



## Important Dates

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Occasional Care  
Monday 12 May 2025

Occasional Care  
Tuesday 13 May 2025

Year 6 Assembly  
Friday 16 May 2025

Penola Coonawarra  
Arts Festival  
Sunday 18 May 2025

Occasional Care  
Monday 19 May 2025

Occasional Care  
Tuesday 20 May 2025

Whole School Mass  
Mary Help of  
Christians 9:15am  
Friday 23 May 2025

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## Upcoming Events

Ladies Dinner Night    Catholic Education

Date: Friday 23 May  
Venue: Pipers of Penola -  
Penola SA

## Week

Date: Tuesday 28 August  
Time: 8:00am - 10:00am  
Venue: Adelaide  
Entertainment Centre -  
Hindmarsh SA

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## From the Principal



Dear Families and Friends of Mary MacKillop Memorial School,

Welcome back to Term 2. I trust that you enjoyed some rest and relaxation with family and friends. Welcome to the very first edition of our e-newsletter!

At Mary MacKillop Memorial School we are continually looking for ways in which to improve – and one of these is in our forms of communication to the community. Many thanks to Alice Griessl (Catholic Ed Marketing) and Milla who have collaborated together to bring you our newsletter online.

On our website you will also be able to find a [new e-calendar](#). This is still a work in progress, however, it will eventually replace the Term Calendar that comes home at the beginning of each term. The e-calendar will be able to be modified and updated in real time, which we believe will be a real win for our families.

This term we look forward to authentic learning with a focus on student agency and co-construction. We revisit our school priorities for 2025: name and live our values in action co-construct Mary Mac Reading Agreement engage with The Resilience Project and Positive Behaviour and Intervention Support Program With a continued focus on one year's growth + for every child. Overarching our priorities is a deliberate intention to be a high performing team!

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## ANZAC Day

Our School Captains and members of our Choir capably represented our school at Penola's Anzac Day service during the holidays. We are very proud of their outstanding singing and reverence at this significant event. Thank you to our families for supporting our students to participate.

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### **Happy Mother's Day**

This Sunday is a very important day—Mother's Day. It is a day when we can celebrate the special people in our lives. It may be our Mum, sister, cousin, auntie, grandma or a family friend. We take time to think about, honour and let these important people know how much we love them and thank them for their unconditional love and support. May is also the month when we take time to think about Mary, Jesus' mother and the very important role that she accepted without question from God. We are very grateful for all of the Mums and special people who joined us on Wednesday afternoon for a gathering, prayer, activities, food, fun and celebration. You all are no 1's in our eyes. We also pray for those women who are no longer with us, but are so special to us in our memories and our hearts.

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### **The Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival**

This is a fantastic initiative for the Penola- Coonawarra region and if you have not yet checked out the program, I strongly suggest you do. The Kid's program will be held down Petticoat Lane on Sunday 18 May. We will be opening up The MacKillop Markets, selling fresh produce and homemade goodies. We will also be offering the free activity of magnet/badge making. Our veggie patch has had a refresh and is yet to be really producing a lot of produce.

We are in desperate need of any surplus produce in families or grandparents/friend's veggie patches who would be able to donate it to The MacKillop Market for us to sell! Any donations can be dropped into school next week. Thank you in advance!

Mary MacKillop Memorial School will also be running the BBQ and we thank those who are on BBQ duty throughout the day. Unfortunately, a number of families who nominated to assist with the BBQ for the Penola-Coonawarra Arts Festival are no longer able to help out. If you are able to help we are also extremely desperate for helpers.

A big thank you to the staff at MMMS, who have rallied together to coordinate our part in the day. We look forward to a fantastic community event!

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### **Catholic Education Week**

Next week we are celebrating being part of Catholic Education South Australia. At Mary MacKillop Memorial School we celebrate the excellent teaching and learning that happens in our school every day. We actively endeavour to raise the hearts and minds of the learners who fill our school. The theme for the week is #ShineWithOpenHearts. Look out for some great little snippets that will be shared on social media next week.

