



Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Carers

Opening School Mass

Yesterday at the Opening School Mass the School Leadership team was introduced to the school community and received their badges. I'm looking forward to working with the children during the year. Once again congratulations and I know you will do the school proud. My thanks to Fr Velerian who presided over the Mass and a warm welcome to him on his return to St Therese's. My thanks also to Mr Smith for his organisation of this important event.

Parking Around School

Please obey the parking signs around the school and do not "park" in a clearly sign posted "kiss & drop" zone. This inconsiderate action causes a back up of traffic and also puts the driver at risk of a hefty fine.

Medication

Medication is to be dropped into the office by a parent. Please avoid sending medication in with young children. The school cannot take responsibility for medication in school bags that is accessible to other children. The administering of short and long term medication requires a parent to complete a form available from the office to facilitate the delivery of medication.

Term 2 Pupil Free Day

All staff will be undertaking professional development training on Monday 24th April. This will therefore be a **PUPIL FREE DAY**. Can I remind parents that Tuesday 25th April is ANZAC DAY, therefore school will resume for Term 2 on Wednesday 26th April.



Dates to Remember

- 21 FEB - DIO SWIMMING CARNIVAL
- 22 FEB - SHROVE TUESDAY
- 22 FEB - KINDY INFORMATION EVENING 6PM
- 22 FEB - ASH WEDNESDAY
- 23RD & 24TH FEB - SCHOOL PHOTOS
- 15-27 - MAR NAPLAN
- 27 MAR - CROSS COUNTRY
- 7 APR - HOLY THURSDAY - LAST DAY OF TERM 1
- 8 APR - GOOD FRIDAY
- 24 APR - PUPIL FREE - STAFF IN SERVICE
- 25 APR - ANZAC DAY - PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- 26 APR - FIRST DAY TERM 2

To bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.





Duilio Rufo
Principal

Assistant Principal's Message

Opening School Mass

It was wonderful to celebrate our Opening School Mass and Presentation of Badges to our Year 6 leaders yesterday. Thank you to Fr Valerian for celebrating the Mass and to Mr Smith for organise such a beautiful Mass to begin our new school year. The start of the new school year is always so exciting, as we can develop goals for the year ahead, make new friends and experience new opportunities. The Diocesan theme for 2023 is "Encounter – Journey Together", so here at St Therese's we are focused our faith, academic and social/emotional journey together.

Kindergarten Information Evening

We will hold an information evening for our Kindergarten parents/carers on **Wednesday 22 Wednesday** at 6:00pm in the Catherine McAuley Centre. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet the kindergarten teaching team and school leadership team. We will go through the routines of kindergarten, school life at St Therese's and navigate through Compass. We look forward to seeing you there.

Office of Safeguarding

I have included links for parents (<https://padlet.com/childprotection/resources-for-parents-carers-teacher-igddlxahc0zswvk4>) and students (<https://padlet.com/childprotection/resources-for-primary-school-students-ta8uzzgbz8vlyku0>) that may be useful to keep all our children safe. This term in library lessons, Mrs Barker is focussing on cybersafety across all grades K-6. A few tips to keep your children safe when they are online:

- Ensure your child(ren) are in a public area of your home when online e.g. the lounge room, kitchen etc. Do not allow your child to use devices alone in their bedrooms.
- Ensure your child is using age appropriate sites
- Ensure your child has access to social media that is age appropriate. For a list of age appropriate online behaviours please refer to the safety commission at the following link <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/issues-and-advice/are-they-old-enough>

Devices are an invaluable tool to keep us connected to others and access current information. Together, we will help all children to be safe and effective users of technology.

