

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

**Term 4 Week 4 2020**  
**Tuesday 3rd November**

Rosary Park Catholic School Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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*We acknowledge the Wonnarua people-the first custodians of this land*

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Weekly Mass Times: 6pm Saturday Branxton; 8am Sunday Greta.**

November		December	
Wed 4th	P&F Meeting 6pm- Zoom	Wed 2nd	Year 6 Student Farewell at school hall - TBC
Thurs 5th	Book Fair – see details in newsletter	Wed 9th	End of Year Awards and Showcase
Tues 24th	Pupil Free Day	Fri 11th	End of Year Liturgy and 2021 School Leaders announced
		Wed 16th	<b>LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS</b>

## Principal's Message

**Lord, you correct those who offend, you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned, so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.**

*Book of Wisdom 11:22-12:2*

Dear Parents/Carers

### Leading Learning Collaborative

Whilst 2020 has presented many challenges for us with COVID, from a teaching and learning perspective, Rosary Park has experienced a year of great excitement and growth with our participation as one of 39 Diocesan schools in the Leading Learning Collaborative (LLC) initiative introduced by the Catholic Schools Office this year.

LLC centres on the work of Canadian educationalist Lyn Sharratt and the teachings in her book, 'Clarity'. Sharratt focuses on 14 parameters (or principles). The framework is growth oriented. We are focused on the progression in learning of every child and on the building of every teacher's capacity. This occurs through the appointment in schools of Pedagogical Mentors or Knowledge Others (which at Rosary Park are Janelle Dixon and Louise Kevin) and common established understandings which are visually represented throughout our school.

Rosary Park's focus on this work is largely in the areas of English (reading) as is identified in our School Improvement Plan although this is expanding to other Key Learning Areas as well.

Children are encouraged to take autonomy for their learning and there are 5 critical questions which teachers and leaders regularly ask their children to check their understandings of the expectations of a task they are working on:

***\*What are you learning and why?***

***\*How are you going?***

***\*How do you know?***

***\*How can you improve?***

***\*Where do you go for help?***

Your children should be familiar with these questions as they are regularly discussed (& displayed) in classrooms during their learning and when I regularly visit classrooms they are most certainly able to tell me what the expectations of a task and what they need to do to achieve this. In addition, Learning Intentions and Success Criteria are co-constructed with learners which gives them a clear understanding of the expectations of a task and through the use of 'Bump it Up Walls' children can work towards improving and changing their work to gain their best possible grade.

It has been so rewarding this year to hear the excitement amongst teachers and children talking about their learning and how they are progressing. We will continue with this journey, working with Lyn Sharratt for the next 2 years as we further embed these parameters into our school culture. I would encourage you to talk with your children about the five questions listed above as well as how they use bump it up walls, LI & SC to reflect and improve on their work.

## **Learning**

Education is constantly evolving and keeping pace with our world, trying to presume the skills needed for our children to be highly functioning but socially attached and emotionally prepared for their future.

Our classrooms are places where our children are engaged in varying activities and provide a stable place where a child feels safe to make mistakes and feel supported. We rely on children displaying a willingness to learn, be engaged and have an ability to interact at reasonable and responsible levels.

At Rosary Park, we acknowledge that parents are the first and foremost teachers of their children. We strive to work in partnership with you to best enable you to raise your child. We can only work together ***if your child has regular school attendance.***

Going to school every day is the most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day- socially, academically, emotionally and spiritually. We all want our student to get a great education and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school every day.

If children miss school regularly, they may miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in their later years of school. There is no safe number of days for missing school- each day a student misses puts them behind and can affect their educational outcomes. Excessive full days off school or partial attendance (late arrival/early pick up) is classified as 'Habitual Non-Attendance' by Family and Community Services. All school staff are mandatory reporters and must notify Family And Community Services of habitual non-attendance.

Research shows that poor school attendance is associated with:

- lower academic achievement including literacy and numeracy
- early school leaving
- leaving school with fewer qualifications
- reduced opportunities for students to learn and access educational resources, further limiting achievement
- further absenteeism in higher year levels.

