



Family Newsletter

MAR 2026

Centre Update



Dear families

Welcome to term 2! We hope all our families had a relaxing and enjoyable break. It's wonderful to have everyone back, and we're excited for another term full of learning, creativity, and fun St Anthony.

Our April Vacation Care program was a fantastic success, filled with exciting and memorable experiences for the children. From thrilling arcade games and laser tag adventures to a special visit from Ranger Jamie, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The children were also amazed by a magician's visit, where they not only watched incredible tricks but even learned a few of their own! We made the most of the outdoors with sports at Queens Park, enjoyed hot dogs together, and explored the wonders of Taranga Zoo. Back at the centre, the children participated in cooking and craft activities and fun science experiments, encouraging curiosity, teamwork, and creativity.

This term we are planning to introduce a sewing machine to our centre to inspire creativity and allow children to explore texture and fabrics in new ways.

We are also excited to welcome our little fish to the centre next week!

Thank you for your ongoing trust and support, we look forward to creating more amazing experiences together.

Important Dates

April/ May 2026

- **22nd April:** World Earth Day
- **25th April:** Anzac Day
- **26th April:** 4th Sunday of Easter
- **29th April:** St Catherine of Siena
- **1st May:** St Joseph the worker feast
- **1st May:** Pupil Free Day
- **3rd May:** 5th Sunday of Easter
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Contact Us

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Growing in Faith, sharing in Joy

Our Faith Formation continues to be full of life, learning, and love as our children grow together in faith and friendship.

In preparation for ANZAC Day, the children created vase of poppies, we had couple of related trivia competition to expand their knowledge about ANZAC Day.

In our VC and last two weeks of the term 1, we also enjoyed a range of fun Easter activities, helping the children connect with Catholic beliefs in a simple, joyful and engaging way.

We would love to share a heartfelt thank you to Father Laurie, whose final mass will be 24 May as he begins his retirement.

We were grateful to have him join our Easter blessing, where the children express their love and appreciation through handmade bracelet and heartfelt cards. He will be deeply missed.

As always, we continue our journey together growing in faith, building friendships, and spreading kindness in all we do.

Parish News

Saturday Vigil: 5.00pm

Sunday: 9.00am

Monday: No Mass

Tuesday: 6.15pm

Wednesday: 9.00am

Thursday: 9.00am

Friday: 9.00am

Saturday: No morning Mass

Reconciliation: Saturdays 4.00 to 4.30pm, or by appointment



View Our Handbook

Discover important details about our centre by exploring our Handbook. This comprehensive resource covers everything from policies to daily routines, serving as your ultimate guide to staying well-informed.

[VIEW HANDBOOK](#)

[VIEW POLICIES](#)

Sydney Catholic Early Childhood Services acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work, live and play. We celebrate the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their ongoing cultures and connections to the lands and waters of the Archdiocese of Sydney.





Highlights of the Centre

This term has been filled with meaningful learning, creativity and connection across all areas of our program.

Health & Wellbeing:

Children explored healthy living through baking pancakes, banana bread and hot cross buns, along with engaging in exercise and planting vegetables, building awareness of both physical wellbeing and nutrition.

Social & Emotional/Imaginative play:

Through imaginative play, variety of Easter mystery hunt, teamwork activities and a fun talent show, children developed confidence, collaboration skills and a strong sense of belonging.

Art & Craft:

Children expressed their creativity through cultural crafts and a series of drawing coemptions, proudly showcasing their work in a special walk through exhibition in the car park area.

STEM learning:

We have started lots of fun science activities in a group settings, such as lava lamp, volcano and

Faith Formation

Children engaged in cooking, colouring, meaningful conversations about beliefs, and crafts celebrating religious days, helping to strengthen kindness, understanding and faith.

Culture

We celebrated Harmony Day through music and dance from around the world, giving children the opportunity to appreciate and embrace different cultures.





Vacation Care

Our upcoming **Summer Vacation Care** will be held from **07-17 April** at **Randwick North**. We are excited to offer a mix of familiar favourites and brand new experiences, all shaped by children voices. We will be having Arcade, Taranga Zoo, Laser Tag, Magicians, Hot dogs and playground excursions and much more.

Please book asap to secure your spot.
Looking forward to create great memories together.





Parenting resources



The Raising Children Network
raisingchildren.net.au provides free parenting
videos, articles and apps backed by Australian
experts.