Flexible Groups in Mathematics and English

Next week (Week 5) we begin flexible groups in Mathematics and English in Years 1-6. To ensure all children are placed in the group that is most appropriate to ensure they are both supported and challenged, all teachers in Years 1-6 were released for ½ a day last week, to analyse PAT data, classroom assessments and teacher observations. Teachers continue to review student progress throughout the term, in Case Management Meetings (Weeks 3 & 8 each term), and flexible groups are adjusted if needed. Please note that children may not be in a support or extension group this year, even if they were in these groups in 2022. Support/extension groups for 2023 are as follows:

- Year 1 English and Maths support – Ms Faehndrich
- Year 2 English support – Mrs Newton/Mrs Warren
- Year 2 Writing extension – Mrs Maretich
- Year 2 Maths support – Mr Smith
- Year 2 Maths Extension – Mrs McNeil
- Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4) English Support – Mrs Schneider
- Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4) Writing extension – Mrs McNeil
- Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4) Maths Support – Mrs Schneider & Mrs Newton/Mrs Warren
- Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4) Maths extension – Mrs Maretich
- Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6) English Support – Mrs Schneider
- Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6) Writing extension – Mrs McNeil
- Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6) Maths Support – Mrs Schneider & Mrs Newton/Mrs Warren
- Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6) Maths extension – Mrs Maretich

NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be held from the 15 March – 27 March this year. All students in Years 3 and 5 complete the NAPLAN in the following areas:

- Reading
- Writing
- Conventions of Language
- Numeracy

Children complete NAPLAN online, except for the writing test for Year 3, which is completed in a booklet. Children do not need to “study” for NAPLAN, children also do not need to worry about the tests. The results of the tests allow us to identify student achievement, but more importantly we use the data to identify where we as a school are using effective strategies and programs in our teaching of English and Mathematics. Parents in Years 3 & 5 received a parent letter about NAPLAN, which was also uploaded to Compass.

Kaylene Maretich
Assistant Principal

RE News

Sunday Gospel Reflection – The following is a wonderful reflection on the scriptures by Dianne Bergant: *Jesus continues to instruct the disciples in the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. The readings for today focus our attention on the nature of true wisdom. It is this true wisdom which prompts us to choose the right course of action. It is true wisdom that directs us in our interpretation of the law.*

The longer we live, the more we realise that life experiences open up for us a series of choices. With these choices we chart the path that we will take. Circumstances might be thrust on us, but we can still make choices about how we will deal with them. Obedient people do what they are told; wise people choose what good they will do. True wisdom calls us to choose life and whatever enhances life. If we are truly wise, we will come to realise that what was acceptable and life-enhancing in one situation may not be appropriate in another. Life is fluid, and our thinking and acting must be flexible enough to adapt when necessary.

True wisdom, which comes to us through the Spirit, will enrich us with insight into life in ways we never thought possible. We will realise where and how we fit into the vast and interrelated ecosystems of the universe, and we will be overawed with the majesty and intricacy of its workings. We will understand once and for all that the value of anything is determined by its capacity to enrich life, and we will commit ourselves to and cherish every manifestation of that life.

Taken from -

<https://www.liturgyhelp.com/calendar/date/2023Feb12/0/RefDiBer>

"Do not imagine
that I have
come to abolish
the Law or
the Prophets."

Matthew 5:17

Opening School Mass 2023 – Thank you to those parents, grandparents, carers and friends who were able to attend our opening school mass and leadership presentation for 2023, it was great to see you there. Thank you also to Fr Velerian for celebrating the Eucharist with our community.

Shrove Tuesday & Caritas Launch: Project Compassion – Next Tuesday 21st February is Shrove Tuesday – the day before Ash Wednesday and the commencement of the season of Lent. Shrove Tuesday is often also referred to as Pancake Tuesday and, as such, **the school will be offering the opportunity for all students to purchase pancakes through the school canteen, via Flexischools, at a cost of \$1.00 each, with all money raised going to Project Compassion. The cut off for orders will be 3pm on Friday 17th February.** Caritas also traditionally launches their Project Compassion initiative on this day each year. The theme of this year's Project Compassion is, 'For All Future Generations'. There will also be Family Project Compassion boxes being sent home next week and you are encouraged to support this worthy cause. We will be asking for all boxes and money to be returned by the end of term.

Ash Wednesday & Lent – Wednesday 22nd February is Ash Wednesday, a holy day of obligation and the beginning of Lent. As such, we will be taking our Primary students (Years 3-6) to the church for Mass at 12:30pm, with all parents most welcome to attend. Some of the ashes from this Mass will be brought back to school where our Infants students will participate in an Ash Wednesday liturgy after recess at 2:30pm in the Hall. There is also a parish Mass at St Therese's church at 7pm later that evening.

