



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 9 - 15th September 2025

EVENTS

THIS WEEK 9

Monday

Questacon
Fascinating Science

Thursday

Times Table
Challenge Final
11.45AM

Friday

Biodiversity Lessons
Years 4, 5 & 6

Sporting Schools
Cricket

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another busy and fruitful term, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the wonderful achievements and activities that have taken place recently within our school community.

What a tremendous finale we enjoyed last Wednesday at the Holy Family's Got Talent competition! The creativity, skill and enthusiasm displayed by all our finalists were inspiring. The performances were incredibly entertaining and our judges had the most challenging task of selecting the winners. I encourage you to take a look at the results listed later in this newsletter and join me in congratulating all participants for their outstanding efforts.

Last Friday, 17 of our students proudly represented Holy Family School at the Polding Athletics Carnival in Newcastle. I am thrilled to share that several of our athletes achieved extraordinary results:

Emrys Cassidy – Silver in 800m and 1500m

Nate Calabro – Gold in 800m and 1500m

Seth King – Silver in Long Jump

These three talented students have been selected to join the Polding team and will compete at the NSWPSA Carnival next term. Congratulations to Emrys, Nate and Seth on this remarkable achievement and well done to all our students who represented our school with pride and sportsmanship.

This week we are excited to hold the final rounds of the Times Tables Challenge. Congratulations to all students who have worked so hard to reach the final stage. We look forward to witnessing some impressive displays of mathematical mastery during the year-level finals. Best of luck to all our finalists!

As the term draws to a close, I would like to express my gratitude to our dedicated staff for their tireless efforts in ensuring a safe, engaging and enriching learning environment for all our students. I also want to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of our students, who continue to strive for excellence in all they do.

Denise Gersbach

Principal



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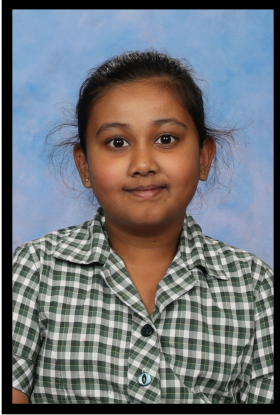
FIND US ON FACEBOOK

[Holy Family Parish School Parkes](#)

★ Star of the Week ★

Aiyshu Thammitalage is the Star of the Week for demonstrating our Core Values (In Praise, Love, and Trust) and for always displaying steadfast determination and genuine thoughtfulness in all that she does.

Interview with Aiyshu



What is your favourite subject?	Art
In your free time, what do you like to do?	I like to draw and read
What is your favourite food?	Pizza
What do you like most about our school?	Everyone is really nice at our school
	Drawing and singing
What would you like to be when you grow up ?	A doctor and an artist



Term 3 Week 9: Manner of the Week (From our Core Value - PRAISE)

Look for the good in others and acknowledge their efforts or achievements

This fortnight's challenge is to see how well you know your folktales.

<p>1. What is a folktale?</p>	<p>a) A story told using only pictures b) A traditional story passed down through generations c) A story about a superhero d) A story that only happens in outer space</p>
<p>2. In the story of "Hansel and Gretel," what is the house made of?*</p>	<p>a) Bricks and wood b) Gingerbread and sweets c) Stone and straw d) Ice and snow</p>
<p>3. What do folktales usually teach us?</p>	<p>a) How to do maths b) A moral or life lesson c) How to play sports d) A magic trick</p>

4. What is the main lesson in "The Boy Who Cried Wolf"?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Wolves are dangerous animals b) Always tell the truth, or people may not believe you c) Never live near a wolf d) Being loud will help you get what you want
5. What kind of characters are often found in folktales?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Talking animals or magical creatures b) Robots and aliens c) Famous movie stars d) Knights with superpowers
6. What is usually the role of animals in folktales?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) They are just pets b) They are often the main characters and can talk or teach lessons c) They only appear in the background d) They are always the villains
7. Which of these is a common feature of folktales?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) They are always written by famous authors b) They are often shared by word of mouth c) They are always about real events d) They never have happy endings
8. What makes folktales special?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) They are told the same way in every country b) They are unique to each culture and reflect its traditions c) They are only read in schools d) They are only about magic
9. In the folktale "Stone Soup," what do the villagers learn?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Sharing and working together can create something wonderful b) Stones can be used to make soup c) It's important to keep secrets d) Always help strangers
10. Why are folktales important?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) They are full of fun and excitement b) They help us learn about different cultures and values c) They are always about animals d) They are only for adults

