

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 6 2022
Thursday 17th November

Rosary Park Catholic School Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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Website: www.branxton.catholic.edu.au

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

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults - particularly those who participate in the life of the Diocese. All employees are required to undergo a National Police Check and, where legislated, hold a Working with Children Check. Diocesan workers are expected to personally adopt and enact the Diocese's Safeguarding Commitment Statement

IMPORTANT DATES 2022

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

NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
Wed 23 rd	Concert Band Performance at 10am	Wed 7 th	Blessing & Opening of Stage 3 Buildings
DECEMBER		Thurs 8 th	Swimming Carnival
Thurs 1 st	CANTEEN IS ON THIS DAY	Fri 9 th	PUPIL FREE DAY
Fri 2 nd	"Step Up" morning NO CANTEEN THIS DAY	Mon 12 th	End of Year Liturgy & school Awards (K-5) – 9:45am
Mon 5 th	Last Canteen Day for the Year	Wed 14 th	P&F Meeting – final for 2022
Tue 6 th	Year 6 Graduation Liturgy – 5pm	Fri 16 th	LASTS DAY OF TERM FOR STUDENTS

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2023:

31st January 2023

2nd February 2023

15th-27th March 2023

Year 1-6 return to school

Kindergarten students begin

NAPLAN will be held with it moving to Term 1 – Years 3 and 5

Principal's Message

Dear Lord,

We know that we should not let our worries burden us as we can always trust in You.

Help us to always follow Your example in being

Loving and caring

Calm and confronting

Gentle and kind

Help us to always help each other.

Amen

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Children and Young Person's (Care and Protection) Act 1998

Parents need to be aware that as teachers in the state of NSW we are required by law to report certain information to the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ). Reports to the Child Protection Helpline (Ph. 132 111, 24 hrs/7 days) must be made where we have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm and our concerns are current. Risk of significant harm may occur from a single act or omission or to a series of acts or omissions.

We can get help to determine whether we need to report by using the DCJ online Mandatory Reporters Guide: <https://reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au/s/>

We can also contact the Office of Safeguarding (Ph. 4979 1390 Mon-Fri). Information about the roles and functions of the Office of Safeguarding can be found here: <https://officeofsafeguarding.org.au/>

Social Media

A reminder to be vigilant with your children and their activity on social media. If you're not a user of social media but your children are, please investigate so that you understand what is happening and what they are seeing. All social media is meant to be for children older than 13 because they are more likely to have the social maturity to deal with it, although we've all heard cases where even older children don't have those skills. Please use the resources of the office of e-safety at the link below and discuss these sites with your children.

<http://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

End of year awards

With COVID restrictions, it has been difficult for us these last 2 years to join as a community to celebrate the end of our school year. Thankfully this year, restrictions have lifted, and we will come together at our school from 9:45am on Monday 12 December.

We are unable to secure any off-site venues (such as St Joseph's College Hall) as we have done in the past hence, we are trialling a change of venue and time.

As we do as a Catholic community, we will begin with a liturgy to celebrate all the blessings bestowed on us throughout our 2022 school year. This will also include the naming of our 2023 school and sports leaders (from our year 6 2023 cohort).

As is our practice at Rosary Park grade (K-6) teachers will then give out awards to selected children in their class. Year 6 awards will be given out at their graduation night. These awards are presented for:

*Faith and Service Award (Rosary Park medal awarded to two children/class each year):
Knowing what it means to be a child of God and demonstrating this through their actions

*Rosary Park Award for Learning (Rosary Park medal awarded to two children/class each year):
Recognising students that use their strengths and gifts as a learner – letting their light shine as a learner in any Key Learning Area (KLA-subject) at any level. This award focuses on growth, persistence, and grit. These award recipients are **NOT** necessarily the best academic achievers in their class but more those children who work consistently and persistently to achieve their personal best.

Parents, grandparents, and friends are welcome to join us for this celebration on 12 December. We will contact families of awards recipients before the day (NOT those receiving a student leader role for 2023) so that they can attend this event if they wish. These parents will be given priority seating on the day as will year 5 parents whose children are part of leadership nominations (2 seats/child).

