Thursday, October 22nd 2026 | Volume 17

MacKillop News

St. Joseph's Primary School, Numurkah

Middles Camp - Pg 6 & 7

Principal's Message

Ruth Hartnett-Carr

What a wonderful buzz there has been around Numurkah this week! Following on from the excitement of Show Us Your Wheels, the Numurkah Show has once again brought our community together. Events like these are such an important part of country life and it is wonderful to see families, schools, businesses and community groups supporting one another.

Congratulations to all of our students who entered exhibits in the Numurkah Show. Whether it was something grown, created, cooked or made, we are very proud of you for having a go and being part of this special community tradition.

I also wanted to share an important update regarding our school canteen. Unfortunately, in the current economic climate, we are unable to sustainably continue operating our canteen in 2027. We know that the canteen is valued by many families, and this decision has not been made lightly.

I am currently exploring alternative arrangements that may allow us to provide families with an affordable and practical lunch-order option in 2027. I will share further information with families once these arrangements have been finalised.

In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we are reminded that strong communities are built when we look out for one another and respond thoughtfully to changing circumstances. Thank you, as always, for the way our St Joseph's community supports both our school and the wider Numurkah community.

"Be a gift of love and compassion for one another"

St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Ruth Hartnett-Carr

St. Joseph's Primary School
16 Tocumwal Rd, Numurkah, Victoria, 3636
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Email: admin@sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au | Website: www.sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au

Office News

If any family would like to commence having their fees directly debited fortnightly or monthly this can be done at any time!

Next Fortnightly Debits: 23rd October & 6th November
Monthly Debits: 18th of each month.

If you have unexpected circumstances for the fortnight or month and need to stop a Direct Debit please note they are processed two days before the due date and so you will need to contact us prior to that to put a stop on them.

If you are paying your fees in full, yearly fees are now due.

EFTPOS and CENTREPAY are now a payment option. Please enquire at the office.

If you have any queries or concerns about your payment commitments, please do not hesitate to come in and speak to Ruth. If you are wanting to amend your payment options please do so ASAP.

The Term Planner can be viewed from the school website under news & events \ newsletters
If you have any queries, please call the office on 5862 1804

Dates to Remember

Monday October 26: School Advisory Council 6:00pm
Friday October 30: Day for Daniel Walk2School
Monday November 2: Pupil Free Day - Report Writing
Tuesday November 3: Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday
Monday November 9: Seniors Camp begins
Tuesday November 10: SMOTA Yr 7 Information Night @ Nathalia
Wednesday November 11: Seniors Camp returns
Wednesday November 11: Remembrance Day
Thursday November 12: Grade 2 Sleepover
Friday November 13: Junior Activities Day

Triple A Social Skills

Saint Mary MacKillop said,

"Never See a Need Without Doing Something About It!"

At St Joseph's, we Need to:

Have a positive **Attitude**, *be* **Aware** *in all situations and take* **Action**, *especially when it matters*

Our next fortnight's Triple A Social Skill is:

Tolerance

Our focus within the three areas are as follows

Attitude: *Accept and appreciate other people*
Awareness: *That we are all different*
Action: *Treat others as I would like to be treated*

Weeks **3** & 4

Foundation School News

It is hard to believe that we are already in Term 4! The year has flown by, which is a true reflection of how much we have enjoyed learning together. It has been wonderful to watch our students grow in confidence, skills, and independence as they continue to learn and thrive each day.

Literacy

In Reading, we are seeing fantastic growth across the class and it is exciting to look back and recognise how far our students have come since the beginning of the year. As we move through Term 4, we encourage families to continue reading at home on a regular basis and to practise their child's tricky words each night. Consistent reading and tricky word practice help strengthen students' confidence, fluency, and comprehension skills, supporting a smooth transition into Grade 1, which is now just around the corner.

In Writing, our students are beginning to see the importance of sentence structure and the use of oral language before starting our writing. The children are working hard to compose sentences and add information to our sentences to make them more interesting and exciting.