Learning Links Australia:
Free & Paid Parent Webinars (i.e developing
resilience in children, finding a speech pathologist
for your child, ADHD support strategies etc



Happy Families by Justin Coulson (Psychologist):
(Free resources for families, articles and podcasts)



CatholicCare:
(Parenting support)

2026 Enrolment reminders

With the new year quickly approaching, we encourage all families to take a few minutes to review their Xap account to ensure their OSHC bookings are accurate. This is the perfect time to double check that your 2026 booking pattern reflects the days you'll need care. If you wish to make any changes to your regular schedule or add new days, please do so promptly to avoid disruptions and to help us accommodate your needs effectively. For families with new students joining us, especially those starting kindergarten in 2026, it's essential to complete their OSHC enrolment in Xap as early as possible.

This ensures that we have adequate space, resources, and staffing to welcome our youngest learners smoothly. If you have any questions about the booking process, need help navigating Xap, or require assistance with enrolment, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team. We're here to make the process as seamless as possible and ensure that all your family's needs are met for the coming year. Thank you for your attention to these details, which help us provide the best possible care and experience for every child in 2026





Important Reminders

- **Sign-In and Sign-Out:** Please remember to sign your child in and out each day at the service.
- **Sun Protection:** Please apply sunscreen to your child before or upon arrival each day and ensure they have a hat. We have sunscreen on site if you have forgotten. We will re-apply sunscreen at 11am and 4pm. Our dress code also asks for T-shirt sleeves to be worn. No string straps please, to protect them from the sun.
- **Absences:** Please notify the service via StoryPark, email, or phone if your child will be absent before 9 am.
- **Illnesses:** Please inform the service if your child has an infectious disease and observe the recommended exclusion period.
- **Late Fees:** Late fees apply if you are still in our Preschool at 6pm. Families are expected to arrive before 5.45pm to collect your child and be out of the building by 6pm. A late fee of \$50 will be charged if any family arrives at 6.00pm. If you arrive after 6.15pm, an additional \$10 will be charged for every 5 minutes thereafter.
- **Nut-Free Service:** A reminder to all families that we are a nut-free service. Please ensure your child does not bring nuts into the service, and that if you or your child have eaten nuts, that you have washed your hands thoroughly before arrival.



Choc chip brownies

Ingredients

- 200g / 14 tbsp unsalted butter
- 200 g / 1 1/4 cups dark chocolate chips
- 1 cup (175g) brown sugar
- 3 eggs , lightly beaten
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup (75g) plain flour
- 1/4 cup (30g) cocoa powder
- Pinch of salt

Instruction

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F (160°C fan forced).
2. Spray a 20cm/8" square tin with oil and line with baking/parchment paper with overhang (Note 2).
3. Place butter and chocolate chips in a heatproof bowl, microwave in 30 second bursts (takes me 1m 30 sec) until melted. Stir until smooth.
4. Add sugar and vanilla, mix, then add eggs and mix well until smooth and molten.
5. Add flour, cocoa and salt and stir until smooth. Stir in chopped chocolate, pour into pan. Bake for 24 minutes.





Meet Our Team



Sunny Kashani
Centre Coordinator
Favourite Food: Italian
Favourite Colour: Blue
Interests and Hobbies: Art



Saskia Collins
Responsible Person
Favourite Food: Italian Food
Favourite Colour: Pink
Interests and Hobbies: Reading



Sienna Thompson
Educator
Favourite Food: Tacos
Favourite Colour: Blue
Interests and Hobbies: Drawing



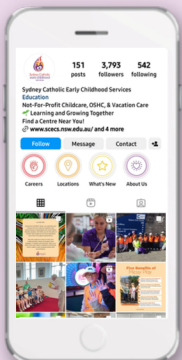
Magdanella Barbonza
Educator
Favourite Food: Burritos
Favourite Colour: Pink
Interests and Hobbies: Art



Claudia McIntosh
Educator
Favourite Food: Chocolate
Favourite Colour: Green
Interests and Hobbies: Art



Jacob Martin
Educator
Favourite Food: Steak
Favourite Colour: Blue
Interests and Hobbies: Soccer



Connect With Us

Stay up to date on everything about SCECS by following us:

 @scecsnsw

 @scecsnsw

Family Feedback

If you have any feedback or concerns, please pop into reception, call us on 02 9568 8628, or email us at scecs@syd.catholic.edu.au.

