

# St Ambrose Primary School

Centred by Faith - In Partnership with Community -  
We Provide Excellence in Learning

Respectful Responsible Resilient Kind



Yrs. 3/4 St.Amb.  
Clay ornaments.  
Community Xmas tree.

## Second Sunday of Advent



. Lord, thank you for your great gift  
of Jesus as we celebrate Christmas.  
May I ever walk in your love and  
show the world I am your disciple by  
the love I show to others, keeping  
Jesus, your Son, close in my heart.  
Amen.



## Christmas Bucket List

- focus on grace
- fix your eyes on giving, not comparing
- make a gratitude advent calendar
- craft handwritten Christmas cards
- reflect on 2022, the good and the bad
- clean out your closet & donate it to charity
- open your bible more than your feed
- compliment a stranger
- take breaks & days off of social media
- treat yourself to something sweet



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Our first newsletter for the new year will be published on Friday 14th February 2025.



## Term 1 2025 Dates

Monday 27 January 2025	Australia Day – Public Holiday
Tuesday 28 January 2025	Staff resume
Wednesday 29 January 2025	Numeracy testing (by appointment via Operoo)
Thursday 30 January 2025	Numeracy testing (by appointment via Operoo)
Friday 31 January 2025	Students commence. Prep students finish at 12.30pm
Monday 3 February 2025	Prep students finish at 12.30pm
Tuesday 4 February 2025	Prep students finish at 12.30pm Classroom Information Sessions (Grades 5 & 6) 3.45pm
Wednesday 5 February 2025	Prep Rest Day Assembly 2.45pm
Thursday 6 February 2025	Prep students finish at 12.30pm
Friday 7 February 2025	Prep students finish at 12.30pm
Tuesday 11 February 2025	Classroom Information Sessions (Grades 3 & 4) 3.45pm Parent Helper Course 4.45pm
Wednesday 12 February 2024	Prep Rest Day Beginning of Year/Commissioning Mass 9.30am
Tuesday 18 February 2025	Parent Helper Course 3pm Classroom Information Sessions (Grade Prep, 1 & 2) 3.45pm
Wednesday 19 February 2025	Prep Rest Day Assembly 2.45pm
Tuesday 25 February 2025	Cobaw Summer Sports Grade 5/6
Wednesday 26 February 2025	Prep Rest Day Senior Level Mass (Gr 5/6) 9.30am
Thursday 27 February 2025	Reconciliation Meeting (Gr 3 & parents) 6.30pm
Saturday 1 March 2025	Reconciliation Commitment Mass 6pm
Sunday 2 March 2025	Reconciliation Commitment Mass 11am
Wednesday 5 March 2025	Prep Rest Day Ash Wednesday Mass 9.30am Assembly 2.45pm
Monday 10 March 2025	<b>Labour Day – Public Holiday</b>
Wednesday 12 March 2025	Junior Level Mass (Prep-Gr 2) 9.30am NAPLAN
Thursday 13 March 2025	NAPLAN
Friday 14 March 2025	NAPLAN
Monday 17 March 2025	Palm Sunday Prayer Service (Prep-Gr 1) 2.45pm NAPLAN
Tuesday 18 March 2025	NAPLAN
Wednesday 19 March 2025	NAPLAN Assembly 2.45pm
Thursday 20 March 2025	NAPLAN
Friday 21 March 2025	NAPLAN National Ride2School Day School Photos
Monday 24 March 2025	NAPLAN Holy Thursday Prayer Service (Gr 3/4) 2.45pm
Wednesday 26 March 2025	Middle Level Mass (Gr 3/4) 9.30am Sacrament of Reconciliation Practice 10.30am
Thursday 27 March 2025	Sacrament of Reconciliation 12.30pm and celebration
Monday 31 March 2025	Good Friday Prayer Service (Gr 5/6) 2.45pm
Tuesday 1 April 2025	Easter Sunday Prayer Service (Gr 2) 1.40pm
Wednesday 2 April 2025	End of Term 1 Mass 9.30am Assembly 2.45pm
Friday 4 April 2025	End of Term 1 – students dismissed 3.30pm



SCHOOL CALENDAR

## Message from the Principal



Dear families, parishioners and friends,

At the closing of this year I offer this message firstly to our fantastic students then to our staff and community.

I want to take a moment to congratulate each of you for the incredible effort you've put in this year. It has truly been a year of opportunity, growth and learning—and we are so proud of you.

This year, you've faced new challenges, and what I've noticed is how you've approached them—with courage, determination, and a growth mindset. You've learned that mistakes are not failures, but opportunities to grow. You've embraced chances to improve, and that's what can make your year so rewarding.

Remember when something was hard at the start of the year? Maybe a new concept, skill, a tricky maths problem, or even learning to be more patient with each other. But look at you now! You didn't give up. You kept going. You believed that you could get better, and you did. That's the power of a growth mindset—believing that with effort, practice, and perseverance, you can always improve. Your teachers have just finished your reports and Mrs B and I thoroughly enjoyed reading over them. CONGRATULATIONS! I hope you can celebrate your progress in some way with your families.

Your progress this year has not just been about academic work. This year, you've also grown in kindness, respect, responsibility & resilience.

In problem-solving, critical thinking and in working as a team. You've helped one another, listened to each other, and been a good friend. These skills are just as important as the lessons in literacy or maths. They make you the kind of person who can rise to any challenge in life and one who others trust and respect.

You have shown that no matter how big or small the challenge, you have the strength and the determination to face it and work through it. And that's something that we hope you can feel self-pride and satisfaction from.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to the incredible team that makes this school such an inclusive and welcoming place—our dedicated teachers, ESO staff, administrative staff, and leadership team.

To our teachers, thank you for the passion and care you bring to your classrooms every day. You are more than just educators; you are mentors, role models, and sources of inspiration. You've shaped not only the academic skills of our students but also their confidence, creativity, and resilience. You have made a lasting impact on their lives, and we are so thankful for everything you do.

To our ESO staff, thank you for your tireless support. Your presence and dedication, often behind the scenes, have an immeasurable impact on our students' success. Whether you're providing one-on-one assistance, helping in the classroom, or offering encouragement, you play an essential role in the growth and development of each student. Katie joined us this year as our super canteen cook and co-ordinator. The proof has been in the delicious offerings and wonderful morning & afternoon teas, not to mention lunches.