If there are multiple winning entries, your name will go into a draw. The winners will be drawn out of a hat and receive a prize at our School Assembly. Please write your name and answers on a piece of paper and hand it to me any time this week.

I hope everyone has a great week.
 Andrew Berger

Religious Education

Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

MINI VINNIES- SOCIAL JUSTICE EXCURSION

Year 6 students in Stage 3 will be visiting the Saint Vincent de Paul Society Shop on Tuesday, 16th September, to learn first-hand from St Vincent de Paul Society members how they serve the community of Parkes.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL LITURGY & MUFTI MISSION DAY-25TH SEPTEMBER

Stage 3 is organising the St Vincent de Paul Liturgy. There will be special guests attending from the St Vincent De Paul Society, Parkes and Forbes Conferences.

At the liturgy, the Stage 3 students will receive Mini Vinnies Certificates and the elected leaders will be commissioned.

MISSION STALLS

- There will be Mission Stalls to raise funds for the SVdP Society on Thursday, 25th September. Each class will run their own stall. Class teachers will organise their class stall.
- Students can wear mufti for a gold coin donation.
- All parents and friends are invited to come along and support this wonderful cause.
- LET'S GET TOGETHER TO HELP THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY.



Upcoming Feast Days-

27th September- **Saint Vincent de Paul**

Upcoming Masses and Liturgies-

***Saint Vincent de Paul Liturgy**
Thursday, 25th September, 10.15am, HFS Hall
Mufti Mission Day Stalls (after the Liturgy)



Have a wonderful week!

Beverly Berger

Religious Education Coordinator

Assembly Awards

Week 8

AWARD	CLASS	STUDENT NAME
Student of the Week	KJC	Arjun Jodder
	KC	Abigail Smee
	1S	Finn Walker
	2CR	Georgie Harris
	3N	Ava Byrnes
	4W	Sophie Wood
	5/6B	Hunter Wythes
	5/6HR	Max Crowe
Recognition of Learning Award	Infants - KJC	Chelsea Spedding
	Primary - 3N	Tessa Dugan
Consistently Following School Rules (based on Manner of the Week, Environment and Uniform)	Infants - KC	Izak Malherbe
	Primary - 4W	Michael Jehan
Playground Behaviour Award	Infants - 1S	Archie Thomson
	Primary - 5/6HR	Aava Dhakal
Leadership Award	Infants - 2CR	Everleigh Albert
	Primary - 5/6B	Mia Malherbe
Living the Gospel Values	Infants - KJC	Mikayla Sibanda
	Primary - 3N	Reed Wild

P&F Notes



Homegrown Parkes Markets

Your P&F will be running a stall selling homemade cakes, fruit & vegetables & hotdogs at the homegrown markets on **Saturday 11th October**. This is a fantastic opportunity to raise some funds and showcase our school to the wider community.

Volunteer Roster		Saturday 11 th October				
Homegrown Parkes Markets						
	Volunteer 1	Volunteer 2	Volunteer 3	Volunteer 4	Volunteer 5	Activity
7-8						Setup
8-9						Setup
9-10						Sales
10-11						Sales
11-12						Sales
12-1						Sales
1-2						Sales
2-3						Packup

If you can spare an hour or two to help on the stall or are able to donate cakes and slices or fruits & vegetables from your garden, please put your name in the roster in the attached link or contact the office. Any donations of cakes, slices or fruits and vegetables can be dropped off on the day, prior to 9am please.