Obviously, seating will be at a premium so we will prioritise families whose children are receiving awards and we will live stream the event and provide seating for extended family members and friends in classrooms on this day, so the event can be viewed 'live' at the school or at home. We ask for parents and families understanding and flexibility with this as we cannot accommodate all parents in the Hall/COLA area.

Staffing

Annmaree Hooker's Doctors have advised she is not well enough to return to work. We wish Annmaree a speedy recovery. Tiffany Nolan will remain in the role for the rest of 2022. Annmaree will not return to the Learning Support Teacher role in 2023 as she transitions to retirement. I sincerely thank Annmaree for her many years of service to Rosary Park (and St Brigid's) communities over many years.

Sympathies

Please remember our groundsman Nigel Levido in your prayers. His mother Pauline passed away last week.

Also, to Nikola Groves whose Nonno (grandfather) passed away on Tuesday.

Kindergarten 2023 Orientation

We have now concluded our formal Kindergarten 2023 orientation sessions. These were held over 4 weeks and gave parents and children the opportunity to visit in both large and small groups, becoming more familiar and comfortable with their new school setting. I thank Grace Dever and Alanna Seysener (Kindergarten 2023 teachers) and Tiffany Nolan (Learning Support Teacher) for the enormous amount of work they put into these sessions. Any feedback on these sessions is always appreciated.

Swimming Carnival

Our carnival will be held on Thursday 8 December at Singleton Pool. A note has gone home to families about this. We will transport children to/from the venue by bus.

Staffing

Caitlyn Leal has resigned from her position at Rosary Park. As a result, Paige Pringle has been appointed to a permanent full time teacher position at Rosary Park. Paige is currently teaching at St James Kotara South.

Advanced Notice

In 2023, our year 5 students will attend Great Aussie Bush Camp 7-9 June 2023 (approx. cost \$390/child) whilst our year 6 students will have their excursion to Canberra on 20, 21, 22 June (approx. cost \$450/child). As these excursions are a significant financial commitment for families (**not** covered by our resource fee), I am giving you advanced notice so that you are able to budget for them.

2023 Class Preparation

If you are leaving Rosary Park and your child/children will not be returning to school in 2023 please ensure that you have notified us as we have families looking for enrolments for next year and we're in the process of concluding our class lists for 2023.

If you are just moving to a new house or changing your workplace, please ensure that you provide up-to-date contact details before the start of the school year.

Semester 2 Student Reports

This year the semester 2 reports are a different format, developed by the Catholic Schools Office. I direct you to a letter attached to today's newsletter which explains the report in detail. They will be available via Compass from Friday 9th December. Should you wish to discuss your child's report with the class teacher/s please contact them via admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au

Gifts

At this time of year, some families want to give staff members an end of year Christmas gift. Whilst this is appreciated, it is not necessary. Our greatest gift is seeing your children enjoy learning and reaching their full potential.

The Catholic Schools Office has a detailed Gifts and Benefits Policy that requires substantial gifts to be declared and, sometimes, returned.

Under this policy, it is not appropriate for parents to take up collections of money from families to present one gift to their class teacher or another staff member.

If you choose to give a gift to a staff member, this is your personal choice. Please consider a card with a special message inside instead.

Canteen Changes

The canteen will NOT open on Friday 2 December. Instead, it will open on Thursday 1 December. The last day of canteen for 2022 is Monday 5 December. On this day the canteen is open for both Qkr recess sales and over the counter sales of Christmas cupcakes and other special treats!

Mercy Caring Group

Thank you to our very generous parent community who have so readily volunteered to assist our family in need with meals. It really is a wonderful indication of our community spirit that you have all done this.

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Assistant Principal Message

Official Blessing and Opening of Classrooms

On Wednesday 7th December Rosary Park will host our Official Blessing and Opening of the new classroom buildings. A large number of dignitaries and special guests from the CSO, parish and local community have been invited to attend this liturgy. These include David Layzell Member for Upper Hunter, Sean Scanlon CEO, Gerard Mowbray CSO Director, other members of the CSO leadership teams, architects, builders, accountants and members of the clergy.