To our administrative staff, Justine and Karen, thank you for keeping the heart of our school beating. From managing daily operations to making sure the students and teachers have everything they need; your work ensures that everything runs smoothly. Know that your hard work and dedication is appreciated. We could not function without you.

To our Leadership Team a special thank you for your collaboration, guidance and vision. Your leadership shapes the direction of this school, creating an environment where both students and staff are supported, challenged, and encouraged to grow.

A heartfelt thank you to Debbie Geisler our Deputy Principal, Mrs. Boldiston NCCD & LDL, & Erin mHips who also play such an important role in leading our school forward. Your leadership and unwavering dedication to the well-being and success of everyone in this school community is deeply appreciated. Whether you are offering guidance to staff, supporting students, or making critical decisions, you always lead with integrity, care, and thoughtfulness.



This year we have been most fortunate to have Fr John appointed as our PP. We thank him for his keen interest in us and our school. We feel very fortunate and value his guidance and support.

We farewell Jenny N, Sandy, Mrs McLay & Mrs Boldiston. We will miss your presence and the unique contributions you've made to this school community. You have left a lasting impact on our students, our staff, and the school as a whole. While we are sad to see you go, we know that you will continue to do great things wherever you go. Thank you for everything you have done, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavours. You will always be a part of our school's story.

The success of this year reflects the collective efforts of our entire school community. Our parents, families and community, your support is highly valued. We are so blessed to have such positive and supportive families. This year's fete was certainly a celebration of community. In so many ways you help, whether it be through the SAC, PFA, in class, Sporting events, canteen, library or behind the scenes. THANKYOU!

And so, to all of you—the Woodend community, parents, families, teachers, ESO staff, Fr John, administrative staff, and leadership team, — thank you for making our school a place where our students can flourish. Your dedication, passion, and teamwork make all the difference.

As we come to the end of this year, I want to remind you: the learning doesn't stop here. This is just one step in the lifelong journey of learning.

Next year will bring change, new opportunities, new hopes and dreams and new challenges, but

I know you will face them with the same mindset: ready to learn, ready to grow, and ready to be prepared to go down into the learning pit, work hard to meet each challenge and grow as a person and learner.

Well done, everyone. Your attitude has made working with you a joy and we look forward to supporting you again next year.

Thank you, Happy Christmas and have a wonderful summer break.



## Farewell to our year Six Class of 2024

Be Kind

Be courageous

Believe in yourselves

Be all of who you can be

We thank you for your contributions to our community and wish you well on your way.





## **Year Six Student Awards - CONGRATULATIONS!**

### **Mary-Anne Thomas MP Resilience Award**

This award is presented to two students who have overcome challenging learning situations and triumphed in the face of adversity. The recipients of this award have demonstrated innovation, strength, and perseverance, and helped to make our school a better place, despite the restrictions.

**Arlia Magee**  
**Maeve Doyle**

### **St Mary MacKillop Positive Behaviour for Learning Award**

The specific criteria are as follows:

- Consistently upholding the school expectations of Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and kindness and being an excellent role model for others.

**Dashiell Boyd**

### **CWA Woodend Eves Community Scholarship Award**

The specific criteria suggested are as follows:

- Commitment to their community.
- An advocate on community issues, sustainable development and the protection of the environment.
- An advocate for social issues.
- A student with a focus on friendship and personal development.
- A vibrant student who empowers and supports their community, peers, and teachers, and is a role model and leader to younger students.

**Violet Donnelly**

### **School Sport Victoria Academic and Sporting Achievement Medal for 2024**

For dedication and enthusiasm as a high achiever in both academic studies and sport.

**Ava Ryan**

### **St Ambrose General Excellence Award**

The specific criteria are as follows:

- Dedication to school work
- Commitment to ethos of the Catholic school
- Contribution to school community
- Involvement in school activities
- Friendly, polite considerate of staff, parents, their peers and younger students.

**Elijah Edwards**

### **Sacred Heart Scholarship Award**

The specific criteria outlined by the college is as follows:

- Confirmed enrolment at SHC for Yr7
- Dedication to school work
- Commitment to ethos of the Catholic school
- Contribution to school community
- Involvement in school activities
- Friendly, polite considerate of others.

**Bailey Podbury**

### **Rotary Club Achievement Award**

The awards are for leadership, community service, great work at school and a positive attitude toward community involvement.

**Bruno Burgess**  
**Ruby Paag**

### **Lions Club Achievement Award**

Awarded to a student who has a strong work ethic, positive attitude toward community involvement, demonstrates respect for others and themselves, and advances goodwill and peace amongst others.

**Angus Healey**  
**Indie Randle-Hewitt**

### **Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey Community Leadership Award**

**Sidney Matthews**

## 2025 Student Leadership - CONGRATULATIONS!

At St Ambrose we work purposefully to allow opportunities to enable student voice and agency. Our Year Six Student Leaders Roles are key to bringing student feedback and ideas to us and in supporting teachers and students actively which contributes to a thriving learning environment. Today we announced our 2025 students. Indeed, they led a very impressive campaign and are capable and well deserving of the roles they have been successful in achieving.

