



Important Dates

End of Year Mass
9.30am

Wednesday 11 December
2024

Last Day for Year 6s
and Graduation
Dinner

Wednesday 11 December
2024

Last day of school
year for Rec - yr 5

Thursday 12 December 2024

Pupil Free Day -
OSHC available

Friday 13 December 2024

Casual Clothes Day

Friday 13 December 2024

Meet the Teacher
appointments

Wednesday 22 January
2025



From the Principal

Dear Families,

As we reach the final newsletter of the year, it's hard to believe we've arrived at this point. Term 4 has been particularly busy, with highlights like our vibrant Colour Run, an engaging Sports Day, and the beautiful Live Nativity. The energy and enthusiasm within our community have been remarkable.

As a leader of this community, 2024 has been an incredible year to establish a firm foundation in the teaching and learning programs at St Francis of Assisi. Above all, the management of how we learn here is my most important responsibility.

At SFOA, we measure success through growth – the holistic growth of each child, academically, socially, and spiritually. I'm proud to share that we've achieved significant improvements in our learning data this year. This progress is a testament to our staff's dedication, consistency, and their commitment to professional development. Some of the behind-the-scenes highlights include:

- Retraining all staff in our Phonics and Spelling program, PLD (Years 1–6).
- Training our Reception staff in the InitiaLit and PreLit programs, including our mid-year Reception class.
- Introducing the Reading Tutor program for one-on-one intervention.
- Providing coaching and professional development in Explicit Direct Instruction.
- Embedding *The Writing Revolution* program into our teaching practices.
- Implementing daily Mathematics Reviews across the school (R–6).

In 2025, our focus will shift toward consolidating assessment tasks to ensure greater consistency in grading while continuing to build on the significant progress made this year.

I've enjoyed recent conversations with families about our learning programs and am always available for a chat about how we teach and how our students learn at SFOA. It's clear we are building something special, and our learning data reflects that.

Initiatives in 2025

On Facebook, we've shared some exciting announcements for 2025:

- **AFL Academies:** Led by local players and supported by SANFL players and coaches.
- **Breakfast Club:** Held on alternate Fridays and supported by local businesses.
- **Language Lift:** A new Oral Language program for the whole school.
- **Playgroup:** Due to its success playgroup will run 2 mornings a week in 2025.
- **'Positive Me' Soccer Academy:** A Year 3/4 Soccer Academy that focuses on the holistic development of the player.

Perhaps our most exciting announcement is the **Strings Immersion Program** for Year 3 students. In 2025, each Year 3 student will receive a strings instrument (violin or cello) and participate in small group instruction with trained tutors. They will also join ensemble lessons led by Ms. Therese O'Brien, our Year 3–6 Music Teacher. This innovative program reflects our commitment to fostering a love of music and will set SFOA apart as a leader in music education.

Capital Works

At the beginning of 2024, we hosted a Launch Night where I shared our vision for developing a Master Plan. This 10–15-year architectural roadmap will guide all capital developments at SFOA.

The Master Plan has been completed and is progressing through Catholic Education South Australia committees. It will be shared with the community at our 2025 Launch Night. It's an unbelievably exciting vision which will position St Francis of Assisi where it should be – a place with an incredibly tightknit community but also innovative, contemporary and system leading facilities.

The first stage will include:

- **Major refurbishments of classroom spaces.**
- **Transforming the piazza into a more versatile, student-centred space.**

We expect this work to begin in the third quarter of 2025.

Office Refurbishment and Holiday Works

While awaiting Master Plan approvals, several smaller projects will be completed over the holidays, including:

- Refurbishing the Front Office with new carpeting, cabinetry, and an updated Admin desk.
- Refurbishing and adding new shade to the Junior Primary Playground.
- Installing new drinking fountains across the site.

We anticipate the Front Office work will be finished during the summer holidays, but if delays occur, we'll notify families about a temporary office setup for the start of Term

Thank You

As I reflect on this year, I want to thank you all for the warm welcome I've received. Just 12 months ago, I was farewelling the Yorketown community, uncertain about what lay ahead. Now, I feel immense pride leading this incredible community at St Francis of Assisi.

With our 60th anniversary in 2025, we will celebrate this school's rich history while embracing a future full of potential.

SFOA is going places, and 2024 was just the beginning.

Wishing you all a blessed and Merry Christmas.

God Bless,

Scott

APRIM News

APRIM News Week 9

Tomorrow, we have our final End of Year Mass where we farewell our graduating students and any other members of the community who are moving on. This time of the year can bring sadness as we say farewell to friends and colleagues who are moving onto new

places. Our Year 6's are possibly feeling a number of conflicting emotions; happiness at graduating from Year 6, anxiety about what it could be like at High School and sadness at moving away from friends. I hope they all take away fond memories of their time at St Francis and that they will remember that God will always be there for them and to let the wonder of God's love come through their lives.

