



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



OUR LADY'S SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
24 April 2026
olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter-Damien McKinley
Principal: Mrs Caroline Madigan
Parish Mass Times:
English: Saturday 9.00am, 5.30pm, Sunday 9:00am, 10.30am & 5:30pm
Vietnamese: Saturday 7.00pm, Sunday 12.30pm, Friday 7.30pm
Chin Hakha/Burmese: 2.30pm
Tongan: Every 1st Sunday 3.00pm
School Phone: 9312 2230
School website: www.olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady's is a Child Safe School



Christ beside me: Walking in the footsteps of St Patrick

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Wed 29 Apr** 6.00pm Reconciliation for Year 3
- Thur 30 May** Yr 5 Light Reflections IncurSION
- Mon 4 May** Yr 1 Toy Science IncurSION
- Tues 5 May** Yr 6 Electrical Buzz IncurSION
- Wed 6 May** 6.30pm Eucharist Parent Night
- Thur 7 May** Yr 4 Eucharist Reflection Day Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
- Fri 8 May** Yr 2 Sound Sensation IncurSION
- Sun 10 May** Mother's Day
- Tues 12 May** Whole School Athletics Day (Moonee Valley Athletics Track)
- Wed 20 May** Foundation Toy Science IncurSION
- Mon 25 May** Yr 4 Forces in Action IncurSION
- Fri 5 June** No school for the children - Report Writing for Staff
- Mon 8 June** King's Birthday Public Holiday
- Fri 12 June** 9.00am Sacred Heart Mass

2026 Professional Development Days for Staff

- Term 2**
- Fri 5 June - Report Writing (Semester 1)
- Term 4**
- Mon 2 November - Report Writing Semester 2
- Friday 27 November - 2027 Planning

- 1:00pm finish days at the end of each term**
- Term 2 - Fri 26 June
- Term 3 - Fri 18 September
- Term 4 - Tues 15 December (last day of the 2026 school year for students).

- Term 2 - Three Way Conversations (First Semester Reports)**
- Wed 24 and Thur 25 June

- SACRAMENT DATES FOR 2026**
- Year 3 Reconciliation
Wednesday 29 April at 6.00pm
- Year 4 Eucharist
Sunday 17 May at 10.30am
- Year 6 Confirmation
Friday 31 July at 7.00pm

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome back!

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school and to feel the excitement and buzz around our community once again. There has been a real sense of joy as students reconnect with their friends and teachers, eagerly sharing stories of their holiday adventures.

It has been especially heart-warming to hear about the simple yet meaningful experiences our students enjoyed, learning how to bake, spending time caring for their pets, visiting the zoo, or relaxing while watching their favourite shows. These moments remind us of the importance of family, rest, and the everyday experiences that help shape who we are.

We look forward to a term filled with learning, growth, and continued connection as we journey together in our Catholic school community.



ANZAC Day

As we approach ANZAC Day tomorrow, we take a moment to reflect on its meaning for our school community. This important day reminds us of the courage, sacrifice, and spirit of service shown by the men and women who have served our country.



At today's whole school assembly, we gathered to remember and honour those who have served, taking time to reflect on values such as courage, mateship, and compassion. These are values we continue to nurture in our students each day, inspired by the example of those who came before us.

We are also proud to share that one of our school families will be representing our community by laying a wreath at the RSL Cenotaph, as a sign of remembrance and respect.

As a Catholic school, we keep in our prayers all those who have served and continue to serve, asking for peace in our world and strength to live with kindness and gratitude. May we all take a moment tomorrow to remember and give thanks.

ANZAC Day 25 April

ANZAC Day commemorates the landing at Gallipoli in 1915 where Australian and New Zealand soldiers bravely fought and died. We continue to remember them and continue to pray for all those men and women who are serving our country in the Navy, Army and Airforce. We thank them and we pray for them and all who seek to bring freedom and peace to our troubled world.



Lord, we give thanks for the peace and security we enjoy in our country. We remember the brave actions of the men and women who died at Gallipoli during World War 1. We also pray for the families who lost loved ones. Lord help us to remember that the sacrifices made on battle have enabled us to enjoy our freedom today. May we, too, be an instrument of your peace. Give us the wisdom to help build a better world. Amen.

Reconciliation

We warmly invite all families to keep our Grade 3 students, along with other students from various year levels, in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation next week on Wednesday 29 April at 6:00pm.

