



ST PATRICK'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
WINTON

TERM 1 | Week 2 | 2026

Tuesday 10th Feb

Whole School Swimming
Winton Pool
1.30-2.50 pick-up at the pool

Thursday 12th Feb

Homework Club
3-3.30pm

Friday 13th Feb

National Apology Day
Assembly
UP Spotlight
8.30am

Sunday 15th Feb

St Patrick's Parish Mass
6pm Fr Nnaemeka

Tuesday 17th Feb

Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday 18th Feb

Ash Wednesday
Mass – St Patrick's Parish
8.45am

Wednesday 11th March

NAPLAN – Writing

Thursday 12th March

NAPLAN – Reading

Friday 13th March

NAPLAN – Conventions of
Language & Numeracy

Monday 16th March

NAPLAN catch-up testing

Tuesday 17th March

Saint Patrick's Day

Week 9

SMYLE Camp

P&F UPDATES

AGM MEETING

Thursday 26th February
3.30pm, Assembly Room.
All parents and friends welcome.

Newsletter

A Message from Our Principal

Welcome back to the 2026 school year, and a very special welcome to the new families joining our wonderful community. It has been such a joy to hear about the many adventures and special moments our learners experienced over the Christmas break.

Our staff began the year in Townsville, engaging in professional learning focused on the Science of Learning. Together, we explored evidence-based research aimed at strengthening individual student outcomes. Since returning, teachers have been thoughtfully embedding best practice into their classroom programs and carefully sequencing literacy and numeracy blocks to reflect this work. We are excited about the positive impact this will have on student growth throughout the year.

During the first weeks of school, each class spent time revisiting and unpacking our school values. These conversations centred on building inclusive partnerships to ensure **belonging**, valuing one another with **respect**, showing strength and **courage**, and responding to others with **mercy**. Students explored how these values support both learning and relationships, with each class developing a shared classroom agreement — a Classroom Contract (UP) and a Classroom Promise (MP & EY) to guide their year together.

As we begin the process of selecting our 2026 School Captains, Sports Captains and Student Leaders, we are committed to ensuring this is a whole-school decision that reflects the voice and values of our school community. Miss Stacey's Year 6 students have been proudly modelling our school values as we prepare for a democratic, whole-school vote to determine our School Captains, Sports Captains and Leaders. These students will be formally announced and badged during our St Patrick's Feast Day celebrations.

Positive partnerships between home and school are vital in fostering student wellbeing and success. It was wonderful to see so many families attend our Parent Information Evening on Wednesday night. If you were unable to attend, I encourage you to connect with your child's teacher via email or during drop-off and pick-up times. I warmly invite all families to be involved in school life wherever possible throughout the year.

Please continue to engage with our fortnightly newsletter and Compass notifications to stay informed about important dates, and upcoming events. If you are experiencing any difficulty accessing the Compass app, please see Miss Vickie or myself and we will be happy to assist.

On a final note, thank you for the fantastic start to the school year and for your patience and support, as I navigate my new role as Principal. I am deeply grateful to our dedicated staff whose commitment and care never go unnoticed. They consistently go above and beyond to ensure every learner feels engaged, supported and nurtured through quality learning experiences.

I look forward to a year filled with growth, faith and partnership.

Mrs Dayna Curtis

Acting Principal

Early Years News



What an incredible swing back into school we've had in Early Years! The first two weeks have been full of energy, curiosity, and big smiles as students settled into routines and began learning our school values: Belong, Respect, Courage and Mercy. They have been demonstrating these values when transitioning around the school, during lunchtime and in the classroom.

In English, our Prep students have dived into the exciting world of letters and sounds, learning their first three letters: s, a, t. Year 1 students have been stretching their thinking by exploring short and long vowel sounds and using these to identify words that follow the FLOSS rule. Across Early Years, students have also been learning what ideas are, where we can find them and how to capture them through drawings in their Writers Notebook. This work is laying strong foundations as students prepare to create their own procedures in the coming weeks.

In Maths, things have really fallen into pattern! Students have been continuing and creating two-part and three-part repeating patterns. It was an *octo-lot* of fun when students created patterned paper chains for their octopus legs. It has been a very hands-on week of learning as students use body movements, colours and symbols to create patterns.

