



ST CHRISTOPHER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

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PRINCIPAL

Gavin Brennan

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Organisation & Faith

Colleen Mahoney

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Students, Staff & Community

Lina Vescio

Term 3, Week 10

19 September 2024

Message from the Principal

Welcome to the last edition of the STC Newsletter for Term 3. I wish all our children a safe and restful break so that we can return on Monday, 7 October ready to put our best foot forward for Term 4.

Grandparents Day

On Wednesday this week, we celebrated our grandparents by inviting them into the classrooms to spend time with their grandchildren. We also provided a morning tea for all the grandparents to enjoy some time with each other. It was a fantastic turn out and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the morning. A special thank you to our PFA and their army of volunteers who contributed so much to the success of the day!

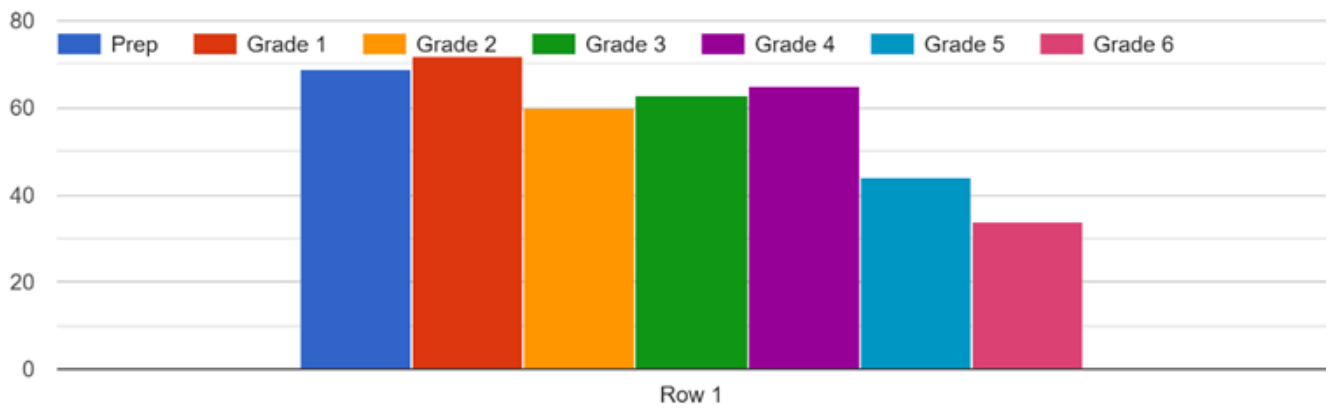
Footy Colours Day

Our last day of term has been allocated for Footy Colours Day. Children can come to school on Friday, 20 September in their favourite sporting team colours.

Parent Uniform Survey

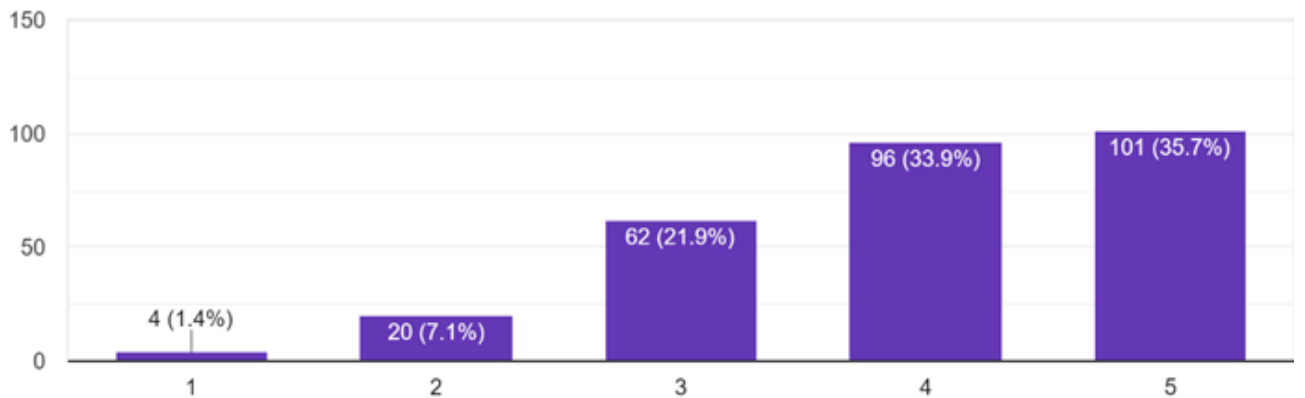
We had over 280 responses to our uniform survey which is an amazing number, and pleasingly spread across all levels of the school. Thank you to everyone who took the time to have your say on our uniform and the policy. The results will be discussed at our next School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting early next term and I look forward to sharing the SACs views at the next newsletter following the meeting. Some initial results are below.

