

St. Dominic's Primary School

NEWSLETTER

February 19 2025– Term 1 Week 4

WE SOAR LIKE THE EAGLE AND RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Prayer



Inspired by Luke 6:17, 20-26 - The Beatitudes and Woes

Loving God,

We come before You as a school community, grateful for Your presence among us. Just as Jesus spoke to the crowds, calling us to embrace humility and compassion, we ask You to open our hearts to Your teachings.

Bless those who are struggling, those who feel poor in spirit or in need, and those who are hungry for kindness and justice. Help us to be a source of comfort and support to each other, especially those who are marginalised or suffering.

Grant us the strength to rejoice in difficult times, knowing that You are with us, and that our true reward is found in Your love. Help us to be agents of peace and kindness, sharing the gifts we have with those who are most in need.

We ask for Your guidance to lead with integrity, to care for one another, and to stand for what is right. May we be a community that celebrates compassion, understanding, and humility.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This week started off with a testing day and I thank all the parents and guardians for supporting the school in gathering data on your child/children. The gathering of Literacy and Numeracy data is important as it provides our teachers with vital information about their students.

Tonight, Wednesday 19th February, a Sacramental Enrolment evening will be held at St Catherine of Sienna School Hall at 7pm. All children who are celebrating a sacrament this year, must be in attendance with a parent. It is imperative that you attend as important information will be provided on the night. Also, the Sacrament of Penance Family night will be held on Monday 24th February at 6:30pm – 7:30pm at St Catherine's of Sienna.

There is no assembly this week as I am at a Principal's Network Meeting. The next assembly will be on Thursday 27th February at 2:30pm. All parents and friends are invited to attend.

This year the school picnic will be held on Thursday March 27th from 5pm – 7pm. The picnic is an opportunity for parents to meet new people and enjoy each other's company. This year we will have jumping castles, cultural performances and a sausage sizzle. The staff and I are looking forward to seeing you in attendance.

If you would like to meet with me, please come by the school office and they will assist you of my availability. While my door may often be open, I could be meeting with a student or a teacher at the time. I kindly ask that you follow this process when visiting.

Also, I'd like to remind everyone of the importance of arriving on time. Late arrivals can disrupt the class and make it harder for students to settle in. If your child arrives late, please make sure to sign them in at the office—office staff are unable to do this for you.

Arriving on time sets children up for success, both in school and in the future. I appreciate your cooperation!

Enjoy the rest of the week.

God bless!

If your child misses....	That Equals...	Which is...	Over 13 years of schooling that is.....
10 minutes a Day	50 minutes a Week	1.5 Weeks per Year	Nearly <u>1/2 Year</u> of lost learning
20 minutes a Day	1 hour 40 minutes a Week	2.5 Weeks per year	Nearly <u>1 Year</u> of lost learning
30 minutes a day	1/2 a Day a Week	4 Weeks per year	Nearly <u>1.5 Years</u> of lost learning
1 hour a Day	1 day a Week	8 Weeks per year	Nearly <u>2.5 Years</u> of lost learning

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEK	DATE	TIME	EVENT
4	Wednesday 19 February	7.00pm-8.00pm	Enrolment & Information session for Sacraments
	Friday 21 February	8.30am-10.00am 9.15am-10.00am	Playgroup Grade 4 Class Mass
5	Monday 24 February	6.30pm-7.30pm	Sacrament of Penance family workshop
	Thursday 27 February	2.30pm	School Assembly
	Friday 28 February	8.30am-10.00am	Playgroup
		9.15am-10.00am	Grade 3 Class Mass
6	Monday 3 March		Prep's Commence Full-Time
	Tuesday 4 March		Shrove Tuesday
	Wednesday 5 March	9.15am-10.00am	Ash Wednesday Prayer Service
	Thursday 6 March		School Closure - No Students
	Saturday 8 March	6.00pm-6.30pm	Sacrament of Penance Vigil Mass
7	Wednesday 12 March		NAPLAN Begins
	Thursday 13 March	7.00pm-8.00pm	Sacrament of Penance
	Friday 14 March	9.15am-10.00am	Grade 2 Class Mass
8	Friday 21 March	9.00am-3.00pm	Whole School Athletics Day
9	Monday 24 March		NAPLAN Finishes
	Thursday 27 March	5.00pm-7.00pm	School Picnic
	Friday 28 March	9.15am-10.00am	Grade 1 Class Mass
10	Monday 31 March		Teeth On Wheels
	Tuesday 1 April		Teeth On Wheels
	Wednesday 2 April		Teeth On Wheels
	Friday 4 April	8.45am-1.30pm	Term 1 Ends- 1.30pm finish

