

NEWS from the HEART...

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School
10 McCann Crescent, Lenah Valley



19 November 2025

"We remember"

We remember ...

We remember all the men and women who have served our country with courage and love.

We thank You for their bravery and for the peace we have today.

Help us to be peacemakers in our own lives — kind, respectful, and caring towards others.

May we always remember those who gave so much so that we can live in freedom and hope.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



As we move into Week 6 of Term 4, it's hard to believe how quickly the end of the school year is approaching. Even with the finish line in sight, there is still plenty ahead for our students, staff and families. The coming weeks remain full of learning, celebrations and opportunities to come together as a community before we wrap up the year.

Coloured Sand Recall

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we work through the coloured sand recall. We recognise the impact this situation has had on many families, and we are genuinely grateful for your flexibility and support. We are following the guidance and protocols provided by Catholic Education Tasmania who are working closely with WorkSafe Tasmania throughout this process. We are endeavouring to communicate with you as quickly as possible, and we appreciate your patience as we work toward a safe return to normal operations. Kinder remains closed until further notice.

Thank you Miss Longey

It is with a full heart that we thank Miss Shae Longey for so warmly embracing the role of Acting Deputy Principal since the beginning of Term 2. Shae's passion for our school and her unwavering commitment to our students and staff are second to none. Her leadership, care and willingness to go above and beyond have been a tremendous strength and support to our students, families and the entire Immaculate Heart community.

School Sickness

We remind parents of the importance of keeping your child at home if they are unwell. The school has recently had cases of Whooping Cough, Influenza A and Covid. As these illnesses are highly contagious, if your child has symptoms, we recommend undertaking testing and seeking appropriate treatment to help ease the spread in our school community. We thank you for your vigilance.

Pre Kinder Program

Our 2025 Pre-Kinder program has now wrapped up for the year. Over the past four weeks, it's been a joy welcoming our newest learners and their families as they take their first steps at Immaculate Heart with our Kinder team. This week, we were pleased to offer a parent session, supported by the Tasmania Catholic School Parents Association, with Lisa Ford (Clinical Psychologist: The Resilience Co), joining us to share practical strategies for supporting confident, capable, and resilient children.



Thank you once again for your presence, openness and partnership as we work together to nurture every learner's wellbeing and growth.

Carols at John Turnbull

Unfortunately, our choir will not be performing at John Turnbull in 2025. We look forward to being involved again in 2026.

Planning 2026

Planning for 2026 is underway. If your family is considering leaving Immaculate Heart at the end of the year, we kindly ask that you notify the school as soon as possible to assist with enrolment and staffing preparations.

Capital Works Building Project

Transformation of the Heart Fly Through

We are close to the concrete pour from McCann Crescent to the heart of our school, with landscaping also set to commence soon. Together, these works will improve access and create a more inviting and welcoming entranceway for our community.

Wayfinding:

Plans are progressing well with our new wayfinding signage, in collaboration with *Flying Colours*. This project will help ensure consistent use of our school colours, fonts, and overall branding across the campus, supporting a more cohesive and welcoming environment.

Additional Works:

Further upgrades are also being planned, which currently include:

- Replacement of the old library roof (now the Prep classroom)
- Resolving the ongoing issues with the hall door

Social Media Age Restrictions

A reminder to our school community that from 10 December young people under-16 will not be allowed to create or hold accounts on certain social media platforms. The eSafety Commissioner advises that parents and carers can help their under-16s by talking openly about the age restrictions, finding out how they currently use social media and how that may be impacted by the new law.

There are no penalties for under-16s who access an age-restricted social media platform, or for their parents or carers. Penalties will apply to age-restricted platforms that fail to take reasonable steps to prevent under-16s from having accounts on their platforms.

Information and resources to support parents and carers, and young people to prepare for the change are available at the eSafety Social media age restrictions hub.

Please find attached a Get ready for the social media age restrictions 8 step action plan for parents and carers to support you in preparing your children for this transition.



Social media changes are coming

From 10 December, certain social media platforms won't be allowed to let Australian children under 16 create or keep an account.

Visit the eSafety hub for information and resources to support parents and carers, young people to prepare for the change.

visit us at **eSafety.gov.au**

Department of Education
eSafety Commissioner

The poster features a central illustration of a smartphone with various social media icons (heart, thumbs up, speech bubble, padlock) floating around it. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner, and the eSafety Commissioner logo is in the bottom left.

Focus From the Heart

Immaculate Heart Christmas Appeal

Christmas Appeal

Our Junior Joey's and St Vincent De Paul are once again seeking your support.