What year level are your child/ren in?



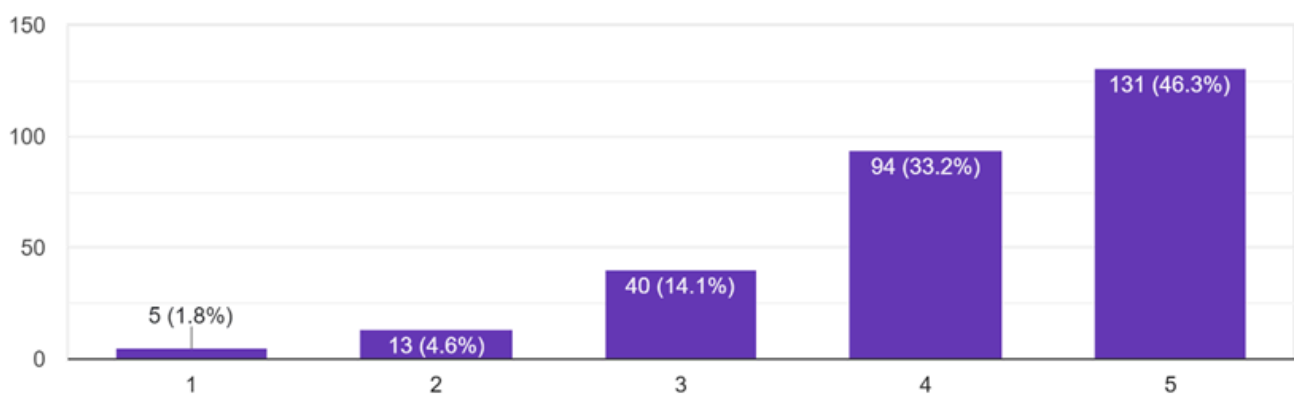
How satisfied are you with the current academic uniform?

283 responses



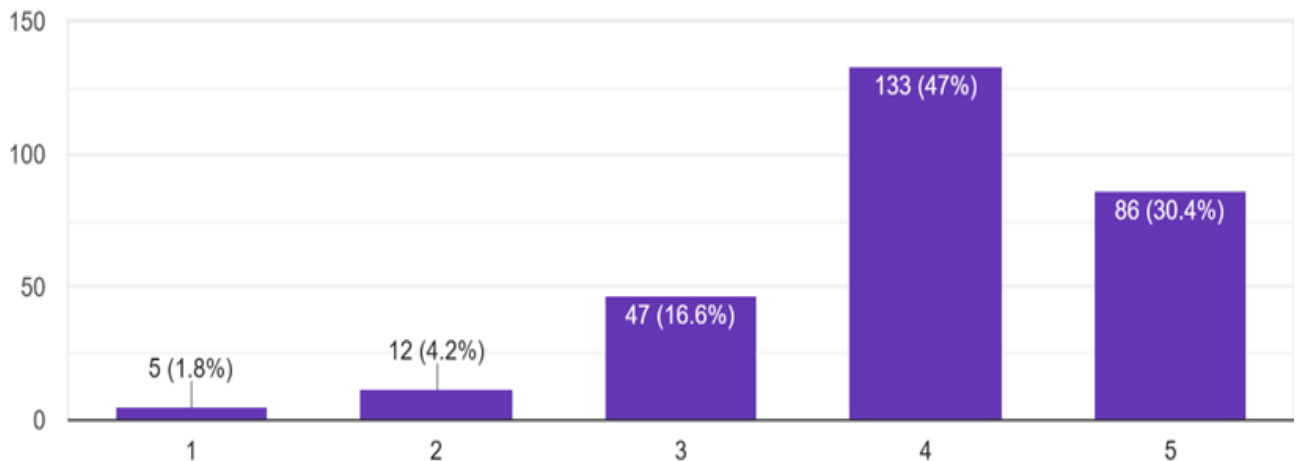
How satisfied are you with the current sport uniform?