Sacramental Program 2023/24 – There will be more information on this as the year progresses, however, the first information/registration evening will not occur until early May in Term 2. The sacraments will take place in the following order:

Confirmation – Term 2 (Year 4 students currently enrolled in the program from last year)

Holy Communion – Term 3 (Year 4 students currently enrolled in the program from last year)

Reconciliation – Term 4 (Year 3 students – new intake and enrolment for this year and continuing into 2024)

Luke Smith,
RE Coordinator

School Community News

Volunteering

Throughout the year, we welcome all parents/carers to volunteer at the school. To volunteer, you must complete the volunteer's induction via the link <https://www.mn.catholic.edu.au/families-communities/volunteers/>. This process can take up to 6 weeks, so you are encouraged to complete this early.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

We will have Parent/Teacher meetings in Weeks 6. These can be booked through Compass. This is an excellent opportunity to meet your child's teacher and set goals for your child for Semester 1. If your child is in a job-share class, you will book the meeting with only **one** teacher, the meeting will then be conducted by the teacher who normally works on the day you have booked in.

School Photos

Our school photos will be held on 23rd & 24th February. Children are to wear their full, formal uniform for their class and individual photos. Children can wear their sport uniform for the family photos, as these are done across two days during lunch time. We try to work around the sport roster to ensure all children are in their formal uniform, it is very difficult to try to organise the photo roster around individual children who may have prior commitments on photo day.

Family Photos

Parents ordering family photos online need to order before 9pm **THE DAY PRIOR TO PHOTO DAY**. This option isn't available online after this time, to ensure we don't miss any orders after we have left the office.

Payment options

We wish to advise that the preferred method of payment of fees, excursions or other items is either via credit card, BPAY or direct debit. Although Compass Pay is an option on the Compass platform, we request that this NOT be used due to technical difficulties with the system.

Please note that if at any time you need assistance with your fees or unsure about any of these payment methods, please contact our office.

External Providers

If your child will be seeing an external provider whilst at school (eg; Guitar lessons, speech pathology) you will need to complete the attached form and return it to the school asap.

School Fees

School fees are calculated on an annual basis, please see attached letter from the Catholic Schools Office outlining 2023 fees and levy information. You will receive your statement at end of February. When you receive your statement, please arrange for a regular Bpay, Direct Debit or an annual payment. Cash payments can be accepted at the administration office between 8.00am-3.30pm Monday to Friday or credit card payments can be taken over the phone on 4957 4922. You will find a direct debit form attached to the newsletter for your convenience. If you have a health care card (HCC), please complete the

attached HCC discount form, and return it along with a copy of your HCC to admin@newlambton.catholic.edu.au

Additionally, any family experiencing financial difficulty is entitled to fee assistance and will be appropriately and confidentially supported to assess what is affordable for their family. Please email the Principal, Mr Duilio Rufo directly at duilio.rufo@mn.catholic.edu.au

Vicki McSpadden

Bursar

PBS

PBS – School Spirit Awards

As a Catholic school, we incorporate the Positive Behaviours School approach to teach our children about the importance of showing our virtues and as a way to Make Jesus Real here at St Therese's. This is also at the core of what it means to be a Catholic school; where we teach, acknowledge, and reward our students not just for exterior achievements but for the personal growth and character development they display throughout the year.

This term, we will be focusing on the value of **Respect**. The first way in which we will be exploring how to show respect is through the use of **Manners**. We use our manners through words; saying "Please", "Thank You" & "Excuse Me". We can also teach our children to show manners through their actions; by taking turns, standing back and allowing others to go first, holding the door open for another, etc. When we take the time and patience to repeat these messages to our children, we are instilling in them the importance of showing **Respect** to others.