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### **Mid-Year Intake 2025**

We are currently accepting 2025 mid-year enrolments. If your child turns 5 on or before the 31st October, they are able to start mid-year. If you are interested in your child starting mid-year, please contact the school as soon as possible. All Reception mid-year intakes are fee free.

As planning begins for 2026, I strongly encourage all families in the Penola region considering Mary MacKillop Memorial School for their child's education in 2026 to contact the school today! You are able to book a tour to see how we go about our core business at Mary Mac.

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### **Wellbeing and Child Protection**

As part of our duty of care and wellbeing of our students we want to assure all parents and carers of our absolute commitment to ensuring that Mary MacKillop Memorial School is a safe place for all. Our staff are committed and trained to protect the children and young people in our care. All staff and regular volunteers have Working With Children Checks. We teach our children age-appropriate strategies to keep themselves safe through South Australia's Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum. Staff complete certification and undertake regular updated training in Responding to Abuse and Neglect in Education and Care Settings. Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum is a mandated part of teaching and learning in Catholic schools, and staff are supported by professional learning and appropriate resources as we teach this curriculum. Parents are invited to speak with class teachers about this curriculum and how we can continue to work in partnership to develop an environment that promotes children's safety and well-being.



Additional information about the broader protection policies of Catholic Education SA can be found on their website. [Click here to access.](#)

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Wishing all families a lovely weekend, and Happy Mother's Day to all the special women out there!

God bless,

Nicole

## Joey's Jumpstart Program

Our Mid-Year Reception students have started the Jumpstart Joeys Program to help them transition smoothly into school life!

This program provides students with the opportunity to build relationships, explore their learning environments, and build confidence and independence before officially starting school. During our recent visits, the students participated in Storybook and InitialLit sessions, where they practised letter formation and much more!

The Mary Mac team is excited to watch these little learners flourish and grow!





# Catholic Identity



## School Community Raises \$520.75 for Project Compassion

We are thrilled to share the wonderful news that our school community has raised an incredible \$520.75 for Project Compassion! This achievement highlights the generosity, compassion, and spirit of giving, serving and love that defines our school.

All funds raised will be donated to Caritas Australia, supporting their vital work in assisting communities in developing countries. Through this contribution, Caritas will help provide essential needs like fresh running water, improving health, hygiene, and quality of life for many families around the world.

Thank you to everyone who donated and supported this important cause — together, we are making a real difference!

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## ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN

Alleluia, He is Risen!

It seems like such a long time ago that we celebrated Easter Sunday on the middle weekend of the school holidays. I am sure that there were some very excited young people waking up to celebrate this occasion with Easter eggs and chocolate bunnies.

Having Easter Sunday in the school holidays always makes it difficult to celebrate this as a school. Luckily the season of Easter in the church does not finish on Easter Sunday. There are 50 days (concluding at Pentecost) of Easter where we continue to celebrate and learn about Jesus being Risen and spending time with his disciples.

Thank you to the Yr 2/3 class who led a beautiful Alleluia Liturgy on the first day back at school this term.

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## MAY – THE MONTH OF MARY

Throughout the month of May we also honour Mary, Jesus' mother. We reflect on the great love that she had for her Son and the many sacrifices she made for Jesus so that he could spread the word of God to others.

Mary, our model and mother, by your obedience and patience you have taught us how to be true children of God. Please help us by your

powerful existence to overcome all our weaknesses, and to fulfil perfectly our tasks in life

Amen.

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**We pray the Hail Mary:**

Hail Mary, full of grace,

The Lord is with you;

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

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Sometime during the month of May you may choose to pray a novena to the Blessed Mother for a particular intention that you want to entrust to her Immaculate Heart, for yourself or for someone else. Try one of these three **Novenas to the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

Outside of the Mass, there is no prayer more pleasing to Our Lady for her intercession than the Holy Rosary. Try to pray the rosary with your family.