283 responses



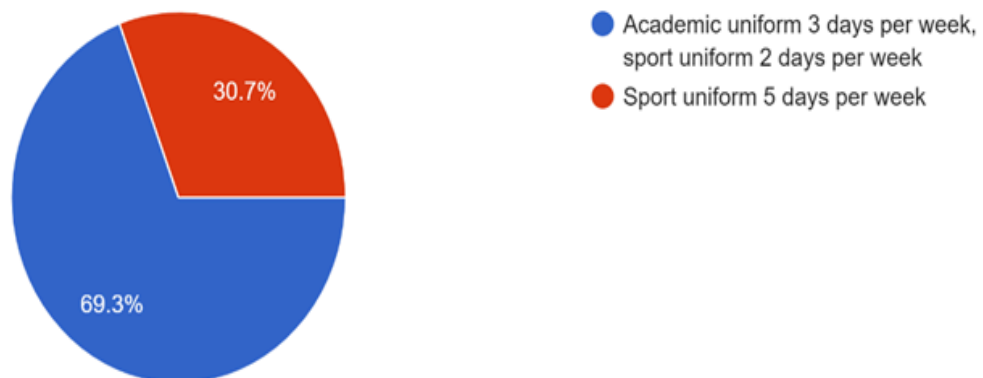
How strict should the school be about enforcing the uniform policy?

283 responses



Of the following options, which is your preference?

283 responses



Interestingly, around 90% believe we should be strict on enforcing the uniform policy which leads me to ask for your support in ensuring your children are coming to school in the correct school uniform. **This includes our Grade 6 children who are entering their last term at STC.** If you are having trouble ensuring that your child/ren are presenting in the full uniform for any reason, please contact me to discuss your concerns and so that, together, we can come up with a solution and have ALL our children adhering to the uniform policy.

P&F Gala Ball

A flyer for this year's STC Gala Ball has been distributed and I look forward to seeing as many parents as possible at this extravaganza. The Gala Ball takes an enormous amount of work to arrange so it would be wonderful if the community could support the tireless volunteers who put so much time and effort into organising this event. See you all on Friday, 11 October!

Term 4 Assembly

Please see below for assemblies during Term 4.



Term 4 Assemblies

Junior
(Prep-Year 2)
Friday 25th of October

Senior
(Years 3-6)
Friday 1st of November

Parents/Carers are
WELCOME
Gates open at 2:20 for a
2:30 start



Gavin Brennan
Principal

Deputy Principal (Organisation and Faith)

Religious Education at St Christopher's

Dear Families,

Well here we are at the end of term three and this year seems to be flying!

As you know, at the end of each term we have a special RE Family Gathering where we invite our families to come to school and share in prayer, readings, school RE based work and a range of other activities. Last year we introduced Grandparent's (special person) Day as our Term three end of term special gathering and this week we were able to celebrate this once again.

It was an absolute pleasure to be able to visit the classrooms and see the joy across the generations as family members sat together working on a range of activities. I was delighted to see our fabulous choir present some beautiful songs and to have our Faith Captains lead the morning tea with a heartfelt prayer. Thank you so much to our school community for really engaging in this day, to our wonderful staff for all that they did in the lead up and on the day, to our fabulous PFA team who helped us by putting on a spectacular morning tea and volunteering to help our visitors find their way around our very large school.