We congratulate the following children for receiving the PBS School Spirit Award last week for demonstrating **RESPECT** by *displaying appropriate manners*:

School Spirit Award					
KN	Louis Johnston	KW	Zoe Dean	KL	Tansy Tonkin
	Marli Lane		Florence Farrell		Jacob Schnabel
1N	George Jobbins	1W	Maeve Caldwell	1L	Shaun Hookway
	Isla Purdy		Hudson Josic		Frankie Curzi
		2W	Tobias Carne	2L	Eamon Kemp
			Zoe Turnbull		Audrey Lawson
3N	Blake Folbigg	3W	Tabitha Meleka	3L	Oliver Anderson
	Violet Rogan		Archie Snedden		Amelia Monk
4N	Lachlan Shepherd	4W	Benjamin White	4L	Evie Turnbull
	Frankie Safouris		Grace Sharman		Tayla Aysen
5N	Annabel Roxby	5W	Claire Abrahams	5L	Esmeralda Hall
	Vienne Tilahun		Dempsey Grant		Ryder Partlic
6N	Sunny Avery	6W	Brody Brooks	6L	Hugh Brownlee
	Martin Wroblewski		Lola Ciavarella		Oscar Kelly

Awards will begin next week.

Melissa Pyers

Primary Coordinator

Semester One Personalised Planning Meetings (PP's)

Personalised Planning meetings are scheduled for later this term. This provides the class teacher more time to get to know the students and set targeted goals for the semester.

Kindergarten to Year 3 PP Meetings will be during Week 9 with the class teacher/s and Ms Melanie Faehndrich.

Year 4 to 6 PP Meetings will be scheduled during Week 11 with the class teacher/s and Mrs Angela Schneider.

Parents are still welcome to book parent teacher meetings if they wish to speak to the class teacher before PP meetings. Booking information for PP's will be out in the coming week.

Melanie Faehndrich, Learning Support Coordinator

To bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.



Library News

"Love is in the air"



To bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.



PLAYGROUP UPDATE

Last week was our first week back at playgroup for 2023! As Valentines Day is around the corner, we made Valentines Day cards and and some colouring in. This week, playgroup will be in the hall from 9:30am on Friday morning, and we'll be making some cute monster craft. Playgroup is a gold coin donation per family per week, and is currently open to all younger siblings of current St Therese's students, or children enrolled for Kindergarten in 2024. Bring along a snack and a water bottle. If you would like any further information, feel free to join our St Therese's Playgroup Facebook page, or contact Jo on 0439 435 287.



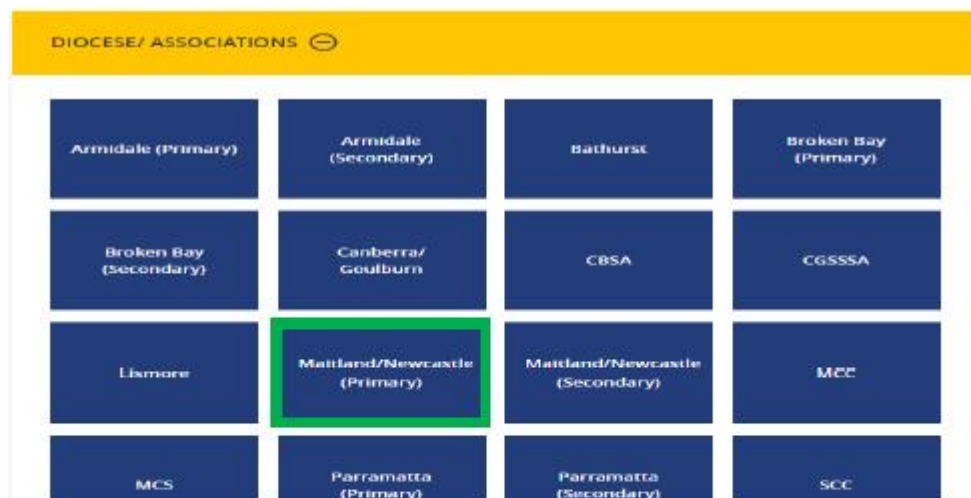
Maitland-Newcastle Diocesan Sport Website

