



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 4 - 16th February 2026

EVENTS

THIS WEEK 4

Tuesday

**Cluster Swimming
Carnival (Forbes)**

**Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Recess -
11am**

Wednesday

**Ash Wednesday
Stage 1 Liturgy -
12:30pm**

**Kindergarten Parent
Information Night -
6pm (KJ Classroom)**

Thursday

**Back to School Bash
and Term 1 Disco -
6pm (School Hall)**

Friday

Assembly - 2.45pm



Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week, we had the privilege of hosting our Induction of School Leaders Mass, a special occasion that was very well attended. It was a beautiful moment to see our Year 6 leaders proudly receiving their badges, lovingly pinned onto their chests by their parents. Congratulations to all our leaders! I am confident that our entire Year 6 cohort will shine as exemplary role models, already demonstrating outstanding leadership both in the classroom and on the playground.

This week, we have a full schedule of events that reflect the vibrant spirit of our school community:

- Shrove Tuesday: To mark this important day on the Church calendar, we will be hosting a special pancake morning tea. It's a wonderful way for us to come together as a school community as we prepare for the season of Lent.

- Ash Wednesday: On Wednesday, our Stage 1 students will lead a meaningful liturgy to commemorate the start of Lent, a sacred time of reflection as we journey towards Easter.

- Central Cluster Swimming Carnival: Best of luck to the students representing our school at the Central Cluster Swimming Carnival in Forbes tomorrow.

- Kindergarten Information Session: On Wednesday evening, we invite all Kindergarten parents to an information session, starting at 6:00pm in the Kindergarten classrooms. This is a valuable opportunity to learn more about the year ahead and connect with staff and fellow parents.

- Back to School Bash and Term 1 School Disco: The P&F will host this exciting event on Thursday evening. The evening will kick off with a BBQ dinner at 5:30 pm, with children enjoying their meal before heading into the School Disco in the hall at 6:00 pm. This is a wonderful chance for parents to socialise and enjoy their own BBQ dinner while the children dance the night away. Please RSVP via the link sent out with the flyer for catering purposes. Please note that the disco is for school-aged children only. A flyer with more details was sent home last week.

- Week 4 Assembly: We will wrap up the week with our first assembly of the year, taking place this Friday at 2:45 pm in the school hall. We look forward to welcoming you as we celebrate the achievements of our students and share updates with our school community.

As we begin the Lenten season, let us remember its significance as a time to reflect, pray and prepare our hearts for Easter.

Denise Gersbach

Principal

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK
[Holy Family Parish School Parkes](https://www.facebook.com/HolyFamilyParishSchoolParkes)

★ Star of the Week ★

Star of the Week

Meilani Kennedy-Dugan is our Star of the Week for being a quiet role model and a compassionate classmate who consistently lives out our core values of Praise, Love and Trust.

Interview with Meilani



What is your favourite subject?



Mathematics

In your free time, what do you like to do?

Hang out with my friends

What is your favourite food?

Spaghetti Bolognese

What do you like most about our school?

The teachers are very helpful



Running and touch footy

What would you like to be when you grow up?

NRL player and teacher

Term 1 Week 4: Manner of the Week (From our Core Value - PRAISE)

Acknowledge good choices and always remember to say thank you

This fortnight's challenge is about the Winter Olympics 2026.

1. Where will the 2026 Winter Olympics be held?	A) Beijing, China B) Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy C) Tokyo, Japan D) Vancouver, Canada
2. What do the athletes do at the start of the Olympics to show peace and friendship?	A) Play games together B) Share food C) Take part in the Opening Ceremony and parade with their countries D) Race each other

3. Which of these sports is part of the Winter Olympics?	A) Ice Hockey B) Ski Jumping C) Figure Skating D) All of the above
4. What is something unique about the Winter Olympics?	A) They only happen in countries that have snow B) They always take place in summer C) They have water sports D) They use swimming pools for the events
5. In ski jumping, what are athletes trying to do?	A) Jump the farthest B) Jump the highest C) Jump through a ring of fire D) Jump without falling
6. How many people are in a team for the bobsleigh event?	A) 1 or 2 B) 2 or 4 C) 3 or 5 D) 5 or 6
7. What is the name of the object that players slide across the ice in curling?	A) Puck B) Stone C) Block D) Disc
8. Which famous Winter Olympics sports person is known for winning three gold medals in speed skating in 2022?	A) Shaun White B) Chloe Kim C) Erin Jackson D) Suzanne Schulting
9. When did the first Winter Olympics take place?	A) 1924 B) 1936 C) 1950 D) 1964
10. The Olympic symbol features 5 rings. What do the 5 rings represent?	A) 5 sports in the Winter Olympics B) 5 continents of the world C) 5 colours of medals D) 5 Olympic mascots

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 answer 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

Sixth week in Ordinary Time

The Season of Lent commences on Wednesday, 18th February. There will be a whole school liturgy in the Holy Family School Hall. Stage 1 staff and students are preparing the liturgy. All are welcome to attend.



***Ash Wednesday-** Ash Wednesday is the first day of **Lent**.

Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins with Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday.