Numeracy

Prep students have completed the topic on 'Sharing and Grouping' and now begin to look at 'Data.' This is a fun topic where we can ask yes/no questions and look at mapping our data.

Religion

In Religion, students have been exploring the unit 'We Are Special'. Through stories, discussions, and classroom activities, they have been learning that every person is unique, valued, and loved by God. Students have enjoyed celebrating their own special qualities and recognising the gifts and strengths of others.

Humanities

In Humanities, students have been learning about 'Country and Place', exploring the special connections people have with places in their local community. They have enjoyed sharing places that are important to them, learning how to care for the environment, and developing an understanding of why different places hold meaning for different people. Students have also been learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' connections to Country, recognising that Country is more than just a place. It includes the land, waters, skies, plants, animals, and the cultural and spiritual connections that have been maintained for thousands of years. Through these learning experiences, students are building respect for the diverse ways people value and care for places.

Transition

In week 5, the prep children will begin to spend some time in the Junior classes. They will spend time in both junior classes over a 3-week period. During this time, Preps will work with the teachers and students to become familiar with the classroom and routines.

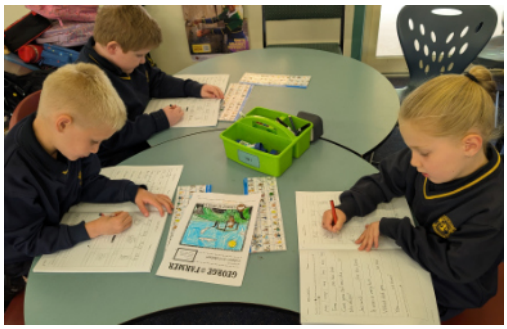
InitiaLit Character Dress up day

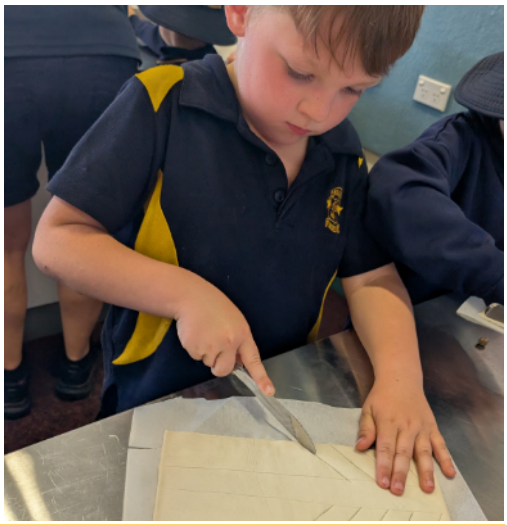
We also have our dress-up day next Friday for IntiaLit where students can come dressed as their favourite character they have learned so far. We will send a reminder about that with further details.

As always, please feel free to contact us at school or via email.

The Prep Team

Numurkah Agricultural Show





Junior School News

Welcome to Term 4! We hope everyone has settled back into the school routine and enjoyed a positive start to the term. We look forward to the weeks ahead, filled with engaging learning experiences, special events and opportunities for students to continue building their confidence, independence and skills as we work towards the end of the year.

Literacy
Reading at home every day and regularly practising tricky words are two of the most important ways you can support your child's learning. These simple daily habits help build confidence, improve fluency, strengthen word recognition and foster a love of reading.
Students are encouraged to read each day and practise their tricky words regularly. Tricky words can be found in the back of student diaries. Just 10–15 minutes of daily reading and word practice can make a significant difference to your child's progress. Thank you for your ongoing support at home.

Numeracy
Grade 1: Students are learning about location and data through a range of fun, hands-on activities. They will collect, sort and represent data, while also exploring positional language and directions.
Grade 2: Students are learning about fractions and data. They will investigate halves, quarters and equal parts, as well as collect, organise and interpret data in meaningful ways.

