



ST PATRICK'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL
WINTON

Newsletter

TERM 1 | Week 4 | 2026

Thursday 26th Feb

P&F AGM

3.30pm

Friday 27th Feb

Pancake Breakfast

Winton Shire Council

8.00am

Assembly - MP Spotlight

8.30am

Sunday 1st March

St Patrick's Parish Mass

6pm

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

Friday 20th March

National Ride to School Day

Cross Country

Week 9

SMYLE Camp

Tuesday 24th March

Questacon

Science and Technology P-4

Wednesday 1st April

Last Day of Term

A message from our Principal

As a Teaching and Learning team, we continue to pride ourselves on our strong focus on responsive teaching and learning. As we approach the midway mark of Term 1, it has been wonderful to see students engaging with eagerness and enthusiasm in their learning environments.

This year, students are actively involved in setting their own S.M.A.R.T. goals. When students set Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound goals, they become active owners of their learning and are more committed to achieving success. This process builds independence, responsibility and confidence. I encourage you to have conversations with your child about the goals they are working towards.

At St Patrick's, we greatly value and encourage parent involvement. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Miss Vickie or myself to ensure induction requirements are being met. This helps us maintain a safe and compliant environment for everyone. New child safeguarding laws came into effect in October 2025 and impact parent volunteers. Further information, including the Volunteer Induction for Parents and Carers, is also available on our website.

Compass remains our primary communication platform. It is essential that families have access to Compass notifications for:

- Upcoming events
- Excursion details
- School notices and reminders
- Important updates

Engaging with Compass allows us to communicate efficiently and ensures you remain well informed. If you are unable to access Compass, please make time to see Miss Vickie, who will gladly assist you.

Our upcoming P&F Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 26th February and is an important opportunity to be involved in the life and direction of our school community. The P&F plays a vital role in supporting school initiatives, building community connections and enhancing opportunities for our students. We warmly invite all families to attend both the AGM and the following general meeting. Your voice, ideas and participation truly matter.

Included in this newsletter is a nomination form for parents and friends to nominate for executive positions on the committee. If you are considering nominating, please complete and return the attached form to the front office prior to 26th February and attend the scheduled meeting.

Finally, our Ash Wednesday Mass marked the beginning of the Catholic Church's season of Lent. Thank you to all who attended. Lent is a sacred time of prayer, reflection and service. It is a time when we are called to do good deeds humbly and grow closer to God through compassion and generosity.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.

Mrs Dayna Curtis

Acting Principal

P&F UPDATES

AGM MEETING

Thursday 26th February

3.30pm, Assembly Room.

All parents and friends welcome.

Early Years News

The Early Years class are in full swing with their learning and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm each day.

During Maths lessons, students have been engaging in rich, hands-on learning experiences while creating and extending two- and three-part patterns. These practical activities help build strong foundational number sense and problem-solving skills.

Our Year 1 students have also been eagerly practising their skip counting, developing confidence and fluency as they recognise number patterns and sequences.

These important concepts have been incorporated into homework tasks to support revision and reinforce classroom learning. We appreciate your continued support at home as students consolidate these skills.



English lessons have provided opportunity for students to practise the instructional strategy Talk–Draw–Talk–Write, which acts as an effective scaffold to support the development of writing skills. This structured approach allows students to first verbalise their ideas, then represent them visually, revisit and refine their thinking through discussion, and finally transfer their ideas into written form.

Using this strategy, students have been building confidence in the writing process while creating procedural texts for everyday tasks. By breaking the process into clear stages, students are better able to organise their ideas, use appropriate sequencing language, and ensure their instructions are clear and purposeful for the reader.

On Monday, we ventured to St Patrick's Parish to familiarise ourselves with the features of our local church. During this visit, students respectfully walked, talked and explored the sacred space, even having the opportunity to view and gently touch some of the special artefacts within the church.

