

Child safety isn't a niche concern reserved for parents or educators—it's a shared responsibility. From homes to schools to public spaces and digital environments, the systems we build and the habits we model play a crucial role in protecting children from harm helping them to flourish.

At its core, child safety must be about prevention. Simple measures can drastically reduce the risk. Prevention goes beyond physical hazards. Emotional safety matters just as much. Children who feel heard, respected, and supported are more likely to develop confidence and resilience, and less likely to experience long-term harm from adverse situations.

Education plays a powerful role in child protection. Teaching children about personal boundaries, safe and unsafe touch, and how to seek help equips them with tools that can make a life-changing difference. At the same time, adults must remain vigilant—recognizing signs of distress or abuse and knowing how to respond appropriately.

Communities and institutions carry responsibility. Schools, sports organizations, and childcare providers must implement clear policies, conduct background checks, and foster cultures of accountability. When systems prioritize transparency and safety, children benefit from environments where they can learn and grow without fear.

Ultimately, prioritizing child safety isn't about creating a world of restrictions—it's about building a foundation of trust, awareness, and care. When children are safe, they are free to explore, safe risk take, learn, and reach their full potential.

Improving child safety practices isn't just a good idea—it's a necessary response to how the world around children is changing. There's greater awareness and accountability. Communities, schools, and organizations are being held to higher standards when it comes to protecting children. As they should be! Policies, reporting systems, and training are improving because people expect transparency and responsibility, not silence or neglect.

Prevention is far more effective than reaction. Investing in better safety practices reduces harm before it happens, rather than trying to deal with consequences later. This approach protects children from experiences that can have lifelong impacts.

Over the coming weeks and months you will be informed about the changes to our child safety practices. They are improving because they have to—driven by better knowledge, higher expectations, and the clear understanding that protecting children early leads to better outcomes for individuals and society as a whole. What may be a small inconvenience in our day, far out ways the consequences should we simply take the convenient approach and be faced with a situation that could have been avoided.

St Anthony's news



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



Mothers Day Breakfast and Classroom Visit

Entry to the Mothers Day Breakfast will be via the office from 8am. All adults to sign in. Students will remain in the MacKillop Room with their mums, grandmothers and important women. Gates will open as usual at 8.40am for those students and families who are not attending. Classes will line up at 8.50am and head into class. Classroom visits are from 8.50-9.15am. We look forward to welcoming and acknowledging all the wonderful women-mums, carers, grandmothers, aunts ... who play a pivotal role in our lives.

Family Week

Due to many competing events we will postpone Family Week Celebrations to a later date next term. New date TBC.

MACSEYE and our School Closure Day 25 May 2026

A minimum of 15 students is required to run the day. Early bookings are essential to secure the program for this day. Bookings close on Monday, 18th of May. See attached flyer.

MACSEYE Holiday Program at St Anthony's

Over the Second Term Holidays MACSEYE will be running a holiday program onsite. The program will run Tuesday -Thursday both weeks and is open to all our families. The ongoing success of the program is numbers dependent. Registration and program details to follow shortly.

Tania Bennett

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2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR—Terms 2 & 3

Term 2		
Date	Time	Activity
Friday 8 May	8.00am- 9.15am	Mother's Day Breakfast and class visits
Friday 8 May		Mother's Day Stall
Tuesday 12 May	9.30am	Open Morning
Tuesday 12 May	6.30pm	Eucharist Formation Evening -Grade 4
Sunday 17 May	10.30am	Eucharist Commitment Mass -Grade 4
Monday 18 May	9.00- 11.00am	VU Pop Up Play Session
Monday 18 May	7.30pm	Parents & Friends meeting
Tuesday 19 May	7.30pm	School Advisory Council
Thursday 21 May	9.30am- 10.30am	Kinder Interactive Session—PE/Future Design
Friday 22 May	9.15am	Prep BG & 1/2JB class mass
Monday 25 May		School Closure Day-report writing
Friday 29 May	9.15am	3/4MW & 4/5MG class mass
Sunday 31 May	10.30am	Sacrament of Eucharist-Grade 4
Monday 1 June	9.00- 11.00am	VU Pop Up Play Session
Tuesday 2 June	9.30am- 10.30am	Kinder Interactive Session-Art
Thursday 4 June	9.30am	Open Morning
Monday 8 June		Kings Birthday public holiday
Tuesday 9 June	9.30am- 10.30am	Kinder Interactive Session—Literacy/Numeracy
Friday 12 June	9.15am	Feast of the Sacred Heart & St Anthony's Feast Day Mass
Monday 15 June		School Concert—details to come
Tuesday 16 June	7.30pm	School Advisory Council
Friday 19 June		Dads Night Out—details to come
Monday 22 June	9.00- 11.00am	VU Pop Up Play Session
Monday 22 June	7.30pm	Parents & Friends meeting
Tuesday 23 June		Learning Conversations
Friday 26 June	1pm	Term 2 ends