Christmas is almost here! What do we think of when we hear such news? Probably, the thoughts that come to mind are those associated with the necessary preparations that go to make the day an enjoyable occasion marked by lots of food, presents, lights and tinsel. But, we know of course that the meaning of Christmas will always be the birth of Jesus, God's Son. Christmas is an anniversary celebration of when God gave us the gift of Himself without splendour or opulence but in poverty and weakness, in the form of a tiny baby in an animal enclosure. Jesus, Son of God, emptied himself of power, privilege and possessions and was born into the human race in the humblest of manner. We saw this re-enacted in our 'Live Nativity' last week. Congratulations to our students who brought to life the Franciscan Tradition of a 'Live Nativity' and celebrated the coming of Jesus with beautiful Christmas singing and dancing.

The way that our community has rallied around and supported the St Vincent Christmas Appeal is a wonderful example for us and a great reminder of the real meaning of Christmas; the hope, peace and goodwill as we celebrate the anniversary of our Saviours birth. Thankyou for your generous donations.

Parish Christmas Fest

On Saturday a few of our children took part in the Christmas Fest that was organised by the youth coordinator of the Parish. Mwila won first prize as the best dressed. He was a Shephard along with his siblings Mwape and Leilani who also received a prize.



Below is the Timetable of Christmas Masses for Newton, Hectorville and Athelstone

Saint Francis of Assisi, Newton

Christmas Eve: 6.00pm Vigil Family Mass with Live Nativity Play, 8.00pm, Midnight (Bilingual)

Christmas Day: 9.00am, 11.00am (Italian)

The Chapel of the Holy Name, Athelstone (St Ignatius)

Christmas Eve: Tues 24 December 7.00pm Carols, 7.30pm Mass starts

Annunciation Church, Hectorville

Christmas Eve: 7:30pm (family Mass), 9:30pm and midnight (carols begin at 11:30am)

Christmas Day: 8am, 9:30 (Italian) and 11:00am

Wishing all families and blessed and safe Christmas and New Year.

Melissa Canil

APRIM

Well Being News

Online Safety

With Christmas around the corner and lots of holiday time possibly spent at home, it might be a good time to think about how you will manage devices in the home to promote safe and positive online behaviours.

Children have never been more active online, and it calls for vigilant supervision while they are learning to develop skills and strategies around online safety.

Here are some suggestions of important things to consider when thinking about ways to keep children safe and healthy online.

Set boundaries and balance from the get go and take charge

Rules and boundaries don't stop children from having fun, they keep them safe and help them to set in place healthy online behaviours. If they aren't enforced there is no point in having them. You will be challenged every day! Stay strong. This is not about mistrust, this is about understanding that children are learning and they will make mistakes. As they get older they can make decisions with less guidance, but for now make decisions and consider boundaries around the following:

Stay Current and Communicate

Talk to your children and talk often about their online world. Be aware of what they are enjoying, who they are playing with and what risks may present themselves. Best way to find all of this out is by talking to them whenever you can.

One of the key messages is to let children know that if they have a problem online it is always safe to tell a parent and together you will work it out in order for them to continue to play safely. This will help prevent children from keeping dangerous secrets to avoid have devices or privileges being taken away.

Use Management controls available to you

Use monitoring and filtering software to help your children to be safe in their online environment. The important features to consider would be time and curfew controls, monitoring web site visits, limiting downloads of inappropriate apps and blocking concerning websites. Remember management controls are not a 'set and forget' solution. Nothing will replace the most valuable safety tool for your family, ongoing and frequent communication.

Ensuring your children are safe online and developing healthy habits is such an additional challenge to the already challenging role of parenting. We hope these tips offer some support to you. A great parent resource to access information on any online safety topic is [eSafety Parents](#).

Casual Clothes Day Thursday 12th Dec

CASUAL CLOTHES DAY



**Thursday Wk 9
R-5 Last day of
School**

**Gold Coin Donation
for Vinnies
Christmas Appeal**



Meet the Teacher appointments



Dear Parents,

We have scheduled a 'Meet the Teacher ' Day for **Wednesday January 22nd 2025**.

Bookings for this can be made using the online booking system. Bookings are open now, please use the following link.

<https://sobs.com.au/pt3/parent.php?schoolid=921>

Parents have from today **Tuesday 10th Dec** until **until Tuesday 21st January 11.30 pm ONLY** to make an online booking with their child's 2025 teacher. After this time/date the online booking system will close, Parents will no longer be able to book an interview or change their times but can view their booked times.

- Bookings can only be made online using the above link.
- Bookings will open 13th December and close 21st January 2025.
- Please ensure you edit your child's new year level when signing in, with their 2025 year level. This will enable you to view the correct teachers for that year level.

St Francis of Assisi Vacation Care

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Vacation Care | 13 Dec - 24 Jan

St Francis of Assisi Vacation Care will be available from Friday 13th December until Friday 24th January. This includes our Pupil Free day on Friday 13th December.