Attendance patterns are established early- a child regularly missing days in Kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in later years. It's vital that students go to school every day- especially in the early years of Primary school.

We want to work with families to ensure that maximum attendance at school- for the benefit of each child. If your child is reluctant to come to school regularly, please discuss this with your child's teacher.

Please schedule appointments and holidays out of school time so that your child gets the best possible school experience.

Remember, every day counts.

### **Tell Them From Me Survey**

Thank you to the students, families and staff who completed the survey that was open over the past few weeks. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about their faith, school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them.

### **Warmer Weather**

Please ensure that if your child has shoulder length to long hair that it is tied back. This is the same for boys and girls. The warmer weather also means that students should be wearing their hats at all play times and before school. The lost property baskets are again full with many items that do not have names on them. Please label all items of clothing and other belongings that your child or children bring to school.

### **Classes 2021**

There will be thirteen classes at Rosary Park in 2020.

We will have two classes per grade for Kindergarten to year 5 in 2021 and one Year 6 class.

In coming weeks, teachers will begin the process of allocating students to their 2021 classes. This is a well thought out process based on academic, social and emotional needs. If you have a specific concern or request to make in relation to your child's class placement for 2021 that is based on your child's specific educational needs, please address this to me in writing (via email: [admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au](mailto:admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au)) by **Friday 13 November**. Every consideration will be given to requests made that are based on student well-being.

Thank you in advance for trusting the staff to make careful, considered decisions and be guided by the expertise and advice of your child's current teacher as to what is best in an educational context for your child. Your child's class and teacher for 2021 will be sent home later in term 4 and these placements will be final.

### **Staffing**

Following interviews held recently, the following staffing for 2021 can now be announced:

Nikola Groves and Mackenzie Gageler have been appointed to permanent, full-time teaching positions from 2021.

In 2021, teachers at Rosary Park will continue to receive a 90 min/week Release from Face to face (RFF) model, this will work in conjunction with library (Tuesday-Wednesday -Thursday). Mrs Melanie Flynn will return as Teacher Librarian.

The following teachers have been appointed to 12-month temporary Full-time positions at Rosary Park for 2021:

Jessica Mead, Andrew Hacker, Samantha Preece, Rachael Hamilton, Ashlee Edwards, Vanessa Blyton.

Emily McHugh has been appointed permanent Part time to job share with Louse Kevin.

Laura Wells will leave Rosary Park to take up a full-time permanent teacher role at St John's Maitland in 2021.

### **Bring Your Own Device 2021**

Thank you to the year 4 parents who attended the Zoom meeting last week in relation to Rosary Park's Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program for year 5 (and year 6) in 2021. In coming days, year 4 children will bring the BYOD policy and user agreement home. Parents are asked to discuss it with their child, the responsibilities that the BYOD program entails and return the signed agreement to school.

Marc Hattam (IT Education Officer from the Catholic Schools Office) joined us to share the educational benefits of this way of learning. I was also grateful to the current Year 5-6 staff for sharing some of the children's fantastic work this year in the BYOD program and who attended the meeting and shared their insights with parents as well.

All year 5 (and year 6) 2021 children must have their device at school from Monday 8 February 2021.

Follow this link to see an updated list of devices (from various price points):

Top price range - <https://www.jbhifi.com.au/products/hp-envy-x360-13-ar0017au-13-3-full-hd-2-in-1-touchscreen-laptop-256gb>

Middle - <https://www.jbhifi.com.au/products/acer-spin-3-sp314-54n-311v-14-2-in-1-touchscreen-laptop-256gb>

Low- <https://www.jbhifi.com.au/products/hp-14s-cf1053tu-14-hd-laptop-256gb>

## **Student Leadership**

In 2020, as part of our School Improvement Plan, we have made further changes to student leadership structures at Rosary Park, as previously communicated in the newsletter. This is firmly based on the work of our founding sisters of Mercy whose vocation was based on service. A copy of this policy and procedure is attached to today's newsletter and I would ask you to familiarise yourself with this document if your child wishes to pursue a leadership role on 2021.