I was so fortunate to be able to chat to many of our visitors as they were leaving our school grounds and to hear about their visits to the classrooms and the highlights of the event.





I would like to take this opportunity to wish Fr Peter all the best for the move back to his previous Parish. Fr Peter has been our Parish Priest for at least as long as this group of year six children have been at our school. With more than three hundred children presenting for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation in total each year, that is a great number of our children who have celebrated milestones with him as our Parish Priest. We thank him for his contributions to our Parish and school over many years.

Stay safe over the holiday break.

All the best,

Colleen Mahoney

Deputy Principal of Organisation and Faith

ICT/Digital Technologies & OHS and Compliance Leader

Hi Families

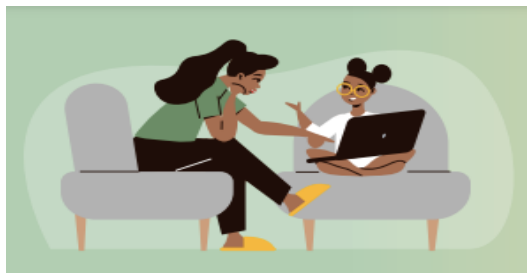
Recently, I attended the Melbourne Archdiocese eSafety Summit where I listened to the perspectives of government agencies, law enforcement and researchers and how we can partner to support the digital wellbeing of our young people and their families. Some key presenters included Kellie Britnell - eSafety Commissioner's Manager of Awareness and Capability, Detectives from the Frankston SOCIT Unit, and Dr Joanne Orlando, a key researcher in the digital wellbeing space.

While acknowledging the mixed emotions and complexities surrounding children's use of technology in our communities, the summit emphasised the crucial role of nurturing quality human relationships and engaging in meaningful conversations. With the upcoming school holidays, during which children typically spend more time online, I urge parents and caregivers to explore the wealth of resources the eSafety Commissioner provides. The following resources can serve as a starting point for families to initiate or continue conversations about digital safety at home.



- [It's never too early to start talking about online safety | eSafety Commissioner](#)
- [Every online safety conversation matters](#)
- [The hard-to-have conversations | eSafety Commissioner](#)

Let's remember that every online safety conversation matters!



Steph Zammit

ICT/Digital Technologies & OHS and Compliance Leader

Curriculum Team Leader - Literacy & Data

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week, the staff continued on their learning journey around the Science of Learning. At our fifth session this term, we learned about the Daily Review component of the Maths and Literacy block. Our staff focused on the practice of Daily Review and retrieval, why we might do it and what it might look like.

The Daily Review consolidates students' understanding and develops their fluency in essential understandings for literacy and numeracy sessions. It also ensures that students have the prerequisite skills for the day's lesson. The Daily Review adds to students' confidence by ensuring that previously taught skills and concepts are reviewed in a sequenced and planned way. The Daily Review should be delivered for approximately 10-15 minutes just prior to the main lesson.

Research shows that our working memory is small and easily overloaded, which means that students are likely to have forgotten new information from the last lesson and would struggle to recall it without a review.

Conducting a Daily Review for just a few minutes before beginning a lesson has been shown to improve academic performance by relieving some of the cognitive load and ensuring students aren't basing their future learning on mistakes.

There is an abundance of research supporting retrieval and checking for understanding to improve learning and that spacing learning out over time gets better results than engaging in mass practice or learning where things are done all at once. Spaced learning results in stronger learning that can be transferred to new situations.

We look forward to continuing our professional development in this area next term.

MACS VISION FOR INSTRUCTION-PARENT GUIDE

In February 2024, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) introduced a new plan to help every student succeed: our Vision for Instruction. This document communicates MACS' system-wide approach to teaching and learning excellence. It is based on the evidence of how students learn best and offers guidance to schools on how to implement evidence-based best

practices in their setting. The changes that are currently taking place in the way that we teach our students at St.Christopher's and the professional development being provided to our staff are based on this vision. If you would like to learn more about this, please read the parent guide below or access it through the [MACS Vision for Instruction Parents Guide](#).

