

Sunshine Christian School

Living as children of the light - loving God, loving others, loving learning

Issue 2 | Friday 20 February 2026

Registered primary school no. 1850

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Principal Mr Damian Pietsch

Calendar Dates

2025

Monday 23 February 2026

Whole School Worship @ 9.00am
Playgroup @ 9.30am
Swimming Year 1 – 6

Tuesday 24 February 2026

Swimming Year 1 – 6

Wednesday 25 February 2026

Swimming Year 1 – 6
PREP REST DAY

Thursday 26 February 2026

Swimming Year 1 – 6

Friday 27 February 2026

Swimming Year 1 – 6

St Matthew's Lutheran Church

Our supporting church worships at 9.30am each Sunday at 362 Barkly St. Footscray.

Sunshine Christian School acknowledges that our loving Creator God first gave the land on which the school is placed, to the peoples of the First Nation who have walked and cared for this land since before recorded time. We thank God for the land's traditional Custodians and pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging as we travel this journey of reconciliation in Australia.



Devotion: Renewed while we fade

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day (2 Corinthians 4:16)

Paul writes as one who knows fragility firsthand. His confidence is not theoretical optimism, but faith forged in suffering. The Christian life, as Paul describes it, is lived under a double truth: decay is real, and renewal is real – but they operate on different planes. We must not confuse them.

The outer self – our visible life, our strength, reputation, even our ministry – is wasting away. Paul does not soften this. Here, there is no promise of steady improvement or visible success. This is the theology of the cross speaking plainly: God's work in us is often hidden beneath weakness, loss and contradiction. To deny this would be to lapse into a theology of glory, measuring God's favour by external appearances.

Yet precisely here, Paul refuses despair. The inner self is being renewed – not by effort, progress, or spiritual technique, but *day by day*. This renewal comes through the word that is heard and believed. Earlier, Paul had said, 'I believed, and so I spoke.' Faith does not eliminate affliction; it speaks in the midst of it. Renewal comes from outside us, from the promise of Christ crucified and risen, applied anew even as everything visible deteriorates.

Paul presses further. What we see is temporary; what we do not see is eternal. Faith clings not to what can be measured, but to what has been promised. The present affliction, real and painful though it is, is not minimised but put into perspective by resurrection. Death is not denied; it is answered. Chapter five makes this concrete. Our bodies are tents – temporary dwellings – but God himself prepares a permanent house. This is not an escape from creation but its redemption. The Christian hope is not disembodied survival but resurrection, guaranteed by God, not secured by us.

Thus, Paul teaches the church how not to lose heart: not by denying weakness, but by locating life where God has promised it – in Christ, hidden now, revealed in glory. Until then, renewal continues quietly, faithfully, day by day.

Dear Father, this world is not yet heaven, and we cannot make it so. Forgive our feeble attempts to make heaven on earth by securing ourselves and our futures. Root deeply in us the hope of eternal life, seen and guaranteed in the resurrection of Jesus, who has raised us up with him so that where he is, we may be also. Amen.

Prayer Points

- We pray that our swimming program will provide wonderful learning experiences for the students.
- We also give thanks for our student Support Officers who provide so much support and care for our students and teachers.
- We pray for the Cely Pineda, Tran and Lian families.

Micah Award

Anna Sweet for showing courage and compassion.



Micah Award

Rodani for showing compassion to others.





From the Principal

Student Leadership Team 2026 – Leadership through service

Each year we recognise students who are willing to serve others through leadership. Our **2026 Student Leadership Team** is made up of students who understand that leadership is not about position or recognition, but about **service, responsibility, and care for others**.

The team includes our **School Captains, House Captains, Peer Mediators, class SRC representatives**, and our newly created **Wellbeing Leaders**. Together, these students form the **Student Representative Council (SRC)**, which meets regularly to organise activities and events for students, support whole-school initiatives, and raise concerns or ideas shared by their peers.

Through their leadership, SRC members help strengthen student voice, promote wellbeing, and contribute positively to our school and the wider community. I look forward to seeing the impact they will make throughout 2026.



