



HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 10 - 30th March 2026

EVENTS

THIS WEEK 10

Monday

Cross Country

Assembly - 12.30pm

Tuesday

GTR Meeting 8.40am
(Library)

Upstage K-6

Wednesday

NSWCPS Swimming
(Sydney)

P&F Meeting 6pm
(Coachman)

Year 1 Liturgy 12.30pm

Thursday

Last day Term 1

Easter Hat Parade
9.15am

Holy Thursday Stage 3
Liturgy - 12.30pm

First Day Term 2

Monday, 20th April

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another busy and fulfilling term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful achievements and events that have taken place in our school community.

Last week was a particularly successful week for our students, showcasing their talents. A huge congratulations to Nazzarine Payne, Tatum Staines, Arlo Cassidy, Curtis Arndell, Nate Calabro, Jonti Lee and Rhys Hetherington, who were all selected for the Diocesan Touch Football Team.

Well done to the following students for their selection in the Diocesan Winter Trials Teams:

- Hockey: Curtis Arndell and Sophie Wood
- Soccer: Allegra Cronin and Archie McIntyre
- Rugby League: Seth Toomey, Arlo Cassidy and Nate Calabro

We also celebrated the amazing public speaking talents of our students during the School Public Speaking Competition. Congratulations to the following winners and all participants:

Year 3/4:

- Winner: Finley Gibbons
- Runner-up: Arshi Jodder
- Highly Commended: Kendall Hartwig

Year 5/6:

- Winner: Ashton Albert
- Runner-up: Max Crowe
- Highly Commended: Joey Hazelton

Last week, our students also had the opportunity to participate in the World of Maths incursion. It was wonderful to see all students fully engaged, exploring and enjoying the hands-on, interactive activities.

As we begin this final week of term, we look forward to several exciting events:

- School Cross Country: Happening today, where I'm sure we'll see some great displays of determination and sportsmanship. Results can be found later in the newsletter.
- Upstage Incursion: Taking place tomorrow, offering an enriching arts experience for our students.
- NSWCPS Swimming Carnival: On Wednesday, we wish Curtis Arndell, Bruce Burt, Iris Burt, Knox Calabro, Emrys Cassidy, and Reed Wild the very best of luck as they compete at this event.
- Easter Hat Parade and Holy Thursday Liturgy: On Thursday, we will celebrate the Easter story and the joy of the Resurrection, as well as our much-anticipated Easter Hat Parade.

As the term comes to a close, I would like to extend my thanks to our wonderful staff, who work tirelessly to guide and inspire our students, and to you, our families, for your ongoing support and partnership.

Finally, I wish you and your families a very Happy and Holy Easter. May this season of hope and renewal fill your hearts with peace and joy.

Denise Gersbach

Principal

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[Holy Family Parish School Parkes](#)

★ Star of the Week ★

Louie Ross is our Star of the Week for demonstrating our core values of Praise, Love and Trust. He consistently follows instructions and is kind and helpful to others. Louie approaches his learning with a positive attitude, always tries his best, and shows respect to everyone around him. He is a responsible member of his class and sets a wonderful example through his behaviour, attitude, and effort.

Interview with Louie



What is your favourite subject?

Maths especially counting



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

Play with my fire truck

What is your favourite food?

Apples and watermelon

What do you like most about our school?

I like the different things we learn about at our school



I'm good at running

What would you like to be when you grow up?

Maths especially counting

Term 1 Week 10: Manner of the Week (From our Core Value - LOVE)

Respect and celebrate people's differences.

This fortnight's challenge is on- Harmony Day

<p>1. When is Harmony Day celebrated in Australia?</p>	<p>A. 1 January B. 21 March C. 25 April D. 26 January</p>
<p>2. Harmony Day encourages students to:</p>	<p>A. Be kind and respectful B. Ignore others C. Compete with friends D. Stay quiet all day</p>

3. Which of these is a good Harmony Day message?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Only my culture matters B. Everyone should be the same C. Everyone belongs D. Differences are bad
4. Harmony Day is celebrated mostly in:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Australia B. Canada C. Japan D. Brazil
5. Harmony Day is about respecting:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Only people from Australia B. Only people who speak English C. People from all cultures D. Only people in your class
6. What colour is most commonly worn on Harmony Day?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Blue B. Green C. Orange D. Purple
7. The date 21 March was chosen because it is the:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. First day of winter B. International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination C. Australia Day D. A public holiday
8. Harmony Day recognises that Australia is a:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Small island B. Multicultural country C. Farming country D. Sports country
9. Harmony Day encourages people to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Ignore differences B. Celebrate cultural diversity C. Only follow one culture D. Compete with each other
10. What does “diversity” mean?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Everyone being exactly the same B. People having different cultures, languages and backgrounds C. Only speaking one language D. Living in one place

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

Holy Week

This week we commence Holy Week, the most sacred period in the Church's liturgical year. It is a time devoted to commemorating the final days in Christ's life on earth. Holy week traces Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, his suffering, crucifixion, death and Resurrection. The faithful participate in special Masses, liturgies, processions, observances, and acts of reflection through Holy Week.

Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6) will be preparing a special liturgy on Holy Thursday, which is on the 2nd of April, at 12:30pm in the HFS Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Altar Servers needed for the Holy Week Church Services

If your child/children are regular altar servers at the weekend Masses and can altar serve on any of the Holy Week Church Services, please ring the school office and let us know.

Holy Week & Easter Mass Times at Holy Family Parish Church

Holy Thursday-2nd April: Mass at 6.00pm
(Adoration until 8.00pm)

Good Friday-3rd April: Stations of the Cross—10.00am
Celebration of the Lord's Passion—3.00pm

Easter Saturday-4th April: Vigil Mass at 6.00pm

Easter Sunday-5th April: Mass at 9.30am

All Easter Masses at the Church

NO MASS SUNDAY EVENING

*"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song."
- Pope John Paul II*

I hope everyone has a wonderful Easter.
Beverly Berger



Assembly Awards

Term 1 - Week 10

AWARD	CLASS	STUDENT NAME
Student of the Week	KJ	Kaleb Beard
	KC	Callie Hartwig
	1C	Toby Slaven
	2CR	Emmerson Pope
	3N	Mavis Jordan
	4WR	Ezra Sloane
	5/6B	Jack Burt
	5/6HW	Farrah Edmonds
Recognition of Learning Award	Infants - 2CR	Savannah Bush
	Primary - 5/6HW	Ethan Richings
Consistently Following School Rules (based on Manner of the Week, Environment and Uniform)	Infants - KJ	Elliana Ringk
	Primary - 3N	Molly McCabe
Playground Behaviour Award	Infants - 1C	Mikayla Sibanda
	Primary - 5/6B	Rhys Hetherington
Leadership Award	Primary - 4WR	Aiyshu Thammitalage
Living the Gospel Values	Infants - 2CR	Iris Burt
	Primary - 5/6HW	Sydney Tarry

Cross Country

Results

5 YEARS

- 1st - Gracie-Mae Ball / Louie Ross
- 2nd - Grace Edwards
- 3rd - Brighton Crisp

6 YEARS

- 1st - Marli Jayet / Jesse Flaxman
- 2nd - Jedda Stevenson / Harley Gibbons
- 3rd - Gisele Jasmine / Kaleb Beard
- 4th - Tennessee-Rose Lewin / Colby Thomson
- 5th - Chelsea Spedding / Charlie Plunkett
- 6th - Marley Cox / Sonny Lock

7 YEARS

- 1st - Zoe Harris / Arlo Stevenson
- 2nd - Peyton Clarke / Riley Crowe
- 3rd - Abigail Smee / Jack McCabe
- 4th - Millie McIntyre / Jackson Jordan
- 5th - Lacey Amor / Toby Slaven
- 6th - Isla Barber / Cooper Culhane

8 YEARS

- 1st - Tully Cassidy / Rusty Gibbons
- 2nd - Iris Burt / Cohen Calabro
- 3rd - Peyton Sloane / Noah Ross
- 4th - Ellie Gersbach / Creed Townsend
- 5th - Peyton Sloane / Finn Walker
- 6th - Navy Edwards / Preston Stevenson

9 YEARS

- 1st - Piper Slaven / Angus Walker
- 2nd - Georgie Harris / Reuben Cook
- 3rd - Frankie Clarke / Braith Stevenson
- 4th - Neena Ford / Noah Ford
- 5th - Mavis Jordan / Abraham Al-Maliky
- 6th - Molly McCabe / Owyn Reedy

10 YEARS

- 1st - Nazzarine Payne / Emrys Cassidy
- 2nd - Elsie Galvin / Knox Calabro
- 3rd - Amelia Gersbach / Elijah Hearn
- 4th - Sophie Ross / Reed Wild
- 5th - Farrah Edmonds / Finley Gibbons
- 6th - Jewel Jasmine / Bruce Burt

11 YEARS

- 1st - Allegra Cronin / Jack Burt
- 2nd - Tatum Staines / Curtis Arndell
- 3rd - Sophie Wood / Joey Hazelton
- 4th - Indigo Gillingham / Archie McIntyre
- 5th - Jordyn Flaxman / Roy Clyburn
- 6th - Aava Dhakal / Mason Wild

12 YEARS

- 1st - Florence Crawley-Watson / Nate Calabro
- 1st - AWD - Seth King
- 2nd - Arlo Cassidy
- 3rd - Rhys Hetherington
- 4th - Jonti Lee
- 5th - Hayden Jones
- 6th - Harvey Gray

Congratulations!

