



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

Issue 20 Friday 16 October 2026

Devotion: A new song for a new day

O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord; bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day (Psalm 96:1,2).

As both a pastor and a musician, I have always loved the invitation to 'sing a new song'. Over the years, I have had the joy of composing new music for worship, finding fresh melodies through which the timeless gospel can be placed on the lips and into the hearts of God's people. Yet Psalm 96 reminds us that the 'new song' is about much more than music. It's your renewed response to God's never-ending mercy.

Every day brings something different. Some days are filled with joy and thanksgiving; other days bring uncertainty, disappointment, loneliness or worry. Yet whatever today holds, God's grace is still new. His love for you has not changed. His promises remain sure. And so, each new day gives you a reason to sing again.

In Te Reo Māori, the psalm says: '*Waiata ki a Ihowā he waiata hou*' – 'Sing to the Lord a new song.' You may not feel particularly musical, and perhaps your voice is not one you would want others to hear. But this invitation is not about musical ability. It's about faith.

The new song God places within you may be a song of trust when you cannot see what lies ahead; a song of gratitude for a blessing you have received; a song of hope when life feels difficult; or simply a quiet confidence that Jesus is with you.

And your song is not meant to remain inside you. The psalm continues: 'Tell of his salvation from day to day.' Your life can become a witness to God's grace – in the words you speak, the kindness you offer, the forgiveness you extend and the hope you carry.

So today, whatever circumstances you face, listen for the new song God is placing in your heart. You are loved. You are forgiven. Christ is with you. His mercy is new today.

Lord Jesus, put a new song in my heart today. Give me faith when I am uncertain, gratitude when I am blessed, and hope when I struggle. May my words and my life proclaim your love and salvation. Amen.

Devotion by: Mark Whitfield

Prayer Points

- We give thanks to God for the safe return of our students, staff and families following the holidays, and for the blessing of a new term together.
- We pray for the Zawro, Sawthyng and Vanuk families.

Calendar Dates

2026

Monday 19 October

Whole School Worship @ 9am
Playgroup @ 9.30am
Wellbeing Day

Friday 23 October

Australian Girls Choir

Monday 26 October

Whole School Worship @ 9am
Playgroup @ 9.30am
Wellbeing Day

Tuesday 27 October

Prep 2027 Transition 1:45-2:45
CERES Excursion Year 2/3

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.



SUMMER UNIFORMS ARE NOW IN STOCK.

Orders can be made online,
by email or at the Office.

If you order online or by email
your order will be sent home with
your child with an invoice.

Micah Award

Tifa, for showing kindness and care for those around her





From the Principal

Term 4

Principal's Welcome

Welcome back to Term 4! I hope everyone enjoyed a restful break and had the opportunity to spend quality time with family and friends. It has been wonderful to see our students return with smiling faces, renewed energy and an eagerness for all that lies ahead.

As we begin the final term of the year, we are delighted to welcome our 2027 Prep students and their families as they commence their transition sessions this week. These visits are always a special part of the school year, and we look forward to getting to know our newest students and helping them feel at home as they begin their time with us.

For our Year 6 students, this term marks a significant milestone as they begin their final weeks of primary school. What an incredible journey it has been! We are so proud of the young people they have become and the positive contribution they have made to our community. As they prepare for the next chapter, we look forward to celebrating their achievements, reflecting on treasured memories, and encouraging them to embrace every opportunity that comes their way. Our prayer is that they complete their primary years with confidence, gratitude and excitement for the future.

The weeks ahead promise to be filled with rich learning experiences, special events, memorable occasions and plenty of opportunities to connect as a community. Our calendar is certainly full, and we are excited about all that awaits us. We look forward to learning together, celebrating milestones, and continuing to nurture the strong sense of belonging that makes Sunshine Christian School such a special place.