2025 Term Dates

Term 1: Wednesday 29 January, 2025 - Friday 4 April, 2025

Term 2: Tuesday 22 April, 2025 - Friday 4 July, 2025

Term 3 : Monday 21 July, 2025 - Friday 19 September, 2025

Term 4 : Monday 6 October, 2025 - Friday 19 December, 2025

SACRAMENTAL DATES

The Sacraments are special ways that Catholics experience God's presence and grace. There are seven sacraments: Baptism, Eucharist (Holy Communion), Confirmation, Reconciliation (Penance), Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony (Marriage), and Holy Orders. Each sacrament is a significant moment in a person's faith journey, helping them grow closer to God.

The Sacraments

Grade 3 students - Sacrament of Penance

Grade 4 students - Sacrament of First Eucharist

Grade 6 students - Sacrament of Confirmation



For your child to be eligible to receive the Sacraments, they must first receive the **Sacrament of Baptism**. Please arrange this with the parish of Melton on (03) 9743 6515.

TERM ONE

Event	Where	Date / time	Who attends
Enrolment / Information session for sacramental program	St Catherine of Siena Hall (108 Bulmans Rd, Melton West)	Wednesday 19th February 7:00 PM	Students and families wishing for their child to receive a Sacrament for that child's year level in 2025
Sacrament of Penance family night (learn about the Sacrament)	St Catherine of Siena Hall (108 Bulmans Rd, Melton West)	Monday 24th February 6:30 PM	Grade 3 sacramental students and their families
Sacrament of Penance vigil Mass (prepare for the Sacrament)	St Catherine of Siena Church (108 Bulmans Rd, Melton West)	Saturday 8th March 6:00 PM	Grade 3 sacramental students and their families
Sacrament of Penance	St Catherine of Siena Church (108 Bulmans Rd, Melton West)	Thursday 13th March 7:00 PM	Grade 3 sacramental students and their families



SOAR



Our students were absolutely thrilled to visit the SOAR Shop this week, and the excitement was contagious! As part of our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) initiative, the SOAR Shop is a special reward system designed to celebrate students who consistently demonstrate our school values of Safety, Optimism, Acceptance, and Respect.

Throughout the year, students earn SOAR tokens for their outstanding behaviour, which they can save up and spend at the SOAR Shop. From fun prizes to unforgettable school experiences and even exciting excursions, the possibilities are endless! It's a fantastic way to encourage positive behaviour while giving students the opportunity to earn rewards that make their school journey even more memorable. We can't wait to see what our students will choose next!

ART NEWS

Hello families!

We have a very exciting and fun year ahead in the art room. Each grade will be exploring a different theme in Term 1.

Prep - 'I CAN'

Grade 1 - Celebrating Australian and International Artists

Grade 2 - Australiana

Grade 3 - Clay

Grade 4 - Anything but a brush

Grade 5 - Street Art and Graffiti

Grade 6 - Sculpture



I can't wait to share their journey with you!
Megan Humphries - Visual Arts Teacher





FOURTH GRADE Squad



We have been learning to
do CPR!
Check out our amazing
skills!



This week in literacy the students have been practicing reading nursery rhymes together and creating patterns in math. We visited the Little Church with Mr Marasco to learn more about God and we met our Grade 6 Buddies. **We are enjoying learning with the Preps!**



- Sports uniform can be worn **Tuesdays** and **Fridays**.
- Library books are to be returned on **Monday**- don't forget your library bag.
- Red communication folders need to come to school **everyday**.





日本語



Nihongo (Japanese) News

みなさん こんにちは MINASAN KONNICHIWA

Welcome to 2025 Nihongo News

We have started the year learning how New Year time is celebrated in Japan and how to say "Happy New Year, it's the year of the snake."

The benefits behind learning a foreign language

Did you know that children benefit much more than learning the foreign language? They also experience increased linguistic, social, cognitive, emotional, and academic development!

Below are some of these 'hidden' benefits:



These are the 12 animals of the oriental zodiac. I wonder which animal you are according to your birth year?