We extend our sincere thanks to Mrs Tania Cuni and the classroom teachers for delivering the program with such care and dedication, working closely with the Parish to ensure all students are well prepared for this important step in their faith journey.

Moments such as these beautifully highlight the importance of the strong partnership between school and Parish in nurturing each child's spiritual growth. Together, we support our students as they deepen their understanding of faith and continue to grow in a caring and faith-filled community.



School Advisory Council:

Thank you to the parents and current PAB members who have submitted an expression of interest to join our newly formed School Advisory Council. This is a reminder that all expressions of interest are due by Monday 27 April.

Fr Peter Damien and I will review all submissions and discern the membership of the council. All applicants will be notified and provided with the date of our first meeting. At this meeting, all positions will be discussed and elected.

Please review the letter further on in this Newsletter outlining the role of the School Advisory Council (SAC) team and submit an application if you are interested in being considered.



Family School and Community Partnerships

Over the past week, there has been a real sense of curiosity and excitement around the school, with many students and families noticing work taking place on the back wall of the school canteen. We've received lots of questions about what's happening, and it's wonderful to see such interest in our shared spaces. We also take this opportunity to recognise the great work and ongoing contribution of Mr Greg Woolford, whose efforts help ensure our students have rich and engaging learning experiences.

We are excited to share that this activity marks the beginning of a special mural project, where a local artist will be working alongside our students to create a vibrant and meaningful artwork that will face Station Place. Deb will be formally introduced to the school community when she arrives on Thursday morning to continue work on the mural, and we look forward to sharing this creative journey together.

Bringing Our Walls to Life

This week saw the beginning of a local artist and students creating a beautiful mural which will face Station Place.

This week we began preparing the surface with a primer sealer and cement to render the wall suitable for painting. Deb Qadri (local artist and project leader) worked with Greg Woolford (Community Partnerships) to start preparing the walls for the mural.



Our Lady's is creating a mural because last year the Grade 6s identified they wanted to send a positive message across the school, highlighting the importance of being welcoming of all cultures and inclusive of all people. Seeing a mural was a great way to represent this, they designed images to reflect these values and successfully applied to Brimbank Council for funding to pay for an artist.

Further to this, the Grade 6s will visit other classes to explain the importance of these values at school and

invite the rest of the school to come on board with the painting.

Some of the images on the mural include our school church, the Sunshine silos, Kororoit Creek, as well as where it runs into the Bay and range of students actions including tree planting / water monitoring and marine science learning by the Bay.

Over the coming weeks we will prepare the surface, Deb will sketch the students' designs onto the wall, and then they will then lend a hand and paint the images with her.

Huge thanks to Miss Pina, Ms Lisa and Dean for supporting this project and helping it come alive.

We are also asking for parents to help paint, so please come forward if you are interested (email to our art teacher Miss Pina on pmcdonald@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au).

Please be aware you will need a current Working With Children Check.

We will endeavour to bring you regular visual images and updates about this project as it progresses and comes together.



Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants: Our Lady's Sunshine

One of the many wonderful initiatives our students have experienced was the opportunity for the 2025 cohort to work with Landcare. This program allowed students to connect with and contribute to their local environment while building meaningful links with the community. We invite you to view the short video showcasing the inspiring work of Mr Greg Woolford, who plays a vital role in bringing the school and community together through this initiative.



Please press on the link to see the footage showcasing the great work.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmy08gtHovs>

Assembly Timetable for Term 2

Friday 24 April	Whole School	Friday 1 May	Yrs F-2
Friday 28 May	Yrs 3-6	Friday 15 May	Whole School
Friday 22 May	Yrs 3-6	Friday 29 May	Yrs F-2
Friday 25 June	Closure Day	Friday 12 June	Yrs F-2
Friday 19 June	Yrs 3-6	Friday 26 June	Whole School 12.30pm



Warm regards,

Caroline Madigan

Mrs Caroline Madigan

Principal

principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au



OUR LADY OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

32 Station Place
Sunshine Victoria 3020

Telephone: (03) 9312 2130

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to warmly invite you to consider becoming a member of the newly established School Advisory Council (SAC) at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Primary School, Sunshine.

