



ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL WINTON

TERM 3 | Week 6 | 2025

Monday August 25th

Topology Music Workshops

August 26th & 27th

Outback Futures

Afterschool Art Workshop

Art/Assembly Room from 3-4pm

August 28th & 29th

WSC Skateboarding

In-school sessions Friday August

29th. Online waivers must be complete.

Monday September 1st

Storyfest Sleepover – Full

Consent Forms Due

Thursday September 4th

Father's Day Prayer

Friday September 5th

Pupil Free Day

September 11th & 12th

StoryFest Out West Whole

School Sleepover

Wednesday September 17th

Winton Poetry Festival

Thursday September 18th

Last Day of Term

P&F UPDATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Storyfest Out West

Parent helpers are needed to assist with transport of students, sleepover and catering.

NEXT MEETING

Monday, August 25th

3pm, St Patrick's Assembly Room, all parents welcome.

Newsletter

A Message From Our Principal

This week, St. Pat's has been on an adventure—a Book Week adventure! Our journey began with students bringing their favourite book characters to life. The excitement continued with captivating guest readers like Fr Nnaemeka, Harry the Firey, Juddy the Paramedic, Amanda from the Winton Library and our own Miss Sophie off the back of a festive Book Week Tuckshop. Our staff also shared on theme adventure related stories, turning every day into a new chapter of discovery. The Book Fair was a phenomenal success, and thanks to your incredible support, we smashed our \$1500 target. Thank you to everyone who made this an unforgettable week. What a wonderful way to celebrate and encourage the magic of reading!

Next week marks the grand finale of Arts August, but the fun isn't over yet! On Monday, students will get a chance to work with Topology, a group of real musicians who will be leading in-school sessions. The creativity continues after school on both Tuesday and Wednesday as Outback Futures and the team from Winton's very own Outback Regional Gallery host a Children's Art Project workshop. If your child plans to attend these sessions, please just advise the classroom teachers.

The excitement is building for our upcoming Storyfest Sleepover! Over the next few weeks, students will explore texts by the authors they'll meet, and a huge thank you to the Winton Library for helping us secure extra copies. We are so grateful for everyone who is already helping, whether by assisting with transport, staying overnight in Longreach to support our students, or helping with catering. It's the generosity of our community that makes these special events happen. I encourage all parents, particularly if you've not yet had a chance to do so, to find a way to get involved throughout the year. As you can see from the wonderful opportunities our P&F provides, it truly makes a difference.

At St. Pat's, we pride ourselves on setting high expectations and consistently punching above our weight. However, one area continues to hold us back—attendance. A day off here or there might not seem like a big deal, but the reality is simple: every day counts. We have dedicated teachers, engaging lessons, and strong learning routines in place. But if students aren't here to benefit from them, all that great work is lost. This is a really critical and important message for our parents. If you take one thing away, let it be this.

Bridget Tully

Attendance matters ...

Days lost = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but ...



When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1

day per fortnight

M T W T F
M T W T F

=

4

weeks



=

Over

1

year missed

1

day per week

M T W T F
M T W T F

=

8

weeks



=

Over

2.5

years missed



Patterns of absenteeism can have a serious impact on your child's education.



Early Years (P&1) News

What a fortnight of fun and learning we've had in the Early Years classroom! From being authors to being actors, from shape spotting to digraph spotting - your little learners have been busy bees indeed!

Students have been diving into the Writing Process with curiosity and excitement, as they begin crafting information reports on an Australian animal of their choice. They've been swapping between their 'Author Hat' and 'Reader Hat,' as they work to improve sentence fluency and conventions (ask them what that means, you might be impressed). Our Prep students are becoming detectives in the world of digraphs such as sh, th, ch, while our Year Ones are zooming ahead with fluency and accuracy. Reader's Theatre was a highlight this week. Students acted out fun scenes using their digraphs and trigraphs, blending the world of reading with performance and there were giggles, drama and LOTS of expression! Let's just say... Hollywood, here we come!

We've had a blast in Maths this fortnight, as we explored the wonderful world of three dimensional shapes- spheres, cylinders, cubes, oh my! The students enjoyed noticing what made each shape unique, and how they could be sorted based on their faces, edges and vertices. To cap it off, they put their learning into shape by building their very own 3D models to explore the shapes further.

