



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 5 - 23rd February 2026

EVENTS

THIS WEEK 5

Tuesday

GTR 8.40am
(RE Room)

Wednesday

First Holy
Communion Parent
Meeting 5pm
(RE Room)

Friday

5/6B Chapel/Mass
9.45am



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are already in Week 5 of Term 1! The start of the school year has flown by and I am continually impressed by the industriousness of our students in their learning. A special mention goes to our Kindergarten students, who have settled beautifully into the routines of 'big school'. Watching them grow in confidence and independence is a joy for all of us.

Last week, our swimming team represented Holy Family School with pride at the Cluster Carnival. Their sportsmanship was outstanding. We are thrilled to announce that 12 students have qualified to compete at the Diocesan Carnival on 6th March. We wish them all the very best as they continue to represent our school at the next level.

This week, our Junior Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) representatives will attend their first meeting of the year with other student representatives in town. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to develop leadership skills and work collaboratively to strengthen cultural connections within our school and local community.

Our Year 3 students are preparing for a significant milestone in their faith journey as they celebrate their First Holy Communion this weekend at Holy Family Church. There will be a special parent meeting on Wednesday evening at 5pm in the Religion room for families of children making this sacrament. We invite all families to join us at Sunday morning Mass to share in this special celebration.

A huge thank you to our P&F Association for hosting the Back to School Bash and Term 1 Disco last week. The event was a fantastic way to bring our school community together and celebrate the start of the year. It was wonderful to see so many families in attendance. A special thanks to all the volunteers who gave their time and energy to make the evening such a success.

As we continue through the term, I encourage you to stay connected with the school by attending events, reading our newsletters, and keeping in touch with your child's teachers. Your involvement and support play an essential role in our vibrant school community.

Denise Gersbach

Principal

CONTACT US

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

★ Star of the Week ★

Hope Sargent is our Star of the Week for being a wonderful new member of our school community. She has embraced new routines with confidence, and made a fantastic start to the year. Hope is already demonstrating our core values of Praise, Love and Trust through a positive attitude, kindness towards others, and a willingness to do her best.

Interview with Hope



What is your favourite subject?

Art



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

Read and draw

What is your favourite food?

Lamb roast

What do you like most about our school?

Everybody is really nice

I'm good at swimming



What would you like to be when you grow up?

A vet

Term 1 Week 5: Manner of the Week (From our Core Value - LOVE)

- **Be patient** - Sometimes, showing love means waiting your turn or giving others a chance.

1. Sushi comes from which country?	A. China B. Japan C. Thailand D. Korea
2. Tacos are a traditional food from:	A. Spain B. Italy C. Mexico D. Brazil

3. Pizza was first made famous in:	A. France B. Italy C. USA D. Greece
4. Croissants are commonly eaten in:	A. Germany B. France C. Belgium D. Sweden
5. Bratwurst sausages are traditional in:	A. Austria B. Switzerland C. Germany D. Poland
6. Paella is a traditional dish from:	A. Portugal B. Spain C. Argentina D. Peru
7. Dim sum is commonly eaten in:	A. Japan B. Vietnam C. China D. Mongolia
8. Lamingtons are a famous treat from:	A. New Zealand B. Australia C. Canada D. South Africa
9. Poutine is a popular dish from:	A. Canada B. USA C. Ireland D. Scotland
10. Falafel is often eaten in:	A. Greece B. Egypt C. Middle Eastern countries D. Turkey

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

First Week in Lent



The [Ash Wednesday whole school liturgy](#) was a beautiful way begin the Lenten Season. The students participated with reverence and the readings, prayers and hymns reminded us to be humble, forgiving, generous and helpful to those in need. A big **THANK YOU** to the Stage 1 teachers and students for organising and leading the liturgy.

*Wilcannia-Forbes Project Compassion Launch

All Stage 3 students joined other schools in the diocese to participate in the Wilcannia-Forbes Project Compassion Launch, which was livestreamed from St Joseph's Parish School in Condobolin. It was a beautiful liturgy which highlighted the importance of loving and helping our neighbours.

