of mind

Providing a safe and secure environment for the children we teach is paramount. All paid Kelly Sports staff who work with children enrolled in our sporting programmes are police vetted and have a Working With Children Check, and these safety checks are repeated every year. This regulation applies to all staff who deliver in schools or within the organisation to school groups.

# SCHOOL DATES

<p>Week 1 27 - 31 Jan</p>	<p>27: Australia Day Public Holiday 28 / 29: Staff return 30: Year 1 - Year 6 Students return 30: Foundation Testing Day 31: Foundation students BEGIN school</p>
<p>Week 2 3 - 7 Feb</p>	<p>4: Learning Conversations 5: Learning Conversations</p>
<p>Week 3 10 - 14 Feb</p>	
<p>Week 4 17 - 21 Feb <i>Wellbeing Week</i></p>	<p>19: Opening Mass 19: Welcome BBQ</p>
<p>Week 5 24 - 28 Feb</p>	<p>24/25/26: Year 5/6 Camp; Burnside, Anglesea</p>
<p>Week 6 3 - 7 March</p>	<p>4: Shrove Tuesday 5: Ash Wednesday 7: Casual Dress Day; Easter Egg Donation</p>
<p>Week 7 10 - 14 March</p>	<p>10: PUBLIC HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED 12-14: NAPLAN</p>
<p>Week 8 17 - 21 March</p>	<p>19: Feast of St Joseph</p>
<p>Week 9 24 - 28 March</p>	<p>28: Cross Country</p>
<p>Week 10 31 March - 4 April</p>	<p>31: School Photos 1: SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY 4: Last day of Term 1</p>



# SCHOOL INFORMATION

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(please note this phone is not manned at all times and any urgent messages should be given via phone call)