



## Important Dates

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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

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## 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

 Vinnies Christmas Appeal



**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 Campbeltown, we wish you happy Holidays!

Kind Regards,

Noone Imagewear

## Campbeltown Library School Holiday fun

Campbeltown 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

**Come and Try Scouting FUN Day**

**When and Where**

Join us on Saturday, February 09, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM to explore exciting! Parents and guardians are required. No cost or registration needed – just show up!

**Saturday 8th February 2025**  
 10:00am to 4:00pm  
 Athelstone Scout Hall  
 Maryvale Road

**What's On**

BBQ Lunch & Soft Drinks  
 Pop Corn Machine  
 Activity Passports  
 Face Painting  
 STEM Activities  
 Knot Tying Activities  
 Bottle Rocket

Tent Pitching and Pack Up  
 Family Challenge  
 Funraising Table  
 Cake + Biscuits + Dessert Table  
 Badge Making  
 Making Catapults  
 Homemade Lava Lamp

**COME AND TRY RUGBY UNION!**

**Kensington Gardens Reserve**

*A game for girls and boys of all shapes and sizes!*  
 New and returning Players welcome  
 Training Tues and/or Thurs, starting 27th February  
 Games run Saturday mornings, March to August

For more information scan the code, call, text or email:  
 Drew 0450 080 925  
 vp@burnsiderugbyclub.com

WE INVITE ALL PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES AND INTERESTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO THE  
**NORWOOD INTERNATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

**DISCOVERY TOUR**

**5:00PM - 7:00PM, WEDNESDAY 26 MARCH 2025**

505 THE PARADE, MAGILL 5072

This is an opportunity to enjoy a self-paced school tour and to:

- meet our Principal, staff and students
- learn more about our world class learning experiences and
- view our stunning facilities that promote innovation and personalisation.

REGISTRATIONS

## 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](https://sfoa.catholic.edu.au)

St Francis of Assisi School

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!



OSHC

# YMCA OSHC

[CLICK HERE](#) to enrol online!

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

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## The Southern Cross Newsletter



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

[Read More](#)

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## Uniform Shop

[Opening Hours & Uniform Prices](#)

By Appointment Only: [BOOK HERE](#)

10 Newton Road, Campbelltown

Phone: 8336 2602

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## Parish Bulletin



Latest Parish bulletin [available here](#)

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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



**MODERN PRACTICES ENSURE EXCELLENCE**

DATA DRIVING EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

**YOUR COMPLETE SCHOOL DIRECTORY: ALL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS LISTED**

2023/24 Eighth Edition

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