Term 3		
Date	Time	Activity
Monday 13 July		Term 3 begins
Monday 20 July	7.30pm	Parents & Friends meeting
Tuesday 21 July	9.30am	Open Morning
Tuesday 21 July	7.30pm	School Advisory Council
Tuesday 28 July	6.30pm	Confirmation Formation Evening-Grade 6
Sunday 2 August	10.30am	Confirmation Commitment Mass-Grade 6
Friday 7 August	9.15am	Feast of Mary of the Cross Mass - All welcome
Monday 10 August		School Closure Day— to be confirmed
Wednesday 12 August	9.30am	Open Morning
Friday 14 August	9.15am	Feast of the Assumption Mass—All welcome
Saturday 15 August	3pm	Sacrament of Confirmation at St Anthony's -Grade 6
Tuesday 18 August	7.30pm	School Advisory Council
Monday 24 August	7.30pm	Parents & Friends meeting
Mon-Fri 24-28 August		Book Week
Friday 4 September		Father's Day Breakfast & Classroom visit
Friday 4 September		Father's Day Stall
Monday 14 September	7.30pm	Parents & Friends meeting
Tuesday 15 September	7.30pm	School Advisory Council
Friday 18 September	1pm	Term 3 ends

2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR—Term 4

Term 4		
Date	Time	Activity
Monday 5 October		School Closure Day—Staff Wellbeing PL with Head Space
Tuesday 6 October	8.50am	Term 4 begins for students
Monday 12 October	7.30pm	Parents & Friends meeting
Tuesday 20 October	7.30pm	School Advisory Council
Monday 2 November		School Closure Day—Report Writing
Tuesday 3 November		Melbourne Cup Day
Monday 16 November	7.30pm	Parents & Friends meeting
Tuesday 24 November	7.30pm	School Advisory Council
Sunday 6 December	2.30pm	Combined Parish Carols including school choirs
Monday 7 December	7.30pm	Parents & Friends meeting
Tuesday 8 December	6pm	Gratitude Mass and carols
Tuesday 15 December		Step Into 2027
Tuesday 15 December	1pm	Term 4 ends

St Anthony's Primary Alphington

**TERM 2
INTERACTIVE
SESSIONS**

THURSDAY 21 MAY
PE/Future Design

TUESDAY 2 JUNE
Art

TUESDAY 9 JUNE
Literacy/Numeracy

9:30AM - 10:30AM

Register online at www.saalphington.catholic.edu.au





A SCHOOL FOR EVERY STUDENT

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52 Austin Street, Alphington



EVERYONE WELCOME




VICTORIA UNI

2026 POP UP PLAY SESSIONS



Venue: St Anthony's Primary School

Dates: 27 April 4 May 18 May
1 June 22 June

Time: 9.00am - 11.00am

VU early-childhood pre-service teachers and their mentor are trained in the theory and practice of Playwork and will help to facilitate play by providing a variety of items for children to explore, create and engage with.
Ages 2 - 6 year olds

Register online
www.saalphington.catholic.edu.au

St Anthony's Primary Alphington



2026 Open Mornings 9.30am - 10.30am

- TUE 3 FEBRUARY
- MON 27 APRIL
- TUE 21 JULY
- WED 4 MARCH
- TUE 12 MAY
- WED 12 AUG
- MON 23 MARCH
- THUR 4 JUNE

Or book a personal tour with the Principal via our website

ALL WELCOME





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ST ANTHONY'S PARENTS & FRIENDS
INVITE YOU
TO CELEBRATE

Mother's Day

FRIDAY
8TH MAY, 2026

BREAKFAST
WITH THE CHILDREN
FROM 8AM

LOCATION
MACKILLOP ROOM

FOLLOWED BY TIME IN CLASSROOM
TILL 9.15AM





Mother's Day

Stall

FRIDAY 8TH MAY

\$5 & \$10 GIFTS
AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE
WITH A MAX \$15
PER CHILD

PLEASE BRING A BAG
FOR KIDS TO
PUT GIFT IN





GROWING GREAT KIDS!

You may have noticed our exciting new partnership with Victoria University Pop-up Play being set up on Monday morning outside assembly. This wonderful initiative highlights the importance of play that is unstructured, student led, and driven by children's own ideas, creativity and curiosity! Playwork creates conditions for play, rather than directing it, and we saw our students create some amazing things with a rich collection of materials that seemingly did not go together at all, but invited endless possibilities for collaborative play.

Unstructured play, without direction or predetermined outcome, is imperative to a child's physical, emotional, mental and social development, and it often does not get valued in the way that it truly deserves. We can 'add on' play rather than featuring it as the main event of childhood.

During this week's pop-up play session, you can see our prep students negotiating, thinking creatively, experimenting, considering risks, working collaboratively, and taking real ownership over their work. They solved problems together, shared their ideas and considered the perspectives of their peers. There was also a strong sense of trust - trust that the other people would continue a shared creation with care, imagination and integrity. Adults were present in the space to support the students, but deliberately stepped back, allowing the students to take ownership of both the play and the decisions that emerged.

