



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Dear Parents,

#### Welcome Back!

Welcome to the 2026 School Year! I hope that the break has been enjoyable for families and everyone is feeling refreshed and rested.

An especially warm welcome to our new Preps and their families! It was great to see the smiles on the faces of all last Friday.

***Just a reminder that our Preps will have a rest day at home each Wednesday until Wednesday, 11th March.***

#### STAFFING UPDATE

We welcome Mrs Catriona Davies as Deputy Principal, Miss Hayley Sims, our new Prep Teacher and Mrs Olivia Ferguson, our new Year 5/6 Teacher (who will work with Mrs Mithen). Please find a full 2026 staff list below.

#### ENTRY & EXIT TIMES

8.40 am: Gates Open (families are welcome to enter the school grounds).

8.48 am: The bell will ring for the classrooms to open so that students may enter and unpack their bag.

3.20 pm: School Day ends

The gates will open at 3.15 pm to allow parents to enter the school grounds. We ask that parents remain off the deck outside the classrooms until the 3.20 pm bell rings so that there is no distraction for the students and so that doorways are kept clear.

Our Whole School Assembly will commence at 3 pm each Monday.



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# OLW SCHOOL APP - COMPASS

Compass is our main parent portal and communication tool.

This portal allows you to:

1. Access your child's school reports.
2. View up to date class attendance information.
3. Enter upcoming absences for your child and record late arrival/early dismissal notes.
4. Access information and news about upcoming events happening around the school.
5. Provide digital consent for school excursions.

Parents and carers can download the Compass App from the App Store for iPhones or Google Play for Android users. App users will be able to receive push notification alerts.

If you experience any difficulties logging in or using Compass, please contact the School Office.

You can find the Parents & Families Guide here: <https://www.compass.education/guide/#What-is-Compass>.

## CONTACT & EMERGENCY DETAILS

If there is a change of address, mobile number, home, work phone number or email please notify the school office so that our records can be updated.

## SCHOOL FEES & CSEF

Families will be issued fee statements over the next week. If you would like to set up a payment plan or pay your fees please contact the school office in person or via email - accounts@olwkingsbury.catholic.edu.au. Parents who hold a current Health Care Card are eligible to apply for CSEF support. Please contact the school office for an application form. Please note that closure dates apply.

## BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE - TheirCare

If your child is attending the Before and/or After School Care Program, please notify the school office as soon as possible. We also keep a list of students who attend the Program, showing on what days of the week they attend. This reduces confusion and enables us to know where each child is after school.



## MEDICATION REGISTER

All schools are required by law to have a medication register. When your child requires medication, we require a parent / guardian to fill out a form confirming what medication your child requires and when the medication is required. Medication must be in its original packaging and the dosage must be specified on the packet and confirmed by the parent in writing.

All medication must be kept at the School Office.

As a general rule, if your child requires medication for an illness, they may not be well enough to attend school.

## COMPASS FIRST AID NOTIFICATIONS

Currently at OLW, when your child attends sick bay, a compass note is filled out, printed and sent home, notifying parents about their child attending sick bay. To limit paper usage, we will slowly transition to digitally notifying families if their child has attended sick bay throughout the day. If your child comes to sickbay a banner notification (only if allowed on notification settings on your phone) and email will be sent to parents. As always, if your child has received a head knock, hurt themselves or are unwell, parents will be contacted via phone. Thank you for your support us as we move to this new phase of Compass.



## BE SUNSMART – WEAR A HAT!

The School Hat must be worn during Term 1 and in Term 4. Children who do not have a school hat are required to sit under the veranda or on the deck at Recess and Lunchtime. (i.e. No Hat, No Play) Students are also encouraged to wear sunscreen and may reapply it themselves during the day. Please note - school staff are unable to apply sunscreen.

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

School Photos will be on Thursday 12th March. Children will be required to wear their full Summer School Uniform on the day. More information regarding photo day will be available in our next newsletter.