### School Captains

Sonny Bennett  
Asher Jenke

### Sports Captains

Isaac Creer  
Elke Fisher

### Lourdes Captains

Hugh Frankilin  
Madeline Desira

### Fatima Captains

Nick Georges  
Madi Young

### Mercy Captains

Joel Woodhouse  
Elsie Arkinstall

### Carmel Captains

Madison Migga  
Caysen Embleton-  
Smith

### PBL Leaders

Tyler Tullio  
Ellie Bartram

### Arts Leaders

Archie Stewart  
Phoebe Gatacre  
Cosette Doyle

### Sustainability Leaders

Jack Bartlett  
Sophie Vernon  
Sofia Xuereb

### IT Leaders

Oskar James  
Orlando Boyd  
Tom Lacy

### Assistant to DP

Amity Cavric  
Emily Bennett

### Faith Leaders

Riley Willis  
Hattie Ferguson

### Cultural Leaders

Ruby Scarborough  
Amelia Short

### Social Justice Leaders

Elle Smith  
Evie McDonald





## 2025 Staffing & Leadership Team

Your children will be supported by a multi-skilled and very capable staff. Note that Literacy as well as Numeracy intervention will continue as will our support of Student Wellbeing. You will hear from your children's teachers early in term one. We have scheduled classroom information sessions in February as follows:

Tuesday 4th Feb Years 5-6 at 3-45pm

Tuesday 11th Feb Years 3-4 at 3-45pm

Tuesday 18th Feb Years Prep - Two at 3-45pm

NAME	ROLE & Voice For
Alexis Seddon	Prep-2 Junior Team Leader
Kate Callinan	3-4 Middle Team Leader
Brenda McDonald	5-6 Senior Team Leader
Erin Brass	Mental Health & Wellbeing Leader
Chantell Albani	Learning Diversity/Numeracy Leader
Debbie Geisler	Deputy Principal/ Wellbeing for Teaching & Learning Leader. Literacy Leader
Bronwyn Phillips	Principal

Class	Name	Days	ESO
P/1 S & Junior Team Leader	Ms. Alexis Seddon	Monday-Friday	Joel Fiona Chelsey
P/1 T	Mrs. Debbie Taylor	Monday-Friday	
P/1 O	Mrs. Kate Old	Monday-Friday	
2 K-R	Ms. Rebecca Keenan	Wed-Fri	Joanna
	Mrs. Alison Raco	Mon-Tues	
3-4 C-W	Mrs. Kate Callinan & 3-4 Team Leader	Monday - Thursday	Chelsey Rhonda Jodie
	Mrs. Kelly Woodman	Fridays	
3-4 M	Mrs. Jodi Menzies	Monday-Friday	
3-4 O	Mr. Patrick Old	Monday-Friday	
5-6 M & 5-6 Team Leader	Mrs. Brenda McDonald	Monday-Friday	Janene Kerrie
5-6 P	Mr. Micheal Portelli	Monday-Friday	
5-6 W	Ms Alissa Willan	Monday-Friday	
Visual Arts	Ms. Clare Shannon	Thursday & Friday	
Auslan	TBA		
Health & PE	Mrs. Kristy Cavric	Thursday & Friday	
Music Performing Arts	Mrs. Nicole Byrne	Thursday & Friday	
Mental Health & Wellbeing Leader	Ms Erin Brass	Monday-Thursday	
Finance Officer	Mrs. Karen Basa	Mon-Wed	
Administration Officer	Mrs. Justine Mitchener	Monday-Friday	
ICT Leader	Mr. Micheal Portelli		
Canteen	Katie DeSira	Tuesday & Wednesday	
Religious Education Leader	Mrs. Jocelyn Devlin	Thursday or Friday	
Learning Diversity & Numeracy Leader	Ms. Chantell Albani	Monday - Thursday	
Deputy Principal/ Wellbeing for Teaching & Learning Leader Literacy Leader	Mrs. Debbie Geisler	Monday-Friday	
Principal	Ms. Bronwyn Phillips	Monday-Friday	
Parish Priest	Rev Fr. John Healy	Welcome Anytime	

## Step Up Morning

Our students spent two hours with their 2025 class and teacher. The children had a settled morning engaging in activities that enabled collaboration and opportunities to get to know their class.



## SAC THANKYOU

On behalf of the 2024 School Advisory Council, I thank all the students, teachers, helpers, parents, and community for contributing to a successful 2024 at St Ambrose. The year has been full of achievements, with the school fete returning with great success, the new building's official opening and countless academic, creative, and sporting successes from the students.

We are now seeking expressions of interest from parents and the local community to join the 2025 School Advisory Council (SAC). The group meets twice per term to support the school principal and advise on the school's direction. The SAC also plays an important role in linking parents and the school.

Being part of the SAC is a great way to connect positively with the school and help support and continuously improve the experience for anyone involved with St. Ambrose.

If you would like to learn more about the SAC or register an expression of interest for 2025, please get in touch with me or Bronwyn Phillips.

Finally, thank you to the 2024 SAC, Rilla Healey, Jodie Warner, Danielle Perrin, Ellen Vernon, Michelle Lancefield, Maurice Fanning, Bronwyn Phillips, and Debbie Geisler.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Mike Boudrie  
2024 SAC Chair

## Parents as Helpers Training

We are grateful that we have you assisting with our various school programs and activities. Our students really enjoy your input. We have a further parent as helper training course scheduled on **Tuesday February 11th at 4.45 pm & Tuesday 18th February at 3.00pm.**

We encourage any of you who are yet to do the training or need to do the refresher course to email Debbie Geisler ([debbie.geisler@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au](mailto:debbie.geisler@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au)) and book in to the appropriate course.

## Farewell Sandy Howe



Sandy who has been with us for 8 years is stepping back to allow some time for travel and family. Sandy has been a highly valued ESO and well liked by our students. We thank Sandy for her service and wish her all the very best in her next chapter. Sandy will be back from time to time as an ESO relief staff member so we still see her from time to time.

## Year 3-4 Camp

We are pleased to hear our campers had a positive experience. I'm sure there will be lots of stories to share! Thank you to our dedicated staff who made this camp possible.





## Family Picnic & Carols



One of life's simple pleasures is relaxing with family and friends over a picnic while watching the children play. It was great to enjoy this time with so many of our families. Our young musicians did a super job carolling!



## STAM Day

We celebrated the feast of St Ambrose with STAM Day and much enjoyment was had!



## St Ambrose 3-4 Students Support Ambrose Care

We offer our deep gratitude to our students and families for their generous support of the Ambrose Care Christmas Appeal. Your generosity makes a difference.

## Casual Dress Day for RCH

Thank you for your your gold coin donations. We will send the proceeds to the Royal Children s Hospital.

## St Ambrose Ukulele Club

Our St Ambrose Ukulele Club entertained local community members at the RSL this week. We are proud of you all!





