

Today I was informed by a student that there is only 5 weeks until Christmas, to which I replied "That can't be right" (although the ornately decorated massive tree at my local shopping centre suggested otherwise). Then only to head to my diary and realise they were not far off. Am I alone in feeling like Melbourne Cup Weekend now also signifies the end of the year as the 'silly season' seems to kick into action earlier than the previous one? Looking at the school calendar, I feel quite justified in requesting an extension, there is so much to do and still to happen. Don't forget to check the calendar to keep up to date and informed, or run the risk of ending up like me most years, juggling multiple events on the same date..... tis the season!

Colour Run

The smiles on our students' faces and the faces of many parents and grandparents spoke a thousand words. In a world that can at times feel gloomy and bleak, last Friday afternoon was a colorful breath of fresh air. It was truly wonderful to experience an afternoon of pure fun and delight. Too often schools can forget the importance of laughter and frivolity, there is so much to gain from both. Big thanks to Catherine and her team of volunteers, Rhonda who did so much work behind the scenes and our staff who embraced the colour run concept and participated wholeheartedly in the afternoon. To those who stepped up and were slimed, you are legends: Nick, Rebekah, Mary P, Vince D, Joe and Rosemary. To everyone who generously contributed to our fundraiser, thank you! We are in the process of bringing a gaga ball pit to St Anthony's.

2026 Staffing and Class Structure

In the October 16 newsletter, I informed you that staff were looking at our options for our 2026 class structure. There have been numerous opportunities for discussion, debate and reflection on this. The decision on our structure has been underpinned by the principles of equity, common good and growth. We want our classrooms kept to an optimal level for social, emotional and academic growth. We want each classroom to be of similar size and we want to be able to accept new enrolments. The School Advisory Council has also had the opportunity to discuss and explore options.

I can now advise that our 2026 class structure is as follows:

Prep x1
1/2 x1
3/4 x1
4/5 x1
5/6 x1

This structure, while different to this year, has been experienced before. It provides balanced numbers across all classes, with room for new enrolments. It allows staff to meet and plan together. From our teaching perspective the structure does not change our explicit teaching

St Anthony's news



Melbourne Archdiocese
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practices, we assess each students' entry points, we plan and set goals for growth, always aiming for benchmarks as a minimum. The classes will be formulated by our staff, based on their extensive knowledge and experience of our students' social, emotional and academic needs, while also taking into consideration the common good of all class members. Students will complete a sociogram, identifying those they work well with. No student in any class will miss out or be disadvantaged by this class structure. This provides an exciting opportunity for our students to work with a range of students across their class and cohort. For our middle and senior students Inquiry units will take place as 3/4 s and 5/6 s. At times the groups will reconfigure, for example during camp the 3/4s will spend time together, when interschool sport takes place our year 3s will have the opportunity to work with and mentor the 1/2s. If you have questions or wish to discuss 2026 please email to schedule a time to meet with me, my door is always open.

We are still working through our staffing; from our classroom teachers to our leadership positions. The one class which is confirmed is our prep class. Today our 2026 preps attended the first of their Step Into Prep session. They appeared so small compared to our current preps, how much they grow! They gathered to spend time to begin to get to know each other and their teacher, Bianca Giuliano. Bianca joins us next year having previously worked in our Out of School Hours program. Her brothers attended our school and she is not only aware of but firmly aligned with our school's vision. We warmly welcome Bianca to our community and look forward to working with her.

Save the dates-

Specialist Showcase Evening

Thursday 27 November viewing of visual art and future design work starting at 7pm. Each class will be singing as part of the Performing arts showcase, these performances begin at 7.30pm. Gold coin donation on entry to continue to support our wonderful programs in these specialist areas.

Gratitude Mass and Christmas Carols

Tuesday 9 December at 6pm we will gather in our beautiful Church to celebrate our Gratitude mass combined with our Christmas Carols which will this year also include a Christmas Play. We would love to see every student and family celebrating with us wearing a touch of Christmas.

Last Assembly for 2025

No Monday assembly, instead we will gather on Tuesday 16 December (last day of school) at 12pm in the MacKillop Room. We will hear from our Year 6 leaders, acknowledge our Year 6 award winners, farewell our existing families with our traditional olive tree gift before heading out to form a guard of honour for our Year 6 students. All invited.

