



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 2- 2nd February 2026

EVENTS

THIS WEEK 2

Monday

Year 1-6 Commence

**P&F Meeting 6pm
(Coachman)**

Wednesday

**Kindergarten Students
Commence**

Thursday

Swimming Carnival

Friday

Polding Tennis Trials

2026 Term 1 Dates

Mon, 9th March
Pupil Free Day

Wed, 18th March
**Kindergarten
Transition Commences**

Fri, 2nd April
Last Day of Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the 2026 school year! I hope you all enjoyed a restful and rejuvenating summer break with your families. It has been wonderful to see our school community come alive again with the energy and excitement of our students, staff and families.

We are excited to announce that the rebuilding of both our top and bottom toilet blocks commenced during the holidays. The project is expected to take another 6 weeks if all things progress as expected. Temporary arrangements have been made for toilets for the students during this time.

This week, we are thrilled to welcome two classes of Kindergarten students to Holy Family. Today and tomorrow, these young learners will be completing their assessments with their teachers to help us get to know them better and prepare for their first day of school on Wednesday. Starting their school journey is such a special milestone, and we look forward to seeing them grow and thrive in the years to come.

We are also delighted to welcome several new students to our school community this year:

Keaton Atherton (1C), George Wright (1C)

Jewell Jasmine (4WR)

Thenudi Rajapaksha (1C),

Hope Sargent (4WR)

Indranil Iderkhulan (2C)

Nazarene Payne (5/6B)

We extend a warm Holy Family welcome to these students and their families. We are so glad to have you join us!

Although we are enjoying a break from the hottest summer weather, the forecast is still predicting warm conditions. Please ensure your child brings a water bottle and wears their hat to school each day so they can stay hydrated and sun-safe.

This Thursday marks an exciting event in our calendar—our Swimming Carnival at the Parkes Pool! Students in Years 3–6, as well as Year 2 students who can confidently swim a length of the pool, will be participating. If you are able to assist on the day, please contact the school office by tomorrow. We are grateful for the continued support of our parent and carer community in making events like this a success.

Welcome to new staff members Gracie Jones (LSO) and Jemima Grosvenor (Teacher Hub program) who have commenced at Holy Family. We are delighted to welcome them to our staff group.

Congratulations to Emrys Cassidy who received the Ron Harrison OAM Rising Star Award at the Parkes Australia Day Awards Ceremony. There were 13 recipients of the Rising Star Award grants in 2025, with the perpetual Ron Harrison OAM Rising Star Award that recognises a sports person with great potential as the 'Star of Stars' from all the recipients going to Emrys.

Finally, we would like to wish Curtis Arndell all the best as he represents the Diocese at the Polding Tennis Trials in Tamworth on Friday. It is fantastic to see our students excelling and representing our school in such wonderful ways.

It has been heartening to see how enthusiastic and ready our students are to embark on another year of learning and growth. Together, we look forward to achieving great things this year, both in the classroom and in the wider community.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Holy Family School—we are truly blessed to have such a vibrant and welcoming community.

Kind regards

Denise Gersbach

Principal

CONTACT US

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK
Holy Family Parish School Parkes

Religious Education

Fourth week in Ordinary Time

A warm welcome to the new school year. May 2026 bring many blessings to all the families in our school community.

*Catholic Education Wilcannia Forbes Spiritual Theme 2026

Our spiritual theme this year is *Peace in Our Hearts, Peace in the World.*

A shared spiritual theme gives our Catholic school communities a simple, uplifting focus that brings us together and deepens our faith.

Perhaps it is fitting then to reflect on what this truly means...

A Personal Reflection...

- Where do I find peace in my life?
- How do I contribute to the peace of others?
- What is God asking of me as an instrument of peace in this world?



We look forward to some important liturgical celebrations this term-

❖ School Leaders Induction Mass-

Wednesday, 11th February, 9:45 am at Holy Family Catholic Church

❖ Ash Wednesday-

Wednesday, 18th February, Whole School Liturgy, 12.30pm, Holy Family School Hall

❖ Sacrament of Eucharist- First Holy Communion Mass- Sunday, 1st March, 9.30am at Holy Family Catholic Church

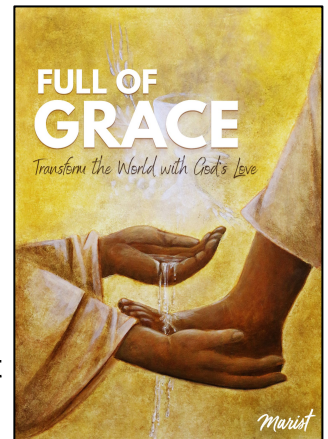
- ★ Year 3 Catholic students will have the opportunity to make their First Holy Communion. Information Notes will be sent home shortly.

➤ SEASON OF LENT 2026-

Wednesday, 18 February 2026 – Thursday, 2 April 2026

➤ **Easter 2026- Sunday, 5 April 2026**

MARIST THEME 2026-Full of Grace – Transform the World with God's Love.



I hope everyone has a wonderful week.

Beverly Berger

Notes

HFS Breakfast Club



The HFS Breakfast Club urgently needs additional volunteers to continue running at full capacity. This much-loved program has been operating three mornings a week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) for several years, helping give our children the best possible start to their day.

