



**ST PATRICK'S**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
WINTON

**TERM 1 | Week 6**  
**2026**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March**  
NAPLAN – Writing

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March**  
NAPLAN – Reading

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March**  
NAPLAN – Conventions of  
Language & Numeracy

Assembly 8.30am  
MP Spotlight

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March**  
NAPLAN catch-up testing

Afternoon Tea with Fr Mick  
and Mrs Blacket  
2.30pm Staff Room

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**  
Saint Patrick's Feast Day  
Liturgy 8.30am followed by  
activities and morning tea

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March**  
National Ride to School Day

Cross Country 10am

**Week 9**  
SMYLE Camp Yr5&6  
Magnetic Island

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March**  
Questacon  
Science and Technology P-4

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**  
Waltzing Matilda Centre  
P-4 students

**Week 10**  
Holy Week

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**  
Last Day of Term

# Newsletter

## A message from Our Principals

Dear Parents,

It's hard to believe that we are well and truly past the halfway point of Term One. It has been so pleasing to see how well the children have settled into school routines and are focusing so positively on their learning.

Our teaching staff work tirelessly within a responsive teaching and learning framework that prioritises individual growth and success for every student. This commitment is particularly evident in our point-of-difference Literacy and Numeracy Blocks, which are carefully and intentionally sequenced to ensure strong foundations and sustained progress. These blocks are underpinned by endorsed best practice aligned with the Science of Learning framework, enabling our teachers to deliver explicit, evidence-based instruction that maximises student achievement and supports every learner to thrive.

One way we assess each child's progress is through the NAPLAN tests, which students in Years 3 and 5 will sit next week. These assessments will take place over three days, with a catch-up session scheduled the following week. NAPLAN is just one measure of student achievement, and we encourage all students to approach the assessments with a calm and confident mindset.

So much hard work deserves to be celebrated, and what better way than with our St Patrick's Feast Day celebrations on Tuesday 17th March. The day provides a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge and remember the dedication of the Mercy Sisters who established our school back in 1906. How proud they would be to see their beautiful school community today.

All families, friends and community members are warmly invited to join us for a special liturgy where we will welcome new families and induct our 2026 Student Leaders. Following the liturgy, there will be a range of exciting activities, and we will conclude the celebrations with a shared Morning Tea in the St Pat's Shed. It promises to be a day full of joy, connection and community spirit — and we can't wait to celebrate with you all! Everyone is encouraged to come dressed in green.

Our students were very excited to hear that Tuckshop returns this Friday. All information regarding the menu and ordering process has been sent home and shared via the Compass app. Orders are due by Thursday afternoon. A heartfelt thank you to the parents who generously give their time to prepare delicious lunches for our students each week — your support is truly appreciated.

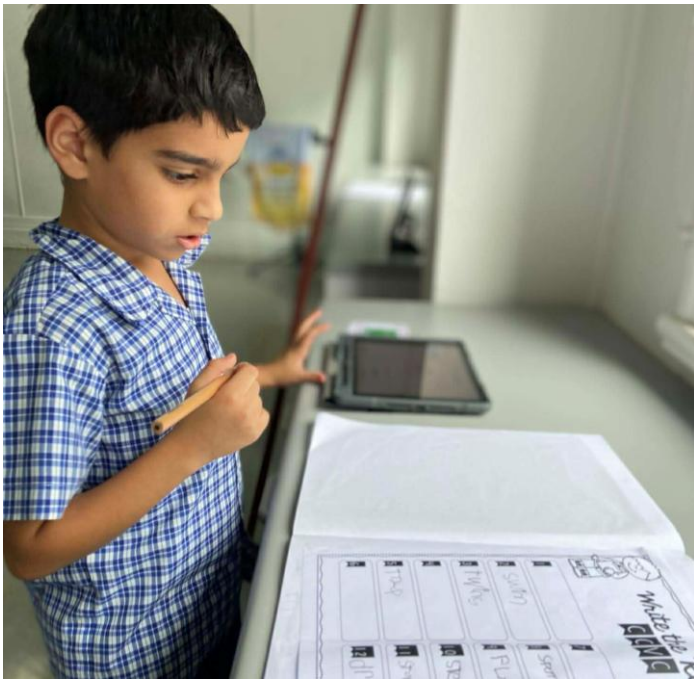
As we enter the Third Week of Lent, students have been learning about the importance of helping those less fortunate and reflecting on how even small acts of generosity can make a meaningful difference. During the first week of Lent, our Middle Primary class visited the Winton Library to partner with the First 5 Forever program. Students sang songs, shared nursery rhymes, read stories and spent time engaging with the youngest members of our community. Last week, our Upper Primary class visited the hospital, and it was heartwarming to see the students interacting with some of the longest-serving members of our community. No doubt our visit stirred fond memories of their own school days.

Over the coming weeks, each class will host a fundraising activity to support Caritas. Families are invited to donate what they can to assist those in need. Together, through faith and action, we can help create a world where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

*Mr Mike Colahan & Mrs Dayna Curtis*

Relieving Principal & Acting Principal

## Early Years News



This term is absolutely flying by in Early Years and so many wonderful skills and knowledge have been gained already. It has been such a joy watching the growth in confidence, independence and curiosity across the classroom. I truly cannot wait to see where they soar next.

