



Sunshine Christian School

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

Registered primary school no. 1850

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Principal Mr Damian Pietsch

Calendar Dates

2026

Monday 27 July 2026

Whole School Worship @ 9am
Playgroup @ 9.30am

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.



Issue 11 Friday 24 July 2026

Devotion: Leave the weeds to the master

'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them' (Matthew 13:29).

In Year 8 Agriculture at my high school, we were each given a plot and some cabbage seeds and told to plant the cabbages and keep the plot weed-free. In my report at the end of the semester, my teacher Mr Boerth wrote, 'Stephen struggled to keep the weeds at bay. He is no gardener!' (A bad report for the son of a farmer!)

As much as I try, I admit I'm still no gardener. Nowadays, I get help with my garden from an expert. He knows far more than I do. Sometimes I have ideas for dealing with issues in my garden and don't consult him. I inevitably do the wrong thing, which he then must correct. As much as I want to do things myself, I have to trust his expertise first.

In the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds, Jesus addresses the human frustration of seeing weeds among the wheat. A farmer's field is sabotaged by an enemy who sows weeds alongside the good wheat. In first-century Palestine, this weed was likely darnel, a poisonous plant closely resembling wheat in its early stages of growth. When the master's workers eagerly offer to pull up the weeds, the master stops them with a surprising command: 'Let both grow together until the harvest.'

We make judgement calls all day long: make this or that for breakfast, check our calendars or messages, sort out this problem or prioritise another. But when it comes to God's kingdom – who is righteous, who is not, who is heaven-bound and who is not – that is not our call to make. Calling down God's judgement on people isn't our responsibility (as much as we might want to).

Do we need to confront poor behaviour respectfully? Yes. Do we need to keep people safe? Absolutely. Do we help those who need help? Of course! Do we point people to Jesus? One hundred per cent. But a person's salvation or damnation isn't our call to make – we leave that to the master.

Heavenly Master of the field, we lift our world to you. Focus us on your word and on the tasks set before us. Help us trust you with the final outcome of our world, knowing that we who are in Christ will one day shine like the sun in your kingdom. Amen.

Devotion by: Stephen Abraham

Prayer Points

- We pray that God helps us to trust His wisdom, show His love to others, and leave judgment in His hands.
- We give thanks for the blessings of winter and God's care through every season.
- We pray for the Leung, Lian and Luu families.

We will celebrate
Book Week
In Week 6



'Symphony of Stories'

Information will be sent home closer to the date.

Micah Award

Zin for showing courage and service.





From the Principal

Welcome to Our New Teachers

We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to the Sunshine Christian School community this term: Marli Jacobs and Nick Upton. Both have recently joined our teaching team and are already settling into life at SCS.

Mrs. Marli Jacobs has joined us as the Prep/Year 1 classroom teacher. Her enthusiasm for supporting young learners and helping children build strong foundations for their educational journey is already evident. We are excited to see the positive impact she will have with our junior students.



Mr. Nick Upton has joined our team as the Year 3/4 classroom teacher. Nick brings a passion for learning and a commitment to helping students grow academically, socially, and spiritually. We look forward to the contributions he will make to in the classroom, in P.E. lessons and across our school.

Starting at a new school is always an exciting journey, and we are grateful to have Marli and Nick joining the Sunshine Christian School family. We pray that they will quickly feel at home within our community and experience God's blessings as they begin this new chapter.

Please join us in extending a warm Sunshine Christian School welcome to Marli and Nick. We look forward to partnering with them as they help our students learn, grow, and flourish.

Damian Pietsch
Principal

From the Office

School Photos.

The school photos should arrive towards the end of July.

School Fees

Term 4 school fees will be sent out at the end of the month and are due by 19th September.

2028 ENROLMENTS

Enrolments for Prep 2028 are now open. If you have a child due to commence Prep in 2028, please complete an enrolment form. Without a form your child/children will not be on the waiting list.

New online form available at www.scs.vic.edu.au go to parent information, Enrolment form, complete and email back.