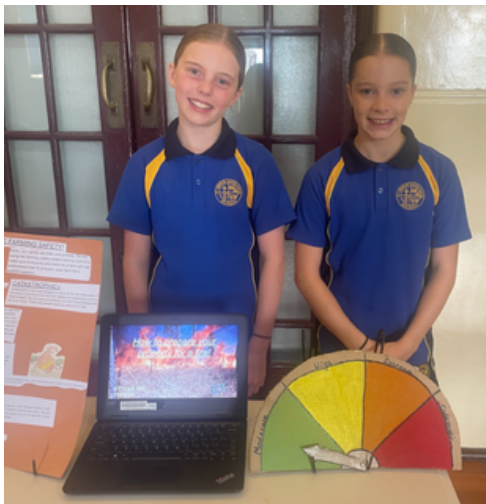
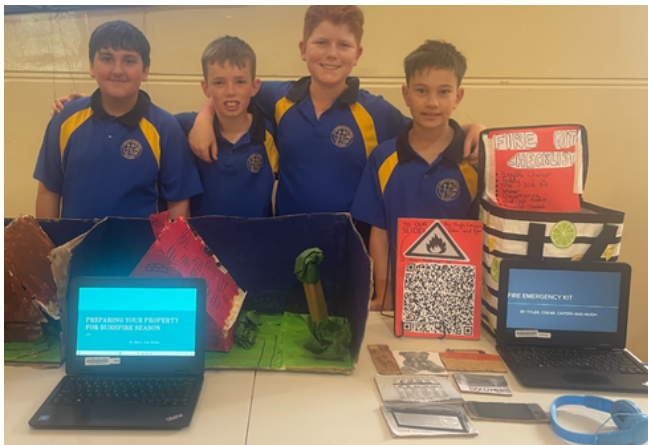
## Year 5-6 Fire Readiness Expo

As the culmination of our Bushfire Education unit, which focused on bushfire readiness, the Grade 5/6 students hosted an Expo to showcase their diverse projects. These projects addressed critical topics such as care for families, pets, farm animals, and the elderly. The students created checklists, videos, and posters to emphasise their messages. Other projects highlighted fire readiness around the home, displayed through dioramas illustrating good and poor house preparation for example fuel loads.

The Expo was attended by all grade levels, along with parents and grandparents. Special guests included local CFA and SES members, Neil Munro from the CFA Bushfire Education,

Fire Risk, Research, and Community Preparedness Unit, Dr. Briony Towers from Natural Hazards Research Australia, officers from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Councillor Janet Pearce, and Mayor Dom Bonanno.

The event was a great success, and our wonderfully talented students received high praise from everyone who attended.



## Student Reports & Nforma

Student semester two reports will be able to be accessed this afternoon, December 13th from 4.30 pm.

We have included instructions for parents on how to download the app and login to Nforma via your phone or ipad, which you may prefer. If not, we have also included instructions on how to use the URL.

If you use the app either on a Apple phone or android phone, you can have a look at past reports. If you are able to do this then you will be set up to access the December reports when they go out.

If you do not have a phone at all or even an iPad or tablet, read the second guide for the web version.

If you are having problems downloading the app, please email [micheal.portelli@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au](mailto:micheal.portelli@sawoodend.catholic.edu.au)

**Please make time to read through the information later in this newsletter so that you are set up and ready to log in.**





# St Ambrose Bushfire Rating

St Ambrose School is rated as a level 3 on the BARR scale. This means that our school will not open on a catastrophic fire day. See the table below.



## THE FIRE DANGER RATING LEVELS ARE:

<b>MODERATE</b>	Plan and prepare. Most fires can be controlled.
<b>HIGH</b>	Be ready to act. Fires can be dangerous.
<b>EXTREME</b>	Take action now to protect your life and property. Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous.
<b>CATASTROPHIC</b>	For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas. If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.
<b>NO RATING</b>	On days where there is minimal risk, the white bar meaning 'No Rating' will be used.

Artist: Emma Bamblett (Wemba Wemba, Gunditjmarra, Ngadjonji and Taungurung)

## Fire Danger Ratings and Triggers for Action

### School triggers for pre-emptive action based on fire danger ratings

- On a **Catastrophic Fire Weather District** forecast rating schools and education entities on the BARR and Category 4 close.
- On an **Extreme Local Government Area** forecast rating schools and education entities categorised 0-2 on the BARR relocate or close.
- On a **High Local Government Area** forecast rating schools and education entities categorised as 0 on the BARR relocate or close.

Fire Danger Rating (AFDRS)				
	Moderate Fire Danger Rating	High Fire Danger Rating (Local Government Area)	Extreme Fire Danger Rating (Local Government Area)	Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating (Fire Weather District)
School Fire Risk BARR Category	0	Operational	Alternate arrangements (relocate/close)	Close
	1	Operational	Alternate arrangements (relocate/close)	Close
	2	Operational	Alternate arrangements (relocate/close)	Close
	3	Operational	Operational	Close
	4	Operational	Operational	Close

Our heartfelt thanks for your support again this year and for your beautiful Christmas messages. They are greatly appreciated.

## Next Newsletter

For more news and photos visit our [website](#) and look at latest news including our 5-6 fire readiness expo, 3-4 camp, Ukulele club, 5-6 graduation and STAM day visit by clicking on our facebook button.

Our first newsletter for the new year will be published on Friday, 14th February 2025.



**Bronwyn Phillips**  
Principal





# PREP T CLASSROOM FEATURE

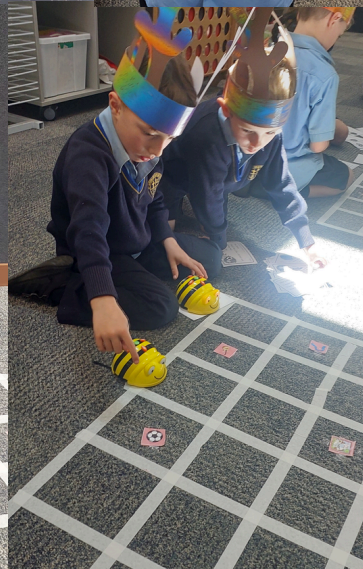
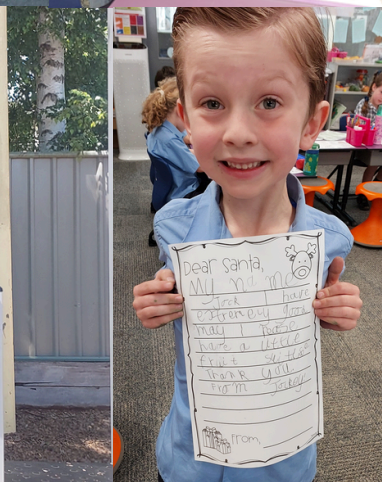
Prep T have had an exciting week leading up to the end of the school year.