Religion
Our current unit is 'The Good News'. Students will explore stories from the Bible that share the messages and teachings of Jesus. They will learn about the four Gospels, listen to and read Gospel stories, and reflect on the important messages they contain.

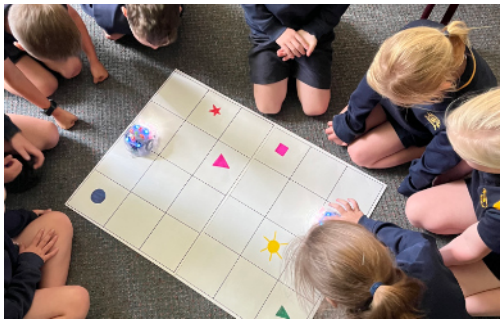
Science
Students are investigating 'Light and Sound', exploring how light helps us see and how sounds are made and heard through a variety of engaging experiments and activities.

RRRR
This term's focus is 'Positive Gender Relations'. Students will explore respectful relationships, inclusion, fairness and the importance of treating others with kindness and respect.

Upcoming Events
- Junior M & H Assembly (Week 6)
- Junior C & W Assembly (Week 7)

We are looking forward to the Grade 2 Sleepover and Junior School Activity Day on Thursday and Friday of Week 6. A note with further information has been sent home and permission must be completed on PAM. If you have any questions, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another wonderful week of learning!
The Junior Team



Middle School News

As we begin our final term of the year, it is fitting that this edition focuses on what was undoubtedly one of the highlights of 2026: Middle School Camp at Harrietville.

Last Wednesday, our students headed off to Harrietville, and their behaviour from the moment we boarded the bus until we returned to school was outstanding. They represented our school with pride and should be commended for the respect, resilience and responsibility they displayed throughout the entire camp experience.

The camp was filled with laughter, friendship, risk-taking and students stepping outside their comfort zones. It was wonderful to see every student challenge themselves, try new experiences and embrace the many opportunities camp provided. These moments help build confidence, independence and create lasting memories.

Some of the many highlights included the fantastic activities, the delicious meals we shared together and, of course, witnessing Mr Stirton, Mr Pruden and Mr Tyndall take on the challenge of consuming two whole schnitzels each at dinner one evening. It was a remarkable display of determination and appetite that left students and staff equally impressed!

Another camp favourite was Mr Pruden's "The Ritz and The Pits" awards. Named after the famous Ritz Hotel, "The Ritz" recognised the cleanest and most organised cabin, while "The Pits" was awarded to the cabin that perhaps needed a little more attention in the housekeeping department. This friendly competition quickly became a hot topic around camp and provided plenty of laughs.

A sincere thank you to our parents and carers for your support and trust throughout the camp experience. We would also like to thank our dedicated teachers and LSOs who generously gave their time, energy and care to ensure every student had a safe, enjoyable and memorable camp. Your commitment to our students is greatly appreciated.

As we look ahead, we are excited for another busy and rewarding term. Middle South will host our school assembly in Week 4, while Middle North will take on this responsibility in Week 8. Families can also look forward to our Twilight Sports in Week 7. We will conclude the year with a whole-school celebration day in Week 11, when students will have the opportunity to celebrate a fantastic year of learning, growth and achievement together.

As the weather begins to warm up, a reminder that students are expected to wear their full summer uniform, including a school hat each day. For safety reasons, hats must be worn whenever students are outside.

Sports Uniform Reminder

- Middle North students may wear their sports uniform from Weeks 1-6 on their designated PE day.
- Middle South students may wear their sports uniform from Weeks 7-11 on their designated PE day.

At all other times, students should be wearing their full summer uniform.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher.