Please see here for the Vacation Care [Programme](#)

Please use this link to register your child and book into the days you require.

[St Francis of Assisi | YMCA SA](#)

[Online programme](#)

UNIFORM SHOP



St Francis of Assisi School
NEWTON, SA

Dear St. Francis of Assisi Community,

Due to the recent changeover in ownership from Belgravia Apparel to Noone Imagewear, we are pleased to advise a change in trading hours for December 2024 and January 2025.

2024

Saturday the 14th of December 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Saturday the 21st of December 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Tuesday the 24rd of December *Last Day of Trading for 2024* 10:30AM - 1:00PM

2025

Back to School January Trading

Due to the high foot traffic, no appointments will be held during January 2025, walk-ins ONLY.

Appointments will resume as usual in February 2025.

Monday the 6th of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Tuesday the 7th of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Wednesday the 8th of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Thursday the 9th of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Friday the 10th of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Saturday the 11th of January - 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Monday the 13th of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Tuesday the 14th of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Wednesday the 15th of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Thursday the 16th of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Friday the 17th of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Saturday the 18th of January - 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Monday the 20th of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Tuesday the 21st of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Wednesday the 22nd of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Thursday the 23rd of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Friday the 24th of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Saturday the 25th of January - 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Monday the 27th of January - CLOSED DUE TO PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Tuesday the 28th of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Wednesday the 29th of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Thursday the 30th of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Friday the 31st of January - 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Saturday the 1st of February - 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Thank you for your support.

From the team at Noone Imagewear Campbelltown, we wish you happy Holidays!

Kind Regards,

Noone Imagewear

Campbelltown Library School Holiday fun

Campbelltown Library is offering a school holiday programme for most of the Summer holidays.

Please view the [Programme here](#).

You can scan the QR code also for more information.

Books are essential.



Music lessons at St Francis of Assisi School



**DRUMS
GUITAR
PIANO
VIOLIN
AND
VOICE
LESSONS
AVAILABLE**

MUSIC LESSONS

ENROL IN OUR SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM
PROFESSIONAL MUSIC LESSONS FOR ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS

INFO@LTMUSIC.COM.AU 0401 398 120

Little Seeds Playgroup at St Francis of Assisi School



Come and join us on Monday's during school terms
Educator-run playgroup sessions
9am - 10:30am
\$5 per session



Playgroup @ SFOA

FROM 9AM ARRIVAL & SIGN IN
CHILD-LED PLAY & EXPLORATION

*INCLUDING A RANGE OF SCAFFOLDED ACTIVITIES TARGETED TO HELP
YOUR CHILD DEVELOP THEIR FINE & GROSS MOTOR SKILLS*

9:30 COFFEE ORDERS FOR ACCOMPANYING PARENT/CAREGIVER
(INCLUDED IN PAYMENT)

10AM GROUP PACK UP
GROUP TIME

BRAIN FOOD & STORY TIME

FAMILY READING

MUSIC, SINGING & DANCING

10:30AM FINAL MESSAGES & SESSION CONCLUSION





Community Notices







FUTURE DATES

TERM 1 2025

FIRST DAY OF TERM 1 2025 - Tuesday 28th January

Is your child due to start school?



A tight-knit community
where every child has a sense of
belonging.

**St Francis of Assisi
School**

**TAKING ENROLMENTS
2025 &
BEYOND**

RECEPTION TO YEAR 6 EDUCATION

 sfoa.catholic.edu.au

SFOA Merchandise



St Francis of Assisi
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St Francis of Assisi School

UMBRELLAS

*"Stay Dry, Rain
or Shine: Our
School Umbrellas
Keep You
Covered!"*

**Umbrellas are navy with a
silver lining and white school
logo.**

COST
\$30.00

**Purchase through the
QKR! App under
Merchandising.
Available for collection
Term 3.**



SFOA Umbrellas are now available on the QKR! app. Get your orders in quick - limited stock available!



[CLICK HERE](#) to enrol online!

Available before / after school hours with Vacation Care during school holidays.

The Southern Cross Newsletter



[The Southern Cross](#) | [South Australia's Catholic News](#) - December issue

[Read More](#)

Uniform Shop

[Opening Hours & Uniform Prices](#)

By Appointment Only: [BOOK HERE](#)

10 Newton Road, Campbelltown

Phone: 8336 2602

Parish Bulletin



Latest Parish bulletin [available here](#)

Catholic Schools Magazine

• 2023/24 EIGHTH EDITION •

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

PICTURE OF INCLUSION

Coming together at multicultural school

PUP-ULAR STUDENT

Wellbeing dog offers a supportive paw

CARE AND COMPASSION

Bringing joy to older community



 catholic
education
south australia

**MODERN
PRACTICES
ENSURE
EXCELLENCE**
DATA DRIVING EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

YOUR COMPLETE SCHOOL DIRECTORY: ALL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS LISTED

2023/24 Eighth Edition

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