As part of ongoing system-wide changes introduced by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS), a new advisory structure has been established in the form of the SAC, guided by updated Terms of Reference. This structure replaces the former Parents Advisory Board (PAB) and provides a refreshed opportunity for parents and carers to engage with the school in a meaningful way.

The School Advisory Council is an important consultative body established in accordance with MACS guidelines. While it does not hold governance responsibility or decision-making authority, it supports the Principal and leadership team, and provides an important connection to the parish.

The SAC works in partnership with the Principal, Parish Priest and school leadership to:

- Support the vision and mission of our Catholic school
- Advise on key strategic and community priorities
- Enhance engagement with families and the wider community

SAC members provide insight, partnership, and advice that contributes to the strategic direction of the school, helps uphold our Catholic identity, and enriches student learning and wellbeing.

As Principal, I will work closely with Fr. Peter-Damien McKinley in discerning and appointing parent representatives to the School Advisory Council. Appointments will follow a transparent process aligned with the MACS School Advisory Council Terms of Reference. This includes inviting expressions of interest from parents and carers, and selecting representatives based on their skills, experience, and commitment to the mission of the school, while also seeking to reflect the diversity of our community.

We are currently seeking expressions of interest for parent representative positions on the School Advisory Council.

If you would like to be considered, please submit an expression of interest to the Principal by **Monday 27 April at 4:00pm**.

Your submission should include:

- Your name and contact details

- A brief statement (150–200 words) outlining your interest and what you believe you can contribute

Please submit your expression of interest via email to principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au.

All relevant documentation relating to the MACS School Advisory Council, including the Terms of Reference and SAC Manual, is available on the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools website: <https://www.macs.vic.edu.au>

We encourage all parents and carers who are passionate about supporting our school community to consider this meaningful opportunity.

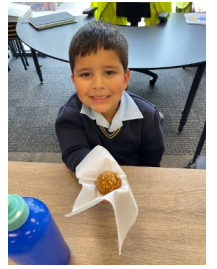
Thank you for your ongoing support of our school.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Madigan', with a decorative flourish underneath.

Caroline Madigan
Principal

Foundation making



SPORTS NEWS



On Friday the 24 April, 29 students represented Our Lady's in the Sunshine District Cross Country. The 10 year old students ran 2km and the 11 and 12 year old students ran 3km. The students were amazing and 13 of them will move on to compete in the Division Cross Country at Brimbank Park on Wednesday the 27th of May. Congratulations and Well Done!

Cross Country Team 2026

Kareem M	Lanchi T	Jeremiah L	Willow T	Edward M	Sienna D
Charlie T	Harriet L	Geronimo M	Rex O	Eilias S	Dylan K
Dylan T	Indiana L	Andreas A	Anabella L	Jayden L	Lily P
Isaiah M	Alyssa D	Simon L	Benjamin B	Joanne H	Oliver S
Sylvee V	Lincoln H	Laura B	Ethan N	Brian L	

Extra well done to the 13 who will now compete in the Division Cross Country:

Edward M	Charlie T	Harriet L	Rex O	Dylan T	Indiana L
Andrea A	Alyssa D	Benjamin B	Joanne H	Oliver S	Sylvee V

Laura B

Miss Jo



Whole School Athletics Day - Tuesday 12 May 2026

Moonee Valley Athletics Track, Corio Street Moonee

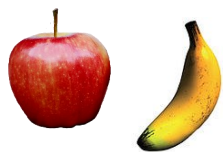
Ponds 9.15am - 2.00pm

ALL WELCOME!!!



REMINDERS

- * ALL children need to be wearing their sport uniform.
- * T-shirts or ribbons in their house colours are allowed (red, blue, green or yellow)
- * No child will be permitted to go home from the Athletics track
- * Children need to bring all food and drink in a bag. No glass or cans are permitted
- * Parents and Helpers need to make their own way to the Athletics Track. There will not be any room on the bus.



Children need:

Several drinks

Snack

Lunch

Coat / Beanie

House Colours

Sports Uniform

Asthma pump
(if Asthmatic)



TERM 2 INTERSCHOOL SPORT

This term, the Year 5 and 6 children have the opportunity to compete against schools in an Inter-School Sports competition in the Sunshine District. Our Lady's School is part of the Sunshine District Primary School Sporting Association and will compete against seven other schools in a weekly league which commences Friday the 1st of May.