We aim to spread as much joy as possible this year; every gift will brighten up another child's Christmas.

Our Christmas Appeal will be running from now until Monday 8th December.

We have attached a list of ideas for donations.

Please do not wrap any gifts or donations and ensure that gifts are in their original packaging.

All gifts can be placed under the Immaculate Heart Giving Tree in the school office.

Thank you for your generosity supporting families in need.



CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS



Gifts for individuals and families can help make someone's Christmas extra special.

We have added some ideas below. It is good to check with your Conference what items the families they support require. We also recommend asking your Conference if you can assist with gift wrapping.

Note: If your local Conference is inactive or does not require additional donations at this time, check in with your Schools Engagement Officer about which local Vinnies Service(s) or Support Centre may require support this Christmas.

Babies and Toddlers

- Rattles
- Blankets/Comforters
- Building Blocks
- Bath Toys
- Soft Toys
- Musical toys
- Storybooks

Young Children (4-8yrs)

- Sports equipment
- Books
- Dolls
- Outdoor games
- Board games
- Toy cars or trains
- Stationery
- Colouring-in books/textas
- Dress-up costumes
- Water pistols
- Christmas stocking

Older Children (9-12yrs)

- Lego
- Cards games
- Magic Trick set
- Books
- Activity books
- Puzzles
- Hair accessories
- Outdoor equipment
- Shopping/Gift cards
- Water pistols
- Christmas stocking

Teenagers

- Movie Vouchers
- Body lotions
- Accessories (e.g. caps, jewellery)
- Deodorant packs
- Shopping/Gift cards
- Books
- Perfume/spray packs
- Make-up (e.g. lip gloss, nail polish)
- Beach Towels
- Bags, back-packs
- Christmas stocking

Adults

- Books
- Perfume or deodorant packs
- Cosmetic gift packs
- Movie vouchers
- Homewares
- Hampers
- Vinnies Vouchers

SHARE YOUR EFFORTS!

Share your pictures and stories by tagging us on Instagram: @vinnies_tasmania and Facebook: @vinniestasmania



THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US TO CHANGE LIVES!

Classroom Heartbeat

Grade 6

Exploring the Mission of the Church through St Mary MacKillop

This term in Religion, students have been learning about the mission of the Catholic Church and how individuals live out this mission in service to the world. To bring this learning to life, the class explored the inspiring story of Australia's first saint, St Mary MacKillop, and discovered how her compassion, courage and faith continue to influence people today.

After revisiting her life and uncovering new details about her dedication, students selected symbols that best represented Mary's mission and created beautiful stained-glass artworks based on these symbols. Here are some of their reflections:



- **Zoe** chose a **book** to represent Mary's commitment to educating children, especially those living in poverty. Despite limited resources, Mary and the Josephite Sisters opened many schools and brought hope to countless families.
- **Samuel** focused on **Mary with children**, highlighting her care for those in need and her devotion to teaching kindness and God's message.
- **Monica** selected the **Pope's hat**, symbolising Mary's courage in seeking formal approval to become a nun and her deep commitment to God and the Church.
- **Lotte** chose **rosary beads**, which Mary wore daily. They represent her lifelong dedication to prayer, her vocation, and her mission to serve others.
- **Izzy** used the **cross** to show Mary's commitment to the Catholic faith and her role in inspiring others to follow the mission of the Church.
- **Ethan** chose the **ouroboros**, symbolising the "rebirth" that occurs as people continue Mary's work and walk in her footsteps, ultimately following the mission of God.

The students' artwork and thoughtful symbolism beautifully capture the spirit of St Mary MacKillop - "Never see a need without doing something about it." We are proud to share their creativity and learning with our school community.

Calendar

Please click here for our school calendar: [School Calendar](#)

Key Dates



CALENDAR EVENTS

TERM 4, 2025

28 OCT

GRANDPARENTS & GRANDFRIENDS DAY @ 9.45am

11 NOV

ASSEMBLY (GRADE 6) @ 1.45pm

02 DEC

ASSEMBLY (GRADE 6) @ 1.45pm

02 DEC

STEP UP DAY - 2026 CLASSES @ 9.30am

09 DEC

END OF YEAR CELEBRATION MASS @ 9.30 am
(St Mary's Cathedral)