During English, students have continued learning how to write procedural texts. They have worked through the writing process, becoming familiar with prewriting (through drawing), drafting their ideas, sharing their work and exploring different ways we can publish writing. The excitement in the room has been contagious! Students can now confidently identify the purpose of a procedural text "It teaches us how to do something step by step!" and thoroughly enjoyed group work to create a procedural text to make fairy bread. It has been wonderful to see them take ownership of this learning.

EY students have been learning to compare familiar events based on their duration. We've been asking questions like, "Which takes longer – brushing your teeth or eating lunch?" and "Which happens quickly – a clap or a whole song?"

It's been so much fun seeing students think about time in their own lives, and how even simple activities can be long or short. Our classroom is buzzing with curiosity as we measure, draw, and compare the world around us.

Students have been exploring creation stories, firstly looking at the Catholic creation story, learning how it tells the story of how the world began. Students analysed it as a narrative, noticing characters, events, and the special messages it shares.



We then explored Indigenous creation stories, discovering how these stories have been handed down from generation to generation. Students learned that these stories explain how the world and its creatures came to be, and are a way of sharing culture, wisdom, and connection to Country.

By comparing different stories, students are beginning to understand that stories – whether from the Bible or Indigenous traditions – are a powerful way to explain how things came about and help us understand the world around us.

During HaSS Early Years students took a trip through time! We explored how life and play change over the years.

We discovered traditional First Nations toys – clever creations made from natural materials – and learned how children long ago had just as much fun as we do today! Then, it was our turn: students designed their own contemporary toys, mixing creativity, colours, and imagination.

From spinning tops to handmade dolls, and now to toys of their own invention, our Early Years learners showed that play is timeless!



*Miss Hawke*



## Middle Primary News

We have had a busy and exciting fortnight in Middle Primary, with students engaging deeply across all learning areas and proudly sharing their growing skills.

Students have continued to build their persuasive writing and speaking abilities. They have been learning how to form a clear opinion and support it with strong reasons and examples. Alongside this, students have been practising presenting their ideas to peers using a clear, expressive voice. A key focus has been understanding how feedback helps us grow. Students are learning to listen to suggestions and incorporate them into their persuasive speeches.

In Mathematics, Year 3 have been completing their work on mental addition and subtraction strategies. They have been using approaches such as partitioning numbers and using number lines to bridge to the nearest ten or hundred, helping them solve problems efficiently and flexibly. Year 3 have now begun their new unit on time, exploring how we measure, read, and compare units of time in real-life situations.

Year 2 students are continuing their addition and subtraction learning, including adding and subtracting multiples of ten. They have been using facts they already know—such as  $2+3=5$ —to help them solve related problems like  $20+30=50$ . This supports a strong understanding of place value and confidence with mental strategies.

During Religion, we have been deepening our understanding of God as Creator and exploring why prayer is important for many people. Students have been learning about the meaning behind the *Glory Be* and reflecting on how prayer can help us feel connected, calm, and grateful.


In Science, we have continued our investigations into mealworms and their life cycle. Students have been observing changes closely and recording their findings like real scientists. We also extend a warm thank-you to everyone who attended our Mealworm Assembly Spotlight last Friday. Students were very proud to share their learning.

*Miss Warry*



### St Patrick's Parish Sacramental Program - 2026

Are you considering the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, or Communion for your child? Exciting news! Fr Mick and Mrs Blacket will be joining us for an afternoon tea gathering to have informal discussions and answer your questions.

 **When:** Monday, 16th March

 **Time:** 2:30 pm

 **Where:** Staffroom



# Upper Primary News

In Science, students have been exploring Biology through food chains and food webs, using scientific language such as producers, consumers (carnivores, herbivores, omnivores), scavengers, and decomposers. They investigated physical features and behavioural adaptations that help animals survive and considered thought-provoking questions like: "What would happen to a food web if all the rabbits went extinct?" and "What would happen if a drought occurred?"

In Civics and Citizenship, students have been learning what democracy looks like in Australia. They created an anchor chart of key democratic values, explored the three levels of government and their roles, and examined social and cultural factors that influence identity. Recently, students applied this knowledge to a local scenario, identifying important cultural and social factors and discussing why these are essential for a democratic society.



The UP class is also thriving in language lessons every Friday with Mr Mike in China! Each week, they explore a language component and a cultural component. This term, students have been practising pronouncing country names and forming simple sentences to communicate where they or their friends are from. On the cultural side, they have explored national flags, anthems, and traditions from around the world.

Halfway through the term, the UP class has also been sharpening their literacy skills. In writing, they've focused on grammar, punctuation, and organisation, creating well-structured paragraphs and a collaborative mentor text. In reading, students have developed note-taking and summarising strategies, transforming notes into keywords to write clear summaries.

For sentence fluency, students have explored how independent and dependent clauses work with subordinating conjunctions to create complex sentences, while also using apostrophes correctly to show possession. During literacy rotations, they have been reviewing spelling rules, practising typing and handwriting fluency, and reading for enjoyment. Some students have also been completing their roles in book club, sharing their love of stories with their peers.

It has been a term full of curiosity, collaboration, and growth, and the UP class continues to impress with their engagement and enthusiasm for learning.