Game times 9.30-10.30am

TERM 2 INTERSCHOOL SPORT DRAW

Friday 1 May **AWAY** Game St Paul's v OLPS

Friday 8 May **HOME** Game OLPS v Sunshine Heights

Friday 15 May **HOME** Game OLPS v Harvester

Friday 22 May **AWAY** Game St Theresa's v OLPS

Friday 29 May **BYE**

Friday 5 June **SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY**

Friday 12 June **HOME** Game OLPS v Sunshine North

During Home matches the children participating in basketball, tennis, netball and newcomb play on school grounds while those playing soccer, cricket, football and t-ball catch a bus to play at Parsons Reserve.

TEETH ON WHEELS

We're excited to announce that Teeth On Wheels will be visiting our School on June 17th 2026!

Teeth On Wheels is all about making dental care fun and stress-free while teaching children the importance of oral health. They specialise in working with children, offering services such as check-ups, cleans, and more—right here at the School! The team is specially trained to provide compassionate and tailored care for neurodiverse patients, ensuring a respectful and supportive experience for everyone.

If eligible under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS), your child may even receive **FREE** dental care.

To participate, simply complete the E-form by the **cut-off date June 10th 2026**.

[EFORM LINK](#)

Don't miss this opportunity for your child to receive high-quality, educational dental care. Submit your form today, and the Teeth On Wheels team will be in touch to schedule your child's appointment!



TeethOnWheels
a positive dental experience



Enrolments Now Open YEAR 7 2028

Enrolment applications for current Grade 5 students close on August 14, 2026.

*I want my child to attend the College.
What do I do?*

- 1. Complete an enrolment application form.**
Visit www.cccc.vic.edu.au to access and complete our online application form.
- 2. Submit your completed application form.**
Ensure you provide all required documents with the application. A non-refundable application fee is required at the time of submission. Applications close mid-August each year.
- 3. The College will conduct interviews of all applicants.**
Families will be invited to attend an enrolment interview with a senior staff member of the College.
- 4. Enrolment and waiting list offers will be sent to families.**
Families will be notified of any offer after the interview process.
- 5. Book a College Tour**
If you would like to visit our College, please book a tour by visiting www.cccc.vic.edu.au or call **03 9296 5311**

If you have any questions please contact the College on 03 9296 5311 or email registrar@ccc.vic.edu.au

Principal's Tour



We are excited to invite you to join us for our Principal's Tour here at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College.

The Principal's Tour will allow families to have a first-hand experience on seeing what a student's daily life at our College will involve, visit all our facilities, as well as hear directly from members of our College Executive Team.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions during the information session, helping families become familiar with the College and decide if our College is the right fit for their child.

Below are the two Principal's Tour dates and locations to choose from:

**St John's (Junior Boys') & Sacred Heart
(Senior Co-Ed) Campus Tour**
Wednesday 13th May 2026, 9.00am
204 Churchill Avenue, Braybrook
Please enter via our front office reception

**Christ the King (Junior Girls')
Campus Tour**
Monday 18th May 2026, 9.00am
65 Churchill Avenue, Braybrook
Please enter via our front office reception

Bookings are essential
Register via the QR code
or visit:

[www.cccc.vic.edu.au/
principals-tour](http://www.cccc.vic.edu.au/principals-tour)



For any further questions, please contact our Admissions Team by emailing registrar@ccc.vic.edu.au or calling (03) 9296 5311.



ANZAC DAY

— DAWN SERVICE —

Sunshine RSL

Saturday 25 April

6:45am

Come Together as a Community

Honouring Australian and New Zealand servicemen and women.

Veterans and serving members, families, students and local community are warmly invited.