Notes from the Office

Prep Enrolments 2027

Applications for Prep 2027 close at the end of March 2026. To assist us in our planning, the enrolment application must be submitted by the March deadline.

School Fees

Term 2 fees will be sent out at the end of February and are due by 27th March 2026.

Reminder

Swimming lessons start for Year 1 – 6 on Monday 23 February and continue for two weeks.

Prep students will attend swimming lessons on Monday 2 March and continue for the week.

Please refer to the Consent2Go notification for more details.

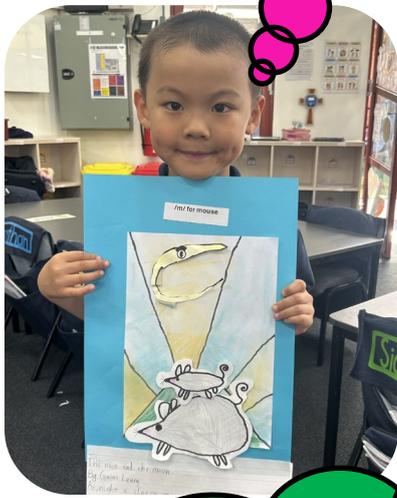


What we are learning

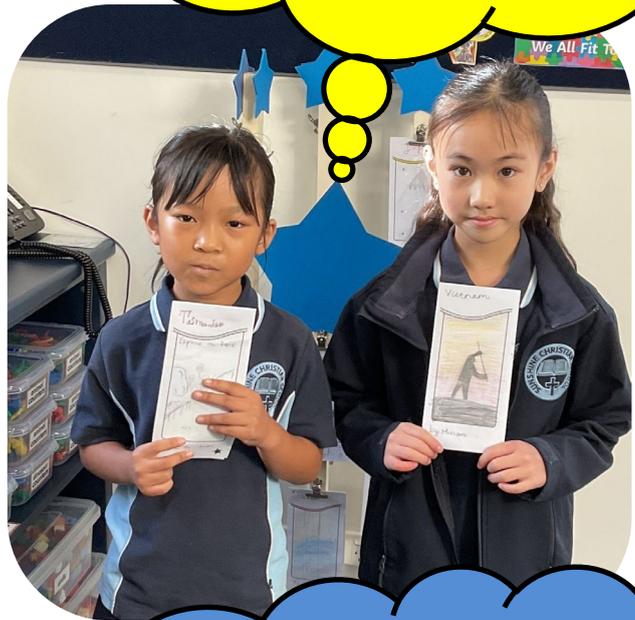
Yr 2/3

Prep/1

In the Prep/1 classroom, we are using the UFLI literacy program to learn new sounds and create short stories with each letter. Please ask your child about our weekly sounds and sight words.

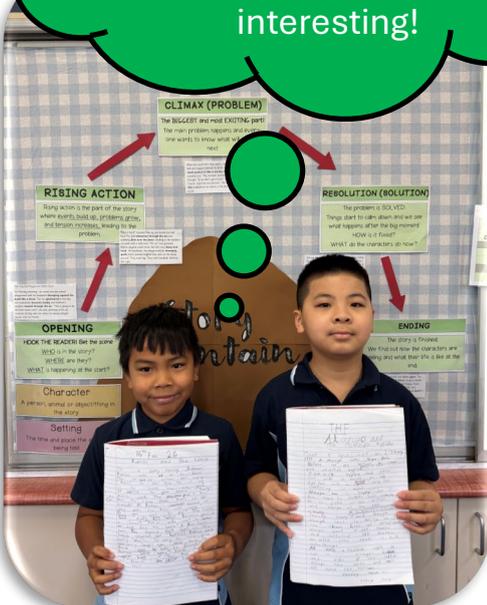


We are learning about the author Bob Graham and his stories. In one of his books, the characters travel to a fun place. We made a travel brochure about an interesting place to visit. Ask us about the fun things to see, do and learn in the place we chose.