What we are learning

Yr 2/3

Prep/1

In the Prep/1 class, students have begun learning about Measurement. Please ask us about comparing length or the mass of objects.

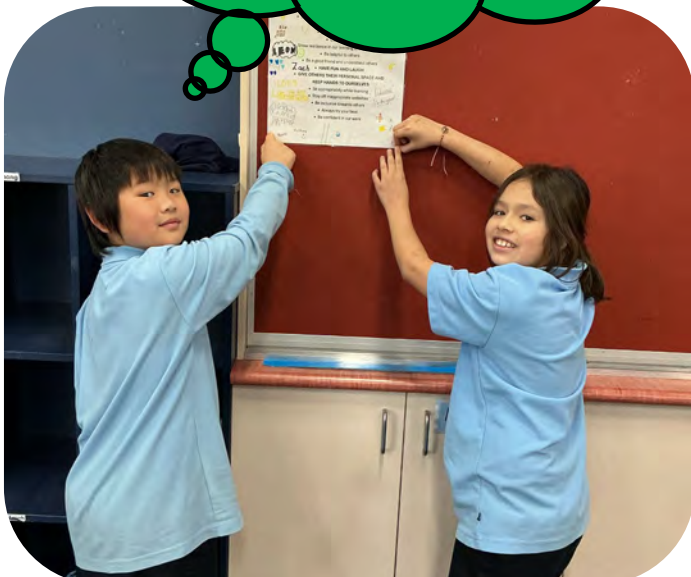


Each week in UFLI we read a decodable text and draw a picture to show we understand the story. Ask us to talk about the reader we bring home every night.



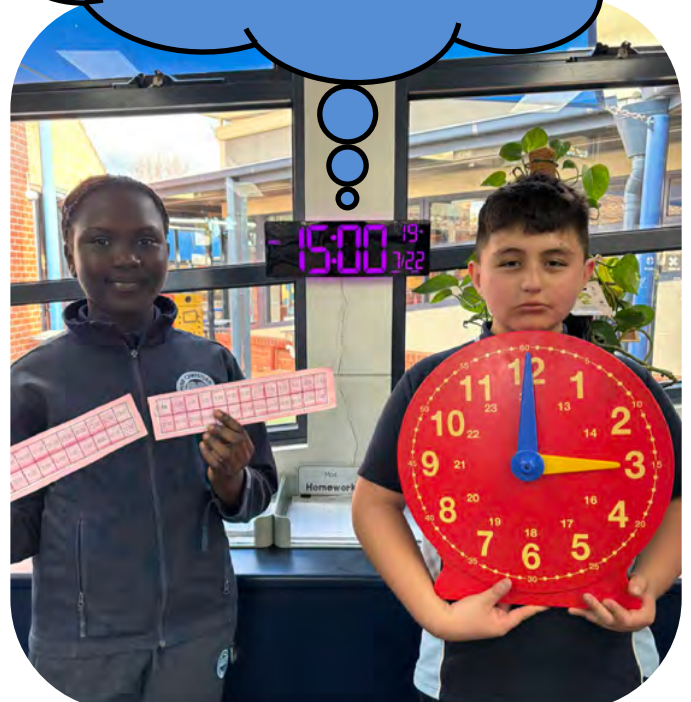
Yr 3/4

In the Year 3/4 classroom, we have been learning about our new class treaty and how we can all help each other in our learning. Ask us about some of the rules we have agreed on!



Yr 5/6

In Year 5 and 6, we have been learning about 12- and 24-hour time. We have been looking at timetables to tell us how long our journeys will take. Ask us what the time is in 24-hour time!