This new procedure requires Year 5 students who wish to run for a formal student leader role in 2021 to join one of four teams (Positive Behaviour For Learning, Mercy, Environmental & Active Lifestyle). Other year 5 children are also encouraged to join one of these teams if they choose. To prepare for their leadership opportunities, year 5 children participated in a leadership day late last term, facilitated by our acting Religious Education Coordinator Kate Levido. On this day, children focused on our pillars of Mercy and how they apply to their lives.

Last week, Year 5 children were asked to nominate to join one of these four teams if they wanted to. It was very pleasing to see the vast majority of Year 5 children joined one of these teams as a commitment of service to our school. Children are well aware of my expectation as Principal that all children in Year 6 are leaders.

The next step in the process will be for those students to nominate if they wish to be the leader of their team and thus pursue a formal leadership role at Rosary Park. Year 5/6 teachers will lead children in this process and all speeches will be prepared at school under the guidance of one of the 5/6 teachers so that every candidate receives the same input and there is a fair and equitable process.

### **Year 5 Important Dates**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September – Year 5 Leadership Day

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October– Election Process and Leadership Expectations Information Session. Year 5 children invited to nominate for a team if they choose.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November -Nomination forms handed out

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November - Nomination Forms Due

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November – Begin writing speeches at school with assistance from 5/6 teachers

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Speeches for school leaders and sport leaders, school voting commences.

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December – School Leaders 2021 Announced at Final Liturgy

## **Compass**

**A reminder that Compass will generate a notification of absence text message for every child that is not present at school at the time of roll marking.** Even if you have previously notified us that your child will be late you will receive a text message. Please do not attempt to put partial absences on Compass. All you need to do is ensure you sign your child in to school on the Compass kiosk on the office when they arrive.

## **End-of-Year Activities**

COVID restrictions has required us to re-think how we undertake many activities, including our end of year celebrations. Parents are still not permitted on site so for the ceremonies and activities listed below we are planning on running these during our school day and live stream/record these for families.

We have revised our Kinder orientation process and will hold three sessions (12, 19, 26 November) for small groups of children. This has been communicated to families via Seesaw app.

Liturgy and dinner for year 6 children and staff will be held on Wednesday 2 December from 5pm at Rosary Park's hall. Further details to follow.

Our end-of-year awards, including a showcase of dance/drama activities that the children have undertaken this year will be held during our school day on Wednesday 9 December. The celebration will involve teachers from each class presenting awards to some students in their class in select categories. Again families will be able to view this in real and/or recorded time.

We will hold a liturgy at school from 9:30 am on Friday 11 December to celebrate our school year and announce 2021 school leaders. Again, this will be filmed for families as adults are not permitted on site.

## **Wellbeing**

Children who suffer from Asthma should have an asthma plan registered at the school office. If you require an Asthma form, please phone or call into the school office.

If your child requires medication at school, you are required to fill out a form at the office with correct dosage and time for administration.

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

## **Religious Education Coordinator's Message**

### ***A prayer for our Grandparents***

Dear God, please bless our grandparents.  
Thank you for the life they gave our parents  
And for the life they give to us.

For the ways they helped us and made me strong, I give thanks.  
For the ways they love us, no matter what, I rejoice.  
For the ways they have paved the road  
That leads us here, I am grateful.

Let them grow in wisdom and joy in life.  
Let them find peace and rest from their work.  
Let them be healed of sickness and pain.  
Let them see with their eyes, the glory of Jesus  
In the love of their children and grandchildren. Amen.

Our children are looking forward to sharing Grandparents Day digitally this year. They are busily preparing work that reflects their love of their grandparents. A video will be filmed this Friday and a link sent home for all parents and grandparents to share. We wish all the grandparents (and great grandparents) of our children health and happiness always.

**All Saints Day:** Last Friday Year 1 led us in prayer during Assembly to remember All Saints, those living and passed and those yet to be canonised. It reminded us of all the good work so many people do in the world and we thank Year 1 for celebrating this feast with us.