After weeks of rehearsals, we proudly presented our Nativity play to the whole school.

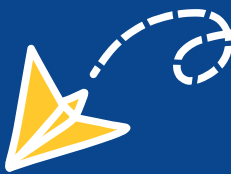
We have also enjoyed lots of Christmas activities...

Spending time with friends....

Learning to use BeeBots on St Ambrose Feast day.







HAPPY  
Birthday

13 December	Harry R
16 December	Amelia S
17 December	Jack B, Riley W
18 December	Elsie A
22 December	Harper C Sailor C
30 December	Marli P

## Student Awards

### **PBL Bronze Award - 20 Bee Gotcha Tickets**

Tom C, Mary G, Oskar J, Elle S, Isaac C, Eva P, Sofia X, Sonny B, Bruno B

### **PBL Gold Award - 60 Bee Gotcha Tickets**

Matilda C, Jackson G-S, Elijah E, Leon G, Rex R, Augie L, Iona T

### **PBL Rainbow Award - 100 Bee Gotcha Tickets** Tillie J

### **PBL Diamond Award - 150 Bee Gotcha Tickets** Rose AG

**Sports Stars of the Week-** Grace Y,  
Violet D





## SUMMER BOREDOM BUSTER CHALLENGE

How many can you check off?



### Be outside

- ☐ Have a backyard picnic
- ☐ Explore a nature trail
- ☐ Build a bird feeder
- ☐ Plant a garden
- ☐ Have a lemonade stand
- ☐ Play with water balloons
- ☐ Picnic in the park
- ☐ Go on a nature scavenger hunt



### Offer to help

- ☐ Help with yard work
- ☐ Prepare meals
- ☐ Volunteer locally
- ☐ Fix something
- ☐ Donate old clothes
- ☐ Clean up a local park
- ☐ Help a neighbour
- ☐ Set the table
- ☐ Sort clean laundry
- ☐ Organise toys



### Read (or write!)

- ☐ Listen to an audiobook
- ☐ Read under a tree
- ☐ Start a book club
- ☐ Read a magazine
- ☐ Read a play aloud
- ☐ Write a story
- ☐ Create a comic
- ☐ Start a journal
- ☐ Read to a pet



### Exercise

- ☐ Build an obstacle course
- ☐ Practise yoga
- ☐ Play hide-and-seek
- ☐ Play tag
- ☐ Go for a bike ride
- ☐ Take a hike
- ☐ Play kickball
- ☐ Play frisbee golf
- ☐ Jump rope
- ☐ Swing on swings



### Do something creative

- ☐ Build a fort
- ☐ Make a scrapbook
- ☐ Have an art show
- ☐ Take an art class
- ☐ Start a new collection
- ☐ Practise origami
- ☐ Have a puppet show
- ☐ Have a fashion show

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Big Life Journal

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|--|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fly a kite                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweep the floor           | <input type="checkbox"/> Write a haiku                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Learn a dance            | <input type="checkbox"/> Make a time-lapse video   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watch the sunset            | <input type="checkbox"/> Fold laundry              | <input type="checkbox"/> Make a list                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Make a hopscotch         | <input type="checkbox"/> Build a mini golf course  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Create sidewalk chalk art   | <input type="checkbox"/> Help someone younger      | <input type="checkbox"/> Write a letter                | <input type="checkbox"/> Hula hoop                | <input type="checkbox"/> Try a new hairstyle       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have a water fight          | <input type="checkbox"/> Wipe the kitchen counters | <input type="checkbox"/> Read in the dark with a torch | <input type="checkbox"/> Kick a ball              | <input type="checkbox"/> Paint a picture           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gaze at the clouds          | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with a pet           | <input type="checkbox"/> Play a word game              | <input type="checkbox"/> Play 'Simon Says'        | <input type="checkbox"/> Make a collage            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Catch frogs                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Make your bed             | <input type="checkbox"/> Write a recipe                | <input type="checkbox"/> Run around outside       | <input type="checkbox"/> Build with LEGO           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watch the birds             | <input type="checkbox"/> Send a get-well-soon card | <input type="checkbox"/> Read to a sibling             | <input type="checkbox"/> Play catch               | <input type="checkbox"/> Mould with clay           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Find a four-leaf clover     | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with dishes          | <input type="checkbox"/> Write a song                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Climb a tree             | <input type="checkbox"/> Design a card             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Splash in puddles           | <input type="checkbox"/> Make a meal               | <input type="checkbox"/> Make a crossword puzzle       | <input type="checkbox"/> Jump on a trampoline     | <input type="checkbox"/> Draw a maze               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Find a caterpillar          | <input type="checkbox"/> Empty the trash           | <input type="checkbox"/> Write a diary                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Play basketball          | <input type="checkbox"/> Build a fairy garden      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Host an outdoor movie night | <input type="checkbox"/> Tidy up your bedroom      | <input type="checkbox"/> Read a blog                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Go swimming              | <input type="checkbox"/> Record a podcast          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Play 'Sardines'             | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean your desk           | <input type="checkbox"/> Write and perform a play      | <input type="checkbox"/> Play soccer              | <input type="checkbox"/> Design a bookmark         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go geocaching               | <input type="checkbox"/> Wipe the bathroom sink    | <input type="checkbox"/> Read a map                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Practise cartwheels      | <input type="checkbox"/> Decorate a rock           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take nature photos          | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant a tree              | <input type="checkbox"/> Write a thank-you note        | <input type="checkbox"/> Do jumping jacks         | <input type="checkbox"/> Create a costume          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blow bubbles                | <input type="checkbox"/> Put away groceries        | <input type="checkbox"/> Read a mystery                | <input type="checkbox"/> Skip rope                | <input type="checkbox"/> Make a bracelet           |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Take out recycling        | <input type="checkbox"/> Write a joke                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Try slack-lining         | <input type="checkbox"/> Create a cardboard castle |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Help with gardening       | <input type="checkbox"/> Read in a fort                | <input type="checkbox"/> Have a three-legged race |  |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Write an acrostic poem        | <input type="checkbox"/> Play capture the flag    |  |