Calendar of Events: Term 4 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 3	July 27 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am Wellbeing Week	July 28	July 29 School Board	July 30	July 31
Wk 4	August 3 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am	August 4 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day	August 5	August 6	August 7 Newsletter (3/4 & P/1)
Wk 5	August 10 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am	August 11	August 12	August 13	August 14
Wk 6	August 17 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am BOOK WEEK – 'Symphony of Stories'	August 18	August 19	August 20	August 21 Newsletter (5/6 & 2/3) Interscholar Athletics St Matthew's Worship (Sunday 23)
Wk 7	August 24 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am	August 25	August 26 School Board	August 27	August 28 Sharing Assembly: Year 5/6 and 2/3
Wk 8	August 31 Wellbeing Week NUDEL CART – Buddy Activity	September 1	September 2	September 3	September 4 Newsletter (3/4 & P/1) Year 1/2 Sleepover
Wk 9	September 7 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am	September 8	September 9	September 10	September 11 Sharing Assembly: Year 3/4 and P/1
Wk 10	September 14 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am	September 15 Drama presentations TBC	September 16	September 17 Drama presentations TBC	September 18 Newsletter Last Day of Term 12.15pm finish

As the Lorax reminds us, ***“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.”*** We look forward to seeing our students turn their learning into meaningful action in the weeks ahead.

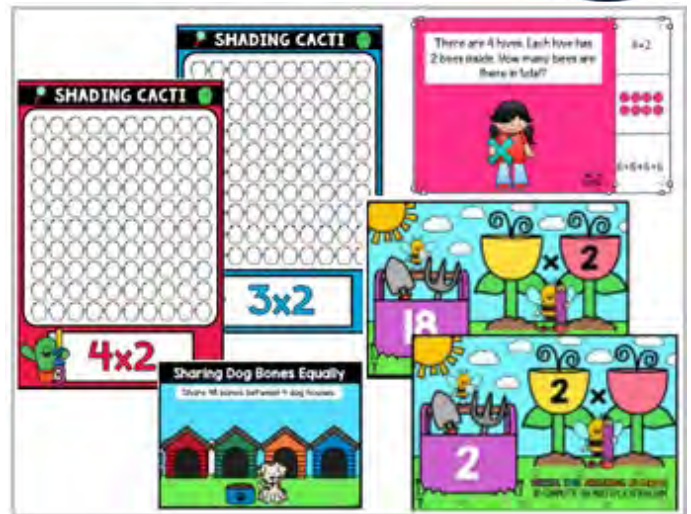


LEARNING ABOUT Sustainability *in Year 5/6*

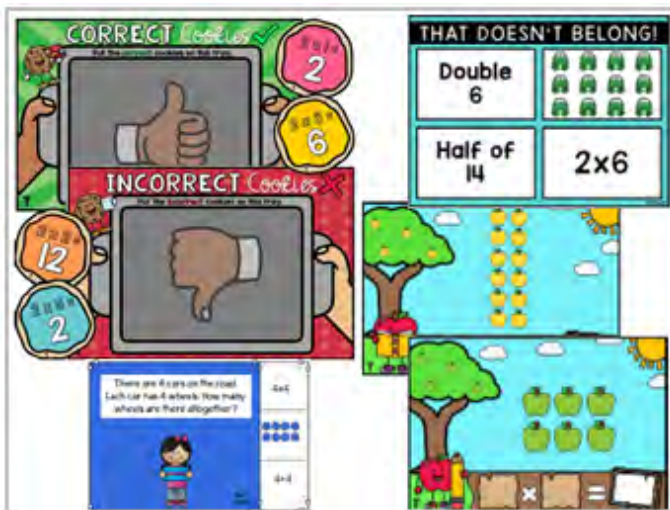


Sustainability Unit





In our Year 2/3 classroom, we are learning about multiplication in simple and fun ways. Students are using different strategies like making groups, adding the same number, and using arrays. We also work in small groups to solve problems together. This helps students practise their skills, talk about their thinking, and build confidence in their learning.



MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING CORNER

Supporting families to grow strong minds
and hearts in Christ.

This Week's Tip for Parents

Acknowledge Before You Encourage

When children experience change, our instinct is often to reassure them by saying, "You'll be fine" or "Don't worry." While these words come from a place of love, children first need to feel understood before they are ready to move forward.