Yr 3/4

In the Year 3/4 classroom, we are learning the process of narrative writing. Ask us about the techniques we used to make our stories more interesting!



In the Year 5/6 Class, we are learning about numbers and how we can break them into different parts. Ask us about how many ways we can make a box out of 24 cubes!

Yr 5/6





Calendar of Events: Term 1 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 5	February 23 Worship Playgroup @ 9.30am Swimming Yr 1-6	February 24 Swimming Yr 1-6	February 25 Prep Rest Day Swimming Yr 1-6	February 26 Swimming Yr 1-6	February 27 Swimming Yr 1-6
Wk 6	March 2 Worship Playgroup @ 9.30am Swimming Prep-6	March 3 Swimming Prep-6	March 4 Swimming Prep-6	March 5 Swimming Prep-6	March 6 Newsletter Swimming Prep-6
Wk 7	March 9 Worship Playgroup @ 9.30am	March 10	March 11 NAPLAN – Yr 3 & 5 Writing	March 12 NAPLAN – Yr 3 & 5 Reading	March 13 NAPLAN – Yr 3 & 5 Conventions Sharing Assembly
Wk 8	March 16 Worship Playgroup @ 9.30am NAPLAN – Yr 3 & 5 Numeracy	March 17	March 18	March 19	March 20 Newsletter
Wk 9	March 23 Worship Playgroup @ 9.30am	March 24	March 25	March 26	March 27 Sharing Assembly
Wk 10	March 30 Worship Playgroup @ 9.30am Parent/Teacher Interviews	March 31 Parent/Teacher Interviews	April 1 Parent/Teacher Interviews	April 2 Last Day of Term: 12.15pm finish	April 3 Good Friday

Swimming Reminder – what to bring



Bathers



Towel



Spare underwear

Swim or plastic bag



Goggles



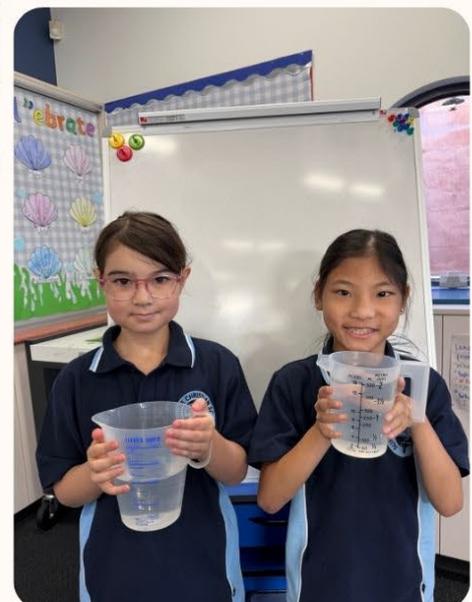
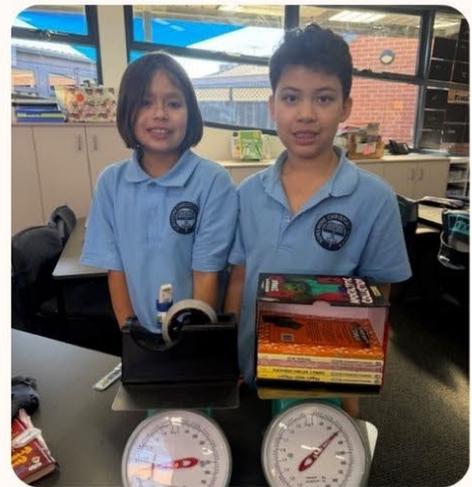
GRADE 3/4

Maths

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING

We are learning how to measure and compare different types of measurement such as length, mass, capacity, time and temperature. We explored **length** by measuring the basketball court with a trundle wheel. We practised **mass** by using scales to check our estimates and investigated **capacity** using a variety of marked and unmarked measuring tools. We need to make sure we use the correct unit of measurement.

Ask us what is the difference between mass and capacity!



PATTERN LEARNING IN PREP/1

hello



Over the past few weeks, Prep/1 students have been busy exploring the concept of patterns through hands-on play and creative art activities.





