

'What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.' John 2:1-11

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sun 8 Dec Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Mon 9 Dec 9.00am Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass
Mon 9 Dec 12.00-1.30pm 2025 Yrs 1-6 Orientation
Mon 9 Dec 6.00-7.30pm Dinner in the Yard / Art Show / Carols
Fri 13 Dec Sport Assembly 2.15pm. Christmas Casual day
Tues 17 Dec 9.00am End of Year Mass
Tues 17 Dec Students finish for 2024 at 1.00pm

START OF 2025

Tues 28 Jan Staff Return
Wed 29 Jan Getting To Know You & Your Child Day 1 Yrs 1-6, Foundation at school 8.35-1.00
Thurs 30 Jan Getting To Know You & Your Child Day 2 Yrs 1-6, Foundation at school 8.35-1.00
Fri 31 Jan Classes start for all (F-6)

2025 Professional Development Days for staff

Term 1
Tues 11th March - Religious Education Focus
Term 2
Mon 19th May 2025 - PD Review
Tues 20th May - PD Review
Term 3
Wed 13th August - Religious Education Focus
Term 4
Mon the 3rd of November

1:00pm finish days at the end of each term
Term 1 - Fri 4th April
Term 2 - Fri 4th July
Term 3 - Fri 19th September
Term 4 - Tues 16th December (last day of the 2025 school year for students).

Term 2 - Three Way Conversations (First Semester Reports)
Thursday 3rd July 10:00am - 6:00pm
Friday 4th July 8:00am - 12:40pm

Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday we celebrate the second week of Advent. Advent is a time of hopeful anticipation for the birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour. During the second week of Advent we light the candle of PEACE. I ask you all to say a prayer for peace in our hearts, families, school and in the world.

On Monday we will be celebrating our School's Feast Day as it is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception this Sunday the 8th of December. The whole school will go to Mass at 9.00am on Monday the 9th of December. We invite all parents to come and join us. All students will receive a free tube in celebration of this day.

Today you will have received a Seesaw message from Mr. Buttigieg with instructions on how to access the Semester Two reports which are now on the parent portal. We have also attached the instructions to this newsletter. The reports are a summary of your child's achievements throughout Semester Two. Please praise your child for their academic achievement, their effort and their behaviour.

On Wednesday we celebrated the Year 6 Graduation with a beautiful Mass. It was heart warming to see so many parents and extended family members join in with the staff and students to celebrate this very special time in the Year 6 students' lives. It was a very joyful occasion and after the Mass the students enjoyed the DJ's music and danced the night away. It was great to see so many parents relaxing in our hall and catching up with each other.

This year's Grade 6 students began their education at Our Lady's in 2018 and will finish their primary school education this year. We thank all our Year 6 students for their exemplary leadership and for being such positive role models to the younger students, particular for the care they have shown towards their Foundation buddies. We wish them every success as they begin a new chapter in their education and enter their secondary schooling.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING YEAR SIX STUDENTS



Graduation

Loving God, you have walked with us throughout this school year. We thank you for your continuing presence and help.

Now, as we come to graduation, when we celebrate all that we have learned, and as we prepare to leave this school community, we ask again that you be with us on this journey.

Bless our teachers and parents. Bless us with courage as we face the challenges of a new school and year. Keep us always close to you. Amen



Look who came to visit us....

Yesterday Tarzan and Ruby, Victorian Police horses were walking past our school. The officers decided to stop and chat to the Year 1 students who were out there on the playground with their teacher Mrs Mitchell at the time. The students asked the officers lots and lots of questions about the police horses. It was a very exciting and unexpected visit.



CANTEEN NEWS

Canteen will be open as normal next week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

On Tuesday the 17th (last day of school for the students) the canteen will *not be open for lunch orders* but it will be open for snacks, tubes and ice-creams.

Please make sure you promptly pay the canteen any outstanding money that you owe by next Thursday.

Also remember that your child WILL need lunch on Tuesday 17th December (last day of school).