Parents Guide

to Vision for Instruction



What is Vision for Instruction?

In February 2024, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) introduced a new plan to help every student succeed: our *Vision for Instruction*.

At MACS, we hold high expectations for every learner in every school, ensuring they have a solid foundation in literacy and numeracy, as well as good social skills.

Based on evidence of how students learn best, *Vision for Instruction* promotes a unified and consistent approach, and continuous improvement to meet the changing needs of our students. It provides MACS teachers with the training and resources they need to ensure excellence and equity in all our schools.

Why the change?

Years of declining performance in NAPLAN and OECD PISA results showed that outdated teaching methods needed to change. In 2023, about one in three Australian students were not meeting age expectations in maths and reading.

Research on how students learn shows that **explicit instruction** methods are the most effective way to help children gain the knowledge and skills they need to flourish and become lifelong learners.

What is explicit instruction?

Explicit instruction involves teachers introducing complex skills in small steps, with clear explanations and demonstrations of what students are expected to learn. Students then practise what they learned and receive feedback from their teacher until the skill is mastered.

What is the evidence supporting explicit instruction?

Cognitive science research shows that most students need formal instruction to learn what's called 'biologically secondary knowledge', such as reading, writing and maths. Because students can only process a limited amount of new information at once, cognitive overload can occur when they try to process too many new concepts without prior instruction or scaffolding.

Explicit instruction breaks new information into manageable parts. Effective teachers design lessons that begin with teacher-guided instruction and gradually shift responsibility to students through modelling and guided practice. This approach ensures that students achieve independent practice only after foundational knowledge is firmly established.

Knowledge is like mental Velcro – new knowledge 'sticks' to prior knowledge, building understanding from one year level to the next.

How do we teach reading and writing?

Our vision for reading instruction involves:

- **phonemic awareness** – understanding that speech is made up of words and sounds
- **phonics** – knowledge of the letter-sound relationships and the ability to use these relationships to decode words
- **fluency** – ability to read accurately and quickly to derive meaning from text
- **vocabulary** – understanding word meanings in isolation and in context
- **comprehension** – ability to understand and derive meaning from text.

What is phonics?

Phonics is a method of teaching reading and spelling by explicitly linking letters or letter combinations (graphemes) with their corresponding sounds (phonemes).

For example, children learn the sounds for 's', 'a' and 't', allowing them to spell and sound out words like 'at', 'as' and 'sat'.

English spelling is complex, with many letters and letter combinations representing multiple sounds (e.g. 'ea' in 'heap' and 'head'). Phonics instruction begins with the most common letter-sound relationships, as they can be used to read many new words, then moves to less frequent ones.

Research suggests that learning 60 to 100 of these relationships, along with some common sight words, enables children to read independently.

How do we teach maths?

Our vision for mathematics instruction involves:

- **developing number sense** – understanding quantities and numbers, and how to represent them with objects and numerals
- **building fluency** – mastering basic arithmetic operations such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- **teaching mathematics concepts** – understanding the 'why' and 'how' of mathematics in combination with procedures and rules

- **using concrete materials** – using physical resources and visual representations to show concepts and procedures
- **using problem-solving strategies** – organising work based on the structure of a problem
- **using explicit instruction** – providing opportunities for students to explain their work and thinking in oral and written forms
- **using precise mathematics language** – using correct terminology when discussing steps for solving problems.

How will Vision for Instruction benefit students?

Vision for Instruction:

- offers a focused and structured approach to gaining knowledge and developing skills
- ensures clear guidance, reducing uncertainty and helping students understand expectations
- presents key information and knowledge before independent activities
- enables immediate feedback through effective questioning and frequent checks for understanding
- establishes consistent teaching practices across all MACS schools.

How can you help at home?