Tania Bennett

52 Austin Street, Alphington 3078

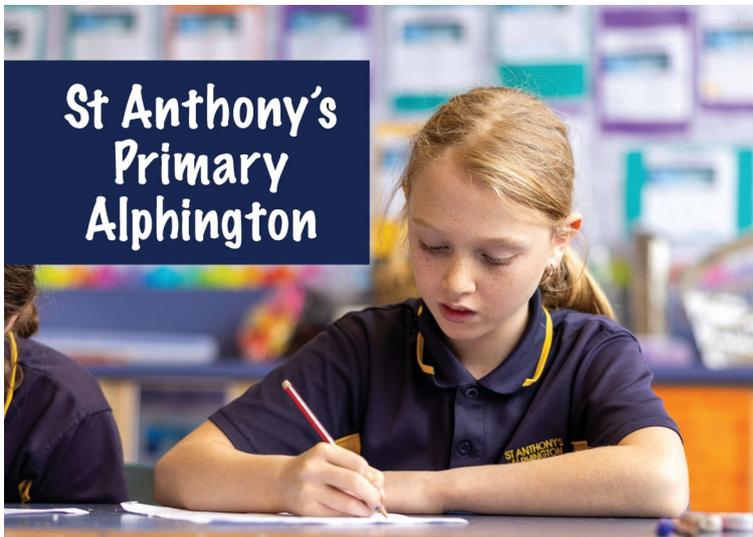
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2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Term 4		
Date	Time	Activity
Friday 14 November	9.15am	5/6RL Class Mass
Monday 17 November	7.30pm	Parents & Friends Meeting
Tuesday 18 November	7.00- 8.00pm	Prep 2026 Parent Information Evening
Thursday 20 November	9.30am	Step Into Prep 2026 - Session 2
Friday 21 November	9.15am	Prep/1RG Mass
Tuesday 25 November	7.30pm	School Advisory Council
Thursday 27 November	7.00pm	Specialist Showcase Evening
Friday 28 November	9.15am	2/3MG & 4MH Class Mass
Friday 28 November	2.30pm	Step Into Prep 2026— Session 3
Sunday 30 November	10.30am	Juniors 2025 and Prep 2026 Welcome Mass and BBQ
Monday 1 December	9.30- 10.30am	Open Morning
Monday 8 December		House Athletics Day
Tuesday 9 December	6pm	End of year Gratitude Mass incl Christmas play with carols
Friday 12 December		Mission Stall Day
Tuesday 16 December	12pm	Step Up into 2026 session Whole School Assembly & Guard of Honour for Year 6s
Tuesday 16 December	1pm	Term 4 ends



**St Anthony's
Primary
Alphington**

INTERACTIVE SESSIONS
Thursday 23 October - Numeracy
Monday 10 November - Literacy
Thursday 4 December - Christmas Craft

9:30AM - 10:30AM
 Register online at www.saalphington.catholic.edu.au



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St Anthony's Primary Alphington

Open Mornings
9.30am - 10.30am
TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER
MONDAY 1 DECEMBER

Or book a personal tour with the Principal via our website

ALL WELCOME



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SCHOOL FUN RUN

TIME TO SELECT YOUR PRIZES

Please login to your profile and select your prizes.

PRIZE WINDOW CLOSSES TOMORROW NIGHT!!

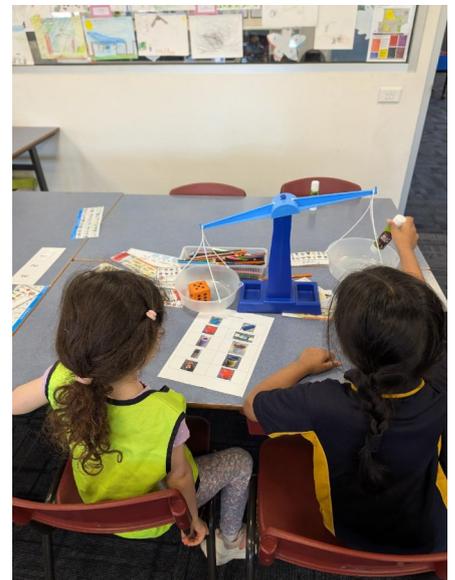




SMART START AND PREP/1 RG VISITS

By Leo, Flynn and Ella

Every Wednesday Prep/1 walk to Smart Start or Smart Start walk to us. The visits were to help them get ready for school. On the first week we went to Smart Start and went on swings and activities in groups of six. The next week they came to us. Then we played duck duck goose and read the gruffalo. Unfortunately the next week got cancelled due to the weather. We thought it was good to meet new kids who might be at St Anthony's next year (2026.)



St Anthony's Primary Alphington



Enrolling Now for 2026 and 2027

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ALL WELCOME



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**SANTA MARIA
COLLEGE**
A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Christmas Decorations Workshop

Tuesday November 25
3.45pm - 5pm
Santa Maria College

Get into the festive spirit at our Christmas Decorating Workshop! A fun and creative afternoon for Grade 4 and 5 students, led by our 2026 Year 12 Leaders and staff.

Students will make beautiful Christmas decorations to take home and for the Good Samaritan Inn, helping spread a little extra joy this festive season.

*Come along for an afternoon
of crafting, music, and
Christmas cheer – and make
a difference while you do it!*



Register Here

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Jellis Craig will donate \$500 of the sales commission or \$350 of the rental fee to St Anthony's Primary School if a family or staff member appoints a Jellis Craig Inner North Agent to sell or lease their home.



Courtney & Patterson Ford

GOLD SPONSOR

Courtney & Patterson Ford will donate \$400 to St Anthony's Primary School if a family or staff member mentions St Anthony's Primary School as their referral when making a purchase.



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.