Step 1. Go to csnsw.sport website



Step 2. MN Primary Tile

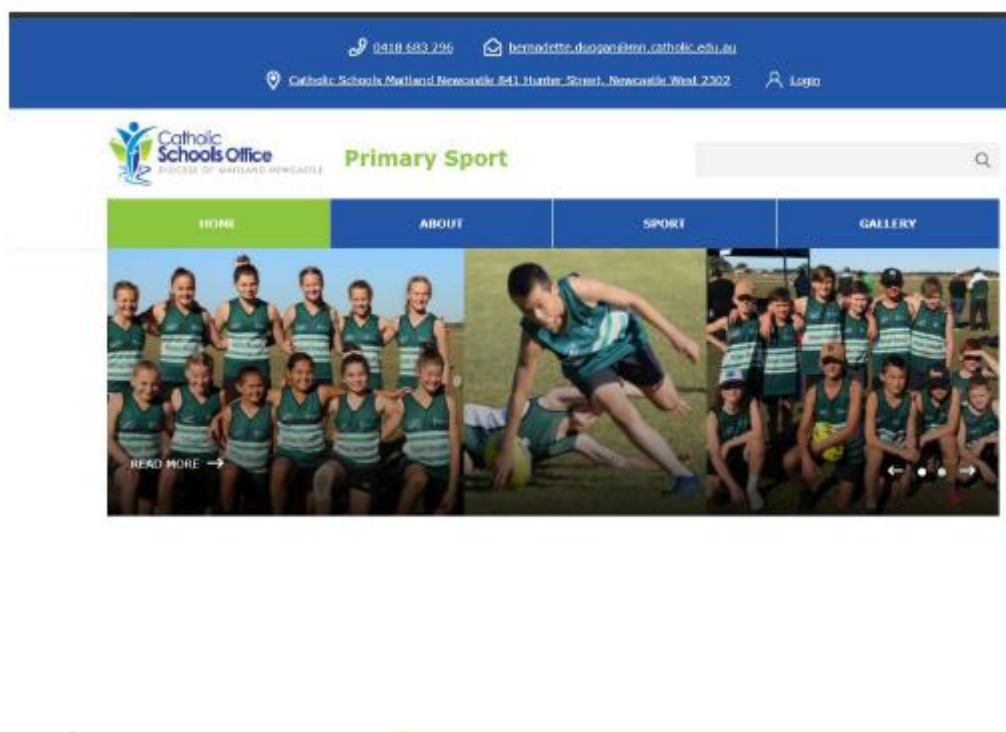
Scroll down to the Diocesan/Associations section of the home page and select the Maitland Newcastle Primary Tile



Step 3.

You Are now on the MN Primary Sport Website.

- The Maitland Newcastle Primary Tile allows parents to view basic information for Primary pathway sports including event information and results, the current year's diocesan sports calendar and important notices for sports including wet weather information will now be found here.
- Any further questions beyond the sport specific information on this website should be directed to your school sport coordinator.
- No parent should register their child for any diocesan sport without seeing the school sport coordinator before applying.





HEALTH CARE CARD / PENSION CARD CONCESSION APPLICATION

Health Care / Pension Card holders are eligible for a discount off the Diocesan Tuition Fee full rate. Together with the family discount if applicable, this discount will not exceed 50% of the Diocesan Tuition Fees on the school fee account. All information will be treated with the strictest confidence, only the Principal and/or School Finance Officer have access to this application. If you require assistance in completing this application or require further financial assistance, please contact the Principal.

An Application for Health Care / Pension Card discount is to be submitted to each school your child/ren attend.

A new application for HCC/Pension Card Concession must be made at the beginning of each year.

- 1 Applicant Details : Applicant and the Cardholder must be in the same name as the person responsible for school fees. *NB: Health Care Card issued in the student's name is not valid for this concession.*

Applicant's Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Student's Name: _____

Year/Class: _____

Student's Name: _____

Year/Class: _____

Student's Name: _____

Year/Class: _____

- 2 Concession Entitlement: Which of the following concessions do you personally receive? Please tick and write your CRN number and expiry date.