Instead, try acknowledging their feelings:

"I can see this feels really different for you."

Then encourage them:

"We've handled new things before, and we'll work through this together."

When children feel heard, their nervous system begins to settle. From this place of connection, they are much better able to problem-solve, build confidence, and adapt to change.



TIP FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Remember:

We don't need to remove every challenge - our role is to help our children discover that they are capable of facing them.

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT MORE ...

Student Voice

From Our Students!

What is one change that turned out better than you expected?

"We get to play a game at the end of the day now. The adults helped me understand that things can change to be better."

"My class is better now. I understand the boundaries"



Faith & Wellbeing

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

- Hebrews 13:8

Life is full of change. Children grow, friendships develop, routines shift, families face new seasons, and unexpected challenges arise. While change is a natural part of life, it can also feel unsettling.

The wonderful promise of Scripture is that although our circumstances change, God does not. His love remains constant, His presence never leaves us, and His faithfulness continues through every season.

As parents and educators, we have the privilege of reminding children that they don't have to face change alone. When we place our trust in God, we can step into new experiences with courage, knowing He walks beside us.

9 Additional Support for Families



1. KEEP FAMILIAR ROUTINES WHERE POSSIBLE

During times of change, predictable routines provide children with a sense of safety. Even simple routines such as reading together before bed, family dinners, or a regular bedtime can help children feel secure.

2. GIVE CHILDREN A 'HEADS-UP'

Whenever possible, prepare your child for upcoming changes. Talk through what will happen, who will be there and what they can expect. Knowing what comes next reduces uncertainty and anxiety.

3. ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Children often make sense of change by asking the same questions repeatedly. Patiently answering these questions helps them process what is happening and feel reassured.

4. NAME AND VALIDATE EMOTIONS

Let your child know that all feelings are welcome. Saying, "*It sounds like you're feeling nervous about this,*" helps children feel understood and teaches them to recognise and manage their emotions.

5. FOCUS ON WHAT STAYS THE SAME

When life feels different, remind children of the constants: the people who love them, family traditions, God's love, and familiar routines. Stability helps build resilience.

6. CELEBRATE SMALL STEPS

Adjusting to change takes time. Celebrate the small wins, whether it's trying something new, making a new friend, or showing courage despite feeling nervous.

7. LOOK AFTER THE BASICS

Healthy sleep, nutritious meals, regular movement, and time outdoors all support emotional wellbeing and help children cope more effectively with stress.

8. STAY CONNECTED

Children often need more connection during times of transition. A cuddle, a shared game, reading together, or simply spending ten uninterrupted minutes together can help fill their emotional cup.

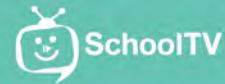
9. MODEL HEALTHY COPING

Children learn how to respond to change by watching the adults around them. Share simple examples of how you manage change: "*I'm feeling a little nervous about today too, so I'm taking a few deep breaths and reminding myself that I can do hard things.*"



Sibling Relationships

A SchoolTV topic supporting
modern-day parenting



In this edition of SchoolTV - SIBLING RELATIONSHIPS

Sibling relationships are often a child's first and longest-lasting social connection. These bonds can offer companionship, support and opportunities to develop important life skills such as empathy, negotiation and conflict resolution. However, like all close relationships, sibling dynamics can be complex. Differences in temperament, age, needs and parental attention can all contribute to tension or rivalry. It's not uncommon for children to compete for attention, especially during times of change or stress.

As a parent or caregiver, your role in shaping the tone of sibling relationships is vital. Creating a home environment that celebrates each child's unique strengths and avoids direct comparisons helps reduce rivalry and fosters mutual respect.

By listening without judgement, teaching emotional regulation, and supporting each child's individuality, you can create a family culture where siblings feel secure and valued. This edition of SchoolTV offers insights to support young people in developing positive, lasting sibling bonds that can remain strong well into adulthood.

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 **Sibling Relationships** edition of SchoolTV

<https://scs.vic.schooltv.me/newsletter/sibling-relationships-au>