あけましておめでとう
へびどしです
AKEMASHITE OMEDETOU
HEBI DOSHI DESU



Year 1 hebi (snake) puppets



Students have been making an 'ema' - Japanese wishing plaque and writing a goal they'd like to achieve in 2025!



Can you name our pet hebi's? Write down a name and pass it to Sensei for a chance to win!

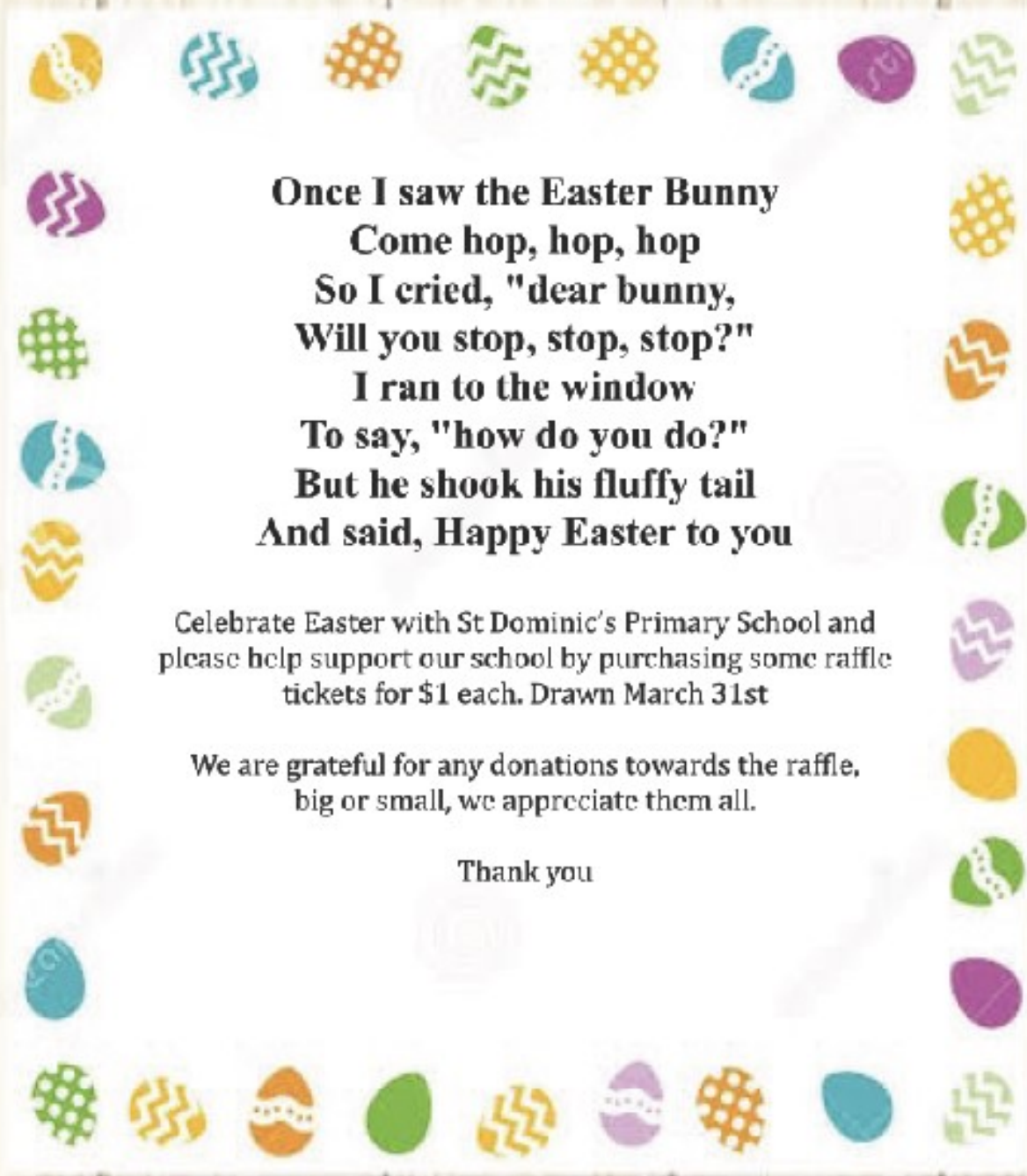
Grade 3 Melton Hockey Club Clinic

Our Grade 3 students were very lucky to have Kylie and Dave from Hockey Victoria and Melton Hockey Club visit us.