**Remembrance Day Liturgy:** Year 2 will lead the school in a short Liturgy for the Rosary Park children on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

**Rosary Park Christmas Appeal:** We have a tradition in our school of collecting items to make Hampers for the St Vincent de Paul Society to give to disadvantaged people and those in need of extra assistance this Christmas. This year we are asking for a **new toy, non-perishable food items that are associated with a Christmas Feast as well as everyday household items**. This year we are asking for small items that will fit into a box. Please ensure that all items are in good condition and are not due to expire for at least 6 months.

Some ideas: Jelly, bonbons, Christmas serviettes, mixed lollies, small jars of condiments, small cans of fruit or vegetables, gravy, pasta sauce, small box of tea bags, tiny jams, small shampoo and conditioner (from a hotel), small packets of biscuits, small soft drinks, pretzels, jelly cups, marshmallows, zooperdoopers, small tissues, soap, hand sanitiser, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, pancake mix, Christmas decorations, any small thoughtful gifts would be acceptable too.

We ask that all donations for the hampers be brought to school by **Friday 27th November** because all items have to be isolated for a period of 3 consecutive days before collection by the St Vincent de Paul society. If you feel you cannot contribute, this is totally understandable and please don't feel any pressure.

Thank you to our wonderful families for bringing hope, joy and dignity to those who need it most this Christmas.

**Mercy Works Day:** We congratulate Year 4 along with Mr Hacker and Mrs Preece on the success of Mercy Works Day! The children thought of wonderful activities to entertain the rest of the Rosary



Park community. Year 4 raised close to \$2000 on the day! We are able to send this directly to Mercy Works and will send an additional \$500 from Socktober initiative and the Project Compassion boxes to Catholic Mission. We had many children arrive at school with amazing, colourful creations, thank you to families for supporting the children in finding and making the sock creations! Both Mercy Works and Catholic Missions support Australian and South-East Asian projects, supporting poor families in education and wellbeing initiatives.

Thank you to our families for their generosity. I am very proud to be part of a compassionate and supportive community here at Rosary Park!

Enjoy some photos of Mercy Works Day below. Miss Grove compiled a short video of the day too which was sent home via Compass last week. It encapsulates the spirit of our school.





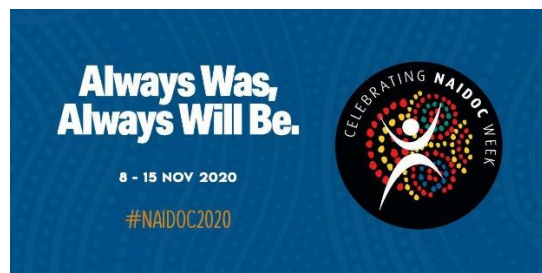


Many blessings to you and your families,

*Kate Levido*

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

## Aboriginal Education



Naidoc Week 8-15 November 2020.

*Always Was, Always Will Be.*

NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia each year to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Rosary Park will be celebrating Naidoc Week next week by partaking in a range of fun classroom activities which will help the students immerse themselves in Australia's Indigenous Culture. Each class will also participate in a colouring competition where prizes for the best Artwork will be up for grabs!

Nicolette Fredsall

Aboriginal Education Teacher

## Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

At Rosary Park we follow a PBL framework for implementation of rules and behavioural expectations. This framework has helped us to set up our rule platform. It is a simple framework where the school has a focus on 3 main rules, with more specific guidelines under these to direct positive behaviours.

The 3 broad rules are:

I am safe

I am responsible

I am an active learner

At the end of each term, the PBL staff team review the data on issues that have arisen in the playground and this helps determine the focus areas for the forthcoming term. Over a 2-week period we have one aspect of a rule as a schoolwide focus. This rule is referred to in our whole school assembly on Monday morning and then specifically taught in each classroom for 10-20 minutes first thing as children enter the room. It is here that the rule is presented in an age appropriate way for children to question, discuss and reflect upon. Role plays around what the rule means, what it looks like in a positive sense and what it doesn't look like are carried out. Discussions are held around what to do in situations and who a child can turn to if they have issues or concerns.