The season of Lent is a time when Catholics reflect on where they have failed to love God, their neighbour and themselves and to reflect on how they are living their lives, seeking ways to heal what is broken by committing more fully to prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

***SHROVE TUESDAY: 17th February**
Pancakes available at the canteen! Please join your child at Recess and enjoy some pancakes.

***All proceeds go to Project Compassion.**



We look forward to some important liturgical celebrations this term-

- ◆ **Ash Wednesday- Season of Lent**
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**

I hope everyone has a wonderful week.
Beverly Berger



Notes

Starting the 27th February!!
**HOLY FAMILY PLAY AND GROW
PLAYGROUP**



10-11am

**Every Friday Morning
Holy Family School Hall**

Ages 0-5 years welcome with their parents.
Please bring along a snack for morning tea.



*We are celebrating
Shrove Tuesday*

PANCAKE TUESDAY



Please join your child at Holy Family School for a
Pancake Morning Tea (Recess)

TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 11.00 AM

\$2.00 EACH

**ALL MONEY RAISED GOES TO
Project Compassion**

**BACK TO SCHOOL
BBQ & DISCO**

Thursday 19th February
5:30 to 7:15 PM • Disco Starts at 6

SCHOOL HALL

Canteen with BBQ Dinner
Cold Drinks • Lollies • Ice Blocks

**\$3
Disco
Entry**

Parents come and enjoy a casual BBQ dinner
while the kids enjoy the disco!

**RSVP to the school office by Tuesday
17th February (for catering)**

Save the Date!

**SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Sunday, 1st March 2026
9:30AM MASS
HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH
29 CURRAJONG ST. PARKES NSW 2870

1 MARCH, 2026 | SUNDAY | AT 9:30AM

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.

A NEW GUITAR GROUP IS STARTING AT...



If you have a child in Year 1 or 2, there is an exciting new opportunity at school!

A new Thursday lunchtime guitar group is kicking off, and it's the perfect mix of fun and real skill-building. Students will learn guitar, build solid music foundations, and grow in confidence while playing songs they actually enjoy.

CONTACT: DAVE@FORBESGUITARLESSONS.COM.AU

COST: \$40/WEEK



IN OUR LESSONS, STUDENTS:

- 🎸 Play songs from rock, pop, games, and movies
- ✅ Build confidence through small wins
- 🎮 Participate in game-based group learning
- 📱 Have access to the app "Practice Space" for guided home practice (earn rewards through logging practice)

REGISTER NOW!

AGES 4 - 16



PARKES
RUGBY UNION
CLUB

TRY RUGBY 2026



REGISTER NOW



🕒 5:30 - 6:30

📅 Fridays in March

📍 Spicer Oval

💰 \$20 per child

📞 Kimberley - 0432 866 966

🌐 <https://parkes-boars-store.square.site/>

You're Invited!

Come along and parade your finest Homemade Easter Hat

Thursday 2nd April 2026

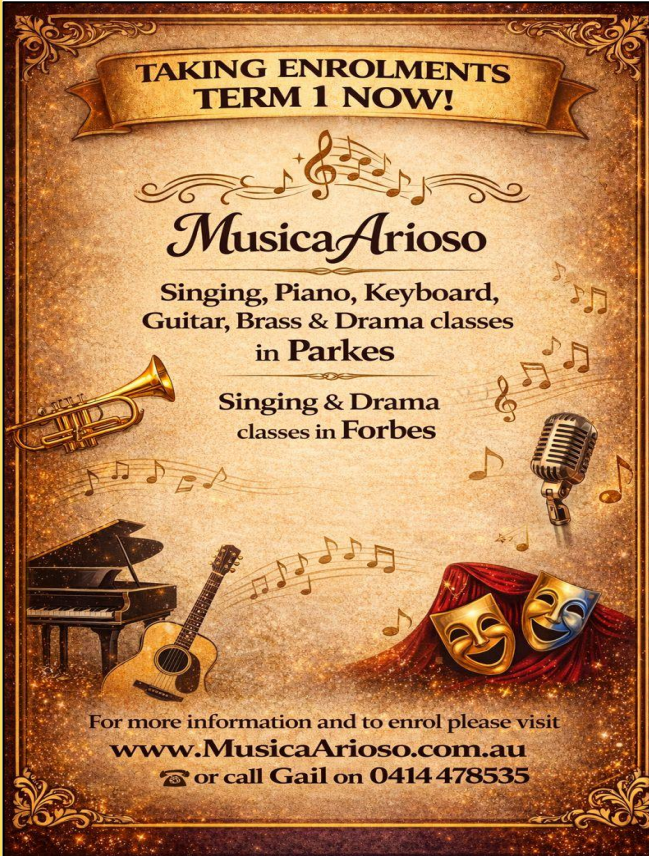
Start: 9.15am

Parents and Friends are welcome to attend.