**Our Lady's fifteen promises to those who pray her rosary**

**Rosary instructions** – how to pray the rosary.

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**The New Pope**

We have a new Pope.

Robert Prevost entered this week's conclave as a cardinal and emerged Pope Leo XIV.

He was a close confidant of the previous pontiff, Pope Francis, and in this first address following his appointment Pope Leo spoke of the late Pope Francis being his cherished friend. Peace, and the need to strive for it, was a key thread sewn through his message to the people.

Who was Pope Francis and Who is Pope Leo

Pope Francis was the leader of the Catholic Church and will be remembered as a humble Pope that spoke openly of our need to care for the poor, disadvantaged and lonely in society. He will be forever linked with his most well-known encyclical, *Laudato si* where he urges all of humanity to look after God's creation. Pope Francis joined the Jesuits, a group known for helping others, especially through education and service. In 2013, he became the first Pope from South America (the first from outside of Europe in 1300 years!), the first Jesuit Pope, and the first to take the name "Francis", inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, who loved the poor and nature. Pope Francis died peacefully in 2025 at the age of 88. People around the world gave thanks for his gentle leadership, his care for the poor, and his love for creation.

Robert Prevost is 69 years old, and will be the 267th occupant of the throne of St Peter and will be known as Pope Leo XIV. He is the first pontiff born in the United States. He spent many years as a missionary in Peru, before becoming a bishop there. Pope Leo shares the same views on migrants, the poor, the marginalised and the environment as Pope Francis and has been described as "very down to earth" and "a very kind person, very reserved."

We pray for Pope Leo, as he begins his ministry as pope for all Christians around the world.

Lord, source of eternal life and truth, give to your shepherd a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he, as successor to the Apostle Peter and vicar of Christ, build your Church into a sacrament of unity, love, and peace for all the world.

Amen.

Let us pray for the pope.

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**Term 2 Mass and Liturgies**

**Whole School Masses**



Friday 23rd May @ 9.15am – Mary Help of Christians

Friday 27th June @ 9.15am – Feast of the Sacred Heart

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### **Class Masses/Liturgies**

Tuesday 3rd June

Yr 6 Class Mass at 9.15am

Yr 2/3 Class liturgy at 10.30am

Tuesday 1st July

Yr 4/5 Class Mass at 9.15am

R/1 Liturgy at 10.30am

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### **Sunday Family Mass**

Sunday 25th May

Sunday 22nd June

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### **PENOLA PARISH**

PARISH PRIEST : Fr Peter Zwaans

SUNDAY 11 May at 9:15am

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GOSPEL: John 10:27-30

The gift of eternal life.

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SATURDAY 17 May at 4:30pm

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

GOSPEL: John 13:31-35

Jesus issues a new commandment, love one another.

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## **Counsellor's Corner**

### **Mindfulness for Mini Minds**

Term 2 is already here, and after a busy school holiday, many of us may still be feeling a little tired. Teaching ourselves, and our children, to slow down can be a helpful way to ease back into routine. Mindfulness is a simple way to help children slow down, notice how they feel, and calm their busy minds. For many of our children, mindfulness can be fun and easy to learn through short, daily activities.

One way to start is with mindful breathing—ask children to pretend they are smelling a flower as they breathe in, and blowing out a candle as they breathe out. Even just a minute of quiet breathing can help them feel calmer and more focused.

Mindful activities like colouring, listening to soft music, or going on a “quiet senses walk” can also help children notice the world around them and feel more peaceful. These small moments help build focus, reduce stress, and support emotional wellbeing.

The key is to keep it simple and playful. A little mindfulness each day can make a big difference in helping young minds feel calm and

ready to learn!

Kind Regards,

Bec Baker

School Counsellor

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## Community News



### **Birthdays**

We wish a happy birthday to Levi who celebrated on the 2nd of last week, and Robert who celebrated on Thursday, 8th this week!