☐

Health Care Card

CRN Number: _____

Exp Date: _____

OR

☐

Pensioner Card

CRN Number: _____

Exp Date: _____

3 Declaration

- I declare that to the best of my knowledge the information supplied in all parts of this application is correct and complete.
- I enclose a copy of my Health Care / Pension Card (signature required on the HCC / Pension card).
- I will notify the school office immediately if my circumstances change and I am no longer eligible a HCC/Pension cardholder.
- I understand the School requires a CCeS consent form to check my status with Centrelink.
- I understand that I am required to pay any other fees levied by the school, in full, unless I seek additional financial assistance with the Principal. I will advise the School if this assistance required.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Office Use	Tick	Family Discount Applied (%)	Eligible HCC/PCC Discount (%)
CCeS Consent Form checked by school:			





To view packages and to place your order please visit
www.newcastleschoolportraits.com
 and enter your code.

311530

Orders to be done before photo day to avoid late fee.
Payments can be made with any Mastercard/Visa cards.

Senior Packages

My Order A Package \$72	<p>Includes mounted "Class of 2012" 5x7 2x2 grid photo 10 5x7 prints of individual 10 4x6 prints of individual 10 3x5 prints of individual 10 2x3 prints of individual 10 1x3 prints of individual 10 1x2 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual</p>	My Order B Package \$50	<p>Includes mounted "Class of 2012" 5x7 2x2 grid photo 10 5x7 prints of individual 10 4x6 prints of individual 10 3x5 prints of individual 10 2x3 prints of individual 10 1x3 prints of individual 10 1x2 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual</p>	My Order C Package \$42	<p>Includes mounted "Class of 2012" 5x7 2x2 grid photo 10 5x7 prints of individual 10 4x6 prints of individual 10 3x5 prints of individual 10 2x3 prints of individual 10 1x3 prints of individual 10 1x2 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual</p>	My Order D Package \$29	<p>Includes mounted "Class of 2012" 5x7 2x2 grid photo 10 5x7 prints of individual 10 4x6 prints of individual 10 3x5 prints of individual 10 2x3 prints of individual 10 1x3 prints of individual 10 1x2 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual</p>	My Order E Package \$27	<p>Includes mounted "Class of 2012" 5x7 2x2 grid photo 10 5x7 prints of individual 10 4x6 prints of individual 10 3x5 prints of individual 10 2x3 prints of individual 10 1x3 prints of individual 10 1x2 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual 10 1x1 prints of individual</p>
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*Free one year of individual photo album

Family Package are also available online but must be ordered by 9pm the night before Family photo day.

Family Packages

**EXCLUSIVE PACKAGES
AVAILABLE ONLINE**

Newcastle School Portraits
Capturing your memories for over 30 Years

www.newcastleschoolportraits.com
21 Broadmeadow Rd, Broadmeadow 2292
4965 4114

School Photo Roster 2023

Thursday 23 February

Senior Photo Roster 2022	
Thursday 23 February	
8:30	Staff Photo
9:30	6N
9:40	6W
9:50	6L
10:00	Year 6 group photo
10:10	Student Council Photo
10:20	Sport Captains Photo
10:30	KN
10:40	KW
10:50	KL
11:00 – 12:00	Family Photos
12:30	3N
12:40	3W
12:50	3L
1:00	4N
1:10	4W
1:20	4L
1:30	Band Photo
Friday 24 February	
9:30	1N
9:40	1W
9:50	1L
10:00	2W
10:30	2L
10:40	5N
10:50	5W
11:00	5L
11:00 – 12:00	Family Photos

To bring Christ and His message, in all its richness, into the hearts and lives of all.




Authority Number
CDF School Account No.

DIRECT DEBIT REQUEST

Request to Debit Account

ON BEHALF OF SCHOOL

YOUR DETAILS

Given name(s)	Surname
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Work phone number	Mobile phone number
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address	
<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/> (Postcode)	

REQUEST AND AUTHORITY TO DEBIT

Catholic Development Fund ID Number 025223 may debit and/or charge any amount through the Bulk Electronic Clearing System (BECS), from the account nominated on this form. Each debit or charge must be effected according to the Service Agreement.