The Middle Team

Senior School News

We have a busy term ahead, with many exciting experiences to finish off a wonderful year of living and learning in the Senior Learning Community. Please note the following dates:

- **Monday 2 November:** Report writing day
- **Tuesday 3 November:** Melbourne Cup public holiday
- **Monday 9 – Wednesday 11 November:** Camp
- **Tuesday 10 November:** SMOTA Year 7 Information Evening
- **Thursday 12 November:** Camp rest day (students are encouraged to stay home to rest and recover after an exciting camp experience)
- **Wednesday 18 November:** Twilight Sports
- **Wednesday 25 November:** SMOTA Year 7 Information Evening
- **Tuesday 8 December:** Orientation Day
- **Monday 14 December:** Year 6 Graduation Evening
- **Tuesday 15 December:** Students Last Day

Religion

This term in Religious Education, we are exploring the unit 'Discovering Our Christian Heritage'. Students are learning about the promises, called covenants, that God made with Abraham, Noah and Moses in the Old Testament, and how these lead to Jesus and the Eucharist we share at Mass. Judaism, Christianity and Islam all trace their roots to Abraham, so students are also learning how Jewish, Christian and Muslim people pray and celebrate, including Passover, Lent and Ramadan. Through tasks such as designing an inclusive school lunch menu and writing a letter about respecting the faith practices of others, students are growing in understanding and respect for all in our school community.

Literacy

This term, students have been reading "Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow" by Jessica Townsend. The novel follows Morrigan Crow, a girl blamed for every misfortune in her town and believed to be cursed. She is rescued by the mysterious Jupiter North and taken to the magical city of Nevermoor, where she must compete in a series of challenging trials to earn a place in the prestigious Wundrous Society. Students have also been developing their narrative writing, using our shared text as inspiration.

Numeracy

Over the past two weeks, students have been exploring data and representing information through a variety of graphs. We will soon move on to our new focus of fractions, decimals and percentages.

Science

Our Science unit this term is 'Weather and Climate'. Students are learning about the Earth's atmosphere and surface, and the difference between weather and climate. They are exploring how extreme weather events can affect the Earth, the technologies used to collect weather data, such as thermometers, rain gauges and anemometers, and how both natural events and human activities can affect the climate.

Kind regards,
The Senior Team

St Joseph's Athletics Carnival

Senior & Middle – Friday 11th September.

On Friday 11th September, our School Carnival was run and won. In glorious sunny conditions, the Oval was in pristine condition as our middle and senior students competed with fantastic camaraderie and enthusiasm across 9 different events. All runs, throws and jumps were recorded and awarded points to determine our Champion House for 2026. In an exciting finish, McCarthy stormed home for the relay win and overall, Champion honours.

The final House results were:

McCarthy	Cremin	Rohan	O'Connor

Our day was supported by S.M.O.T.A who sent fifteen Year 9 students to provide great assistance to the staff and competitors. Their help enabled the day to flow smoothly. As always, it's a wonderful tradition to see our ex-students come back and help out in such a meaningful way.

The following students were selected to represent the School at the Division Championships in Shepparton on Monday 12th October:

Boys

Darcy Trimby	Lewis Robertson	Logan Burkitt	Flynn Keane
Elijah Watson	Asten Wilson	Ben Hubbard	Oliver Tilley
Billy Hicks	Jack Robertson	Henry Bau	Hunter Johnstone
Louie O'Callaghan			

Girls

Harlow Bale	Willow Kelly	Dylan McPherson	April Caccianiga
Lainey Alexander	Avarni Peterson	Zara Trimby	Zarli Burkitt
Lily Frederickson	Myah Shelton	Maisie Hill	

Walk to School
Friday 30th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Friday 30th October, we will run our "Walk to School" in conjunction with Daniel Morcombe's "Keeping Kids Safe" Program. The students are asked to wear something red and bring a gold coin in support of the Morcombe Foundation.

The meeting points for the walk are:

1. Peter Hill Power – corner of Saxton St and the GV Highway – start walking at 8.25am
2. The Skate Park – start walking at 8.25am
3. The Corner of Wattle Drive and Brooke Court – this group will start walking at 8.15am

On arrival at school, breakfast will be provided for the students in the Mackillop Centre.

During the day, the students will work with their teachers using the Daniel Morcombe Program which has a variety of resources targeted at different age levels.