This experience helped deepen students' understanding of the significance of the parish and its symbols, and thoughtfully prepared us for our first whole-school Mass of 2026 for Ash Wednesday.

Miss Hawke



Middle Primary News

Our Middle Primary students have had a productive start to the term, settling into routines and engaging enthusiastically with their learning. They have shown curiosity, confidence, and a growing sense of independence as they explore new concepts across all learning areas. Students have also been working hard as a team to earn their Apple Slinky Fridays whole-class reward, showing positive choices and strong teamwork throughout the week.

In English, we have been focusing on persuasive speech. Students have been learning what persuasion is, why people use it, and how strong opinions need clear, well-explained reasons. They have enjoyed practising short persuasive statements and discussing how language can influence others in everyday situations.

In Maths, we have been finishing our unit on place value and are now moving into addition and subtraction. Year 2 students are working on adding and subtracting within 20 by bridging ten using ten-frames, helping them build strong mental strategies. Year 3 students are beginning two-digit addition and subtraction, exploring the connection between addition and subtraction to strengthen their understanding of number relationships. Each lesson begins with a daily review to revisit previous concepts and reinforce learning in a consistent, supportive way.



On Friday, we also spent time learning about National Apology Day. Students reflected on why this day is significant, discussed the importance of acknowledging past wrongs, and explored how listening, understanding, and showing respect help us build a more caring and inclusive future. This learning supported thoughtful conversations about empathy and reconciliation.

In Religion, we have continued our unit on prayer, exploring the different ways people pray and why prayer is meaningful for many communities. As we move through the season of Lent, students have been connecting their learning to current Church events and reflecting on kindness, gratitude, and making thoughtful choices.



In the spirit of Lent, our students connected with the Winton Library's First 5 Forever program, engaging with younger children in our Winton community. Through this experience, our students demonstrated service, compassion and leadership, living out our Catholic Ethos by giving of themselves in humble and meaningful ways.

In Science, students have continued to observe our mealworms and track their changes they go through as they progress through their life cycle. This hands-on investigation has sparked curiosity and encouraged students to think like scientists as they notice, record, and discuss each stage of growth.

Miss Warry

Upper Primary News

Upper Primary students have been busy working through the writing process, learning and reviewing this essential writing technique. Students have been focusing on crafting a small piece of writing well before moving on to a range of text types. As part of this task, students became both authors and illustrators, writing about activities they enjoy doing with their families and thoughtfully illustrating their work to enhance meaning.

In Art, students are learning that artists do not make choices randomly — every decision is intentional. To support this understanding, students have been exploring colour, shape, texture and symbolism, and how these elements can communicate particular emotions and messages to an audience.



During our numeracy block, students have been developing their understanding of factors, multiples, squared and composite numbers, odd and even number properties, and short division. It has been pleasing to see students apply strategies with growing confidence and accuracy.

It was our turn to spotlight at the fortnightly assembly last week. In the lead-up to National Apology Day, we explored the difference between an Acknowledgement of Country and a Welcome to Country. Students learnt that we can all deliver an Acknowledgement of Country and began the process of creating an Upper Primary Acknowledgement of Country, which will be used throughout the year as a sign of respect and understanding.



Our Year 6 students have been actively modelling leadership across our school in the areas of kindness and compassion (Mercy), treating others with dignity (Respect), helping everyone feel included (Belong), and demonstrating the confidence to step forward, try new things and speak up for what is right (Courage). These qualities reflect the values we strive to nurture in every student at St Patrick's.

The whole school community then participated in a democratic voting process to determine our 2026 Student Leadership Team. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience authentic student voice and civic responsibility in action.

The results were revealed last Friday, and we congratulate all students who nominated and showed great bravery in putting themselves forward. Our 2026 Captains and Student Leaders will receive their badges during our St Patrick's Day Liturgy. We look forward to formally commissioning them into their leadership roles as they continue to serve our school community with pride and integrity.

Miss Stacey