DETAILS OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

Name and address of financial institution
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/> (Postcode)

PAYMENT DETAILS

School Name	Suburb
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Student Names	
Given name(s)	Surname
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Amount	\$ <input type="text"/>
Frequency	<input type="text"/>
	(Monthly, fortnightly, Weekly)

First payment date	<input type="text"/>
Until further notice	<input type="checkbox"/>
Final payment date	<input type="text"/>

School Reference (OFFICE USE ONLY)	<input type="text"/>
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DETAILS OF ACCOUNT TO BE DEBITED

Account in the name of:
<input type="text"/>
BSB number
<input type="text"/>
Account number
<input type="text"/>

SIGNATURE(S)

Before signing this section, please read the Service Agreement on the reverse. Your signature below will indicate you accept the terms of the Service Agreement and confirm that the details on this form have been checked and are correct.

If a joint account, please have all account holders sign. If the account is held by a company secretary, please have one director and the company secretary each sign.

If you are signing for and on behalf of another person or entity, please state the capacity in which you sign, in the signature box below.

Signature 1	<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>	Date	<input type="text"/>
Signature 2	<input type="text"/>	OR	<input type="text"/>	Date	<input type="text"/>

Direct Debit Request Service Agreement

Definitions

account means the account held at your *financial institution* from which we are authorised to arrange for funds to be debited.

agreement means the Direct Debit Request Service Agreement between you and us, including the *direct debit request*.

business day means a day other than a Saturday or a Sunday or a listed public holiday.

debit day means the day that payment is due.

debit payment means a particular transaction where a debit is made, according to your *direct debit request*.

direct debit request means the *Direct Debit Request* between us and you.

us and we and our means the Catholic Development Fund.

you means the customer(s) who signed the *direct debit request*.

your financial institution is the financial institution where you hold the *account* that you have authorised us to arrange to debit.

1. Debiting your account

By signing a *direct debit request*, you have authorised us to arrange for funds to be debited from your *account* according to the *agreement* we have with you.

We will only arrange for funds to be debited from your account:

- as authorised in the *direct debit request*;

If the *debit day* falls on a day that is not a business day, we may direct your *financial institution* to debit your *account* on the following or previous business day. If you are unsure about which day your *account* has or will be debited, please check with your *financial institution*.

2. Changes by you

If you wish to stop or defer a debit payment you must write to us at least 12 business days before the next debit day. This notice should be given to us in the first instance.

3. Your obligations

It is your responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient clear funds available in your *account* to allow a debit payment to be made.

If there are insufficient clear funds available in your *account* to meet a *debit payment*:

- you or your *account* may be charged a fee and/or interest by your *financial institution*;
- you or your *account* may be charged a fee to reimburse us for charges we have incurred for the failed transaction;
- you must arrange for the payment to be made by another method or arrange for sufficient clear funds to be in your *account* within the next 7 days or another time we agree with you so that we can process the *debit payment*.

Please check your *account* statement to verify that the amounts debited from your *account* are correct.

4. Dispute

If you believe that there has been an error in debiting your *account* you should call us on 4979 1160 and confirm the details in writing with us as soon as possible so that we can resolve your query quickly.

5. Accounts

You should check:

- with your *financial institution* whether direct debiting is available from your *account* as direct debiting is not available on all accounts offered by financial institutions.
- your *account* details which you have provided to us are correct by checking them against a recent account statement; and
- with your *financial institution* before completing the *direct debit request* if you have any queries about how to complete the *direct debit request*.

Warning: if the account number you have quoted is incorrect, you may be charged a fee to reimburse our costs in correcting any deductions from:

- an account you do not have authority to operate; or
- an account you do not own.

6. Confidentiality

We will keep any information (including your *account* details) in your *direct debit request* confidential. We will make reasonable efforts to keep any such information that we have about you secure and to ensure that any of our employees or agents who have access to information about you do not make any unauthorised use, modification, reproduction, or disclosure of that information.



1 December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: 2023 Fees, levies and family discount

Each year, we review our fees and levies to ensure we can maintain and operate our schools at a high standard, now and into the future. While a significant portion of the cost of education is provided by State and Commonwealth Governments, the contribution of parents and parishes is still important in achieving that purpose.