The Year 1 students have shown great leadership skills by supporting and working with Prep students as they learn new concepts.





In this edition of SchoolTV – SLEEP

Students today have extremely busy schedules, with ever increasing responsibilities at school and at home. Many kids, especially adolescents, are going to bed later and later and are at risk of sleep deprivation. This affects three areas of a child's development: psychological, physiological and psychosocial. All three are essential to a child's growth, learning ability and overall wellbeing. Sleep is vital to a child's overall development and is as important as diet and exercise.

Sleep also strengthens a child's immune systems and supports their ability to function properly on a daily basis. Children who do not get enough sleep show increased levels of aggressive behaviour, are less attentive and are much less active. Trying to catch up on sleep on weekends is not the answer and can still lead to severe sleep deprivation.

In this edition of SchoolTV, parents will learn about the importance of sleep and how sleep deprivation can have adverse effects on a child's health and wellbeing.

We hope you take time to reflect on the information offered in this edition of SchoolTV and we always welcome your feedback. If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the school counsellor for further information or seek medical or professional help.

Here is the link to the **Sleep** edition of SchoolTV

<https://scs.vic.schooltv.me/newsletter/sleep>

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING CORNER

Supporting families to grow strong minds
and hearts in Christ.

This Week's Tip for Parents

Wellbeing Week Reflections - Growing Connection and Understanding

Last week, during our first Wellbeing Week of the year, students and staff spent time intentionally focusing on belonging and connection - to the people, places, and wider community that make up Sunshine Christian School.

These shared experiences helped reinforce the message that wellbeing grows when we feel connected, included, and valued.

Building on this, our ongoing wellbeing focus continues to support both students and staff in developing a deeper understanding of emotions, relationships, and individual wellbeing needs.

Connection is strengthened when children feel understood, listened to, and respected.

Taking time to listen - without immediately correcting, fixing, or judging helps children make sense of their experiences. When adults respond with curiosity and empathy, children learn that their feelings matter and that they are supported within a caring community.

[TURN OVER TO FIND OUT MORE...](#)

Student Voice

From Our Students!

"When do you feel most connected to people or places at Sunshine Christian School, and what helps you feel that way?"

"I feel most connected with people when I play sport at lunch time because I'm not lonely or left out."

"I feel most connected at camp because of the group activities and sharing cabins"



Faith & Wellbeing

"Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry"

- James 1:19

This verse reminds us that strong relationships are built through listening and understanding. When we slow down and truly listen to one another, we strengthen connection and trust. At school and at home, being heard helps children feel safe, valued, and part of a community that cares.

9 Additional Supports for Families

Building on our first Wellbeing Week of 2026!



1. Revisit Wellbeing Week Together

Invite your child to share a moment from Wellbeing Week that made them feel connected or included.

2. Name the Connection

Help your child identify who or what helped them feel a sense of belonging (a person, place, activity, or routine).

3. Practise Active Listening

Show connection by listening without interrupting or problem-solving straight away.

4. Reflect Feelings Back

Use phrases like: “That sounds like it made you feel really safe/happy/included.”

5. Normalise Different Experiences

Remind children that everyone experiences connection differently — and that’s okay.

6. Strengthen Place-Based Belonging

Talk about why Sunshine Christian School is an important place for your family and what makes it special.

7. Model Empathy at Home

Let children see you listening, apologising, and repairing relationships.

8. Encourage Help-Seeking

Reinforce that trusted adults at school and home are there to support them.

9. Reinforce the Message of Belonging

Regularly remind your child: “You are valued, you belong, and you are not alone.”



AUSKICK FREE COME & TRY

Whether you're a seasoned player or trying it for the first time, now's the perfect time to get involved! Have fun, challenge yourself, and enjoy the thrill of the game.



SCAN
HERE



PENNELL RESERVE , BRAYBROOK
SATURDAY 28TH FEB, 10AM

VISIT PLAY.AFL

MAGIC

BASKETBALL

CALLING ALL YOUNG BALLERS

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