It was great fun and everyone enjoyed learning a sport they were not familiar with!



Great Job to everyone involved!



**Once I saw the Easter Bunny
Come hop, hop, hop
So I cried, "dear bunny,
Will you stop, stop, stop?"
I ran to the window
To say, "how do you do?"
But he shook his fluffy tail
And said, Happy Easter to you**

Celebrate Easter with St Dominic's Primary School and please help support our school by purchasing some raffle tickets for \$1 each. Drawn March 31st

We are grateful for any donations towards the raffle, big or small, we appreciate them all.

Thank you





There have been lots of smiles at our recent Friday morning playgroup sessions. We would love to see some new faces at our upcoming playgroup sessions and encourage all families to come along with preschool aged children. It is a great way to get to know other school families and allows younger children to become familiar with the school environment.

Have a look at our school playgroup in action! 😊



**Playgroup runs in the School Library Friday Mornings
8:30 - 10am**

Upcoming Playgroup Dates
Friday February 21st 8:30 – 10am
Friday February 28th 8:30 – 10am



Parent Talk 2025 workshop

7-9pm | 6 March 2025 | Melton Central Community Centre

Being a parent or carer of a young person can be very challenging. This talk delivered from the perspective of a young person, is designed to facilitate parents and caregivers of primary and secondary school aged children with an understanding of the challenges faced by young people in this modern world. Tools will be provided that are immediately actionable for everyday life. The talk will be fun, interactive, evidence based, and with practical tools to apply.

Learning outcomes:

- To understand how your relationship with your young person shapes their brain both now and in the future;
- To have key take away tools to effectively engage with your young person at an age appropriate level;
- To identify what things parents can do to facilitate wellbeing in young people;
- To know how to deal with difficult situations with your young person, including conflict, boundary pushing, and rule testing;
- How to build resilience in young people including getting the balance right between providing support and doing too much for your child.

Register for **free** at: <https://bit.ly/parent-talk-2025>
or email us at: healthpromotion@wh.org.au

PARENTS LIVING IN AUSTRALIA!

Can you spare 15 minutes to help us understand more about
parenting stress and parental self-efficacy?



The demands and responsibilities related to caring for children often result in feeling overwhelmed. We would like to explore how parental self-efficacy and social support influence parenting stress.

Participants must be Australian parents over the age of 18 and have a child living at home.

Your responses will help us better understand the associations of parenting stress among Australian parents.

To take part in the study, please click the link below (scan the QR code below).



https://federation.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8xeDcdamJDEJX4a

Human Research Ethics Approval: 2024/195.



Melton Night Market

Looking for great local family entertainment? Ignite your senses at the vibrant Melton Night Market!

Across three unforgettable nights, immerse yourself in flavours, rhythms and traditions inspired by Asia, Europe and Oceania. Each evening offers a unique journey, celebrating our cultural diversity and the shared joy of community.

Dates:

Asian market: Friday 7 February

European market: Friday 7 March

Oceania market: Friday 4 April

Time: 5pm - 9pm

Location: Melton Town Amphitheatre

For more information:

Visit the [Melton City Council Website](#)

Winni Wizard and The Ditzzy Dizzard

The Wacky Wizard of the West is back again

Join Winni and her friend Ditzzy for a brand new show for ages 4 – 400, smooched with more magical mayhem than ever.



A show for the whole family filled with songs, dances and jokes funnier than your Dad's.

Show video: [Winni Wizard Live](#)

Where: Kindred Studios, 3 Harris Street, Footscray

Dates: Sat 12th April - Thu 17th April (No Monday)

Times: All shows 2pm

Ages: 4 - 400 year olds

Use code WIZARDY20 for 20% off

Booking Link: <https://www.comedyfestival.com.au/browse-shows/winni-wizard-and-the-ditzzy-dizzard/>

School Saving Bonus (SSB) – MACS Primary

Summary and FAQs



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

Summary and FAQs

The following information is intended to support schools in managing SSB administration at the **MACS Primary** school level.

School Saving Bonus (SSB) Background

- For Non-government schools, the SSB is a \$400 bonus for students receiving the means tested Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).
- SSB funding was provided to non-government schools based on their full cohort of students receiving CSEF in 2024. This funding was distributed late November 2024.
- To ensure the SSB benefit applies to eligible students for the 2025 school year, the Department of Education has recommended that the bonus is allocated to eligible students once the CSEF process has been completed for 2025.
- Non-government schools are required to apply the benefit for eligible families in a manner that is consistent with the intent of the bonus.