Sunshine RSL

99 Dickson Street, Sunshine

— *Gunfire Breakfast* —

Sausage sizzle after ceremony

Lest We Forget





Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

JOIN THE CYBER SAFETY PROJECT FOR EXPERT ADVICE

Navigating the Digital Playground

CYBERBULLYING

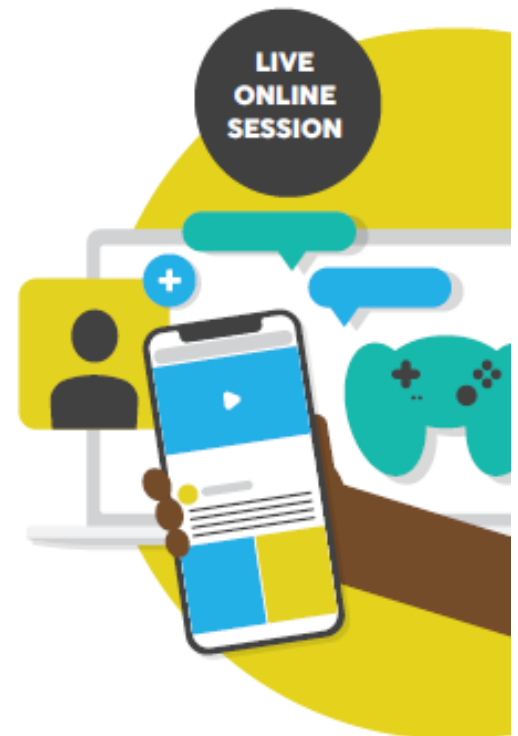
SCREEN TIME

PRIVACY SETTINGS

AI & MISINFORMATION

SOCIAL MEDIA

GAMING



WHY ATTEND?

You Are Your Child's First Line of Defence Online.

In today's connected world, parents play a powerful role in shaping safe and healthy digital habits. This practical session is designed especially for busy parents who want to:

- ✓ **Feel confident** navigating their child's online world
- ✓ **Create a safer, more balanced** digital environment at home
- ✓ **Support digital wellbeing** and encourage responsible tech use
- ✓ **Know what to do** (and where to turn) when things go wrong online

WHEN & WHERE

LIVE ONLINE

Date: Monday 25th May 2026 7-8pm

SCAN TO REGISTER
or visit

[Registration Link](#)



PRESENTED BY

CYBER SAFETY PROJECT

Cyber Safety Project, Australia's premier online safety education provider.

cybersafetyproject.com





TERM 2: 2026

10- 13 YEARS OLD

FRIDAY FORTNIGHTLY DURING SCHOOL TERM
7PM-9PM

OUR LADY'S HALL
LYONS STREET, MAIDSTONE

EDGE NIGHTS FOR TERM 2:

APRIL 24

MAY 8 & 22

JUNE 5 & 19



For more information please email us:
olckedge@gmail.com



**ALL GIRLS
GROUPS
AVAILABLE**

nab AFL Auskick | AFL | nab AFL Superkick

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

**SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO FIND
YOUR NEAREST AUSKICK OR
SUPERKICK CENTRE IN 2026!**





WELCOME BACK TO TERM 2 WITH EXTEND!



**GET READY
FOR TERM 2
WITH EXTEND!**

WELCOME BACK TO ANOTHER EXCITING TERM WITH EXTEND!

This term's theme for our OSHC services is:

LEARN, GROW, BUILD!

We're focusing on learning the small things today so we can do great things tomorrow!

Every skill your child begins to master now is a blueprint for future abilities and interests. Through play and exploration, they'll develop important skills like problem-solving, creativity, teamwork, communication and confidence.

We are excited to begin this new term together, fostering positive relationship and supporting their growth!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN TERM 2:



Pinch Pots: Children use clay to create their own clay pinch pot and character. It teaches children responsibility and patience.



Future Self Portraits: Children visualise their potential, explore hidden interests, and build creative confidence.



The 'Small Wins' Board: Children recognise and celebrate their small victories, focusing on the positive steps they take each day.



**SCAN THE QR CODE OR BOOK ONLINE
AT [EXTEND.COM.AU](https://www.extend.com.au) FOR TERM 2!**



How to Know if Screens Are a Problem

By Dr Justin Coulson

For years, one of the most common questions I've been asked is "How much screen time is too much?"

I've found the guidelines from official sources unhelpful. And I've disagreed with them more often than not. However...

From the people who brought you "an hour or less per day," we now have...new screen guidelines! The *American Academy of Pediatrics* updated its guidance last month, and the biggest change? No more emphasis on "screen time."

Instead, we've got a much more comprehensive - and, admittedly, less straightforward - set of recommendations. The focus has shifted from counting minutes to understanding how screens fit into your child's whole life.

The 5 Cs Framework (For School-Aged Kids)

The AAP now recommends thinking about five key areas:

Child: Your child's unique strengths and challenges are becoming clear. Whether they're great at art, struggle with attention, or are obsessed with science facts, carve out time to build on these interests beyond screens. If your child is neurodivergent they are more likely to be screen-obsessed. Be mindful of this in the way that your kids have access to and use of screens.