Blessings,
Michelle Clarke
Acting Principal

From the Office



Sunshine Christian School
Loving God, Loving others,
Loving learning



Accepting Enrolments Now

Contact Us:

- Phone: (03) 9312 1253
- Email: admin@scs.vic.edu.au
- Address: 81-83 Westmoreland Road
Sunshine North

Reach out for a tour
and a conversation

Loving God, Loving others, Loving learning

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

All students are to wear the school's summer uniform.

Girls: Summer dress or Skort and polo, short white socks

Boys: School shorts and polo, short white socks.

Please: No knee high socks or long sleeve tops under the uniform. If the students are cold they can wear their jackets.

What we are learning

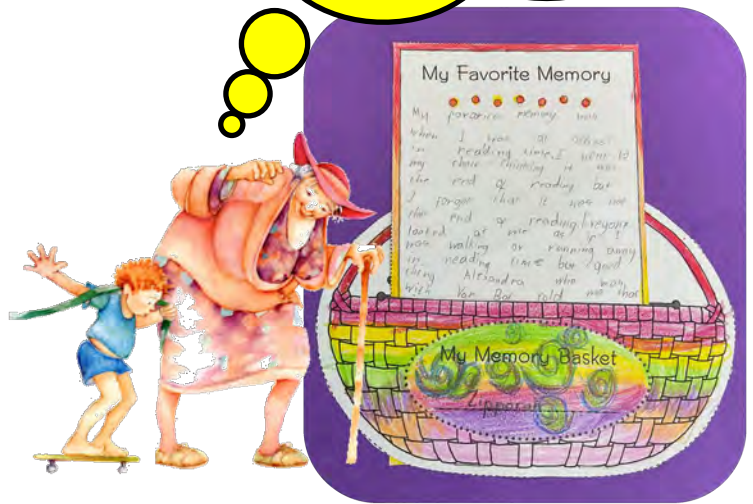
Prep/1

In the Prep/ 1 class, we have been learning how to write a holiday recount. We have been practicing how to share our holiday experiences by writing what we did. Ask me about my holiday.



Yr 2/3

In Year 2/3, we have been learning about the Australian author Mem Fox. We read her book, Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge. In the story, Wilfrid helped Miss Nancy remember special memories. We then wrote about one of our own special memories. Ask us what memory we wrote about.



Yr 3/4

In Year 3/4, we have been learning about Poetry, expanding our sentences and different types of sentences.



Yr 5/6

In Year 5/6, we have been learning about the different parts of newspapers. Ask us about the different things we can find in a newspaper!



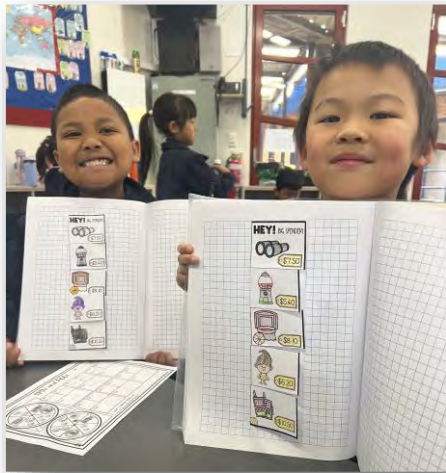


Calendar of Events: Term 4 2026

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 3	October 19 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am Wellbeing Day	October 20	October 21	October 22 Fitting Connections Stitch and Sew 11-1	October 23 Australian Girls Choir 10:45am
Wk 4	October 26 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am Wellbeing Day	October 27 Prep 2027 Transition 1:45 – 2:45pm CERES Excursion Yr 2/3	October 28 School Board	October 29	October 30
Wk 5	November 2 Report Writing Day Student Free Day	November 3 Melbourne Cup Student Free Day	November 4 Athletics Day Wellbeing Week	November 5	November 6
Wk 6	November 9 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am Wellbeing Day	November 10 Prep 2027 Transition 1:45 – 2:45pm	November 11	November 12	November 13
Wk 7	November 16 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am Wellbeing Day	November 17	November 18	November 19	November 20 Sharing Assembly 3/4 & P/1
Wk 8	November 23 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am Wellbeing Day	November 24 Prep 2027 Transition 1:45 – 2:45pm	November 25 School Board	November 26	November 27 Photo Booth 5/6
Wk 9	November 30 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am Wellbeing Day	December 1	December 2	December 3	December 4 Sharing Assembly 5/6 & 2/3
Wk 10	December 7 Worship @ 9am Playgroup @ 9.30am Wellbeing Day	December 8 Move Up Morning 8:45 – 1:05pm Graduation	December 9	December 10	December 11 Last Day of Term 12.15pm finish