Big Life Journal



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Big Life Journal



# JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS

# Faith & Family

Summer Blessing for Families:  
May we make our homes places of  
relaxation,  
joy, love, peace and safety.  
May we be generous and  
considerate,  
not thinking only about ourselves,  
but helping others enjoy the  
blessings of the summertime.  
Lord God, Creator of all things,  
guide our steps and strengthen our  
hearts  
during these months of summer  
and vacation days.  
Grant us refreshment of mind and  
body.  
May we constantly strive to make a  
meaningful difference  
in the lives of our loved ones and  
in the world around us  
as we enjoy the warm days of  
summertime.  
We ask this through Christ our  
Lord.  
Amen.



## PONDER:

Amid your joyful Advent  
preparations, do you still  
find time for soul-  
refining spiritual work?

Gospel Reflection: Luke 3:1-6

Advent has always been a time of joyful preparation in our family. Like many others, we decorate the house, put up the Nativity scene, light the Advent wreath each night, and try to increase our prayer life in preparation for Christ's birth. John the Baptist also prepared for the coming of Christ, but in a much different way.

In today's Gospel, he is heard proclaiming the words of the prophet Isaiah:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

This appears to be such a hopeful and upbeat passage! God can really do all that? He can take all of my problems and make them right? He can tackle my most difficult obstacles? Of course He can! But let us remember that it also requires our cooperation. God seldom works by waving a magic wand or snapping His fingers to make it all better in a single instant. John reminds us of that truth. He spent his time living alone in the desert eating locusts and wild honey while trying to convince a stubborn generation to repent and prepare for God's coming. That doesn't sound like a bowl of cherries to me. And so our Advent journey may not be either. While it truly is a time of joyful preparation, it may also be a time of some not-so-pleasant refining of our desires and a consistent redirecting of our thoughts toward God. God truly will make our paths straight, but just remember that sometimes God writes straight with crooked lines. Even so, don't worry. He will be right there beside you to guide you along the way.

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## Religious Calendar of Events in Term 1:

Date	Details	Time
12th February	Beginning of Year/Commissioning Mass	9:30 am
26th February	Senior Level Mass (Gr 5/6)	9:30 am
27th February	Reconciliation Meeting (Students & Parents)	6:30 pm
1st March	Sacrament of Reconciliation Commitment Mass	6:00 pm
2nd March	Sacrament of Reconciliation Commitment Mass	11:00 am
5th March	Ash Wednesday Mass	9:30 am
12th March	Junior Level Mass (Gr P-2)	9:30 am
17th March	Palm Sunday Prayer Service (Gr P/1)	2:45 pm
24th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation & Celebration	12:30 pm
26th March	Middle Level Mass (Gr 3/4)	9:30 am
26th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation Practice	10:30 am
31st March	Good Friday Prayer Service (Gr 5/6)	2:45 pm
1st April	Easter Sunday Prayer Service (Gr 2)	2:45 pm
2nd April	End of Term 1 Mass	9:30 am

Please note: All are welcome to our Masses.  
If you would like to join us in any of these  
celebrations, you are most welcome.

PARISH NEWSLETTER

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

# JOIN THE CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS **Faith & Family**

## **Sacraments, 2025**

Parents of students making one of the Sacraments in 2025, please note the following dates:

**Sacrament of First Reconciliation:** Thurs, 27th March, 2025 at 12:30 pm

**Sacrament of Confirmation:** Sunday, 15th June, 2025 at 1 pm

**Sacrament of First Eucharist:** Sunday, 17th August, 2025 at 11 am

Commitment Masses will be held on the following weekends:

**Sacrament of First Reconciliation:** Sat, 1st March, 2025 at 5pm

Sun, 2nd March, 2025 at 11 am

**Sacrament of Confirmation:** Sat, 17th May, 2025 at 5pm

Sun, 18th May, 2025 at 11 am

**Sacrament of First Eucharist:** Sat, 2nd July, 2025 at 5pm

Sun, 3rd July, 2025 at 11 am

Only one of the Commitment Masses needs to be attended for your child's Sacrament.

### **Statue of St Ambrose**

There is a book titled: The God of Surprises and it is a title that does describe our God. I was surprised when I received a phone call from Fr Ken Hagan offering us a statue of St Ambrose.



In the words of Fr Ken: 'I was delighted to hear that you will be able to make use of the statue from the Ordinariate community on the Central Coast NSW. It was the express wish of the donors that, in the event of the community ceasing to function, the statue would go to another Church of the same title. The statue was carved by Engelbert Piccolrueze who is a well-known Sydney wood carver. The design is a copy of the image on the pulpit at Stratford on Avon in the UK except for the face which is a reproduction of the face of St Ambrose on a very primitive tile in Milan Cathedral.'

**All are invited to celebrate the blessing and installation of the statue during the 11am Mass on December 8<sup>th</sup>. A social gathering in the church grounds will follow the Mass.**

### **Who is St Ambrose?**

*Saint Ambrose, also known as Aurelius Ambrosius, is one of the four original doctors of the Church. He was the Bishop of Milan and became one of the most important theological figures of the 4th century.*

*Ambrose was born around 340 AD to a Roman Christian family. He grew up with his siblings, Satyrus and Marcellina, in Trier, Belgic Gaul (present-day Germany). It is believed by many that when Ambrose was just an infant, a swarm of bees landed on his face and left behind a drop of honey. To his father, this was a sign that Ambrose would become someone great with a wonderful sense for speaking.*

*After Ambrose's father passed away, he was educated in Rome, where he studied law, literature and rhetoric. Ambrose received a place on the council, like his father, and was made consular prefect, or the Governor, of Liguria and Emilia around 372. Ambrose's headquarters were in Milan, the then second capital of Italy. Ambrose remained Governor until 374 when he became the Bishop of Milan. Ambrose was baptized, ordained and duly consecrated bishop of Milan on December 7, 374.*

*As bishop, he donated all his land and gave his money to the poor. This made him widely popular and often more politically powerful than even the emperor*

*St Ambrose is the patron of Beekeepers, beggars, learners, and the city of Milan*





## 2025 Annual Tuition Fee

As communicated in our last newsletter, the following details the changes in tuition fees for the 2025 academic year.