Children are to wear casual clothes



Notes



**TAKING ENROLMENTS
TERM 1 NOW!**

Musica Arioso

Singing, Piano, Keyboard,
Guitar, Brass & Drama classes
in Parkes

Singing & Drama
classes in Forbes

For more information and to enrol please visit
www.MusicaArioso.com.au
or call Gail on 0414 478535



**HOLY FAMILY
SCHOOL PARKES**

**Kindergarten Transition
PROGRAM**

KICKSTART YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING JOURNEY

Our 2027 Transition Program is now available from
Term 1 - 17th March 2027 to Term 4 - 8th December 2027
for children starting Kindergarten in 2028.

*Please note that Term 3 and 4 attendance
are limited to students who are enrolled
for 2028 Kindergarten at HFS.

- FREE - No Cost
- Program aligns with school hours
- On EVERY Wednesday 9 am - 3 pm
- Canteen lunch available
- FREE Holy Family sports shirt for the program.

6862 1610 admin.parkes@wf.catholic.edu.au 37A High Street, Parkes

KEEPING YOUR CHILDREN SAFE WHEN DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP AT SCHOOL

Here are a few things you can do to help keep your children and others safer during drop-off and pick-up times during the school week:

- Make sure your children are fastened in the correct child car seat for their age and size and that it is fitted correctly.
- Stick to the 40km/h speed limit in a school zone and look out for children who may be about.
- Watch for flashing lights on buses. They let you know that there may be children crossing or about to cross the road. A 40km/h limit applies when school bus lights flash.
- Always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways.
- Always park and turn legally around schools. Manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns are dangerous during busy school drop-off and pick-up times.
- Drop your children off and pick them up on the school side of the road in your school's designated drop-off and pick-up area. Never call out to them from across the road – they may run to you without checking for traffic.
- It's safest for children to get out of the car through the Safety Door, away from passing traffic. This is the rear footpath side door of the car.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the parents section on safetytown.com.au

BUS SAFETY WEEK

[Bus Safety Week](#), from Monday 17 – Sunday 23 February, raises awareness among all road users on how to stay safe on and around buses, helping to reduce injuries and fatalities. Please visit the [Transport for NSW Website](#) for more information.

School-aged children might seem independent, but they still need a hand.

Remember:

- Always meet your child at school or the bus stop. Never wait on the opposite side of the road and call them across.
- Always supervise your child and hold their hand when walking to and from the bus stop/interchange and when crossing the road until they're at least 10 years old.
- Wait until the bus has gone then use a safe place to cross the road.
- Encourage your child to take a seat quickly when they get on the bus and to buckle up if the bus has seatbelts.
- Talk to your children about using Stop! Look! Listen! Think! every time they cross the road.

Stop one step back from the kerb.

- Look continuously both ways.
- Listen for the sounds of approaching traffic.
- Think whether it's safe to cross and keep checking until you're safely across.

Term 1 - Parent Calendar

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun	
Jan/Feb	1	26 School Holidays Australia Day (PH)	27 School Holidays	28 School Holidays	29 Staff Commence	30 Staff Planning Day	31/1
Feb	2	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	3	9	10	11 Induction of School Leaders Mass - 9.45am - HF Church	12	13	14/15 Sun 15/3 Family Mass 9.30am
Feb	4	16	17 GTR Meeting 8.40am (RE Room) Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Recess 11am Central Cluster Swimming (Forbes)	18 Ash Wednesday Stage 1 Liturgy - 12.30pm Parent Information Night (Kindergarten) - 6.00pm	19 Back to School Bash & Disco (School Hall) - 6.00pm	20 Assembly - 2.45pm	21/22
Feb/Mar	5	23	24 GTR Meeting 8.40am (RE Room) AECG Meeting- Junior and Senior (HFS)	25 Parent Meeting (RE Room) - First Holy Communion - 5:15pm	26 Parent Meeting - First Holy Communion - 5pm	27 WF AFL Trials (Hay) 5/6B Chapel/Mass - 9:45am	28/1 1/3 First Holy Communion 9.30am
Mar	6	2 P&F Meeting - 6pm	3 GTR Meeting 8.40am (RE Room) NRMA / Kindergarten Bus Safety 9.30am	4	5 Assembly - 2.45pm	6 WF Diocesan Swimming (Parkes)	7/8
Mar	7	9 Pupil Free Day - Marist Spirituality	10 GTR Meeting 8.40am (RE Room)	11 NAPLAN Writing School Committee Meeting - 7.30pm	12 NAPLAN Reading	13 5/6HW Chapel/Mass - 9:45am	14/15
Mar	8	16	17 St Patrick GTR Meeting 8.40am (RE Room) NAPLAN Conventions of Language	18 Kindergarten Transition Commences NAPLAN Numeracy Year 2 Liturgy 12:30pm	19 St Joseph Caritas Mufti Mission Stalls - 11.00am	20 Harmony Day Celebration Assembly - 2.45pm 4WR Chapel/Mass - 9:45am	21/22 Sun Home Grown Markets 21/3 - P&F stall
Mar	9	23	24 WF Touch Trials (Parkes) GTR Meeting 8.40am (RE Room)	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
Mar/Apr	10	30 School Public Speaking Competition - Year 3-6 P&F Meeting - 6pm	31 GTR Meeting 8.40am (RE Room) 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)