Prep/ Year 1

Our Class have been learning all about **money**! We have been exploring different coins and notes, recognizing their values and learning how to use money in everyday situations.



Year 3/4 Mindfulness



This term in Year 3&4 we are focusing on our wellbeing and looking at this through mindfulness. We are practicing meditation, self reflection, gratitude, and learning more about our emotions and how to control them. We are learning skills of journaling and starting to put these skills into practice.





powered by



Vic Kids Eat Well is a free program focused on making healthy eating easy and accessible for schools, one bite at a time.



We won a blender!

What a wonderful way to celebrate the amazing work happening across our school!

We were delighted to welcome Ruchita from IPC Health and Vic Kids Eat Well, who presented us with a brand-new blender as a prize recognising our school's commitment to creating a healthy and supportive environment.

Our teachers and staff have shown incredible passion in making healthy eating part of everyday school life through learning, positive reinforcement, fun initiatives, posters and a strong culture of wellbeing.

We're so proud of what our school community has achieved!

Thank you, Ruchita, IPC Health and Vic Kids Eat Well for this fantastic recognition. Now, let's get blending!



MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING CORNER

Supporting families to grow strong minds
and hearts in Christ.

This Week's Tip for Parents

"I have the right to feel safe"

Connection. Knowledge. Voice. Trust.

Every child has the right to feel safe, physically, socially, emotionally and psychologically. As adults, we cannot remove every challenge from our children's lives, but we can give them the relationships, knowledge and language to recognise when something doesn't feel right and seek help. Safety grows through connection and education.

An important part of this is giving children agency. Rather than telling a child, "These are your safe adults," we can ask:

"Who do you feel safe talking to?"

"Who makes you feel heard and respected?"

"Who could you go to if you were worried?"

*Children experience relationships through their own lens. We want them to notice how **they** feel around others, pay attention to what **their** body may be communicating and trust that **their** feelings are worth talking about.*

At the same time, feeling uncomfortable does not always mean being unsafe. Learning something new, making a mistake or having a difficult conversation can feel uncomfortable while still being safe. Understanding this difference helps build both resilience and protective skills.

Our goal is not to make children fearful of the world. It is to help them become informed, connected and confident within it.

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT MORE ...

Student Voice

"WHO HELPS ME FEEL SAFE?"

This week, instead of adults deciding who children's safe people should be, invite your child to tell you.

Try asking:

- **Who makes you feel listened to?**
- **Who could you talk to if you were worried at school?**
- **Who could you talk to outside school?**
- **What helps you know you feel comfortable with someone?**
- **What does being listened to feel like for you?**
- **If the first person couldn't help, who might you ask next?**

There are no answers to feed them. Listen with curiosity. A child's answer may not be the answer we expect, and that is important information for us as adults.

Giving children a genuine voice teaches them something bigger than any safety rule:

**"My experience matters. I can speak.
Someone will listen."**

Faith & Wellbeing

Known, Heard and Cared For

"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."

- Psalm 56:3

Helping children feel safe does not mean promising that life will never be difficult. Rather, we remind them that they do not have to face difficult things alone. As a Christian school community, we can model this through relationships characterised by compassion, respect, honesty, listening and care.

When a child comes to us with a worry, our first response matters.

We can pause, listen and communicate:

"I hear you. What you are feeling matters. You don't have to work this out alone."

In doing so, children experience something powerful: they learn that asking for help is not weakness. It is wisdom and courage.