Parents play a crucial role in supporting their children's learning journey. Here are some ways you can enhance their learning:

- **Communicate with teachers:** Maintain regular contact with your child's teachers to understand classroom objectives and methods.
- **Encourage and celebrate practice:** Provide opportunities for your child to practise new skills, and celebrate their effort and progress.
- **Create a structured environment:** Establish a distraction-free study area at home.
- **Promote reading together:** Spend time reading with your child regularly. Discuss stories, characters and themes to enhance comprehension.
- **Encourage critical thinking:** Engage in discussions that promote reasoning and explanation.
- **Model a positive attitude towards learning:** Demonstrate a positive attitude towards learning and curiosity. Show your child that learning is a lifelong journey, and encourage them to explore new ideas and interests.

Supporting parent resources

- MultiLit's [Five From Five parent resources](#)
- Rosenshine's 'Principles of instruction' [article](#)
- APM Reports' [Sold a Story podcast](#)
- Willingham's [Raising Kids Who Read: What Parents and Teachers Can Do book](#).

You can read the complete [Vision for Instruction](#) on the MACS website.



Divisional Athletics Carnival

Tuesday 10th September 2024

Today, our track and field champions advanced to the second level of school athletics by competing in the Moonee Ponds Divisional Athletics Carnival. Over half of our students qualified for the next round, showcasing outstanding performances throughout. The Western Metropolitan Round will take place next term on the 22nd of October at Keilor Athletics Track. Congratulations to our entire athletics team!



State Tee Ball Tournament

Wednesday 11th September 2024

On Wednesday we jumped on an early bus and made our way to Jells Park in Waverly to participate in the Girls Tee Ball State Finals.

The first game of the day didn't go our way with us falling short to St Anthony's, Alphington. This gave us more opportunity to relax facing our next two teams; St Margaret's, Berwick and Swan Hill Primary School which proved to be an amazing result for us. The girls comfortably won the next 2 games making us 3rd overall in the State.

Congratulations to Sienna Caporrino, Riley Chislett, Sierra Scicluna, Meadow Thompson, Lucy Tottle, Rosa Varasteh Golmohammadi, Alannah Villani, Isabella Vita, Allegra Britton, Sienna Bruno, Billie Doyle, Scarlett Scarafilo, Harriet Gluschenko, and Zahra Pirota for their outstanding efforts and sportsmanship. Well done, team!



Important Notices

STC Notice of Intent for 2025

At STC we are currently planning for 2025 and require information regarding enrolments from current families. If your child will **not** be returning to STC in 2025 please email Dianne Marks on dmarks@stcapw.catholic.edu.au as soon as possible.

This information allows us to appropriately allocate classes and resources for the coming year.

Head Lice

STC currently has a chronic head lice problem. Head lice are in no way related to hygiene and they do not carry diseases or infections and with the right treatment, they can be quickly controlled and eradicated.

As a precaution, all hair that is long enough should be tied back neatly as is the expectation as part of the school uniform policy.

Head lice treatments are easily accessible from any pharmacy and follow up treatments are recommended.

More information on head lice and the best way to treat them can be obtained from the following links:

Raising Children Network

<https://raisingchildren.net.au/guides/a-z-health-reference/head-lice>

Department of Health Victoria

<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/infectious-diseases/Head-lice-identification-and-treatment>

Better Health Channel

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/head-lice-nits>

Due to safety reasons, there are new arrangements for BEFORE SCHOOL

Between 8:25 am and 8:40 am ALL students (and family members who are staying on the grounds) are to stay in Yard 1 and Yard 2.

- Please do not congregate near classroom doors
- NO BALL GAMES and NO PLAYING ON PLAY EQUIPMENT during this time.

The announcement at 8:40am will indicate that students can proceed to walk to their classes.