Holy Family's Got Talent

WINNERS



Infants

Runner-up: Harvey Williams - Robot Boogie

Winner: Isla Barber - Sweet Dreams

Primary

Runner-Up: Lillian Townsend - The White Stripes

Winner: Ceff Anasta - 'Beautiful Things'

Encouragement Award

Aarnav Gautam - Keyboard

People's Choice Award

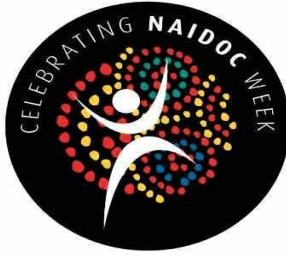
Emerson Kaden, Jack Kaden, Allie O'Brien, Abel Medlyn,

Elizabeth Toomey, Stanley Drooger, Max Dwyer

Mulligan & Ted Dugan - Clash of Clans

HOLY FAMILY'S
Got Talent

Notes



**THE NEXT
GENERATION:
STRENGTH,
VISION &
LEGACY**

PARKES NAIDOC FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday, 20 September 2025

10am - 2pm

Bushman's Hill Wiradjuri Amphitheatre

Local Performances | Awards | Free BBQ
Arts & Weaving | Jumping Castles | Face Painting | Stalls

MAJOR SPONSOR:



SUPPORTED BY:



Contact Marg Applebee at cwllandcare@gmail.com or 0418 611 053 for further information.

School Holiday Activities

**TUES
30
SEPTEMBER**

SCIENTISTS IN TRAINING

FREE, 10:30AM - 12:00PM, Years K - 2
FREE, 2:00PM - 4:00PM, Years 3 - 6
Learn to be a Scientist and enjoy a guided tour of the Fascinating Science Exhibition from Questacon.

**TUES
30
SEPTEMBER**

AFTER HOURS FOR YOUTH

FREE, 5:00PM - 7:00PM, Years 7 - 12
Enjoy exclusive access to Questacon and challenge your friends to solve the 24 hands-on exhibits. Includes pizza in the Makerspace. Bookings via Humanitix.

**WED
1
OCTOBER**

ROBOTICS

\$10, 10:00AM - 12:00PM, Years 2 - 6
Work in pairs using LEGO Spike Essential robotics kits. Bookings via Humanitix.

**THURS
2
OCTOBER**

ROBO BATTLES

\$10, 10:00AM - 12:30PM, Years 5 - 10
Work in pairs using LEGO Spike Prime robotics kits and battle it out on the plank. Bookings via Humanitix.

**TUES
7
OCTOBER**

HOLIDAY FLICKS (PG)

FREE, 10:30AM - 12:00PM, Years K - 6
Watch your favourite comic book come to life in a brand new movie in the Makerspace. Juice and popcorn provided!

Bookings via Humanitix.
School aged children only.



RURAL ROAD SAFETY MONTH - September 2024

Now in its seventh year, [ARSF's Rural Road Safety Month](#) national awareness campaign targets regional and rural road safety throughout September. A national community-based road safety initiative, it is designed to highlight the additional risks when driving on rural and remote roads across Australia.

Despite being less populated areas, deaths on rural and remote roads accounted for almost two thirds of the 2023 road toll.

All road users are encouraged to get involved to help make a significant reduction in road trauma.

**RURAL ROAD
SAFETY MONTH**
September 2024



Help sow the seeds of change.
Road safety starts with you!



FREE

UPSTAGE

SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

PARKES

ACTING ★ DANCE ★ SINGING ★ SONGWRITING



SCAN FOR MORE INFO

OCTOBER

9TH **YEARS 3-6** 10AM - 2:30PM
10TH **YEARS 7-10** 10AM - 3:00PM



STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Student attendance is recorded each day. As a parent or caregiver you are responsible for ensuring your child attends school every day unless your child:

- has an unavoidable medical or dental appointment
- is required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- is required to attend an exceptional or urgent family circumstance (such as attending a funeral)
- is sick, or has an infectious illness.

If you are having difficulty getting your child to attend school regularly, please discuss this with the school principal.

If your child has to be absent from school for any reason, please update this within 7 days on the Compass Parent Portal or explain the reason by phone, e-mail or written note as soon as possible. Late arrivals and/or early departures can only be entered via the Compass Kiosk at the office.