Our Term 4 focus rules are:

Term 4	School Rule	Focus	MJR Focus
Week 1 & 2	I am respectful	Encourage others and listen to others	The Spirit of Jesus
Week 3 & 4	I am an active learner	I have faith in my ability	The Spirit of Jesus
Week 5 & 6	Kind words and actions	Be inclusive	W.E.S.T. Encouraging
Week 7 & 8	Kind words and actions	Be fair and equitable	W.E.S.T. Thank you
Week 9 & 10	I am an active learner	I work cooperatively	The Spirit of Jesus

### Teaching Our PBS Rules

Every **Monday** morning staff will introduce the rule for the week during morning assembly. Afterwards all teachers take time to teach the PBS rule when they return to the classroom for 10 minutes.

At school assemblies students from our **Gotcha Group** will remind everyone of this week's rule and hand out Gotchas to students displaying this quality.

## Break Times

At Rosary Park, positive break times for ALL children is a priority. Teachers and Learning Support Assistants are involved in providing many options and alternatives to playing on the playground. Teacher led and closely monitored games are provided outside, while quieter activities such as STEM and coding, choir, and wellbeing (reading, art/craft) are also offered throughout the week at

break times. This helps to ensure all children can find a space or activity that suits their interests, needs and abilities.

### **Positive Focus**

Wherever possible, a positive focus on the school rules is implemented.

The following are ways we promote and reward positive behaviours throughout the school:

- Weekly Class Awards including at least one "Making Jesus Real" positive behaviour award
- Gotcha reward system – teacher given rewards collected by children and traded for rewards based on a list formulated by staff and students.
- Classroom shout outs – given by children to others for positive behaviours they notice
- "Spirit Cup" a tally of Gotchas for the colour house with a reward given the winning colour house each term.

### **Further Support for some Students**

#### **Check In – Check Out (CICO)**

For some children, for a variety of reasons, positive classroom and/or playground behaviour is challenging. The Check in – Check Out (CICO) system is designed to support these children in maintaining positive behaviours and interactions with others. Encouraging and supporting positive interactions between all individuals benefits everyone and is always our priority in the Rosary Park community

The CICO program provides positive daily feedback for students who need additional behavior support and who may benefit from daily positive adult attention. This intervention also provides a positive communication link between home and school, sets students up for success each morning, and promotes self-reflection by students on their own behavior throughout the day. Children on the program are paired up with a teacher mentor who will "Check In" with them every morning. Together they will develop daily goals and set up an individual reward if goals are met for a week. They will also "Check Out" with them at the end of the day. This mentor is not the child's regular classroom teacher thus giving the child an additional trusted adult to communicate with and learn from within the school environment.