Please see the website https://danielmorcombe.com.au/ as a resource for a discussion starter with your family.

Division Athletics

On Monday 12th October, we took a team of 24 Middle and Senior students to Shepparton to compete against surrounding schools.

Our students represented St. Joseph's with passion and maturity. Competitors were only permitted to compete in two individual events and a relay.

Amongst many great performances, the following students were successful in gaining selection for the Zone Championships in Albury on Friday 16th October:

- Asten Wilson – 9/10 Boys – Shot Put 2nd & Discus 1st.
- Avarni Peterson – 11 Girls – Discus 1st
- Jack Robertson – 12 Boys – 200m 1st & Long Jump 1st.
- 9/10 Boys Relay – 2nd place. (Lewis Robertson, Darcy Trimby, Logan Burkitt, Flynn Keane)

Numurkah Show

The Annual Numurkah Show was held on Wednesday 21st October. Well done to all of our students who entered artwork into the colouring competition. They all look great!

Moira Shire Notices

Australia Day Awards 2027

Nominations are now open to celebrate the outstanding people and groups who make our Moira Shire community exceptional.

Help us recognise the everyday heroes making a difference in our community by nominating people and groups in these categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Junior Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year
- Community Organisation of the Year
- Arts, Culture and/or Environment Project of the Year

Nominations close on Friday 20 November. For more information and to nominate, go to:

https://www.moira.vic.gov.au/Community/Awards/Australia-Day-Awards

Winners will be announced at town and district Australia Day events in 2027.

Are you the next All Abilities superstar?

Moira Shire Council invites performers of all abilities to submit an Expression of Interest for the 2026 All Abilities Talent Show.

Whether you sing, dance, play an instrument, perform comedy, or showcase magic, we want to hear from you.

Now in its fourth year, the show continues to celebrate the remarkable talent within our community – and we're looking for our next group of extraordinary performers to take the stage.

Visit the Moira Matters website to submit your Expression of Interest, which closes on Friday 23 October.

Free general public tickets to the All Abilities Talent Show will be available from Thursday 5 November. It will be held on Friday 4 December at Cobram Civic Centre from 9.30am to 12pm.

New compostable green bags being delivered

Your annual supply of green compostable bags is on the way! Bags are being delivered to Moira Shire properties throughout October.

Need bags sooner? You can pick them up from:

- Cobram Service Centre
- Yarrawonga Town Hall Service Centre
- Numurkah Learning Centre
- Barmah Heritage and Education Centre, Nathalia

Not sure what goes in your green-lid organics bin? Download the Moira Waste Info App or visit the Moira website.