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



Gather

Gather · Together · Reflect

Please join us in the Holy Family School Religion Room at 8.40am on Tuesday the 31st of March, as we Gather Together and Reflect.

.....then stay for a cuppa and a chat.



Book Your Holiday

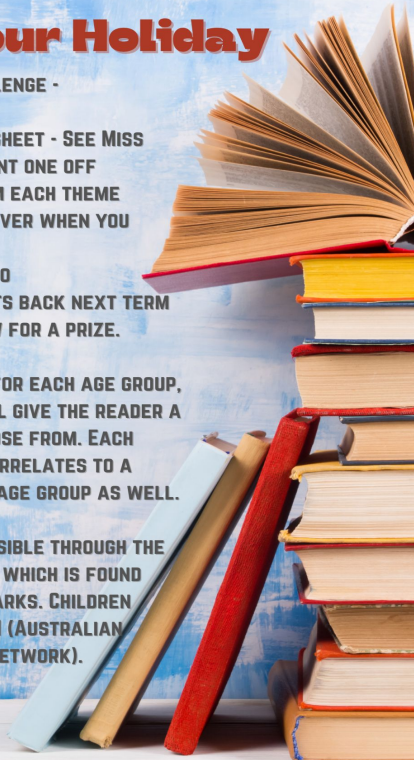
A READING BOOK CHALLENGE -

HOW IT WORKS:

- ASK FOR A BINGO SHEET - SEE MISS WESTWOOD OR PRINT ONE OFF
- READ A BOOK FROM EACH THEME
- CREATE A BOOK COVER WHEN YOU FINISH
- 3 IN A ROW IN BINGO
- BRING BINGO SHEETS BACK NEXT TERM TO GO IN THE DRAW FOR A PRIZE.

THERE ARE 9 THEMES FOR EACH AGE GROUP, THE QR CODE/LINK WILL GIVE THE READER A LIST OF BOOKS TO CHOOSE FROM. EACH THEME IN THE SLIDE CORRELATES TO A **BINGO CARD** FOR EACH AGE GROUP AS WELL.

ALL BOOKS ARE ACCESSIBLE THROUGH THE SORA EBOOKS LIBRARY WHICH IS FOUND UNDER THE WF BOOKMARKS. CHILDREN MUST LOGIN WITH ACEN (AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC EDUCATION NETWORK).



P&F Dio Cross Country Canteen

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

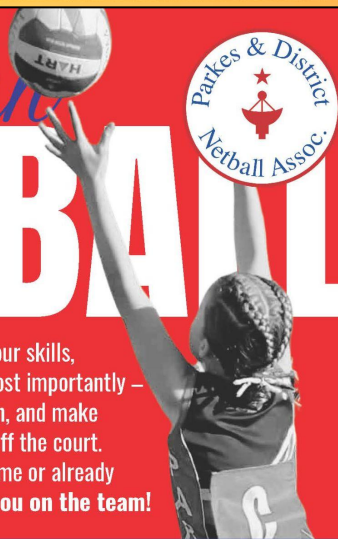


We are seeking volunteers to assist in the P&F-run canteen at the Wilcannia Forbes Diocesan Cross Country, to be held in Term 2 on Monday, 4th May. The canteen will operate as a fundraising event, with many schools from across the diocese attending, making it a wonderful opportunity to support our school community.

Any support, even for a short time, would be greatly appreciated and will help ensure the day runs smoothly for all students and visitors.

If you are available to lend a hand, please contact the school office. Thank you for your continued support.

Autumn NETBALL



Join Parkes Netball to build your skills, boost your confidence, and most importantly – have a great time. Move, laugh, and make new friendships both on and off the court. Whether you're new to the game or already love it, **there's a place for you on the team!**

COMMENCING TUESDAY, 21 APRIL

**Junior competition 5.30-6.30pm
(AGES 5-15, DIVIDED INTO AGE GROUPS)**

Come & try netball

Registrations open soon! Follow our facebook page for more information or call Sarah on 0407 513 848



HFS P&F Easter Raffle

Dear Parents & Carers,

We are delighted to share that raffle tickets for the Holy Family P&F Easter Raffle have been sent home with your child. The raffle will be drawn at the Easter Hat Parade on **Thursday 2nd April**, and we are looking forward to a wonderful celebration with our school community.

Funds raised through the Easter Raffle directly support initiatives that enhance our students' learning environment and overall educational experience. The P&F proudly contributes to programs, resources, and activities that support student development, ranging from classroom improvements and technology upgrades to opportunities that foster wellbeing, engagement, and community spirit.