## 2026 SACRAMENTAL DATES

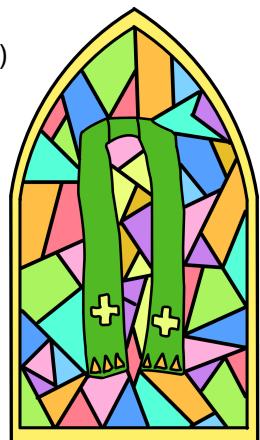
Our Sacramental Dates for 2026 have been set together with Fr John.

- ***Sacrament of Confirmation (Year 6):*** Sunday, 17th May at 1 pm (**Holy Name Church, Reservoir**).
- ***Sacrament of First Eucharist (Year 3):*** Sunday, 2nd August at 1 pm (OLW Church)
- ***First Reconciliation (Year 2):*** Tuesday, 27th October at 2 pm (OLW Church)

Families are also most welcome to join us at the following masses:

**Beginning of School Year Mass:** Friday, 6th February at 10 am.

**Ash Wednesday Mass:** Wednesday, 18th February at 9 am.



## COMMUNICATION

If you wish to communicate with either myself or your child's teacher you may request a time by either:

- Talking to either myself, a member of the Leadership Team or your child's teacher before or after school.
- Leaving a message at the school office.
- Sending an email to [principal@olwkingsbury.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@olwkingsbury.catholic.edu.au)

## SPECIALIST LESSONS

Library, Italian and Physical Education lessons are held on Wednesday's for all students. They are required to wear their sports uniform, hat and have their drink bottle (PE). Students will need to bring their Library bag for each Library lesson. Prep Library bags are included in their beginning of year school supplies order and students will receive them at their first lesson.

***Preps will begin their specialist lessons on Wednesday 11th March.***

## AFTERSCHOOL SPORTS

Afterschool Sports will be changing to Wednesday afternoons in 2026. We will inform parents via Compass when Term 1 applications will open. The Term 1 sport is Touch Footy and will be running for 5 sessions for Year 1-6's. Further information will be provided to parents when dates have been confirmed.



# NO FOOD SHARING / BIRTHDAY TREATS

In order to minimise risk in the school in relation to food and allergies, I ask that parents do not send along cakes, lolly bags or any other food treat on special celebration days. I suggest stickers, pencils, stamps or novelty items such as silly straws. Whilst this may seem unfortunate, I ask for your support with this. It is in the best interest of our children.

## PREP TESTING

We will be sending out an Interview Booking form for our Prep families via Compass this week. Interviews will be held on Wednesday 11th, 18th, 25th February and Wednesday, 4th March. Prep students will only need to attend one session.

## YEAR 3-6 ATHLETIC TRIALS

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of February, all Year 3-6 students will participate in trials in various track and field events. Students who are successful will be participating in the District Athletics (Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March).

**Students are to wear their sports uniform on this day.**

## 2025 SRC ST. VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Thank you to all the families who supported our SRC's in their Christmas fundraising. We received many gifts for children in our community who may not have received any gift at Christmas.



## Student Achievement

A big congratulations to Aaron K (Year 4) who recently participated in the Open International Maths Challenge (December 2025). It was conducted over two rounds and students achieving >70% in Round 1 were eligible for Round 2. Aaron was fortunate enough to compete in Round 2.

We are delighted to inform the OLW community that Aaron achieved an outstanding result, scoring an overall percentage (across the world) of 90.72% and was awarded the title 'International Maths Challenge (IMC) Elitist' (Students scoring between the 80th and 95th percentiles!)

Congratulations to Aaron and his family on this incredible achievement!