Any decision to adjust tuition fees is never made lightly, nor without careful and thorough consideration of our students' needs and our school's capacity to provide an education experience that supports every student to flourish. We are also cognisant of the financial pressures that many families have experienced this year.

St Ambrose School too, is facing increasing costs in multiple areas of school operations, including WorkCover premiums, Child Safety compliance, risk management, teacher resources and professional learning, and higher central system costs.

Our tuition fees at St. Ambrose School are also influenced by the Commonwealth Department of Education's calculation of our community's ability to financially contribute to the operating costs of our school, known as the Capacity to Contribute, or CTC, which is reviewed annually.

School funding is complex, so I have included with this letter a simple school funding "explainer" which I hope will support your understanding of how government funds Catholic (and other non-government) schools and how tuition fees support our school.

To ensure that we can continue to deliver a personalised, high-quality education that is responsive to the diverse interests and academic, social and emotional needs of our students, it is necessary to adjust our fees in 2025.

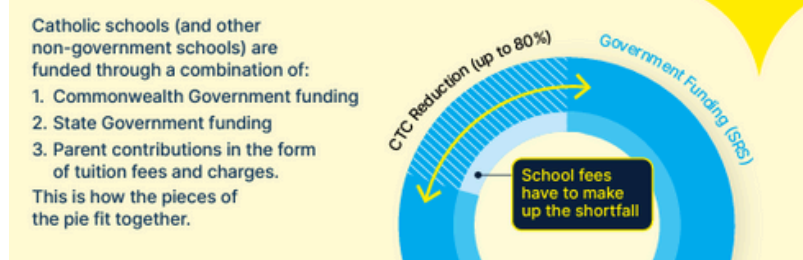
As a result, St. Ambrose School 's annual fee schedule for 2025 will be:

Fees		2025 Budget
(One payment per family)	<b>Family Fee</b>	\$2,500.00
(One payment per family)	<b>Capital Fee</b>	\$ 200.00
<b>Levies</b> (for each child)	<b>Curriculum</b>	\$ 665.00
(for each child)	<b>Swimming</b>	\$ 30.00

This is an increase of \$9.00 per week on 2024 fees for one student and less for each additional student as the family fee and capital fee is only paid once per year per family.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the fee increase, or wish to discuss your individual circumstances, please do not hesitate to contact me. We remain committed to keeping tuition fees as low and affordable as possible, and to working closely with our community to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Thank you for your understanding. We are grateful for your ongoing support and trust in our school.



### Baseline funding (the SRS)

There is an agreed annual amount that government funds every school to meet its students' educational needs. This is called the **Schooling Resource Standard (SRS)**. Under this national agreement, the Australian and state governments together fund schools in line with the SRS.

The final SRS Base for 2024 was \$13,570 for each primary student, and \$17,053 for each secondary student.

In addition to this base amount, there are up to six loadings that can provide additional funding for student priority cohorts and disadvantaged schools.

To ensure that funding keeps up with changes in wages and other costs, the SRS base amount and loadings are indexed each year.

### The Capacity to Contribute (CTC)

For Catholic schools, the SRS base amount is then **reduced** by the school community's CTC. This can be as much as an 80% reduction.

The Capacity to Contribute (CTC) for each school is determined by the taxable income of the families attending the school, as reported annually to the ATO.

Schools are currently expected to recover the CTC shortfall in SRS funding through school fees.

Importantly, none of this government funding can be used for buildings and infrastructure in Catholic schools. Our buildings and infrastructure are funded by capital grants from the Commonwealth and/or Victorian governments, and by parent contributions through fees, school cash reserves and capital levies.

Further information is available on the School Resourcing Standard through the Australian Department of Education.

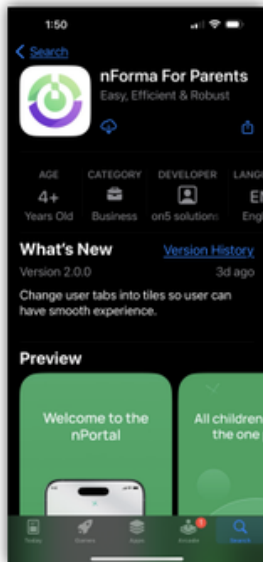
# nForma NPORTAL

## YOUR GUIDE TO THE NEW ONFORMA PARENT PORTAL TO ACCESS SCHOOL REPORTS

### Getting started

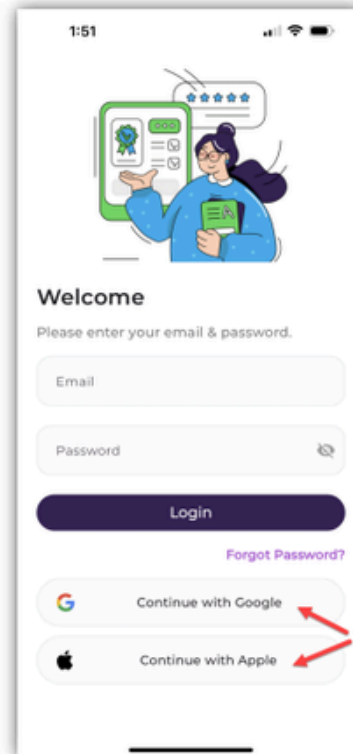
#### Download the app

1. Go to the Google Play Store or Apple App store on your phone.
2. Search "nForma for parents" and download

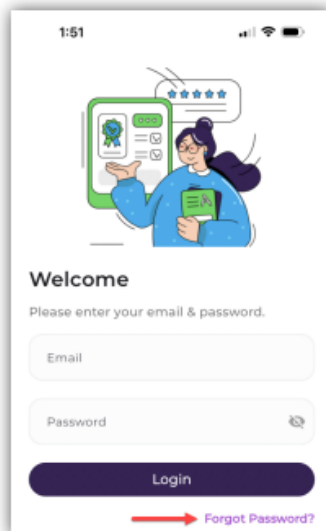


3. Double click to open the app

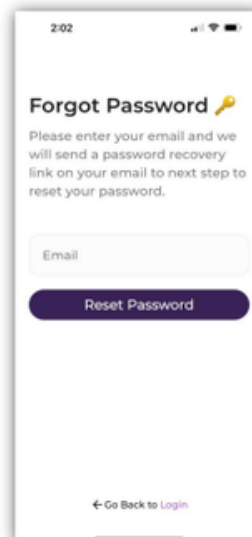
4. If your Google or Apple email account is registered at the school, simply click on "Continue with Google or Apple"