Without more volunteer support, the program will unfortunately be reduced to just two days a week. Volunteering requires only a 30-minute commitment, and every extra pair of hands makes a real difference. If you're able to help, please contact the office. Many hands truly do make light work.

PUPIL FREE DAYS 2026

TERM 1

Mon, 9th March

TERM 2

Fri, 8th May
Tue, 9th June

TERM 3

Thur, 24th September
Fri, 25th September

COMING SOON.....

HOLY FAMILY PLAY AND GROW PLAYGROUP



10-11am

Every Friday Morning
Holy Family School Hall



Swimming Carnival - Thursday

Students in Years 3-6 will be attending the swimming carnival on Thursday. On this day, students should wear their sports uniform, adorned with their house colours.

Please note that the regular school uniform will be worn on Friday.

If any parents are able to assist at the swimming carnival, please contact the school. Thank you for your support.

Notes

Attendance Information for Parents

Compliance with Catholic Education Wilcannia-Forbes (CEWF) Attendance policies and procedures allow schools, students and parents to meet their obligations under the NSW Education Act 1990.

As stated in CEWF's Attendance Policy parents are required to explain the absences of their children from school promptly and within seven days to the school. An explanation for absence must be provided to the school **within 7 days** of the first day of any period of absence.

If details regarding the explanation for absences are insufficient, principals may register the absence as unjustified.

It is most important that parents provide details for an absence of their child when using the Compass Parent Portal or when sending in a note to the school.

In Compass, parents have the following absence reasons to select from when entering an absence via the Parent Portal:

- Medical Illness - to be used for sickness, medical and dental treatment
- Medical appointment - appointments with medical professionals, dental practitioners
- Travel - student does not attend school due to a student/family holiday
- Other Explained Absence - school has received a satisfactory explanation for a student's absence. Includes: misadventure or unforeseen event, participation in non-school events, domestic necessity such as serious illness of an immediate family member, attendance at funerals, recognised religious festivals
- Natural Disaster - a student is unable to attend school due to an extreme weather event or other natural disaster. Includes: bushfire, flood or storm events

Please note that when selecting a reason for the absence, parents **MUST** also fill in the Details/Comment section in the Parent Portal. Examples as follows:

- Medical illness - details 'has a stomach bug'
- Medical appointment - details 'doctor's appointment'
- Travel - details 'family holiday to the Gold Coast'
- Other Explained Absence - details 'attending funeral of a relative'

Whole day/s absences can be entered via the Compass Parent Portal however **late arrivals and/or early departures** are to be entered via the Kiosk Lite at the school office.

Should you have any questions regarding the use of absence codes, please do not hesitate to contact your school principal for further information.

Term 1 -2026- Parent Calendar

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
Jan/Feb	26 School Holidays Australia Day (PH)	27 School Holidays	28 School Holidays	29 Staff Commence	30 Staff Planning Day	31/1
Feb	2 Year 1-6 students commence Kindergarten Assessments P&F Meeting - 6pm	3 Kindergarten Assessments	4 Kindergarten students commence	5 Swimming Carnival	6 Polding Basketball/ Tennis Trials (Tamworth)	7 / 8
Feb	9	10	11 Induction of School Leaders Mass - 9.45am - HF Church	12	13	14/15 Sun 15/3 Family Mass 9.30am
Feb	16	17 Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Breakfast 8:15am Central Cluster Swimming (Forbes)	18 Ash Wednesday Stage 1 Liturgy - 12.30pm Parent Information Night (Kindergarten) - 6.00pm	19	20 Assembly - 2.45pm	21/22
Feb/Mar	23	24 AECG Meeting - Junior and Senior (HFS)	25 School Committee Meeting - 7.30pm	26	27 WF AFL Trials (Hay) 5/6B Chapel/Mass - 9:45am	28/1 1/3 First Holy Communion 9.30am
Mar	2 P&F Meeting - 6pm	3	4 Parent Meeting (RE Room) - First Holy Communion - 5:15pm	5 Assembly - 2.45pm	6 WF Diocesan Swimming (Parkes)	7/8
Mar	9 Pupil Free Day - Marist Spirituality	10	11 NAPLAN Writing	12 NAPLAN Reading	13 5/6HW Chapel/Mass - 9:45am	14/15
Mar	16	17 St Patrick NAPLAN Conventions of Language	18 Kindergarten Transition Commences NAPLAN Numeracy Year 2 Liturgy 12:30pm	19 St Joseph Caritas Multi Mission Stalls - 11.00am Back to School Bash & Disco (School Hall) - 6.00pm	20 Harmony Day Celebration Assembly - 2.45pm 4WR Chapel/Mass - 9:45am	21/22 Sun
			NAPLAN Window			
Mar	23	24 WF Touch Trials (Parkes)	25 Annunciation of the Lord WF Diocesan Winter Trials (Parkes) 3N Chapel/Mass - 9:45am	26 World of Maths Incursion K-6 (School Hall)	27 School Cross Country Assembly - 2.30pm	28/29 Palm Sunday
			NAPLAN Window			
Mar/Apr	30 School Public Speaking Competition - Year 3-6 P&F Meeting - 6pm	31 Upstage K-6	1 NSWCPS Swimming Year 1 Liturgy - 12:30pm	2 Easter Hat Parade - 9.15am Holy Thursday Stage 3 Liturgy - 12.30pm Holy Thursday Last Day of Term 1	3 Good Friday (PH)	4 / 5 Easter Sunday (5)