Please click on the link for a short video message from Bishop Columba to launch this year's Project Compassion Campaign across our schools:



*SACRAMENT OF EUCHARIST (FIRST HOLY COMMUNION)

There are 11 children who will be making their **First Holy Communion on Sunday, 1st March, 9.30am at Holy Family Catholic Church.**

A note went home last week via COMPASS to all parents/carers concerned, regarding important details.

*All children must be at the **Father Pat Centre by 9:00am** on the day, where they will receive a special commemorative pin and then get organised to process into the church. **The Father Pat Centre is towards the back gate of the church premises.**

First Holy Communion is a significant sacrament in the Catholic Church and marks a person's first reception of the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. This sacred milestone, also known as the First Eucharist, is typically celebrated around the age of seven/eight or Year 3, after children have received their First Reconciliation.



I hope everyone has a wonderful week.

Beverly Berger

Wiradjuri

In their Wiradjuri lessons, the Kindergarten students had a wonderful time pretending to be a kangaroo, koala, and snake. They also enjoyed throwing a boomerang as part of a relay game, before guiding a plastic ring around the animal they were acting out. Everyone had lots of fun!



Assembly Awards

AWARD	CLASS	STUDENT NAME
Student of the Week	KJ	Grace Edwards
	KC	Marli Jayet
	1C	George Wright
	2CR	Joel Hazelton
	3N	Braith Stevenson
	4WR	Elsie Galvin
	5/6B	Max Crowe
	5/6HW	Arlo Cassidy
Recognition of Learning Award	Infants - KJ	Elliana Ringk
	Primary - 3N	Sawyer Dengate
Consistently Following School Rules (based on Manner of the Week, Environment and Uniform)	Infants - 2CR	Navy Edwards
	Primary - 5/6HW	Harvey Gray
Playground Behaviour Award	Infants - KC	Henry McGrath
	Primary - 4WR	Finley Gibbons
Leadership Award	Infants - 1C	Arjun Jodder
	Primary - 5/6B	Matilda McGrath
Living the Gospel Values	Infants - KJ	Elsie Cowling
	Primary - 3N	Morgan Wykes

Notes



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.

[Register Now](#)

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admin.parkes@wf.catholic.edu.au

37A High Street, Parkes



Gather

Gather • Together • Reflect

Please join us in the Holy Family School Religion Room on Tuesday the 24th Of February at 8.40am as we Gather Together and Reflect!

...then stay for a coffee and a chat



Be Bus Aware

Always buckle up if there is a seatbelt on a bus.



bebusaware.com.au



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

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



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



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/>

2026 Parkes Catholic Debutante Ball

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM PARENTS FOR A 2026 COMMITTEE



MEETING TO BE HELD: MONDAY 9TH MARCH - 6.30PM - COACHMAN HOTEL PARKES

Notes

Holy Family P&F Annual General Meeting



Monday 2nd March, 6pm, Coachman Hotel (and Online)

All Welcome. Come and support your school. Many hands make light work.

Includes election of the following positions;

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Communications Officer
- Grants Officer
- Committee Members

Meeting is also available online to allow everyone the opportunity to attend

[HFS P&F AGM Online Meeting Link](#)

STUDENT AMBULANCE COVER CONDITIONS

Student Ambulance Cover applies to transportation following a student accident, not an illness or medical condition. School policy is to call an ambulance in the event of a serious injury or illness (eg severe asthma attack, anaphylactic reaction, seizure etc). If your child has a pre existing medical condition that falls into this category, please be aware that the cost of the ambulance may be at the parent's expense if you do not have family ambulance cover.

STUDENTS ON VISA

For our families from overseas, it is important that the school has details of your current residency status.

Please provide us with your new visa grant notice or Australian citizenship documents, if:

- there has been any change in your visa sub class or the expiry date, or
- if you previously had a visa but have now become an Australian citizen

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.

Term 1 - 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 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	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	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	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 Caritas Mufti Mission Stalls - 11.00am	14/15
Mar	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 NAPLAN Window	19 St Joseph 4WR Chapel/Mass - 9:45am	20 Harmony Day Celebration Assembly - 12:15pm	21/22 Sun Home Grown Markets 21/3 - P&F stall
Mar	23 NAPLAN Window	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
Mar/Apr	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)