Thank you to those families who have settled their accounts for 2024. If you have not done so, could you please ensure that all accounts are paid as soon as possible. Please see me if you have any concerns about settling your account. I will be sending out information about the 2025 fees next week

Warm regards,

Patrizia Bertani

Ms Patrizia Bertani
Principal

principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au



Swimming (weeks 7&8) and until the end of the year

FI: Khang N, Louis N, Grace Da, Hemansh B

FJ: Ni Tha Pa L, Tyson N, Freddie L, Lucy K

1K: Katarina B

1L: Esha P, Ryan B, Mia B, Alex H, Ivy R, Louis V

2M: Elias S, Louisa D

2N: Alexander H, Rose F

3E: Sophie N, Francis T, Pearlyn K, Anabella L, Yodahe G

3F: Jayden Y, Mia N, Zade S, Serah G, Scarlett M

4G: Mika P,

4H: Bonnie M, Simon L, Joanne H, Lincoln H, Madelene R, Owen T

5C: Anthony B, Kennedy H

5D: Stephanie D, Nikunsh N, Lara M, An L

6A: James N, Ryan V, Chan Chan C

6B: Holly B, Tracey L, Bailey H, Lilian H

Staff: Miss Michala, Ms Mary-Anne



Professional Development Days for staff - No school for the children

Term 1

Tuesday 11th March 2025 - Religious Education Focus

Term 2

Monday 19th May 2025 - PD Review

Tuesday 20th May 2025 - PD Review

Term 3

Wednesday 13th August 2025 - Religious Education Focus

Time in Lieu Days

These are days which are designated to teachers to compensate for all the out of normal school hours events that teachers attend. These include but are not limited to such events as the Sacraments, Dinner in the Yard, Camps and Parent Information evenings.

1:00pm finish days at the end of each term

Term 1 - Friday 4th April 2025

Term 2 - Friday 4th July 2025

Term 3 - Friday 19th September 2025

Term 4 - Tuesday 16th December 2025 (last day of the 2025 school year for students)

Staff last day will be on the 17th of December. The 18th and 19th of December are designated Time In Lieu days.

Professional Planning Day (PPT)

One day a year is allocated by the award for teachers to attend to planning, assessment, report writing and other aspects that are part of their teaching role. The day allocated is **Monday the 3rd of November**. Students will not be required to attend school.

Days where the school will be open by appointment

Term 1 - Getting to Know You Days

Wednesday 29th January 2025

Thursday 30th January 2025

Term 2 - Three Way Conversations (First Semester Reports)

Thursday 3rd July 2025 10:00am - 6:00pm

Friday 4th July 2025 8:00am - 12:40pm

SEMESTER 2 2024 REPORTS



Instructions for accessing your child's report for Semester 2 2024

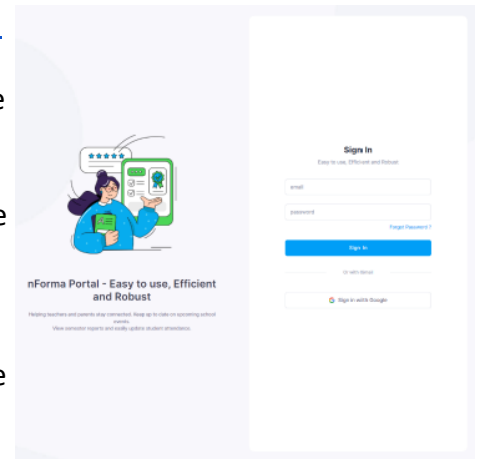
To log into the nPortal use this link: <https://portal.nforma.com.au/login>

You will need to log in with the email address that is registered with the school.

To set up your password for the first time, you will need to click on the "Forgot Password" link.

From there, enter the email address registered to the school.