Thank you for your cooperation regarding this matter

KEY UPCOMING DATES 2024

Thursday 19 September	STC School Disco Night 6-7:30PM
Friday 20 September	Footy Colours Day End of Term 3 - 12PM Finish
Monday 7 October	Start of Term 4
Friday 11 October	STC Gala Ball - 7PM
Tuesday 22 - Friday 25 October	Book Fair
Friday 25 October	Junior Assembly
Friday 1 November	Senior Assembly
Monday 4 November	School Closure Day
Tuesday 5 November	Melbourne Cup Day
Monday 11 November	Remembrance Day
Friday 15 November	Junior Sports Day
Friday 22 November	Senior Sports Day
Wednesday 27 - Friday 29 November	Grade 6 Camp
Thursday 12 December	STC Family Christmas Event
Monday 16 December	Step Up Day Grade 6 Graduation Night - 5:30PM
Tuesday 17 December	Last Day of Term 4 - 12PM Finish

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S PARENTS & FRIENDS EVENT

La Dolce Vita

Gala Ball

Friday 11th October 2024

MEADOWBANK ESTATE EVENT VENUE
1 ELDON STREET, BROADMEADOWS
7PM - MIDNIGHT
\$145 PER PERSON

- PRE-DINNER DRINKS & CANAPES • 4 COURSE MEAL
- BEER, WINE, SOFTDRINKS- SPIRITS AT BAR PRICES
- ENTERTAINMENT FEAT. DJ MICHAEL CIAVARELLA

BUY YOUR



TICKETS HERE

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ST. CHRISTOPHER'S PARENTS & FRIENDS EVENT

La Dolce Vita

Gala Ball

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• ENTERTAINMENT FEAT. DJ MICHAEL CIAVARELLA**

TICKETS

VIA TRYBOOKING 9TH AUGUST - 26TH AUGUST

FULL TABLE

- Purchase immediately via Trybooking as a full table
- | OR |
- Table nominee to email PnF with #s to reserve table
- Table has 3 days to purchase tickets
- If full purchase not finalised in 3 days, table gets re-allocated & available for others to purchase

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

- If you don't have a full table, individual tickets can be purchased via trybooking
- Book tickets on Tables 18, 19, 20, 21

Stcgalaball@gmail.com






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Improving Your Dribbling, Passing,
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-  Affordable price \$80.00 per child
-  Easy to enroll online-via contact page

info@orangeballfun.com.au

**2-DAYS
of FUN.**

WEEK 1

camp #1

September 23rd & 24th
Monday and Tuesday
10:00am-2:00pm

at Buckley Park College
Basketball Stadium,
Essendon

camp #2

September 25th & 26th
Wednesday and Thursday
10:00am-2:00pm

at Buckley Park College
Basketball Stadium,
Essendon

WEEK 2

camp #3

October 1st & 2nd
Tuesday and Wednesday
10:00am-2:00pm

at Buckley Park College
Basketball Stadium,
Essendon

camp #4

October 3rd & 4th
Thursday and Friday
10:00am-2:00pm

at Buckley Park College
Basketball Stadium,
Essendon

orangeballfun.com.au



Register for Grading U13, 15, 17 and 21s

Autumn Season 2025

Airport Saints Netball Club

Sunday 20th and 27th October, 2025

@ 27-31 Bowes Ave, Airport West

Netball Courts

13s- 3-4pm

15s-4-5pm

17s&21s 5-6pm

For further info contact our

Junior Co-ordinator – Sam via email

airportstaints@gmail.com

Or register via try bookings scanning below QR



'Life is better with goals'

Follow us on Instagram  [@airportsaints.nc](https://www.instagram.com/airportsaints.nc)

JOIN OUR CLUB!

EST.
1970



SUMMER SEASON
2024/2025

ST CHRISTOPHER'S JUNIOR BASKETBALL CLUB

Girls and boys teams
Under 8s (born 2017) to Under 20s (born 2005)
Keilor Basketball Association competition

Develop team skills and make new friends
All levels of experience welcome



REGISTER BY
FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER
stchristophersjbc.com.au/new-players



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2 1/2 years



JUNIOR KICKERS

2 1/2 Years -
3 1/2 Years



MIGHTY KICKERS

3 1/2 Years -
5 Years



MEGA KICKERS

5 Years -
8 Years



REGISTER NOW!

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- ✓ Select 'Find a Class'
- ✓ Enter your location
- ✓ Check availability
 - - available
 - - waitlist
- ✓ Join the team!

*free trial subject to availability

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S