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## Sports News



# Millicent Gala Day

## Team Spirit Shines at Millicent Gala Day

Last Sunday, several of our students proudly represented our school at the Millicent Gala Day!

Levi, Michael, Harry, Charlie, and Matthew teamed up with Penola Primary School to form the Penola Eagles, coached by Jack Muhovics. The boys showed great determination, playing tirelessly in windy conditions on a large oval. Their efforts earned them one win, one draw, and two hard-fought losses.

Lola, Henna, Ruby, Saige, and Sophie also joined forces with Penola Primary to form a senior girls netball team. The girls had a fantastic time, sharpened their skills, and celebrated a number of well-earned victories.

In the junior girls division, Freya, Leila, Isla, and Bonnie took to the court as part of a combined schools team. For most of them, it was their first experience playing competitive netball—and they're already looking forward to next year!

We extend our sincere thanks to Penola Primary School and Beachport Primary School for welcoming our students into their combined teams. Our gratitude also goes to the Millicent Football and Netball Club for hosting such a well-organised and enjoyable event, promoting fun and healthy competition among children.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all the parents and staff who generously volunteered their time and energy—your support is what makes days like these possible!



## Cross Country

Congratulations to all the students who competed in Cross Country today - your efforts were amazing.

More information and photos to come from today!



## Mother's Day Afternoon 2025

What a heartwarming afternoon we had celebrating the incredible mothers, grandmothers, and special women in our lives! From the touching prayer led by our school captains Camilla and Charlie, to the sweet songs from our students and the delicious treats made by our talented student chefs — it was an afternoon full of love and gratitude!

Families enjoyed fun activities like bracelet making, portrait painting, playdough fun, nail polish pampering, and origami, all thanks to Miss Heazlewood's creativity!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us — and to our amazing community of mums and special people, Happy Mother's Day!









## Sustainability Cup Gallery

### MMMS Easter Foil Challenge – Turning Chocolate into Change! ♻️

This Easter, our MMMS students took part in the Easter Foil Challenge—a fun and eco-friendly initiative to help protect our planet!

After the holiday break, students brought in their collected chocolate foil, doing their part to reduce waste and support sustainability. Thanks to their efforts, our school community successfully diverted a significant amount of foil from landfill!

**A special congratulations to Miss Heazlewood's R/1 class, who collected the most foil and were proudly awarded the Sustainability Cup!** Their fantastic achievement was celebrated at our whole-school gathering on Tuesday.





# SAKGP Gallery

## SAGKP Cooking Program Recap – A Taste of Teamwork!

Last week, our 4/5 students rolled up their sleeves and got creative in the kitchen as part of our special **Cooking Program**! From baking golden, crunchy **ANZAC biscuits** to simmering rich and warming **pumpkin soup**, the classroom was filled with the sounds, smells, and smiles of teamwork and tasty achievements.

This hands-on program wasn't just about food—it was about building confidence, learning new skills, and sharing in the joy of cooking together. With plenty of laughs, learning, and of course, delicious results, it was a week to remember!

**Well done to all our young chefs!**



## Mother's Day Message



Stay tuned for a special Mother's Day message from our School Captains and students on behalf of our Mary MacKillop Memorial School Community!

This special message will be posted on our Instagram and Facebook page this Sunday, 11th May 2025.

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## Resilience Project




WELCOME TO

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT™

Parents & Carers




Why?




1 in 4

adolescents have a mental illness.




65%

of adolescents do not seek help.




1 in 7

primary school children have a mental illness.



1 in 5

adults will experience mental illness.



Over 50%

of students are at risk of a poor learning mindset (anxiety + disengagement).


Source: National Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Australia's Youth: Mental Illness

About the program

TRP is committed to teaching positive mental health strategies to prevent mental ill health and build young people's capacity to deal with adversity.