After 7 days, the absence will remain as 'Unexplained' and cannot be changed (NSW Education Act 1990).

PARENTS CHECK THE CHECK

In June 2013 legislation changed, requiring people working or volunteering with children under 18 years to have a [Working With Children Check](#). The legislated phase-in for existing employees and volunteers in education took place between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017. This included people working in private tuition and coaching - many of whom are self employed. This sector will now be subject to the Office of the Children's Guardian compliance program.

What does this mean for parents?

Parents engaging tutors for their children should be asking the tutor to provide a Working With Children Check application or clearance number - then verifying that number online.

[Verifying a clearance online](#) is quick and easy, and ensures that a Working With Children Check clearance is current.

Find out more: [Who needs a Check](#)

Notes

HELMET SAFETY

Helmet STAR - Safety Testing and Assessment Ratings

In NSW, bicycle riders must wear an approved helmet that is correctly fitted and fastened. [Helmet STAR](#) can help you choose the safest helmet.

All bicycle helmets sold in Australia must comply with an approved [Australian or overseas standard](#) for bicycle helmets. Helmet STAR awards a star rating from 1 to 5 based on how well they protect a rider's head in a crash.

Helmets rated 5 stars are exceptional in crash protection and exceed the recognised helmet standard. Helmets rated 1 star meet the crash protection required of a recognised standard.

Why are helmets important?

Helmets are designed to cushion and protect your head from the impact of a crash. Wearing a helmet reduces the chance of suffering a preventable brain injury. Research shows bicycle helmets can reduce head injuries by about 70% and reduce fatal head injuries by 65%.

Road safety



Wearing helmets and riding safely

Wearing helmets

Your child must wear a helmet when riding a bike in any public place – it's the law. The helmet must comply with the Australian and New Zealand standards and needs to be securely fitted and fastened on your child's head. It should be buckled firmly so it fits without wobbling or slipping to the sides.

Always remember to check that your child is wearing a helmet whenever they're playing or riding on wheels –

- Bikes
- Foot scooters
- Rollerskates
- Skateboards
- Rollerblades.

Riding safely

Although children quickly learn to pedal, steer and brake, they aren't ready to cycle near traffic or on the road. Until they are at least 10 years old, your child should ride off-road away from vehicles and driveways.

The safest places to ride bikes, scooters and skateboards are within fenced areas. This helps your child from riding or falling onto the footpath or the road. Children under 16 and their

accompanying supervising adult riders may ride on the footpath, unless there are signs specifically prohibiting cycling. Riders need to take special care at driveways where vehicles may be driving in or out.

At intersections, riders must dismount and wheel the bicycle across the road as a pedestrian, following the **STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! THINK!** procedure.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on [safetytown.com.au](#)

Messages to share with your children in Kindergarten to Year 4

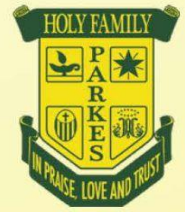
- Always wear a helmet when you ride or skate
- Ride your bike away from the roads

Messages to share with your children in Years 5 and 6

- Always wear a helmet when you ride or skate
- Ride your bike away from busy roads

LET'S TALK ABOUT HOME READING

Holy Family Parish School, Parkes



At Holy Family we match children to texts based on their mastery of the phonemic code, comprehension, vocabulary and fluency capabilities as well as for enjoyment and interest.



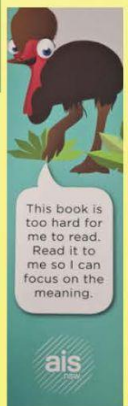
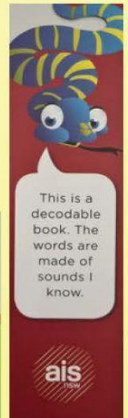
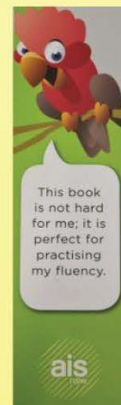
BUILD A LOVE OF BOOKS

We encourage you to enjoy books with your child and build a love of literature from an early age. We hope that you can enjoy reading at home as a time that promotes conversation, relaxation, downtime, connection and most importantly fun.