Our Diocesan Administrator, Fr Greg Barker will bless the buildings on this day. The band will play the national anthem and some of our children will play a special part in the liturgy. This liturgy will take place in the school hall and seating will be very limited. Despite this we would like to extend a welcome to any parents who would like to attend. As all seating will be allocated, it is essential that you RSVP for this event by emailing the school administration on admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au or calling the office 49 381541, NO LATER THAN Monday 21st November 2022.

“Sendit” app

It has been brought to our attention that many children are using an app called “sendit.” This is a social media app where you add friends and can ask questions anonymously with no way for members to know who has asked the question. As you can imagine, this can cause issues with school aged children who are screenshotting questions and responses and posting them on tiktok. Please ask your children about the app and ensure that you are supervising your child's online or social media interactions.

Reports and Compass

Our semester 2 reports will be published for all children in week 9 of this term. You will be notified via a compass notification when they are available. Year 6 parents need to be aware their access to these reports will be cut off from the last day of school this year as the children are removed from our school system. We suggest you download and save or print off your child's reports before the end of the year.

Regards

Janelle Dixon
Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Rosary Park Christmas Appeal

As part of our commitment to social justice and mission, Rosary Park has traditionally collected donations of items for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. These are distributed to members of our local community who need a bit of extra assistance this Christmas. To try and distribute goods, we kindly suggest families donate (though we gratefully accept any donation):

Kinder: Christmas serviettes or plates, Christmas decorations, bonbons, lollies

Year 1: Biscuits, chips, popcorn, etc

Year 2: Pasta, rice, pasta sauce, etc

Year 3: tea, coffee, soft drinks, etc

Year 4: condiments, jelly, sweets, pancake mix, etc

Year 5: Shampoo, conditioner, soap, hand sanitiser, tissues, deodorant etc

Year 6: Canned goods (fruit, vegetables, soups, etc)

Some notes from the St Vincent de Paul Society:

- Vinnies can only distribute non-perishable food items.
- To uphold the dignity of people receiving hampers, Vinnies is unable to accept pre opened packaged items or second-hand items. Please also ensure that all food items have a long expiry/best before date.
- For safety reasons, please do not gift wrap any items.
- We don't encourage gift/toy donations however should this be what you are looking to donate please consider a gift card so parents can experience the joy of purchasing their children a personalised gift they have been asking for.

We ask that all donations for the hampers be brought to school by **Friday 2nd December**.

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.

God bless you and your families,

Nikola Groves

Acting Religious Education Coordinator

Year 6 News

Year 6 have returned to school this term with the end of their primary schooling in their grasps. They have been working hard to finish their last year of primary school in a cohesive and positive manner. They have been busy little bees doing all things graduation and are waiting excitedly in anticipation of this momentous occasion!

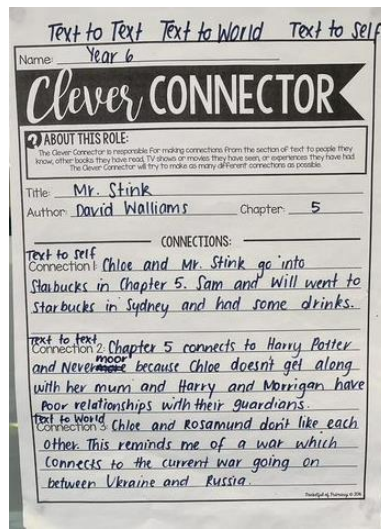
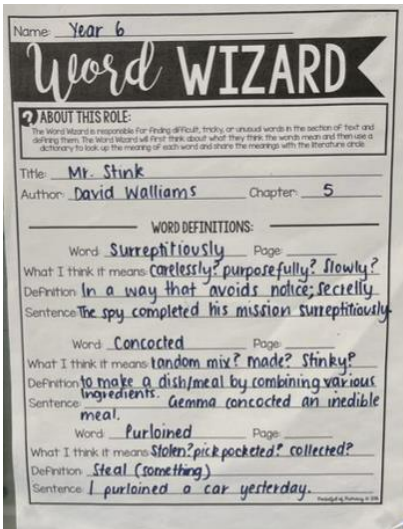
English

In English this semester, year 6 have been focusing on improving comprehension skills whilst reading and engaging with a novel. Each group is given the same novel to read for the Term.