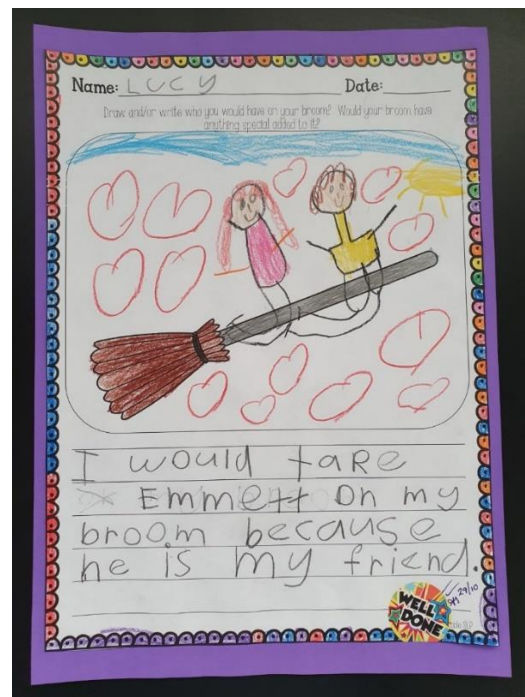
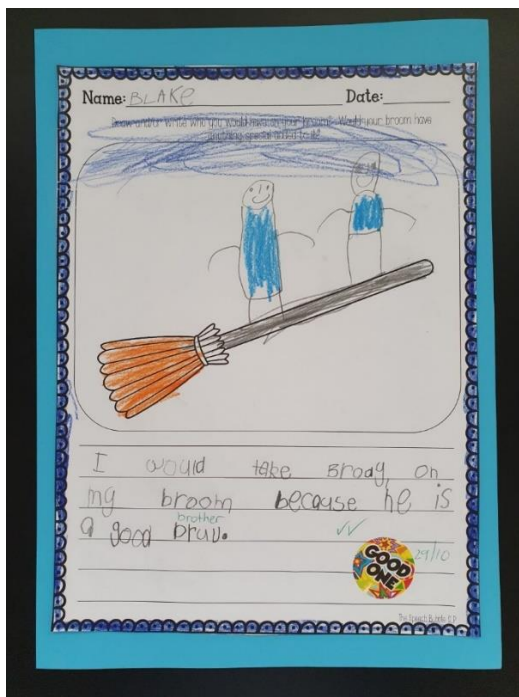
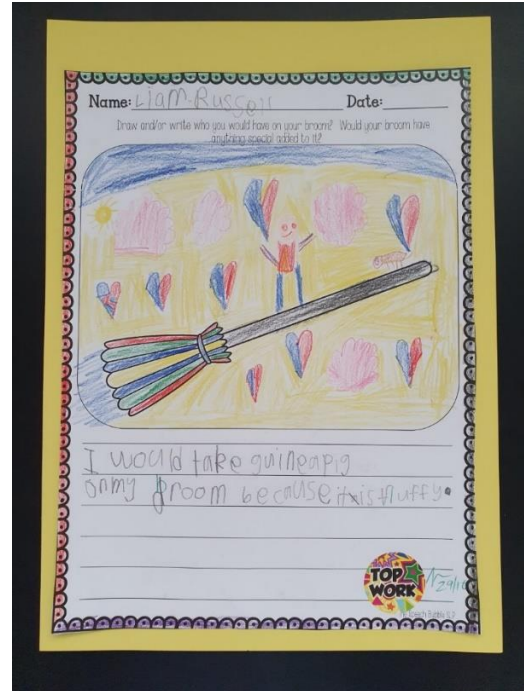
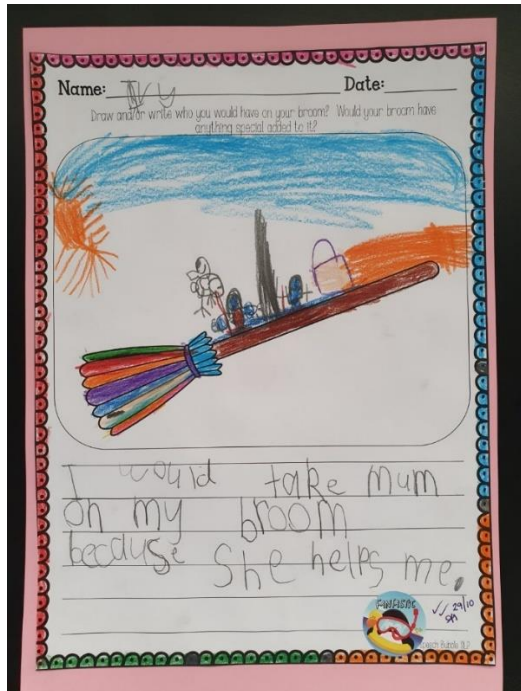
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions,

Janelle Dixon (acting Primary Coordinator)





This term in English Kindergarten are exploring the books of Julia Donaldson. We are reading, writing and talking about the wonderful stories and characters that she has created. We would like to share some of our writing with you. Enjoy!



## Weekly Awards

Congratulations to those children who have received awards.