We're proud to be implementing TRP's evidence-based whole school wellbeing program to support positive mental health in the classroom, staffroom and wider community.

Students will engage in weekly lessons to understand and strengthen their practice of **Gratitude**, **Empathy**, **Mindfulness** and **Emotional Literacy**, with regular opportunity for parent/carer involvement.



Get involved with TRP@HOME


Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to find activities and resources to implement the GEM+EL principles at home.




Evidence-based

TRP's School Partnership Program has been independently evaluated by [The University of Adelaide](#) and [The University of Melbourne](#).


Scan the QR code to learn more about how the program is significantly lowering the risk of mental illness.






The imperfects podcast

The [Imperfects](#) is hosted by Hugh van Cuylenburg, Ryan Shelton and Josh van Cuylenburg, celebrates just how imperfectly perfect we all are. Together, they chat to a variety of people who bravely share their struggles and imperfections alongside valuable learnings we can apply to our own lives and use to support the teachings of TRP in the classroom. Guests include Nathan Buckley, Grace Tame, Jack Steele, Zan Rowe, Michael Klim, Billy Slater, Lael Stone, Pat Cummins, Tim Minchin and many more.





(03) 9113 9302 [theresilienceproject.com.au](http://theresilienceproject.com.au)

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT™

## Text Absentee Number

A reminder that if your child is absent from school, for any reason, it is important that this is communicated with the school. The Catholic Education system has advised all schools to follow up on unresolved absences with families. Your support and communication in this matter is greatly appreciated.

0488 280 771

When texting the Absentee Line to explain your child's absence from school please make sure you put both their name and reason so it can be recorded properly.

## BBQ Volunteers Required

15 / 20



**SUNDAY**  
**18 MAY 2025**

# VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED!

Alongside the MMMS Market Stall, we'll also be running a fundraising BBQ!



## WE NEED YOUR HELP:

To help things run smoothly, we're still looking for a few more volunteers. If you're available to lend a hand for a **two-hour shift at the BBQ**, please contact the school as soon as possible.



School Phone:  
**(08) 8737 2902**



Email Us:  
**[info@mmms.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@mmms.catholic.edu.au)**

We're thrilled about the upcoming Penola Coonawarra Arts Festival!

Alongside the MMMS Market Stall, we'll also be running a fundraising BBQ. A big thank you to those who chose the BBQ as their



volunteer event earlier this year—we truly appreciate your support.

To help things run smoothly, we're still looking for a few more volunteers. If you're available to lend a hand for a two-hour shift at the BBQ, please contact the school as soon as possible.

Your help makes a big difference!


Ready, Set, Progress

# READY, SET, PROGRESS

## Child Development Checks


The Office for Early Childhood Development is partnering with Playgroup SA to offer a new way to help parents/caregivers access child development checks. The aim is to increase development screening for children between 12 months and 5 years of age.






### WHAT IS A CHILD DEVELOPMENT CHECK?

A child development check looks at a child's key developmental milestones, such as communication, social-emotional, physical and problem-solving skills. A questionnaire is used to gain the unique understanding a parent/caregiver has about their child. The check is completed together with a Playgroup SA professional (usually an allied health professional, educator or social worker). A development check is separate from a health check, which needs to be conducted by a primary health care provider or the Child and Family Health Service (CaFHS).




### WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE, IF NEEDED?

If your child has had a child development check with Playgroup SA and it has indicated that your child may benefit from support, the Child Development team at Playgroup SA can offer specialised Early Help and Support. Early Help and Support can include: Help with accessing support services that match the needs of your child and your family. Provision of initial practical, individualised strategies designed to promote your child's development.




### WHY ARE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CHECKS IMPORTANT?

Reaching developmental milestones in early childhood builds a strong foundation for a child's future learning and for their adult life. A child development check can help parents to identify their child's strengths and identify new milestones to celebrate. It can also help parents and caregivers understand their child's progress, know what to look for next and to reveal any areas where a child may need support. A child's experiences in the first few years of life helps to shape their brains, bodies and emotions and provide a foundation for their future.