We have introduced **Literature Circles**. A literature circle is a small group of learners who come together to discuss a piece of literature (text) in depth. The discussion is guided by the learner's response to what they have read. It provides a way for learners to engage in critical thinking and reflection as they read, discuss, and respond to books.

Each week groups are given a comprehension role to complete after reading a few chapters of their novel. Students then come together on Fridays to share in deep, analytical discussion of the chapters read. Students not only work on their comprehension skills but also reading and viewing and speaking and listening skills too whilst sharing their role.

An example of two of the roles are displayed below based off an example chapter in Mr. Stink by David Walliams.

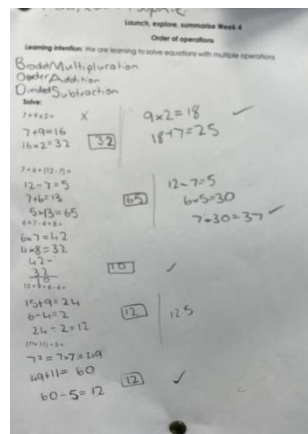
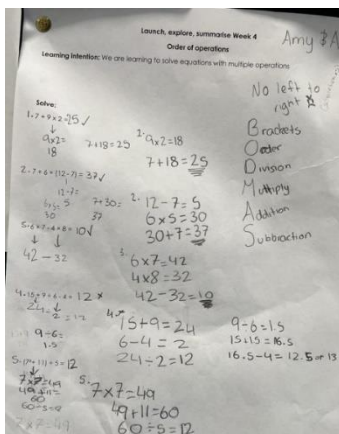


Maths

In maths, we have been implementing **launch, explore, summarise**. Students work in small mixed ability groups, learning from each other to solve problems or equations based on a topic of learning.

During the *launch* and *explore* stage students work on skills such as working mathematically, explaining their working, and reasoning their answers. During this time, students also work on skills such as speaking and listening and communicating with each other.

In the *summarising* stage, students come together as a whole class to discuss the multiple strategies used within their group to solve the problem or equation. During this time, students connect their ideas which were discussed in small groups with the ideas of others. Students are given the opportunity to communicate with the rest of the class how they solved the problem and what worked for them. The teacher then takes time to unpack and explain how each group solve the problem, ensuring students understand the strategy discussed.



Have a safe and blessed Christmas,
Rachael and Izy
(Year 6 teachers)

Concert Band News

There will be a concert bank performance on Wednesday the 23rd of November at 10am, to show off our junior, senior and new band members. There will also be a presentation to the "Band Member" of 2022.

Regards Howard

P & F News

P&F AGM 🗣️ announcement.

🙌 Thank you for those that attended the AGM last night, it is a key meeting to set up a new executive committee for 2023, thank the previous committee for their excellent work, and set out our fundraising plan for 2023. Minutes from the meeting will be shared soon, as well as a fundraising planner for 2023.

Special thanks to Elisha Ayton -Mason for the delicious food! 😊

👤 Welcome to the committee members for 2023:

President - NaSharna Maskey

Secretary- Fe Efremoff

Treasurer - Amie Wright

Federation rep - Pru Killick

🙌🙌 WE NEED YOUR HELP-

Like previous years we are seeking year reps (2per year group). A year rep helps amplify messages from the P&F (often adding a post to your years FB page) and also acts as a key coordinator for the fundraising event allocated to that year group. To help share the load we have 1 main fundraising event allocated to a year group, this helps with gaining volunteers as well as allowing families to support and contribute without being overloaded.

We are seeking volunteers reps - you can nominate yourself by commenting on the Facebook P&F page or email RPCS.PF@outlook.com.au confirming your name and what year your child is in eg: Pru Killick yr 5

Although we seek 2 formal reps, we encourage all families to be involved at events, we always need and appreciate the help.