Grace Lucic	Principal
Catriona Davies	Deputy Principal (Learning & Teaching)
Melanie Thomson	Deputy Principal (Term 1)
Hayley Sims	Prep
Bradley Hall	Year 1/2 (Monday – Thursday) & Wellbeing
Lisa Micomonaco	Year 1/2 (Friday) & REL & Maths Intervention (Mon – Thurs)
Shirley Schroeder	Year 1/2
Catherine Laycock	Year 3/4
Rebekah Zammit	Year 3/4 (Monday & Tuesday) & STEM (Thursday)
Clare Bisby	Year 3/4 (Wednesday – Friday)
Chris Tormey	Year 5/6
Olivia Ferguson	Year 5/6 (Monday & Tuesday)
Erin Mithen	Year 5/6 (Wednesday – Friday)
Lisa Hrisikos	Art, Library, SRC, Fire Carriers
Grace Ciorcari	Italian (Wednesday)
Lucy Van Ballegooy	PE, Sport & Training (Wednesday & Friday) Performing Arts (Thursday)
Jacqui Driscoll	Learning Diversity Leader & MacqLit (Monday – Wednesday)
Alicia Burchfield	MiniLit (Monday – Thursday)
Kathy Pullen, Leanne Pulic & Claudia Sanchez	LSOs (Monday – Friday)
Rosemary Keppel	LSO (Monday – Thursday)
Ange Apostopoulos	LSO (Tuesday – Thursday)
Elaine Jeffree	Library Technician (Wednesday & Thursday)
Matthew Jones	Counsellor (Monday & Tuesday)
Jacinta Cashen	Admin Officer (Monday – Wednesday)
Kathryn Zammit	Office Manager (Wednesday – Friday)





**School Captains:** Natalie F & Charlie D

**School Vice Captains:** Vincent M & Remy C



**Faith Leaders:** Sophie D, Oceana G,

Hanaka B & Oscar L



**Bates Sports Captains:**

Madison C, Oscar L & Jessica C

**Latrobe Sports Captains:**

Ian N, Conroy NV & Brian L

**Kelly Sports Captains:**

Sophie D, Aston M & Sasha R



**Art Captains:**

Oceana G, Hanaka B & Miya Z

**Library Captains:**

Millie B, Kai H & Jessica L

**Wellbeing Leaders:**

Abigail B & Violet O





## What is Phrase/Word of the Fortnight?

At OLW, each fortnight we introduce a new focus word or phrase that is explicitly taught across the school and reviewed through daily vocabulary reviews. Many of these phrases and words are intentionally linked to events happening at OLW, within our wider community, or celebrations within our Church calendar.

The words selected are drawn from Tier-2 Vocabulary (words that are found in literature, rather than everyday conversation). These words are 'transferable', meaning they appear across various subjects like English, Maths, Inquiry & Religion. Explicitly teaching this vocabulary supports students to better comprehend instructions, engage in more complex and descriptive language, develop reading comprehension, and produce more sophisticated writing. (eg: dawdle, plethora, stupendous)

After the success of our 'Word of the Fortnight', we added a new focus: 'Phrase of the Fortnight'. The phrases selected are idioms (a phrase or expression whose meaning cannot be understood from the literal definition), so students can bridge the gap between literal and inferred meaning. (eg: 'piece of cake', 'full of beans', 'under the weather')

In 2023, staff continued to build their knowledge and practice in the explicit teaching of vocabulary. We select rich literature and students are taught through Storybook lessons (P-2) and Novel Studies (3-6). After adding these mentor texts to our Structured Literacy Block, we moved our Phrase/Word of the week to a Fortnightly cycle. This allows vocabulary from these texts and our school Word/Phrase of the fortnight, to be taught at an appropriate pace, reducing cognitive overload while providing regular opportunities for practice, retrieval and mastery through daily reviews.

### THIS FORTNIGHT

As we welcome each other back for the beginning of the school year, our Word for this fortnight is '**salutation**'.

**Salutation**

Find out its meaning and see if you can add this to your vocabulary over the next fortnight!



# We're working with The Resilience Project

We're proud to be implementing TRP's evidence-based whole school wellbeing program. Students will engage in weekly lessons to understand and strengthen their practice of **Gratitude**, **Empathy**, **Mindfulness** and **Emotional Literacy**.

## Gratitude



Gratitude involves recognising and expressing appreciation for the people, places and things in our lives. Practising gratitude allows us to pay attention to what we have, increasing feelings of happiness and leading to a more positive outlook on life.

## Empathy



Empathy involves understanding others' feelings and perspectives and is practised through kindness, compassion and curiosity. Developing empathy fosters deeper connections, increases our likelihood of acting kindly, and helps us experience positive emotions.