### DOES THE READY, SET, PROGRESS PROGRAM CATER FOR FAMILIES FROM A RANGE OF CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC BACKGROUNDS?

Playgroup SA can offer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families a child development check that is culturally appropriate. Playgroup SA is also able to offer interpreting services for families who prefer a language other than English.



### HOW CAN MY CHILD RECEIVE A FREE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CHECK?

You can speak to your Playgroup coordinator or local community based early childhood program leader to organise a Playgroup SA Child Development Facilitator to attend your program or contact Playgroup SA to arrange a child development check. Please note: The child development checks offered as part of this pilot do not meet the requirements for the 3 or 4 year old Healthy Start for School check which can impact Family Tax Benefit (Part A) payments (for more information visit the Services Australia Health Start for School webpage).



### GET IN TOUCH!

Mary MacKillop Memorial School Ready Set Progress Development Check:



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM - Please complete the following form if you are interested in receiving a developmental check for your child/children. Once your expression of interest has been received, our coordinator will be in touch with you via preferred method of contact regarding the next steps, booking a preferred time slot and further information.

### WHAT IS READY, SET, PROGRESS?

The Office for Early Childhood Development is partnering with Playgroup SA to offer a new way to help parents/caregivers access child development checks. The aim is to increase development screening for children between 12 months and 5 years of age.

### CONTACT US TODAY!

(08) 8737 2902  
emoulton@mmms.catholic.edu.au  
5 Portland St, Penola SA 5277



MMMS Playgroup Flyer



MARY MACKILLOP  
PENOLA

# PLAYGROUP

FRIDAY MORNINGS  
9AM – 10:30AM



**CONTACT US!**



(08) 8737 2902



[emoulton@mmms.catholic.edu.au](mailto:emoulton@mmms.catholic.edu.au)



5 Portland St, Penola SA 5277





## ABOUT US

Our **supported playgroup** facility offers intentional play based learning for all families with children aged birth – 4 years.

- Open **every Friday** morning of the school term from 9:30am – 11am.
- All families of the local community and surrounds are warmly welcomed to join.
- Gold coin donation upon arrival.
- Coffee and tea available!



## A PLAY BASED APPROACH TO LEARNING

"MMMS Supported playgroup is more than just a play space"

Our space is a safe, respectful environment that prioritises the core developmental growth of your child from the age of birth to 4 through **intentional play**.



PLAY, TALK, SING, READ, DISCOVER

## WHAT IS INTENTIONAL PLAY?

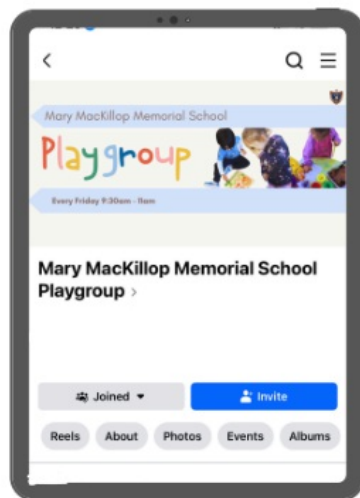
Our intentional play based learning ensures all activities your child immerses themselves in, thoughtfully and purposefully extends their individual thinking and learning.

All play is child-led and driven by their ideas, interests, abilities and curiosity, whilst parents are encouraged to imagine and discover alongside their little ones.

A GLIMPSE OF  
WHAT WE'RE ALL  
ABOUT!



FIND US ON  
FACEBOOK!



LET'S KEEP IN  
TOUCH

MARY MACKILLOP  
MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Coordinated by Ebonie Moulton

SUPPORTED  
PLAYGROUP



For more information such as our  
coordinator's profile, supported programs  
and more, please scan QR code

08 8737 2902

emoulton@mmms.catholic.sa.edu.au