Content: Many kids love video games and YouTube at this age but can easily access inappropriate content (violent, sexual, or rude). Use *Common Sense Media* to check reviews, set up parental controls (they're not perfect but help), and watch shows or play games together to see if you like the messages.

Calm: Many kids want a mental break after school - that's fine. Just ensure it doesn't crowd out homework, family meals, or other activities. Put devices away at bedtime and teach techniques like deep breathing or quiet music to help them wind down.

Crowding Out: Video games and YouTube are designed for extended use - hours at a time. Talk about balancing screen time so there's enough time to sleep, read, play sports, do homework, and chat with family and friends in analogue mode (face to face). Model putting your own phone down at meals, bedtime, and in the car.

Communication: This is prime time for conversations about advertising, privacy, right vs. wrong. Regular open-minded talks build critical thinking and become the "voice in their head". Let them know they can tell you about anything creepy or negative they see online.

What About You?

The new guidelines recognise that parents need support too. Screen use isn't just a kid problem—it's a family one.

Think about how you'd score on this quick check (0=Never, 4=Very Often):

How often do you stay on a screen even though you say you'll stop?

How often does screen time cost you sleep?

How often do you neglect things you should be doing because you prefer screens?

How often do you feel restless or irritated when you can't be on screens?

If you're scoring high, you're not alone. The AAP now calls on tech companies to create safety features as default settings and policymakers to invest in real-world spaces - because healthy media use isn't solely parents' responsibility.

The Bottom Line

Screens and parenting are inseparably intertwined. Kids want to game, chat, consume, and be on their screens endlessly (and honestly, so do we as their parents).

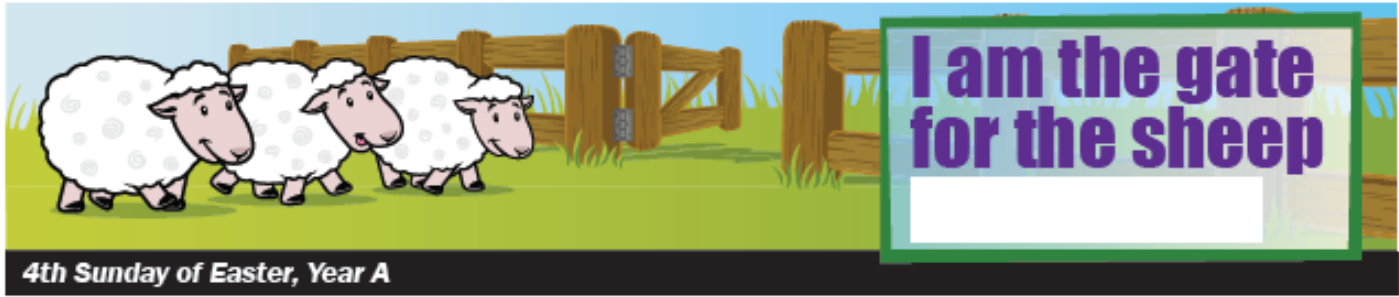
But the stakes are high. Getting screen usage right matters enormously.

Consider your child. Consider the context. Consider the content. But also consider whether they're creating, connecting, or just consuming.

These guidelines are messier than "one hour a day," but they're more honest. Creating a healthy digital life for your family is about balance, not a timer. Start with one C that resonates most, and build from there.



Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters and grandfather to 1 granddaughter. Justin travels all around the country, speaking at schools to students, educators and parents about wellbeing and relationships. He is also the parenting expert and co-host of Channel Nine's Parental Guidance, and he and his wife host Australia's #1 podcast for parents and family: The Happy Families Podcast. Justin has written 10 books about families and parenting - with the latest about raising boys out this year! For further details visit happyfamilies.com.au.



4th Sunday of Easter, Year A

Gospel

Jn 10:1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice.

They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:

he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

Jesus is our good shepherd and we know that we must follow him. What are some of the things our shepherd has told us to do?



A thief has stolen some letters from the passage of text below. Use these letters to discover something that Jesus said to his disciples.



"I _ _ T _ _ GAT _

FOR T _ _ _ _ _ P.

_ LL W _ O CO _ _ IN T _ ROUG _ _

WILL B _ _ _ V _ D."