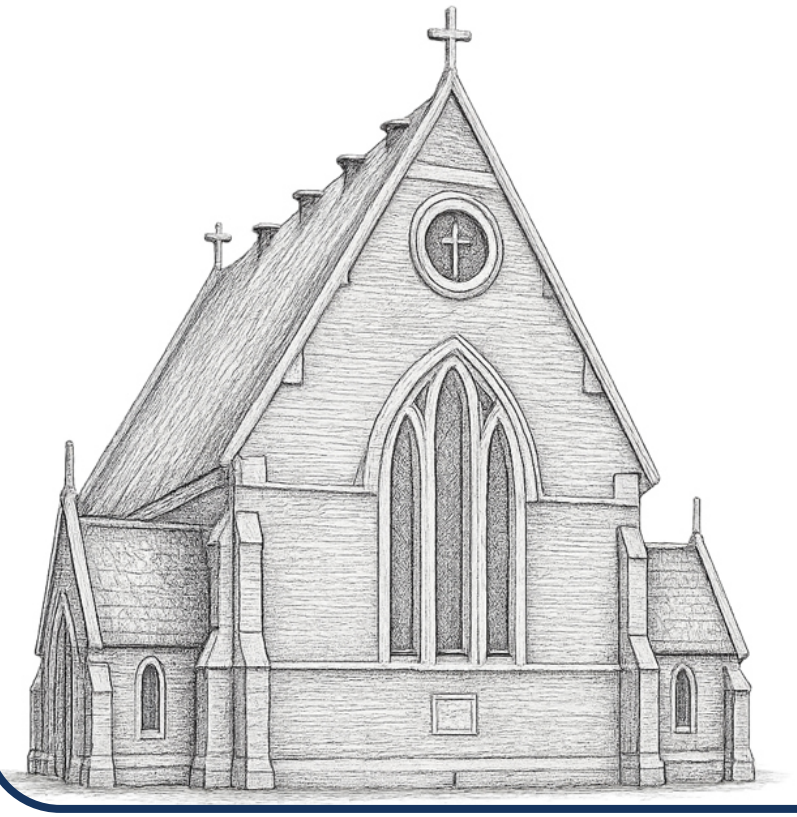
Heritage centre needs some friends

Moira Shire Council is looking for passionate locals to join the Friends of the Barmah Forest Heritage and Education Centre.

As a member of the group, you'll help support Council with the management and ongoing operation of the centre. You'll also share your knowledge, advice and feedback, and make a lasting impact on our community.

Find out more and submit your expression of interest on Moira's website by Sunday 8 November 2026.

PARISH MASS TIMES



NUMURKAH:

Sunday 10:30am
Wednesday 9:15am
Friday 9:15am, followed by Reconciliation

NATHALIA:

Sunday 9:00am
Tuesday 9:15am followed by Reconciliation
Thursday 12:30pm

STRATHMERTON:

1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturdays at 6.00pm

Canteen

A reminder that the canteen is open **Wednesday, Thursday & Fridays only.**
If you are unable to attend on your day, can you please arrange a swap with someone else or, as last resort, let Crystal or Sherrin know in advance, so that they are aware that they have no helper that day. If you are unable to commit to a permanent day each month but are available to help out when you see a volunteer required, please contact the canteen or the office.

October
23rd Gayle Morgan
28th Volunteer
29th Volunteer
30th Volunteer

November
4th Volunteer
5th Volunteer
6th Gayle Morgan
11th Volunteer
12th Volunteer
13th Volunteer
18th Volunteer
19th Volunteer
20th Gayle Morgan

Community Notices

Numurkah & District Historical Society

INVITATION TO JOIN US FOR SOME HISTORY MONTH ACTIVITIES

A Message from the Royal Historical Society of Victoria: **Place is where history happens.**

It is the street you grew up on, the hall where your community gathered, the landscape your ancestors worked or were taken from. It is the corner shop that closed, the river that flooded, the building that still stands. The places that made us are not always grand or famous — often they are ordinary, local, and easy to overlook. But they carry memory, identity, and meaning in ways that no monument or textbook quite can. History Month 2026 invites you to explore that relationship — through talks, walks, exhibitions, and events happening across Victoria throughout October. Whether you're a seasoned historian or simply someone who has ever felt a pull toward a particular place and wondered why, there is something here for you. This is a celebration of Victoria's many histories, told through the places that hold them. We hope you'll join us.

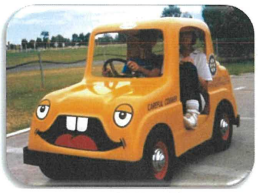
"SHOW US YA WHEELS" WEEKEND

Saturday 17th October:

- Come and see us at the Lions Market (8.30 to 11.30am) *Artefacts on Display /Souvenirs, Books & Plants for Sale.*
- Kinder & Primary School Students are invited to ride/drive in the **unique & historic Careful Cobber Cars** at Show Us Ya Wheels (2.00 to 4.30pm)

Sunday 18th October:

- **Careful Cobber** at Show Us Ya Wheels (9.30am to 3.00pm)
- **Our Museum will be open all day** (from 9.00am)



"SHOW DAY": Wednesday 21st October

- Come and see us at the SHOW: *Souvenirs, Books for Sale.*
- Historic **"Australiana" Artefacts** will be on display
- Please note: Museum will be closed on Show Day