### Week ending 23 October, 2020

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class Award One</b>	<b>Class Award Two</b>	<b>MJR Award</b>
<b>Kinder Blue</b>	Jaxon Brown	India Bailey	Hunter Bondin
<b>Kinder White</b>	Kurtis Fitzsimmons	Lucy Smith	Ivy Hanlon
<b>Year 1 Blue</b>	Ruby Nevin	Charles Cooper	Emily Allgood
<b>Year 1 White</b>	Mikayla Gillings	Lilly Schneeweiss	Lola Murray
<b>Year 2 Blue</b>	Aliyah Papacostas	Asha Jury	Elara Black
<b>Year 2 White</b>	Rubi Barnes	Sam Richards	Korban Longmate
<b>Year 3 Blue</b>	Isaac Gough	Ashton Pople	Jordan Garland
<b>Year 3 White</b>	Hamish Alston		Xander Utjesenovic
<b>Year 4 Blue</b>	Sophie Fox	Hayden O'Donnell	Nate Jury
<b>Year 4 White</b>	Ginger Dougherty	Tex Engel	Sam Ramsay
<b>Year 5/6 Blue</b>	Abigail Parkes	Charli Issanchon	Jarrold Charker
<b>Year 5/6 White</b>	Cooper Kendall	Jed Ayscough	Claire Jordan
<b>Year 5/6 Gold</b>	Tom Drever	Madison Bailey	Mikayla Vella

### Week ending 30 October, 2020

<b>Class</b>	<b>Class Award One</b>	<b>Class Award Two</b>	<b>MJR Award</b>
<b>Kinder Blue</b>	Noah Linton	Matthias Kelly	Charlize Lott
<b>Kinder White</b>	Lachlan Bartley	Braxton Thomas	Hannah Charnock
<b>Year 1 Blue</b>	Eliza Dagg	Jema Matt	Logan Carroll
<b>Year 1 White</b>	Penelope Bunner	Hudson O'Connor	Darby Thomas
<b>Year 2 Blue</b>	Ella Robertson	David Haynes	Ty Issanchon
<b>Year 2 White</b>	Hunter Gately	Sharni Lyttle	Piper Jury
<b>Year 3 Blue</b>	Asha Messenger	Macy Dun	Lilah Bush
<b>Year 3 White</b>	Leo Ramsay	Ava Jacka	Jamie Russell
<b>Year 4 Blue</b>	Emily Armstrong	Sam Gray	Sahara Adamthwaite
<b>Year 4 White</b>	Will Hanlon	Skarlett McLaren	Michael Hardy
<b>Year 5/6 Blue</b>	Haylee Ellison	Blake Little	Amy Crick
<b>Year 5/6 White</b>	Kayne Standen	Taylem Grieve	Latoya Hardy
<b>Year 5/6 Gold</b>	Tahlia Gillings	Ruby Carter	Jessica McKelvey



# Good for Kids good for life

MOVE AND PLAY EVERY DAY



For their best health, kids aged 5-13 years should aim for:



At least 60 minutes of physical activity each day – the more you huff and puff the better!



Non-educational screen-based activities limited to less than 2 hours each day. In your spare time, move more and sit less.



9-11 hours of uninterrupted sleep each night.

Source: Australian Movement Guidelines; [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)



**Health**  
Hunter New England  
Local Health District

[HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au)  
<http://www.goodforkids.nsw.gov.au/>



St Nicholas Early Education's newest service is

## now open at Branxton!

St Nick's Branxton offers a range of natural and man-made play spaces, purposefully designed so children can experience, explore, discover, take risks, derive meaning and solve problems.

Some of Branxton's key features include its immersive natural outdoor play spaces with large sandstone sandpits, mud kitchen, bicycle tracks and garden beds; open-plan classrooms with plenty of natural light and well-equipped to cater to children of all different interests; and co-location with Rosary Park Primary School, offering a convenient one-stop drop-off and pick-up for parents with children attending both services.

In line with St Nicholas' commitment to supporting working parents, the service also offers long daycare hours (6am – 6pm), with meals, snacks, nappies and cot linen all included with daily care.

We'd love to give you a personalised tour to share more about how we can help support your family needs, and hear your thoughts.

Call 0491 200 578 or email  
[branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au](mailto:branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au)  
 to book in your tour.