SSB can be applied to the following programs/expenditure:

- camps, trips, excursions and incursions
- swimming and sporting programs
- outdoor education programs
- graduations
- school uniforms
- textbooks.

SSB **cannot be applied** to tuition charges.

SSB **cannot be applied** to other non-school charges that may be billed through schools such as Before and After school care and faith related charges, e.g. sacraments and confirmation, social activities (deb ball, prom). The bonus cannot be used for activities required for the school's delivery of the curriculum such as stationery, locker hire, classroom and homework materials.

- The school is not required to provide the family with the cash equivalent of the bonus.
- Schools should ensure that the benefit is applied to the eligible students and is visible to parents, e.g. through a family statement or similar.

Additional Information

- Schools are expected to manage movements in CSEF eligibility within the total funding provided. For example, if Student A exits the school, and a Student B is enrolled, the \$400 from Student A is available to support Student B.
- If the bonus is unable to be managed with the available funding due to a net increase in CSEF eligible students, the Department will provide additional funding in 2025.
- Any additional funds held by the school following student movement must be used to support students as per the intent of the SSB. Schools are required to retain evidence of how any funding was applied.

Frequently Asked Questions

General Questions

How should schools prioritise the application of SSB?

It is recommended that schools prioritise the highest value item. This will be as follows:

1. Camp
2. Sports/Outdoor Educational programs
3. Uniforms (if new student, prioritise above sports/outdoor educational programs)

The aim is to use \$400 SSB within the 2025 year, if possible.

Can SSB be applied to non-school charges?

SSB can only be applied to additional charges related to educational activities and programs. Please refer to the above list of applicable programs/expenditure.

If there are additional charges that is not covered by MACS Concessional Fee policy, then SSB would be applicable, if within the program/expenditure listed above.

Can the \$400 SSB be applied directly as a credit to the family account who are already offered MACS Concessional fees?

No, the \$400 cannot be directly applied as an automatic credit against the family account. Credit can only be applied to the family account if it can be allocated towards programs/expenditures as stated above. It must be a justified applicable item(s) and evidence of how SSB funding was applied needs to be retained.

Can the SSB be shared within a family?

Yes, families can apply the SSB to another child within their family.

Can SSB be applied at any stage throughout 2025?

Yes, SSB can be applied at any stage throughout 2025. Ideally the full SSB is utilised within 2025.

If a parent claims SSB throughout the year, then how will it impact their direct debit? It will be at the school's discretion if they wish to adjust direct debit payment amounts. SSB is not cash transferrable and it is not advised that school's reimburse parents directly.

MACS Concessional Fee

How should SSB be applied for families that are offered MACS Concessional Fee policy? Schools are recommended to apply the SSB after the MACS Concessional Fee Policy.

For students with approved MACS Concessional Fee Policy (CFP), apply CFP first (includes CSEF application) and then SSB.

For students without approved CFP but receive CSEF, apply CSEF and then SSB.

For example, If the student has an applicable camp levy:
Apply the MACS Concessional Fee first and then reduce camp with SSB.

If the student does not have an applicable camp levy:
Apply the MACS Concessional Fee first and then reduce overall amount payable with SSB only for applicable items.

Example Scenarios

All examples below assume approved MACS Concessional Fee.

Scenario 1: 1-Child Family with Camp Levy

- Family pays \$780 (MACS concession) + camp levy.
- Camp levy is \$500. SSB of \$400 is applied to the camp levy.
-
- Total payable by the family: \$780 + \$100 (remaining camp levy) = \$880

Scenario 2: 1-Child Family without Camp Levy or other applicable charges/levies • Family pays \$780 (MACS concession) + no camp levy.

- If no other applicable charges/levies arise such as graduation, sports programs and/or outdoor education programs for SSB to be applied, the total unused value can be carried over to 2026.
- Total payable by the family: \$780

Scenario 3: 1-Child Family without Camp Levy + Additional \$100 Sports Program Charge • Family pays \$780 (MACS concession) + \$100 sports program.

- SSB applied to \$100 sports program.
- Total payable by the family: \$780 (carry forward unused \$300 SSB)
- The school will carry forward the remaining \$300 SSB to the 2026 school year if it cannot be utilised in 2025.