In HASS, students begun learning about their families and the relationships they share. Our Year 1 students have been comparing families and recognising that every family is unique and special.

In Science, it's been a living example of great learning! Students are identifying living and non-living things based on their needs. They quickly realised that a grasshopper wouldn't survive in a closed glass jar- living things need food, water, sunlight and oxygen, not just shelter!

It has been a busy and joyful start to the year, and we can't wait to see our busy little learners continue growing their way into 2026.

- Miss Hawke



Middle Primary News

Our Middle Primary learners have made a fantastic start to the school year, settling quickly into routines and diving straight into rich learning experiences across all subjects.

Students have been easing back into the rhythm of writing through regular free-writing sessions - building confidence and fluency. We've also begun our Term 1 persuasive writing unit. This has included lively oral debates, exploring how to form an opinion and develop clear supporting ideas. The students have enjoyed sharing their viewpoints and listening respectfully to others.

We've launched the term with a strong focus on place value.

- **Year 2** students are working with numbers to 1 000
- **Year 3** students are extending their understanding to 10 000

Across both year levels, students have been practising expanded notation, comparing numbers and ordering numbers with increasing accuracy. Their effort and enthusiasm have been excellent.



Our classroom has been buzzing with excitement as we begin our biological sciences unit. Students are investigating mealworms and using the MRS GREN acronym (Movement, Respiration, Sensitivity, Growth, Reproduction, Excretion, Nutrition) to identify the characteristics of living things. The hands-on nature of this unit has been a real highlight.

In Religion, we have been learning about prayer - what it is, why people pray and the different forms it can take. Students have explored the four traditional types of prayer: Praise, Sorrow, Thanks and Petition.

We're incredibly proud of the positive start students have made across all learning areas. Their curiosity, effort and enthusiasm have set a wonderful tone for the term. We look forward to sharing more of their learning adventures with you, as the weeks unfold.

Miss Warry



Upper Primary News

What a whirlwind start to the year it has been in Upper Primary! From the moment students walked through the door, the energy, enthusiasm and commitment to learning has been impossible to miss, and the achievements of our Year 4–6 students in just the first fortnight have truly set the tone for an exciting year ahead.

In English, students have been establishing strong writing routines with a clear focus on revisiting writing techniques, and the stages of the writing process. Through collaborative learning, students have been creating short but impactful pieces of work, demonstrating how powerful writing can be when ideas are carefully planned, drafted, revised and refined.

A strong emphasis has been placed on the writing trait of Ideas, with students developing and growing these in their writing scrapbooks. They have also explored the trait of Organisation, learning how to craft well-structured paragraphs that clearly meet the purpose of a text, and keep their target audience engaged.

This fortnight, we have also prioritised a love of literature. Students have had the opportunity to “taste” a range of books to discover what sparks their interest and are now tracking their reading success during our dedicated Reading for Enjoyment time. This calm and valued part of our day allows students to relax, escape into new worlds, connect with fascinating characters, or dive into topics of personal interest. During this time, students have been engaging with novels, audiobooks, magazines, and more.



In Mathematics, students have been strengthening their understanding of number, as this underpins all areas of mathematics. So far this term, learning has focused on mathematical language, place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication of large numbers using multiple strategies, factors and multiples and odd and even numbers.

Students have begun their Religion unit on Prayer. They have learned about the five different types of prayer, the difference between personal and communal prayer practices and have actively participated in a range of prayer experiences. As a result, students have been journaling prayers daily, following a clear structure to support them in writing meaningful and thoughtful prayers to God.

A strong focus has also been placed on building a positive and respectful classroom culture. Students collaboratively created a classroom contract, outlining the important rules and expectations they will follow as a class throughout the year. Alongside this, students worked together to create a meaningful Acknowledgement of Country, reflecting on where we live, learn and play, and the respect we show to First Nations peoples.

In the coming weeks, students will begin their learning in Science, HaSS, HPE, Art and Technology. We have intentionally prioritised routines, clear expectations and strong relationship building to create a safe, supportive environment where all students feel confident to learn and take risks.

We cannot wait to see what this incredible group of learners achieves as the year unfolds!

Miss Stacey