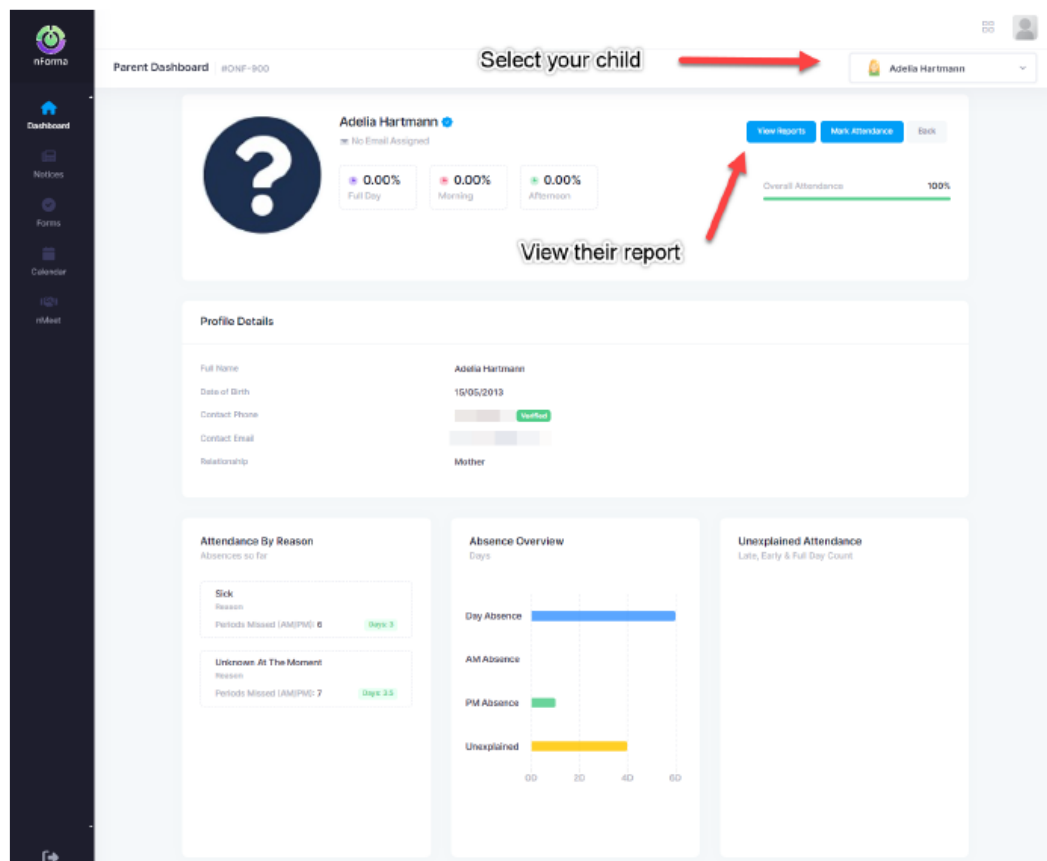
Once done, you should receive an email with a password reset. Once you have updated your password, you can then login.



It is highly recommended that you use a computer to access your child's reports for the first time. Subsequent logins can be made on a mobile device if preferred.

Once you have followed the instructions, you will be able to view your child's report online. Please save your downloaded report so you can view it later. Secondary schools may need a copy so save it somewhere safe!

If you have any questions or issues, please contact Mr John Buttigieg our DDT Leader on his email jbuttigieg@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au





Casual Clothing Day !

Wellbeing Day



Casual clothes day with Christmas themed clothes so we can have a little relaxing fun before our school year ends.



On Friday 13th December, the Wellbeing Committee will be hosting a fun event for us all to enjoy. On this day you can wear casual clothing with a splash of Christmas themed clothes or just Christmas colours. Classes will also get a selection of Christmas themed mandalas to colour in while relaxing meditation will be playing before Break 2.



We are not collecting a donation. We look forward to seeing everyone with splash of Christmas themed clothes or just Christmas colours.

Don't forget to wear Christmas clothes. We can't wait!!

We'll see you then!