In Religion, we delved further into the Old Testament where students learned about the special covenant between God and Abraham. This fortnight students learned about how Jewish people also have a special relationship with God, and some of their special symbols and clothing - like the Tallit, a prayer shawl with Tzit Tzits (fringes).

Science took us on a journey this week! We visited the Waltzing Matilda Centre where students explored all things materials. Students touched, observed and discussed how some materials used in the past have changed. They were quick to point out why we don't use glass for tyres or wool for umbrellas (imagine that soggy mess). It was a great learning experience and a hands-on way to explore the world around us.

It has been a wonderful fortnight in Early Years, with continued growth, independence and imagination. I can't wait for you to see what is next for our little learners!

- Miss Hawke

Middle Primary (2&3) News

Our Middle Primary students have been busy over the fortnight, making excellent progress across all learning areas, and we're proud of the curiosity, creativity and collaboration they bring to each day.

In English, students have shown strong growth in both reading and writing. Many have transitioned from decodable texts to more advanced books, allowing them to build accuracy, fluency and comprehension. We've been practising strategies to understand both literal and inferred meaning, and to respond thoughtfully to a range of texts.

Our writing sessions have been full of imagination and energy! Using *The BFG* as a mentor text, students have explored how authors use invented words to create vivid worlds and memorable characters. This has led to rich vocabulary building and playful experimentation with descriptive language. We've extended this creativity into poetry, where students have crafted their BFG-inspired pieces. Year 2 students focused on acrostic poems while Year 3 students explored couplets using rhyme, onomatopoeia and alliteration. These experiences have helped students understand how language choices shape meaning and bring writing to life.

In Mathematics, we've been investigating location and transformation. Year 2 students have been interpreting simple maps, following directions and using positional language such as "next to," "between," and "left/right." Year 3 students have extended this by using grid references, compass points and scaled maps to describe routes and locations. These activities help students understand spatial relationships and communicate directions clearly - skills that are both practical and fun!

In Science, we've begun exploring how heat can change the state of materials - such as melting, freezing and evaporation through hands-on investigations that spark curiosity and scientific thinking.



Middle Primary (cont.)

In Religion, students are learning about the Trinity and how God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are united in love and purpose. This learning invites reflection and helps students understand the sacred relationships at the heart of our faith.

In History, students have been exploring how life in communities has changed over time. A highlight was our visit to the Waltzing Matilda Centre where students examined artefacts, photographs and stories from both past and present. Year 2 students focused on identifying changes in daily life—such as transport, technology and celebrations. Year 3 students extended this by learning how people of diverse backgrounds have shaped the local community and how their contributions are recognised. This inquiry has deepened students' understanding of continuity, change and the rich character of our shared history.

- Miss Warry



In Maths, it's measurement madness! Students have been exploring capacity, length, temperature and mass through hands-on, practical activities. They've been learning how to make reasonable estimates, compare units, measure accurately and convert between units. Lessons have been filled with opportunities to investigate, test ideas and apply their skills in real-world contexts. From pouring liquids to weighing everyday objects and using thermometers, students are developing confidence and accuracy in their measurement skills while strengthening their problem-solving abilities.

In Religion, students have been exploring New Testament scripture. They've identified words, actions and symbols, then linked these to the Holy Trinity. Using both scripture and visual forms has led to rich classroom discussions. Our students are learning that scripture, much like literature, is filled with layers of meaning waiting to be discovered.

No need to *shelf* the Upper Primary's creativity, it's on full display!

- Miss Stacey



Upper Primary (4/5/6) News

This term, our Upper Primary students have been weaving their own magic through learning - turning challenges into adventures and achievements into stories worth sharing. As it is Book Week, we've been celebrating literature while creating texts of our own in the classroom. You could say our students are fully *booked* with exciting learning adventures!

This term, students have stepped into the shoes of extraordinary people through their biography writing. After choosing their subject, they've researched, planned and are currently drafting their pieces while conferencing with Miss Stacey for feedback to inform their next steps. Next week, students will revise, edit and publish their biographies - following the writing process like seasoned authors. They've been working on polishing their topic sentences, paragraphs, sentence fluency and voice- turning their drafts into real page-turners! In Reading, our students have completed self-reflections to set personalised reading goals, and this fortnight they're bringing stories to life through Readers' Theatre. This activity provides students with a chance to read dramatically, collaboratively and show just how creative they can be.

Book Week 2025