Thanks, from the P&F committee

Weekly Awards

Congratulations to the following students who received awards this past fortnight.

Week ending Friday 28th October 2002 (Week 3)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Ava W	Olivia D	Tony P
Kinder White	Ava M	Maici B	Logan B
Year 1 Blue	Brailyn L	Baxter A	Emily S
Year 1 White	Sofia P	Anderson P	Annabelle L
Year 2 Blue	Emmett C	Hunter I	Elke B
Year 2 White	Lucy S	Linda P	Levi C
Year 3 Blue			
Year 3 White	Darby T	Jacob L	Kyson C
Year 4 Blue	David H	Elsa G	Ruby HD
Year 4 White			
Year 5 Blue	Nate H	Aurora L	Chelsea S
Year 5 White	Shonoa A	Lacey n	Holly W
Year 6 Blue	Wade G	Lewis D	Kiera L
Year 6 White	Jeremy C	Zoe K	Sophie F

Week ending Friday 4th November 2022 (Week 4)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Reeve W	Callum F	Grayson B
Kinder White	Brynn S	Charlie D	Thomas E
Year 1 Blue	Aubree M	Jaxon C	Reid E
Year 1 White	Arielle F	Annie H	Louella T
Year 2 Blue	Max k	Isaac L	Hudson W
Year 2 White			
Year 3 Blue			
Year 3 White	Sophie C	Aleah D	Lilly S
Year 4 Blue	Lachlan M	Isabelle T	Lexi B
Year 4 White	Eamon H	Nevada A	Scarlett T
Year 5 Blue	Emily-Rose A	Stella W	Sophie C
Year 5 White	Victoria A	Cade L	Kai M
Year 6 Blue	Charlie R	Oscar S	Harper WH
Year 6 White	Sahara A	Michael H	Tia K

Principal's Awards

Logan B, Josie W-H, Annabelle B, Koa V-W, Luke H, Archer K, Sienna M, Robert C, Ellie Y, Rose D, Zara L, Indi M, Owen S, Anouk F-E, Amarlie K, Aiden L, Annedrea H, Liam D, Aria d-G, Cohan Y, Finn R, Levi C, Flynn C

Term 4 2022 Staff Newsletter

Welcome to the Good for Kids Term 4 2022 e-Newsletter

Please forward this email to all school staff including teachers and school canteen managers.



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Energiser of the term- Warm up Apples

Scheduling short classroom 'brain breaks' or energisers can increase student focus, concentration, and create an engaging learning environment that contributes to student wellbeing.

Here's how to play:

Go through the actions of each apple. Once students know the actions the leader calls out the type of apple and the students do the actions.

- Crab apple – walk sideways like a crab
- Green apple – crouch down
- Fuji apple – mountain shape with arms over head
- Apple jelly – jiggle and wiggle
- Apple crisp – straight rigid bodies
- Apple juice – stomp the apples
- Apple pear – pair up with a neighbour
- Apple turnover – 'the wave' across the room, hands up everyone!



Change it up: start slow and then call out the type of apples faster and faster to get students thinking and moving.

Source: Energizers (appleschools.ca)



Healthy Lunchbox Week

Get your school involved in Nutrition Australia's Healthy Lunchbox Week 2023, held Week 3 of Term 1, 5-12th February! Access a range of free resources to use in your school community and classrooms, including social media tiles and a Healthy Lunchbox Week journey with five fun and engaging classroom adventures to choose from.

Visit their website to get involved and access free classroom resources:

<https://www.healthylunchboxweek.org.au>



Professional development opportunities

PACE – Register NOW for our FREE and FINAL 2022 Term 4 workshop!

Wednesday 30th November, 8:30am-3pm- West Tamworth Leagues Club

The PACE School Champion workshop is NESA accredited (*Highly-accomplished-Mental Health*) and includes casual relief funding for one teacher per school.

The Good for Kids Physically Active Children in Education (PACE) program has had outstanding success helping schools to increase the amount of physical activity scheduled and delivered over the school week.