By : The Wellbeing Committee: Adele, Lily, Matilda, Kayla, Anna and Mrs Carabott

SPORT ASSEMBLY

The sports assembly was supposed to be this afternoon, Friday the 6th of December but due to the weather and the Art Show set up in the hall it has been rescheduled to **Friday the 13th of December**. If weather is good then it will be on the green grass but if it is too hot or raining it will be in the hall.

So just to confirm the new date for the sports assembly is Friday the 13th of December at 2:15pm - everyone is welcome to join us!



YEAR SIX LEADERSHIP BADGES

"The greatest among you will be your servant." Matthew 23: 11
"For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve others" Matthew 20:28

The Year Six Student Leadership Badge is awarded to students who show leadership based on the Servant Leadership Model as lived by Jesus, serving others before self. This model has been lived out by the saints, including Mary MacKillop who said, "Never see a need without doing something about it."

The Leadership Badge is awarded for consistent, sustained and purposeful leadership within the classroom, on the playground and in all school activities such as interschool sport.

*Congratulations to:
Sienna C 6B*



Children's Christmas Eve Pageant 2024

Primary school age children are warmly invited to participate in our annual Children and Families Christmas Mass, to be held at 6.00pm Christmas Eve at Our Lady's Church. Children of the parish will perform a short Nativity liturgy before Mass begins.

Dates of Rehearsals will be advised soon.

Please email your name and contact details to the or parish office before December 16 with your children's names and ages if they would like to participate (sunshine@cam.org.au)

For more details contact Jacinta on 0408 314 428.



Tuning in to Teens

A free program for parents and carers of young people aged 10 to 18 years old.

Would you like to:

- Understand your teen?
- Communicate effectively with your teen?
- Help your teen manage their emotions?
- Prevent behaviour challenges in your teen?
- Support your teen to manage conflict effectively?

Our seven-week Tuning in to Teens program teaches parents how to help their teen develop emotional intelligence.

Teenagers with higher emotional intelligence:

- have more stable and satisfying relationships
- are better at managing peer pressure
- have fewer mental health and substance abuse difficulties
- have greater success making friends
- are more able to manage conflict
- have greater career success.

"It has made me a calmer parent and my child is calmer and we feel closer to each other. She is also better able to manage her behaviour."

Register your interest

 Wednesdays 6 - 8pm,
19 February - 2 April 2025


 Online via Zoom

Free
of charge

For more information:

 www.brimbankyouth.com

 9249 4000

 youthsupport2@brimbank.vic.gov.au



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PREPARATIONS FOR 2025

As we are beginning our preparations for 2025 we ask that parents let us know as soon as possible if their child/ren are not returning to Our Lady's next year. We have had many inquiries about places for 2025 and we need to let these parents know if there are places for their children. We currently have a waiting list for Prep and we have had several enrolment enquiries coming in for the other year levels.

If your child is not returning in 2025 (NOT OUR CURRENT YR 6 STUDENTS) please complete the form below and return it to the office. It is vital that you return this form as soon as possible. *Thank you.*

Children NOT returning to Our Lady's School in 2025

Family Name: _____

Child/children's names

1. _____ 2024 Grade: _____

2. _____ 2024 Grade: _____

3. _____ 2024 Grade: _____

Name of our new school: _____

And / Or

Our new address: _____

Signed: _____ **(Parent)**

Please return this form to the office as soon as possible



Grades do not define our worth

I remember the first time I felt like my pre-schooler was falling behind. I had just met another 3-year-old who could read. Actually read, not just remembering the words to a favourite story like my pre-schooler did. In fact, my kid was only just mastering the alphabet song! Should I have been spending more time with phonics flashcards? Maybe we needed to start doing worksheets? Was I doing something wrong?

Yes!

But I didn't need to pull out the flashcards. What I was doing wrong was focusing on observable outcomes. We want to see growth in the way our kids can count and read because those are the things we can easily measure. But the real work of pre-school and even primary school is much more important than A B C and 1 2 3. It's the work of teaching our kids social skills, the not easily measured attributes of being able to wait for a turn, process uncomfortable feelings, and problem solve.