For families interested in learning more, the article [The Many Wondrous Benefits of Unstructured Play](#) gives some good advice about how parents can scaffold play without taking over, allowing children to use their imaginations, and what you have around the house, to encourage play that will benefit the development of your child, and help us to Grow Great Kids together!





DID YOU KNOW?

MACSEYE IS RUNNING
THE PUPIL FREE DAY
ON THE 25TH OF MAY

BUT ...

BOOKINGS CLOSE ON THE
18th May

BOOK IN QUICK TO SECURE A
SPOT

WHEN? 7AM - 6PM
WHERE? ST ANTHONY'S OSH
CLUB

THEME: COMING SOON

We need a
minimum of 15
children to run—
so book in before
the 18th!!!

DRAMA CLASSES

Anne has been a therapeutic theatre maker for more than 13 years, collaborating with young actors to write performances based on personal narratives. As a drama teacher, Anne allows children the ability to tap into their imagination, and express it through play. There is no expectation for them to "perform". Simply, to explore and enjoy the process. These classes aim to build students' confidence, enhance their imagination and encourage creative expression. While also developing skills such as problem-solving, adaptability, collaboration and emotional intelligence.



Location St Anthony's Primary School Alphington
Wednesday 4.30 - 5.30 for 9 - 12 year old
Thursday 4.00 - 5.00 for 6 - 8 year old

CONTACT
ANNE GOLLAN e annegollan@gmail.com
m 0410064320



Community Fun Day

Saturday 30th May | 11:00am to 2:00pm

We invite you to celebrate the opening of
Goodstart Thornbury Hutton St

- Face painting & balloon twisting
- Magical days kindy dancing
- Farm animal encounters
- Little sports heroes activities
- Centre tours and much more!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-fun-day-at-goodstart-thornbury-tickets-1988608673073?aff=oddtcreator>

Goodstart Thornbury Hutton St
65-69 Hutton St
Thornbury

03 70405122



MUSIC LESSONS AT ST ANTHONYS PS

**** MUSIC TUITION INCREASES CONFIDENCE, SELF ESTEEM AND HELPS TO IMPROVE SCHOOL SUBJECTS – MATHS, LITERACY, SCIENCE, READING ETC ****

ST ANTHONYS Primary School in association with Metro Music School is now offering Music Lessons to students who are interested in learning an instrument at school every week. Lessons are held during school hours (30 mins/once per week) at suitable times. (Prep to Gr 6) Enquiries are welcome on 9460 4818 (Metro Music School).

Lessons Offered: **KEYBOARD PIANO GUITAR – (subject to sufficient enrolments)**

Discount Hiring and Purchase also available. Contact us for details or visit our online shop at www.metromusic.net.au

Please enrol online at the above website address.



Year 7 Entry Information Evening

Learn why girls thrive at Genazzano, and how we can help support your daughter through her educational journey.

7:00pm - 8:00pm
Wednesday 10 June
Genazzano FCJ College



Register now via QR code



Applications for Year 7 2028 Now Open

Take the first step,
book a tour today.



olmc.vic.edu.au
A Ministry of Mercy Education Ltd



OLMC
Heidelberg
Empowered together

SNAPSHOT PROGRAM

Come & Try



WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL
4:00PM - 5:00PM

- Sport
- Community Action
- Music



PARADE COLLEGE YEAR 7 INFORMATION EVENING

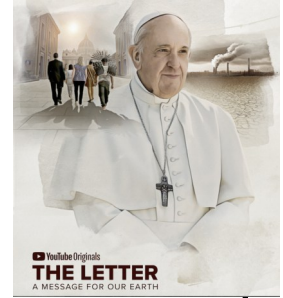
Wednesday 20 May
6:00pm

Register Here

**A
WORLD
OF
OPPORTUNITIES.**



Earthcare Group Presents Movie Night: "The Letter: A message For Our Earth"



The Mission Parishes' Earthcare Group warmly invites families to a movie night screening of *The Letter: A Message for Our Earth* (2022)—a moving, hope-filled film inspired by Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'*. Through powerful real-life stories, it brings the call to care for creation to life and reminds us that even small steps, taken together, can make a real difference for our common home.

Please register via the TryBooking link or QR code below so we can plan seating.

Date: Wednesday 20th May 7:15pm

Venue: MacKillop room at St Anthony's School.

Trybooking Link: <https://www.trybooking.com/DLVEM>

QR Code:



The Earthcare group would also love **at least one parent from each school** to join the group as a school contact, so we can share ideas and support the great work already happening in our school communities. We meet once a month on Thursday evening. Contact parish office.



CKA STUDIO

woodards 



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https://www.facebook.com/stanthonysalphington/?modal=admin_todo_tour



<https://www.instagram.com/stanthonysalphington/>



All students attending St Anthony's Primary School have the right to feel safe. The care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a fundamental responsibility of all within our school.