The program includes:

- **FREE** professional learning
- A brief survey at baseline and at follow up
- **FREE** resources through the online PACE portal

Check out [this video](#) for more information.

[Email us](#) for further information.



School spotlight- Ellalong PS

Emma and Becc from the Good for Kids team visited Ellalong PS during Fruit and Veg Month to re-launch Crunch&Sip and loan out our smoothie blender bike for the week.

Dressed as our favourite carrots and beans they had so much fun. The students were also dressed in their favourite fruit or veg colour. We energised, updated the Crunch&Sip gate sign and sent home flyers with all the students.

The blender bike was a hit and ensured all students tried a wide range of fruit and veg smoothies throughout the week.

Scan to [email us](#) and book the bike for your school.



Developed by Hunter New England LHD



HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
<https://goodforkids.nsw.gov.au>



Team achievements

Congratulations to our Good for Kids PACE and SWAP IT teams, who were both finalists at the **2022 HNE Health Excellence Awards**.

Our SWAP IT team won the Health Research and Innovation award for improving student nutrition in schools. [Check out the winners here.](#)

Both teams are through to the 2022 NSW Health Awards in December. Good luck team!



2022 NSW Premier's Prizes for Science and Engineering

Professor Luke Wolfenden was awarded the: Leadership Innovation in NSW Award Recipient under the 2022 NSW Premier's Prize for Science and Engineering

Professor Luke Wolfenden leads our Good for Kids team as a Professor in Public Health in the School of Medicine and Public Health at the University of Newcastle and a Program Manager at Hunter-New England's Population Health Unit. He is also a Hunter Medical Research Institute (HMRI) researcher in the Public Health program.



Healthy canteen recipe

As temperatures rise and activities increase, celebrate summer with fresh fruits in your school canteen! Try using seasonal fruits by adding a fruit salad cup to the canteen menu this term. Try a Christmas Special by adding the colours of Christmas! You can check out a list of seasonal fruit and veg on the Good for Kids SWAP IT website: [Seasonal Fruit and Vegetables | Good for Kids, Good for Life \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Fruit salad cup

Serves: 4

Acknowledgement: Sourced from Cancer Council: Healthy Lunchbox Fresh Fruit Yoghurt Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1 large watermelon wedge, chopped into pieces
- 6 strawberries, chopped into pieces
- 1 apple, chopped into pieces
- 1 mandarin, peeled and segmented
- 1 kiwi fruit, peeled chopped into pieces
- 2 cups of reduced fat natural yoghurt*



Method:

Combine all the fruit and then divide into 4 serves. Top each serve with ½ cup of reduced fat natural yoghurt. *Gluten free if using gluten free yoghurt.

Tip

- Try freezing fruit pieces such as watermelon for an extra cooling fruit salad



HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
<http://www.goodforkids.nsw.gov.au>

Developed by Hunter New England LHD



Funding opportunities

Sporting Schools funding is available for primary schools to deliver Sporting Schools programs before, during or after school hours using one of our national sporting organisation partners. Australian primary schools can apply for funding once per school term, Term 1 2023 applications are open Monday 7 November – 18 November 2022.



Getting to know the Good for Kids team

The Good for Kids team are a dynamic and diverse group of passionate health and education professionals employed to support schools to achieve great health and wellbeing outcomes for their students.

This term we welcome and introduce you to four new members of the SWAP IT team- Elise Porter, Jessica Zorba, Hannah McCormick and Amy Ziniak!

All four are passionate about public health and supporting kids and families to live a healthy, active lifestyle. They love the outdoors including bush walks, the beach and a range of sports especially if it involves spending time with family and friends. Elise and Jess are both new-graduate Dietitians bringing a wealth of knowledge and passion to the team.

Hannah is an Accredited Practising Dietitian. She has worked on nutrition projects at the University of Newcastle since graduating. Amy has an extensive background in media and journalism, as well as expertise in nutrition.



From left to right: Jess, Elise, Hannah and Amy



Good for Kids acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land that we live and work on as the first people of this country, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.



Follow Good for Kids on social media



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<https://goodforkids.nsw.gov.au>

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