"HISTORY WALKING TOURS": Sunday 25th October

- ***A WALK ALONG MELVILLE ST:*** commencing at 10.30am, meet at the front of the Historical Society Museum
- ***CEMETERY WALK:*** commencing at 1.00pm, meet at the Cemetery Gates

TOUR BOOKINGS: email – numurkahhistoricalsociety@gmail.com OR just arrive at the designated location at the given times

PLEASE NOTE: **An extra Melville St Tour will be on offer on Sunday 1st November @ 1.30pm if enough interest is shown via bookings. Bookings can made via our email or through Facebook Messenger.**

"A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM": Saturday 31st October (An alternative to Halloween!!!!)

- In the spirit of the popular movie "A Night at the Museum", come and experience our Museum during Halloween evening.....**you may encounter some historic characters who have come back to life.....although, these characters WON'T be scary!!!**
- The Museum will be open from 7.30-9.30pm.
- We are promoting this as a "family-friendly activity".
- Treats will be on offer for any younger visitors accompanying adults.

NORMAL OPENING HOURS FOR OUR MUSEUM ARE: Wednesdays and Sundays, 1.30-3.30pm

NYCCC JUNIOR CRICKET FOR SEASON 2026/27

We are looking for junior players of all ages to join our club for season 2026/27. Blasters Ages 4-8. Under 10s Under 12s Under 14s & Under 16s.

For more information please contact numurkahcricket@gmail.com. We will have more information on training nights closer to the season.

Blasters Registration

Junior Registration Under 10s, 12s, 14s & 16s

Screens, space and your family

A note on how you're going - and one more thing to try

WEEKS 2-3

A couple of weeks ago, we shared a guide about device habits at home. If you've tried any of it, we want to say: thank you. And if it's been a little bumpy — that's completely normal, and you're not alone.

Change is harder when you're the only adult in the room enforcing it. Teenagers are persistent, and devices are designed to be hard to put down. The first few weeks are often the most friction-filled.

That doesn't mean it's not working!

ONE RULE THAT HOLDS EVERYTHING TOGETHER

Families who've found this most manageable often point to a household device curfew.

This week, try 8:00pm for all devices away - for everyone!

Phones and laptops in the kitchen, charging overnight.

Not just the kids - adults too.

Why adults need to do it too

When children see the whole household put devices away, it stops feeling like a punishment and starts feeling like a **family norm**.

Teenagers are acutely sensitive to fairness. The moment they see a parent scrolling on a phone after the rule applies to them, the credibility of the whole arrangement collapses.

How to make it stick

- It doesn't have to be 8pm — pick a time that works for your household.
- **Consistency matters more than the exact hour.** Do the same thing every night.
- Tell your child the time in advance — not as they're mid-scroll.
- Expect protest in week one. Expect less in week two. Expect quiet by week four.

One household - one rule - everyone in

We're not looking for perfection

We're looking for a direction. Every family is starting from a different place, and every small step counts. If your household has managed one new thing in the past two weeks — that's real progress.

If you'd like to talk through how this is going — or if your child is finding the transition particularly hard — please reach out. That's what we're here for.

WHERE WE'RE HEADED THIS TERM

WEEKS 1-2: FIRST STEPS | WEEKS 2-3: THE CURFEW | WEEKS 4-5: THE WHY | WEEK 6: WHEN IT GETS HARD | WEEKS 9-10: READY FOR TERM 1

COMING NEXT WEEK: Why this matters for your child's brain!

Girls Cricket Program

Our All-Girls Cricket Program commenced this term through the support of Cricket Victoria.

The program has been teaching the fundamentals of the game of cricket, while promoting teamwork, communication and sportsmanship.

The girls have been really enjoying the 1-hour sessions on our beautiful school oval.

There are still 2 remaining sessions for the Term if anyone is interested in coming along.

Please contact Mr Pruden for further details.