We would greatly appreciate your support in selling these tickets. Please return all sold tickets and money in the envelope provided to the school office by **Wednesday 1st April**. If you would like additional tickets, feel free to contact the school office, we are happy to help.

Tickets will also be available for purchase at the Easter Hat parade.

Ticket prices:
\$2 each or 3 for \$5

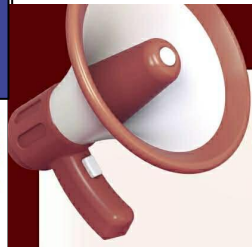
- Prizes:**
First Prize – Easter Egg Hamper (Value \$100)
Second Prize – Easter Egg Hamper (Value \$70)
Third Prize – Easter Egg Hamper (Value \$30)

Thank you for your continued support, it truly makes a difference to our school community.

We wish you and your family a safe, happy, and enjoyable Easter break.

Warm regards,

HFS P&F Committee



ATTENTION JUNIORS

📢 Registrations due!

Please make sure your child is registered before this date. Early registrations help us:

- ✓ Nominate the correct age-group teams
- ✓ Confirm we have enough players for each squad
- ✓ Decide if we need to combine age groups clubs
- ✓ Lock in coaches and training schedules
- ✓ Order the right number of jerseys and equipment

If you're planning to play this season, please register now so we can build our teams with confidence!

Thanks for your support — let's get ready for a great rugby year!

Calling all 11-14yr old Boys and Girls... Are you looking for something different to do this Winter sports season?

Then Rugby is the sport for you! Building confident kids on and off the field, everyone is welcome! Contact myself (Tara Adam) on 0429336115 or send me a message via messenger for any questions you may have!

Don't forget we have our last Try Rugby session for kids 4-16yrs this coming Friday so feel free to pop up to Spicer oval to check it out and have a chat

HOP ON OVER FOR OUR

Easter Egg Hunt and Church Service

**5 April at 9am
Cooke Park**

FREE EGGS FOR CHILDREN
FREE COFFEE FOR ADULTS
FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE FOR EVERYONE

Generosity Church | Parkes

Term 2 - Parent Calendar

	Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
Apr	1	20 First Day - Term 2 (Staff and Students)	21	22	23	24 Henry/Yeo League Stars Challenge	25 / 26 ANZAC Day (25 - PH)
Apr/May	2	27 ANZAC Day (Public Holiday)	28	29	30 Healthy Harold	1 Polding Winter Trials (Bathurst) Healthy Harold Assembly - 2.45pm	2 / 3
		NSW PSSA Swimming (28th)					
May	3	4 WF Cross Country (Parkes) Healthy Harold	5 Red Bend Visit - Year 6	6 Mother's Day Liturgy 12:30pm HFS Hall Stage 1 P&F Meeting - 6pm	7 Mother's Day Breakfast 8am	8 Pupil Free Day	9 / 10 Mother's Day (10)
May	4	11 Catholic Schools Week Mass 09:30am (Hall) Open classrooms - 10:20am Recess for all families outdoors 11am-11.30am Musica Viva - 2pm	12	13	14	15 Polding Girls Rugby 7's Dads in School (Kindergarten) Assembly - 2.45pm <i>National Walk Safely to School Day</i>	16 / 17
		Catholic Schools Week					
May	5	18 WF Rugby (Parkes)	19 AEGC Meeting- Junior and Senior (venue TBC) CWA Primary Public Speaking Competition - Parkes	20	21	22	23 / 24
May	6	25	26 HFS Spelling Bee Year 2 - Year 6 <i>National Sorry Day</i>	27 <i>Reconciliation Week (27/5-3/6)</i>	28 Assembly - 2.45pm	29	30 / 31
Jun	7	1 School Photo Day Parent/Teacher Interviews K-6 (School Hall)	2 Kindergarten Library Visit 12pm - 1pm	3 P&F Meeting - 6pm	4 Athletics Carnival	5 Feast of Saint Marcellin Champagnat (Stage 3) Whole School Mass - 9:45am (Hall)	6 / 7
Jun	8	8 King's Birthday (PH)	9 Pupil Free Day	10 Backup Date - Athletics Carnival	11 Bright Future STEM Program - Year 5/6 - School Hall	12 Polding Touch (Port Macquarie) Assembly - 2.45pm	13 / 14
Jun	9	15	16	17	18 School Disco - 6.00pm	19	20 / 21 Sun 21/6 Family Mass 9:30am
Jun	10	22	23	24 Polding Cross Country (Sydney)	25	26 Assembly - 2.45pm	27 / 28 Polding CSP Rugby (Forbes) - 28th
Jun/Jul	11	29 Polding Rugby Union (Forbes)	30 NAIDOC Day Celebrations and Activities	1 P&F Meeting - 6pm	2 NAIDOC Liturgy 2.30pm AEGC	3 Last Day of Term 2	4 / 5