Scenario 4: 1-Child Family without Camp Levy + purchase uniforms for \$500 • Family pays \$780 (MACS concession)

- \$400 SSB applied to \$500 uniform purchase if tax receipt is provided.
- Total payable by the family: \$780 - \$400 = \$380
- Family covers cost of remaining \$100 from uniform spend.

Scenario 5: 2-Child Family with Camp Levy for one child

- Family pays \$1,196 (MACS concession) + camp levy for one child.
- Camp levy is \$1,000. SSB of \$800 is applied to the camp levy for the 2x \$400 SSB received for the two children.
- Total payable by the family: \$1,196 + \$200 (remaining camp levy) = \$1,396

Uniforms

Can the school process a credit to the family account if the family provides proof of purchase for uniform or books? i.e. parent buys upfront the uniform/books and provides receipts/tax invoices to school for processing as a credit in Accounts Receivable system.

Yes, provided that schools can obtain evidence and track the transaction and are able to explain that the credit on fees is in lieu of an eligible cost already paid by the family. It is not advised to reimburse parents directly.

Can SSB be applied to secondhand uniforms?

Yes, if a tax invoice can be issued from approved uniform supplier. The bonus can also be used to purchase second-hand uniforms where the sale of items is managed by the school (that is, where the school is the supplier), copy of receipt is still required as evidence.

The school bonus cannot be used to support transactions between individuals or marketplace sales (i.e. a family selling their child's uniform to another child).

What 'proof' is required when claiming SSB for uniform purchases?

Tax receipt/invoice listing uniform items.

What if tax receipts are lost? Can parents provide bank statements as proof of purchase for uniforms?

No. Parents are required to retain tax receipts to apply SSB. If a parent has lost their receipt, they can attempt to contact the uniform provider.

What is the cut off for claiming uniform?

Parents can claim SSB for uniforms from November 2024 onwards provided they have tax receipts/invoices. The uniform items will need to relate to the 2025 school year.

Can generic brands from Kmart or Target uniforms be claimed?

No. SSB cannot be used for purchases at general retailers.

Can SSB be applied towards school sports rugby tops or Year 6 jumpers that are charged separately from fees/levies? If so, how should this be recorded or applied?

Yes, a school sports rugby top or Year 6 jumper is considered uniform and is an additional charge to families, therefore SSB can be applied.

Please note that schools are required to retain a copy of the tax invoice if the school purchases the additional uniform item on behalf of the students (i.e. Year 6 jumper).

For uniform items purchased in 2024, please refer above.

Carry Forwards and Unused Funds

My school has additional funds due to student movement. When does this need to be allocated against other students, i.e. within 2025 or can this carry over to 2026? Also, does this have to be applied to only CSEF students?

Additional funds held due to student movements can be spent at the school's discretion and additional funds can be shown to support disadvantaged students. It does not need to be spent exclusively on CSEF eligible students. Additional funds can be allocated in 2025 and carried over into 2026.

Can SSB be carried forward into 2026 if there are unused funds in 2025?

Carry forwards are permitted. If schools or families are not able to spend the bonus in a manner that will benefit the student/family in 2025, then funds can be carried forward to 2026. Schools are required to ensure appropriate EOY adjustments for reporting and acquittals.

A child is moving to another MACS school, can their unused SSB funds be carried across to another school?

Yes, if a child is moving to another MACS primary school, unused SSB funds can be carried across. It will not be transferred if the student moves to government school.

What happens to surplus funds if all students from the relevant family have graduated? Are funds required to be returned?

Schools are NOT required to return unspent funds. It is expected that funds are used for an aligned purpose, at the school's discretion to support disadvantaged students. There is no requirement for parents of these students to be HCC holders, ensuring the funds are aligned with the intent of the SSB.

Acquittals and Record Keeping

How should schools track SSB spend?

Financial records should be retained to provide evidence on how SSB items are applied for each child. Primary School FBPs can assist admin officers with a template for tracking SSB spend.

What is the SSB acquittals process?

A selected sample of schools will be asked to provide evidence and records on how the SSB has been applied. It is recommended that schools utilise the workbook provided to ensure accurate recording and ensure appropriate EOY adjustments for reporting and acquittals.

How should schools process SSB in eSIS? What codes should be used in eSIS? SSB fee code is now available in eSIS for credit to be applied against debtor accounts. Fee code options for selection are 'SSB_Fees', 'SSB_Levies' or 'SSB_Other'.