10 DEC

END OF YEAR ASSEMBLY @ 9.15am

12 DEC

END OF YEAR REPORTS LIVE TO PARENTS

16 DEC

GRADE 6 GRADUATION CEREMONY @ 9.15am

16 DEC

GRADE 6 LEAVERS DINNER @ 5.00pm

17 DEC

LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS - FAMILY BBQ @ 12 noon

Gazetted School Calendar 2026

Term One Resume (Teaching Staff)	2 February 2026
Term One Resume (Students)	6 February 2026
Term One Concludes (Students)	16 April 2026
Term One Concludes (Teaching Staff)	17 April 2026
Term One Student (Non-Attendance Time)	20 April 2026 – 01 May 2026
Easter (Good Friday)	03 April 2026
Easter (Easter Monday)	06 April 2026
Easter (Easter Tuesday)	07 April 2026
Term Two (Staff and Students Resume)	04 May 2026
Term Two (Concludes)	10 July 2026
Term Two Student Non-Attendance Time	13 July 2026 – 27 July 2026
Term Three Resume (Teaching Staff)	27 July 2026
Term Three Resume (Students)	28 July 2026
Term Three Concludes	02 October 2026
Term Three Student Non-Attendance Time	05 October 2026 – 16 October 2026
Term Four Resume (Students and Teaching Staff)	19 October 2026
Student Free Day	23 October 2026
Term Four Concludes (Students and Teaching Staff)	17 December 2026*

*In circumstances where a Show Day public holiday falls within student non-attendance time, the schools within that region will conclude on Thursday 17 December 2026.

Calendar of Events

Wed 19 – Fri 21 Nov	Grade 5 Camp
Thu 20 Nov	Canteen Day
Fri 21 Nov	Canteen Day
Fri 21 Nov	Nurturing Hearts 9.00am – 10.30am
Mon 24 Nov	Grade 7 Orientation Day
Tue 25 Nov	Pre, Grade 1 & Grade 2 – Botanical Gardens Excursion
Tue 25 Nov	Uniform Shop open 2.30 – 4.00pm
Wed 26 Nov	Kinder 2026 Parent Night
Wed 26 Nov	Canteen Day
Thu 27 Nov	Canteen Day
Thu 27 Nov	Grade 4 Town Hall Excursion
Fri 28 Nov	Schools Triathlon
Fri 28 Nov	Canteen Day
Fri 28 Nov	Nurturing Hearts 9.00am – 10.30am
Tue 2 Dec	Step Up Day
Tue 2 Dec	Assembly 1.45pm
Tue 2 Dec	Uniform Shop open 2.30 – 4.00pm
Wed 3 Dec	Grade 2 Bush School
Thu 4 Dec	Whole School Photo



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School is located in Nipaluna on the Traditional Lands of the Muwinina people of the South East Nation who lived with and cared for this Land for many generations.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Palawa people, and the deep connection they have to Country and Culture. We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community and to Elders past and present.

We are committed to learning as a part of this community, and to supporting the continued sharing of knowledge and culture.

Get ready for the social media age restrictions

8 step action plan for parents and carers



This is a summary of the [Get-ready guide for parents and carers](#), where you can find more details and tips.

Step 1. Read eSafety's [FAQs for parents and carers](#) to find out what's changing and why.

Step 2. Start having open, ongoing conversations with under-16s about their social media use, how they feel about the new law and what they can do to get ready. Use eSafety's [conversation starters for parents and carers](#).

Step 3. Use the table on this page to help your child list the online platforms and apps they have accounts with, as well as the key people, groups, communities and services they connect with on each. Check the [latest list of age-restricted platforms](#) to find out which accounts they're likely to lose.

Platforms and apps	Are they age-restricted?	Important people, groups, communities and services



You can also suggest that your child check eSafety's [Get-ready guide for under-16s](#), which has an action plan they can fill out themselves.


Step 4. Help your child plan and organise other ways to stay in contact with their friends, such as offline activities, or online messaging and gaming apps that are not age-restricted. Get them to note important phone numbers, tags and account names. But remember that even alternative apps can have risks – see eSafety’s [Online safety basics](#) and [The eSafety Guide](#) for advice.

Step 5. Together, search for age-appropriate sites, apps and offline activities that allow your child to follow their interests and build a sense of connection and community. This is especially important if they rely on social media for support services.

Step 6. Talk with your child about how they can download their favourite posts, chats, photos and contacts – check the platforms for instructions or visit [The eSafety Guide](#) for help.

Step 7. Start reducing your social media use as a family, encouraging routines that promote a healthy balance of offline and online activities to help your child get ready for the change.

Step 8. Write a list of people and services that you and your child can turn to for help. You can include [Kids Helpline](#) (for 5- to 25-year-olds), [Parentline](#) and other [counselling and support services](#).

 No matter how old your child is, let them know if they have a harmful experience online they can reach out for help and support – even if it happens on an age-restricted platform and they're under 16. eSafety’s [I need help](#) page for young people has advice and contacts.