9 Ways to Support Safety At Home



BUILDING SAFETY THROUGH CONNECTION, EDUCATION AND AGENCY

1. ASK YOUR CHILD WHO THEIR SAFE PEOPLE ARE

Don't create the list for them. Ask them to identify people they trust at home, at school and in their wider community. Revisit the conversation occasionally because relationships can change.

2. BUILD A NETWORK, NOT JUST ONE PERSON

Help your child identify several trusted adults. Ask, "If that person wasn't available, who could you try next?" Children need to know they can keep asking for help until somebody listens and helps.

3. PRACTISE LISTENING WITHOUT IMMEDIATELY FIXING

When your child shares a worry, try starting with:

"I'm glad you told me.", "Tell me more.", "What do you need from me right now?"

Feeling heard strengthens the likelihood that children will communicate with us again.

4. HELP THEM DEVELOP AN EMOTIONAL VOCABULARY

Expand beyond good, bad, happy and sad. Words such as uncertain, worried, confused, frustrated, peaceful, comfortable, nervous and overwhelmed help children communicate their experiences more clearly.

5. HELP THEM NOTICE THEIR BODY'S SIGNALS

Emotions often have physical clues. A worried child might notice a tight tummy, faster heartbeat or tense shoulders, while feeling calm may have different signals.

Wonder together: "What are you noticing in your body right now?"

- The goal isn't to tell children what a sensation means, but to help them become curious about their own internal experience.

6. TEACH THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN UNSAFE AND UNCOMFORTABLE

Anxiety before a presentation, frustration while learning or disappointment when things don't go our way can feel uncomfortable without meaning we are unsafe. Help children ask:

"Am I unsafe, or is this something difficult that I can get support to work through?"

This distinction helps us build protective skills without unintentionally teaching fear.

7. LET CHILDREN RESPECTFULLY DISAGREE

Agency develops through practice. Allowing children to express a different opinion, say they are worried or tell us they see something differently teaches them that their voice has value, even when an adult ultimately needs to make the decision.

8. KEEP CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SAFETY ORDINARY

Safety conversations work best when they are ongoing rather than one big, serious conversation. Use the car, the dinner table, books or everyday situations to talk about feelings, relationships, getting help and problem-solving.

9. MODEL HELP-SEEKING YOURSELF

Let children see adults asking questions, seeking advice and accepting support. Try saying:

"I'm not sure what to do yet, so I'm going to ask someone who can help."

We teach children that strong people don't have to know everything. Strong people know when to reach out.

WANTED

We are looking for old denim clothes to recycle as part of our sustainability unit.

We are planning to use our sewing skills to repurpose old denim into new items!

**Donations are gratefully accepted - Please drop them off at the office!
Thank you!**



Any questions, please see Zin, Esther and Eirin

**ALL GIRLS
GROUPS
AVAILABLE**

AFL

PLAY



GOOD CLEAN FUN

PLAY.AFL/AUSKICK

SUNSHINE NORTH & SURROUNDS

Lloyd Reserve, Sunshine North

STARTING OCTOBER 30TH

FRIDAYS 5:30PM - 6:30PM

For further information contact:
joshua.cowardf@afl.com.au | 0423517874



Tuning into Kids

FREE six week parenting program



For mums, dads, and carers of children aged 3-10 years living in:
Albanvale, Albion, Ardeer, Cairnlea, Deer Park, Delahey, Derrimut, Kings Park, St. Albans, Sunshine, Sunshine North, Sunshine West and Sydenham.

Do you want to:

- Support your child as they learn and grow?
- Help your child to manage their emotions?
- Improve family communication & relationships?

Tuesdays
10am - 12pm

@ Early Learning Victoria - Muyan
30 Leith Ave, Sunshine

20 October - 1 December
(no session Tuesday 3 Nov)

Presented by MCM's Early Links Brimbank team
Please scan the QR code to register.
If you have any questions please email
earlylinksbrimbank@mcm.org.au