## Mindfulness



The practice of mindfulness is about an awareness of life as we are living it.

It allows us to be responsive to our experiences rather than being reactive, and to live with greater balance, presence and connection.

## Emotional Literacy



Emotional Literacy involves learning to identify and label our emotions, as well as developing emotional regulation skills. When we can accurately name our feelings and emotions, it reduces the impact of uncomfortable emotions and enhances the effect of positive ones.





## TAKE IT HOME ACTIVITY

### EMOTIONAL LITERACY | LESSON #1



Hi Families,

This week in our Emotional Literacy lesson, we discussed the emotions we are currently feeling at the beginning of the new school year. We discussed how change is a part of life and it is normal to experience various emotions. We then all contributed a page to a class book to explore how emotions are not good or bad, but rather our body's way of communicating with us how we feel about something.

Working on our emotional literacy skills provides us with opportunities to enhance our understanding and expression of various emotions. As we improve our emotional literacy skills, we can better recognise our own feelings and enhance our ability to manage them. This equips us to navigate diverse experiences, including handling conflicts, forming friendships, coping with challenging circumstances, and maintaining resilience when faced with change.

### TRY IT AT HOME FAMILY ACTIVITY: **HANDPRINT WORRIES**

#### WHAT TO DO:

- As a family, talk about the fact that sometimes we have worries and it is important to talk to someone about.
- Discuss some trusted adults who family members could talk to about their worries (this could be other family members, family friends or teachers).
- Each family member is to trace around their hand on a blank piece of paper.
- On each finger, write down a person who you trust to speak to if you have worries.
- Each family member should have identified five people they can talk to if they have any worries.

#### YOU WILL NEED:

- Time together as a family.
- Plain paper to trace your own hand.
- Textas and pencils.

We would love to see what OLW families are doing at home!  
Please share a photo with us, tell us what you have enjoyed via email  
(principal@olwkingsbury.catholic.edu.au)  
and we can share it in the next newsletter!





# FEBRUARY

Date	Week 2
<b>Monday 2/2</b>	3 pm - Assembly in the Hall (all welcome!) 2nd Hand Uniform Sale following Assembly (Cash sales only)
<b>Wednesday 4/2</b>	No Preps today (rest day)
<b>Friday 6/2</b>	10 am - Beginning of School Year Mass (all students Prep - 6) Parents/Grandparents are most welcome to join us.
Date	Week 3
<b>Monday 9/2</b>	3 pm - Assembly in the Hall (all welcome!)
<b>Tuesday 10/2</b>	Safer Internet Day
<b>Wednesday 11/2</b>	No Preps today (rest day)
<b>Friday 13/2</b>	Year 3-6 Athletics Trials (All to wear Sports uniform)
Date	Week 4
<b>Monday 16/2</b>	3 pm - Assembly in the Hall (all welcome!)
<b>Tuesday 17/2</b>	Shrove Tuesday
<b>Wednesday 18/2</b>	Ash Wednesday (Whole School Mass at 9 am) Parents/Grandparents are most welcome to join us. No Preps today (rest day)





# RED DOOR CAFE LUNCH ORDERS

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

PH: 9078 9725

## TOASTIES

Cheese: \$7.00

Cheese & Ham: \$7.50

Cheese & Tomato : \$7.50      Chicken, Lettuce & Mayo \$11.90

Cheese, Ham & Tomato: \$8.50

## WRAPS

Chicken Schnitzel: \$11.90

Ham: \$8.90

## HOT FOOD

5 Nuggets & Chips: \$9.90

Pizza(Magarita): \$7.50

Lasagne: \$12.90

Penne Bolognese: \$10.90

1/2 Sausage Roll:\$ 6.00

Whole Sausage Roll: \$10.90

Chips:\$6.00



A WORLD OF  
*Opportunities*



# OPEN DAY

Sunday 22 February 2026

Register Now



Our Lady of The Way Primary School  
11-19 Green Avenue, Kingsbury 3083



(03) 9460 6684  
principal@olwkingsbury.catholic.edu.au



Visit our website for more info  
www.olwkingsbury.catholic.edu.au