We seek to make Catholic diocesan schools as affordable as possible and aim to keep your family's contribution as low as possible whilst achieving the strongest educational and spiritual outcomes for the over 20,000 students across our 58 schools. **Importantly, we are committed to ensuring that no child will be denied a Catholic education because of a family's genuine inability to cover the fees.**

This year, we have continued to support many families across our Diocese by reducing their fees or arranging other payment plans. **We will continue to support families facing genuine hardship.**

For families with multiple children attending Diocesan Catholic Schools, we are maintaining the Family Discount at 2022 levels. Furthermore, for families with limited financial resources, discounted tuition fees are provided to Health Care and Pension Card holders who continue to receive a 50% discount off the Diocesan Tuition fee for each member of the family.

In 2023, Diocesan Tuition Fees will increase by 5%, with the Family School Building Levy increasing by 5%. Further detail outlining our 2023 Fees, Levy and Contributions is attached.

This year in the face of rising construction costs, we have continued to upgrade existing schools' facilities and amenities, whilst investing in new school building works across the Diocese.

In establishing these fees and levies, we have sought to ensure the best possible learning environment for your children. We thank you for your continued support of our schools and **assure families that where affordability is a real issue, you will be supported in your need.**

With every thanks, yours sincerely

Father Gregory Barker
Diocesan Administrator

Gerard Mowbray
Director of Schools

Catholic Schools Office | Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

PO BOX 741 Newcastle NSW 2300 | 841 Hunter Street Newcastle West 2302
P 02 4979 1200 F 02 4979 1209 E Info@mn.catholic.edu.au ABN 79 469 343 054



www.mn.catholic.edu.au

2023 Fees, Levy and Contributions

Tuition Fees

In 2023, Diocesan Tuition Fees will be as follows.

Scholastic Year	Annual tuition fee	Difference from 2022	Difference per week
Kinder to Year 6	\$1,377	\$65 or 5% per annum	\$1.25 per calendar week
Year 7 to 10	\$1,882	\$90 or 5% per annum	\$1.73 per calendar week
Year 11 to 12	\$2,860	\$136 or 5% per annum	\$2.61 per calendar week

Family Discount

In 2023, the Family Discount will be maintained at the 2022 level and is applied to the full rate of Tuition Fees for families with multiple children attending Diocesan Catholic Schools as follows:

Family size	2023 discount (per child)
1 child family	No discount
2 child family	15%
3 child family	25%
4+ child family	50%

Affordability and support

The Diocese is committed to ensuring that no child will be denied a Catholic education because of a family's genuine inability to cover the fees.

To assist families with limited financial resources, discounted tuition fees are provided to Health Care and Pension Card holders. Discounted tuition fees are provided to Health Care and Pension Card holders. The discounted tuition fee is 50% of the full rate for each child and the discount is only applied to the Tuition Fee.

Additionally, any family experiencing financial difficulty is entitled to fee assistance and will be appropriately and confidentially supported to assess what is affordable for their family. The school principal can be contacted to discuss these matters.

Together with parents, clergy and school staff, we are committed to offering children and young people in the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese a school environment in which their faith and education can be nurtured, and their potential can be realised. We value the opportunity to work in partnership with parents and carers and thank you for your continuing support.

3. Declaration and consent for the contractor to provide the contracted service to my child

I, _____ am the responsible
Name of parent / guardian
adult making this application for a third-party contractor to provide a service in St Therese's
Primary School

By signing this document, I:

- State that I have used reasonable care to ascertain that the Contractor has the appropriate qualifications, licences, certifications and professional memberships necessary to provide the contracted service to my child, as listed in section 2.6 of this application.
- State that I have used reasonable care to ascertain that the Contractor holds public liability insurance.
- Consent for the Contractor to have unsupervised access to my child for the purposes of conducting the contracted service.

I confirm that I have advised the Contractor that:

- Prior to being given access to the School, the Contractor must show their current WWCC status, using the *Service NSW* application. Being unable or refusing to do so will result in the Contractor being refused entry.
- The Contractor will be required to complete a *Safeguarding Commitment for Contractors Working with the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle* form and submit it to the School.
- The contractor is granted access to the School for the singular purpose of providing my child the contracted service and should minimise contact with any other child.
- He/she will consult with my child's class teacher or the School leadership about any relevant information that the Contractor may have in relation to my child and will share information about my child.

Signed:

Date: _____

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