5. If you do not have a Google or Apple email account, simply click "Forgot Password"



6. Enter the email address registered with the school and click "Reset Password".



7. Check your email for the reset password link.
8. If you do not receive an email after several minutes, request the temp password from your school admin office. They will be able to email you the temp password, should your email account be blocked from the nPortal system. You will need to input the temporary reset password through the web browser and not the app. The URL is as below:

[HTTPS://PORTAL.NFORMA.COM.AU/LOGIN](https://portal.nforma.com.au/login)

9. Once you have logged in through the web browser and confirmed your new password, you can log into the app with your new password, not the temporary one.

If you have any questions, refer to our FAQs page:

[HTTPS://NFORMA.COM.AU/PARENT-FAQS/](https://nforma.com.au/parent-faqs/)

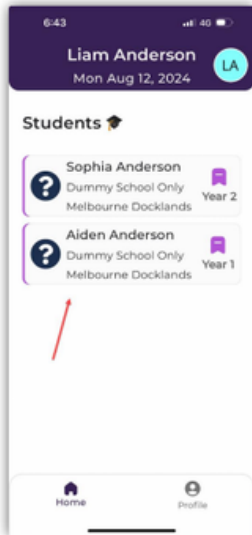
Password: nforma123



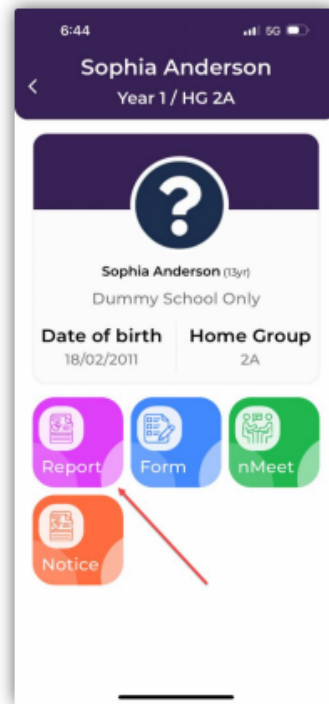
# Reports

## Saving time and effort

In your child's profile, you will see a variety of data, such as profile information and assessment reports.



1. Select the student



2. Click on report and download

## Accessing Reports via the desktop version

### Getting started

#### Logging in

When logging in, you will see multiple options on how to login. You can login either with a google account or another preferred email address. The most important thing to note is that it must be the email registered with the school.

For example, if you have two emails, one Google and one Hotmail, and the Hotmail is linked to the school, logging in through the google option with your Gmail account, will not work.

TO LOG INTO THE NFORMA PORTAL, USE THIS LINK - [HTTPS://PORTAL.NFORMA.COM.AU/LOGIN](https://portal.nforma.com.au/login)

To setup your password for the first time, you will need to click on the "Forgot Password" link. From there, enter the email address registered to the school. Once done, you should receive an email with a password reset. Once you have updated your password, you can then login.

If you have any questions, refer to our FAQs page:

[HTTPS://NFORMA.COM.AU/PARENT-FAQS/](https://nforma.com.au/parent-faqs/)

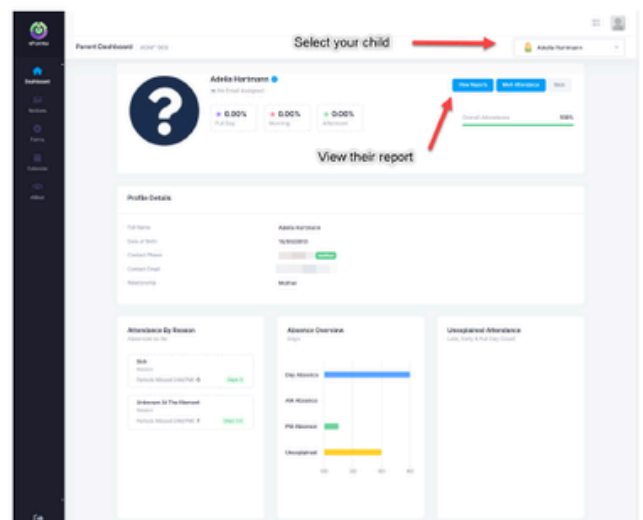
Password: nforma123

# Reports

## Saving time and effort

In your child's profile, you will see a variety of data, such as profile information and assessment reports.

To view your child's semester reports, simply choose the selected child's profile. There will be a blue "View Reports" button at the top of the page, click that. You will then be presented with all the available reports for your child. Click on "download", they will now download to your device where you can view them.





## COMMUNITY NEWS

WOODEND CRICKET CLUB  
2nd ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY!  
WHERE WE INVITE ALL OF WOODEND TO COME AND CELEBRATE  
CHRISTMAS WITH US ON GILBERT GORDON OVAL

**OUTDOOR CINEMA**

FAMILY FUN! PLUS SANTA!

FRIDAY 13 DECEMBER FROM 6PM

**FREE EVENT!** EVERYONE WELCOME!

THANKS TO THE AMAZING SUPPORT FROM

**SGA**  
Engineering  
STRUCTURAL STEEL & STEEL SALES



LOCK IN YOUR  
FREE TICKET BY  
SCANNING  
QR CODE



Do you or your child play club sport?  
Then we want to hear from you.

Complete a short survey to help us understand how much it  
**costs to play sport**



Ethics reference number: 2024/179