Obviously, we do want our children to learn their A B Cs and 1 2 3s too. But we don't need to rely on tests and homework to measure their learning. We should be able to see it in the way they talk about the problem at hand, the way they apply knowledge to new situations, and in the way they creatively build on what they know.

We also don't need to compare them to their peers to see how they measure up. Childhood is a period of rapid growth and learning. But learning isn't linear, and it isn't consistent across every child. One child may be thriving academically – able to spell words even adults struggle with like 'definitely' and 'facetious'... but they can't do the monkey bars yet. Another child may be a competitive gymnast... but hasn't learnt all their times tables yet. And yet another child may be a maths whizz...but still needs to work on making eye contact with people while they're talking.

But just as we need to remember not to compare our kid to their peers, we also need to teach our kids not to compare themselves to their peers. This is important for students who are struggling, but just as important for those who seem to be at the top of the class. Here's how you can teach them, by teaching yourself first:

Step 1. Remind yourself that grades aren't everything

You probably grew up believing that your life prospects depended on the outcome of each test and exam you did. But look around you. Can you pick the ATAR score of your co-worker? Which of the parents in the school pick-up line was the best speller in grade 1? Which of the people at your church or gym or pottery class failed their Geography exam in high school? Can't tell? Of course not! Our grades are part of our story. But they do NOT define our story.

Step 2. Remind yourself that grades are much less important than social skills

We can teach a computer to do just about anything these days... except have feelings. In an increasingly digitised and technological world, if you want your child to have skills that truly set them apart, focus on helping them grow their emotional IQ. Empathy, creative thinking, grit...these are all things that are much more important than being able to spell flawlessly.

Step 3. Remind yourself that “comparison is the thief of joy”

Every child is on their own learning journey. Some kids may seem to be in the fast lane. Others may seem to be in the slow lane. But instead of comparing your child to another, compare them to where they were a year ago. Reflect on what they have learnt to do. Think about what they could work on further.

Step 4. Cultivate a growth mindset

If your child comes to you saying “I can’t do fractions”... or “I’m no good at colouring in the lines”... or “I don’t understand phonics”... just add the word “yet”.

“I can’t do fractions...yet” reminds them that while they can’t do it now, they can learn them one day.

“I’m no good at colouring in the lines...yet” encourages them that with practice, they can get better.

“I don’t understand phonics... yet” reassures them that they might understand it tomorrow.

Being able to accomplish great things doesn’t depend on high test scores. It doesn’t depend on being better than others. It just depends on an inner conviction that greatness can be accomplished. Believe in your child.



AUTHOR

Rebekah Delahoy

Beck Delahoy is a homeschooling mum of 3 and microadventure enthusiast who somehow finds time to read and write about parenting. Find her on Instagram @beckdelahoy or beckdelahoy.substack.com

Make a straight path for the Lord



2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C

There have been many people who came before Jesus to prepare the way for his arrival.



ABRAHAM was called by God from his home in the east to a new land called Canaan. God promised that this land would belong to the family of Abraham forever. Abraham is often represented with a symbol of a tent. Draw a picture of Abraham's tent.



DAVID was a young shepherd who was chosen by God to be the new King of Israel. The prophet Jeremiah told how one day a great ruler from the family of David would come into the world. As we know, that great ruler is Jesus. Draw a picture of King David's Crown.



MARY: Write down the things you know about the mother of Jesus



JOHN THE BAPTIST: Write down the things you know about John the Baptist

Gospel

Lk 3:1a, 2-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness;
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley will be filled in,
every mountain and hill be
laid low,
winding ways will be
straightened
and rough roads made smooth.
And all mankind shall see the
salvation of God.

There are special people in your life who are helping you prepare the way for Jesus. Draw a picture of 2 of these people helping you. Write their names and how they are helping.

_____ is helping me _____

_____ is helping me _____