At Holy Family we acknowledge the challenges that you might experience in building a love of books.

Here are a few tips to help;

- **Hook them on the story** - A good yarn can reel in even the most reluctant reader
- **Keep it fun**
- **Read** - If we're going to encourage kids to read we need to do it too
- **Share your reading experiences** - talk about books
- **Make connections between reading and other issues**
- **Take away any pressure.**



**PHONOLOGICAL
AWARENESS**



PHONICS



FLUENCY



VOCABULARY



COMPREHENSION





Holy Family School Parkes

KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION

KICKSTART YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING JOURNEY.

Our 2026 Transition Program is now available from Term 1 to Term 4 for children starting Kindergarten in 2027.

Please note that Term 3 and 4 attendance are limited to students who are enrolled for 2027 Kindergarten at HFS.



PROGRAM FEATURES:



FREE - NO COST

Children will also be provided with a FREE Holy Family sports shirt for the program.



PROGRAM ALIGNS WITH SCHOOL HOURS

Starts Term 1 - 18th March 2026
Finishes Term 4 - 9th December 2026

On EVERY Wednesday 9 am - 3 pm



CANTEEN LUNCH AVAILABLE



6862 1610



admin.parkes@wf.catholic.edu.au



37A High Street, Parkes

Term 3 Calendar

	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
July	1	21 First Day - Term 3 (Staff and Students)	22	23 Todd Woodbridge Tennis Cup (Stage 2) NSWPSSA Cross Country Championships	24	25	26/27 Sts Joachim & Anne (26)
Jul/Aug	2	28	29	30	31 Central Cluster Athletics (Trundle)	1 Grandparents' Day Mass Stage 2 12.15pm - Hall Assembly - 2.45pm	2/3
August	3	4	5 ICAS Digital Technologies	6 ICAS Writing P&F Meeting - 6pm	7	8 Mary of the Cross MacKillop Liturgy Stage 1 12:30 HFS Hall	9/10
	4	11 ICAS English Bullying No Way: National week of action(11th-15th Aug)	12 Kindergarten Library Visit 12pm - 1pm	13	14 WF Diocesan Athletics (Parkes) TBC	15 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass Stage 3 12:15 HFS Hall Assembly - 2.45pm	16/17
	5	18 ICAS Science Musica Viva - 11.30am	19 AECG Meeting - Junior and Senior (Holy Family)	20 ICAS Spelling Bee	21 Book Week Parade 9.15am - "Book an Adventure"	22 Reading Day (Cooke Park) 9:00am - 12:00pm	23/24
Aug/Sep	6	25 ICAS Mathematics	26 Half Day Show Holiday (12pm)	27 Holy Family's Got Talent - Auditions	28 Holy Family's Got Talent - Auditions School Disco - 6.00pm	29 Holy Family's Got Talent - Auditions Assembly - 2.35pm	30/31
September	7	1	2	3 Indigenous Literacy Day P&F Meeting - 6pm	4 Father's Day Liturgy Stage 2 12.30pm HFS Hall Father's Day Breakfast (8am)	5 Pupil Free Day -	6/7 Father's Day Sun 7 Sept
		Australian Teacher Aide Appreciation Week					
	8	8 Todd Woodbridge - Stage 2 Regional Playoffs (Forbes)	9 Assembly - 2.45pm	10 Holy Family's Got Talent - Grand Final School Committee Meeting - 7.30pm	11	12 Polding Athletics (Glendale) Parish Dinner - School Hall - 5.30pm	13/14
	9	15 Questacon Fascinating Science Excursion - Parkes Shire Library (Stage 2 and Stage 3)	16	17	18 Holy Family - Times Tables Challenge Final	19	20/21
10	22	23	24	25 St Vincent de Paul Liturgy 10.15am Mufti Mission Day Stalls Assembly - 2.45pm	26 Last Day of Term 3	27/28	