



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 2 2023
Thursday 2nd February

Rosary Park Catholic School

Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

P: (02) 4938 1541 E: admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.branxton.catholic.edu.au

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

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

IMPORTANT DATES

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.

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

FEBRUARY		MARCH	
Fri 3rd	Swimming assembly 2:15pm	Mon 6th	Enrolments open for kindergarten 2024
Mon 6th	Canteen starts for 2022	15th – 27th	NAPLAN will be held with it moving to Term 1 – Years 3 and 5
Tues 7th	Safer Internet Day	Fri 31st	PUPIL FREE DAY
Wed 8th	P and F meeting 6pm- at school	APRIL	
Fri 10th	Sallyanne at Catholic Schools Office	Thur 7th	Last day of Term 1
Wed 15th	Regional swimming carnival- East Maitland	Mon 24th	First day of term 2
Thur 16th	Opening school liturgy 10am	Tue 25th	Anzac Day- no school
Mon 20th	Parent Information Night K-6: 2 sessions 5pm and repeated at 6pm		

ADVANCED NOTICE- DATES FOR 2023

Pupil free days: Friday 31 March, Friday 26 May, and Friday 16 June and one TBC

Interrelate family evening 'Where do I come from?': Open to children in year 3-6 and their parents on Wednesday 10 May from 6pm- School Hall

School Photos- Thursday 25 May

School Athletics Carnival at Maitland Athletic Centre – Thursday 29 June

Principal's Message

Dear Lord,

As we begin a new school year, we thank you for the many blessings you have given us.

Thank you for the school holidays that gave us time for fun and relaxation with our family and friends.

Thank you for bringing us safely back to school this year.

We ask that you help us to:

use our eyes to see new friends and new opportunities,

use our minds to learn new things,

use our ears to hear your message as we try to live like Jesus and use our hearts in our interactions with others.

Help us to remember you are with us when we face challenges.

Help us to truly learn together and enrich the lives of all that we meet.

Amen

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to our 2023 school year!

I hope you had a happy Christmas and enjoyed some time together as a family.

Some items to bring to your attention:

-We anticipate there could be challenges in staffing our school throughout this term. There will likely be times that class teachers cannot be replaced. Whilst every effort will be made to secure a casual teacher, this will be difficult. It may mean that your child has multiple teachers in a week. Of course, every effort will be made to avoid such scenarios. I thank you in anticipation for your understanding and patience with this.

Staffing

It was so lovely to welcome our first group of new Kindergarten children and their families today. They are settling in, and our year 6 buddies are doing an amazing job of looking after them.

We especially welcome our new staff:

Miss Naomi Rodwell (Year 3 teacher)

Miss Brittany Reynolds (Year 5 teacher)

Mr Joshua Garnsey (Religious Education Coordinator/Pedagogical Mentor and year 5 teacher).

Mrs Paige Pringle (Year 6 teacher)

Mr Nicholas Standing (Year 6 teacher)

Ms Penny Anderson will continue at Rosary Park (school counsellor 2 days/week) and Ms Julia Webb one counsellor 1 day/week

We welcome the return of Mrs Kate Burgess. Kate will teach Music/dance/drama across all grades (Tue-Wed-Thur).

Special welcome to the new families/students who have joined us this year and some who have returned to us:

Hugo & Indianna S

Lilly R

James and Ellianna D

Laylah & Bryden K

Matilda M

Alexis I

Fletcher B

Aubrien and Bahvleen G

Emitee and Brooklyn O

Landyn W

Staff 2023

Executive Staff:

Principal: Sallyanne Stanbridge

Assistant Principal: Janelle Dixon

Religious Education Coordinator: Joshua Garnsey

Primary Coordinator: Amber Van Duuren

Teaching Staff:

Kinder Blue: Miss Grace Dever

Kinder White: Mrs Alanna Seysener

Year 1 Blue: Mrs Louise Kevin

Year 1 White: Miss Mackenzie Gageler and Mrs Annika Rooke (every Tuesday)

Year 2 Blue: Mrs Debbie Parkes Mon-Tue-Th-Fri and Mrs Brienna Vollmer (Wednesdays)

Year 2 White: Miss Nikola Groves

Year 3 Blue: Miss Naomi Rodwell

Year 3 White: Miss Emelia Lindus

Year 4 Blue: Mrs Amber Van Duuren and Mrs Rhiannon Temesvary (Thursday and every 2nd Wed)

Year 4 White: Miss Victoria Prosser

Year 5 Blue: Mr Joshua Garnsey/Mrs Emily McHugh (Wed-Thur)

Year 5 White: Miss Brittany Reynolds

Year 6 Blue: Mr Nick Standing

Year 6 White: Mrs Paige Pringle

Learning Support Teacher: Mrs Tiffany Nolan (Mon-Tue-Wed); Mrs Annika Rooke (Tuesdays) & Mrs Janelle Dixon (Thursday-Friday)

EALD teacher: Mrs Karen Forbes

ATSI teacher: Ms Katrina Easton

Gifted Education Mentor: Mackenzie Gageler (Tuesday)

Teacher Librarian: Mrs Melanie Flynn (Tue-Wed-Thur)

School Counsellor: Ms Penny Anderson (2 days/week) and Ms Julia Webb one day/week

RFF Teacher: Mrs Kate Burgess (Tue-Wed-Thur) teaching dance/drama/music

Support Staff

Senior Admin School Officers: Mrs Amanda Percival (Mon - Friday)

Mrs Kim O'Rourke (Wed-Thu-Fri & alternate Tuesdays)

Wellbeing Officer: Mrs Jess Dougherty 3 days/week

Aboriginal Education Support worker: Mrs Jess Dougherty – 1 day week

Library Assistant: Mrs Erin Dewey

Learning Support Assistants: Mrs Renae Craft, Mrs Simone Cameron, Mrs Cherie Lane, Mrs Narelle Moylan, Mrs Kimberley Gargan, Mrs Emma Nevin and Mrs Jess Dougherty.

Groundsman: Mr Nigel Levido

Canteen Coordinator: Mrs Elisha Ayton

Parents and Friends Association

Rosary Park P & F Executive 2023

President: NaSharna Maskey

Secretary: Fiona Efremoff

Treasurer: Amie Wright

P and F Federation Representative: Pru Killick

Rosary Park is fortunate to have a supportive, hard-working group who form our Parents and Friends Association. Our group meets once/month (Wednesdays 6pm) in our staffroom.

Any parent/carers is very welcome to join us at these meetings where we discuss fundraising initiatives and any issues arising for us as a school community.

From time to time, you may have an issue you would like to raise in the General Business part of our monthly meetings. It is the recommendation and preference of the P and F that you come along to the meeting and raise the matter yourself. This gives the school and the parent group a firsthand understanding of the issue or concern that you are raising.

In the past, parents have posted items for general business on the P and F Facebook page. This is difficult, as normally we have no understanding or context as to why the matter has been raised. If the matter you wish to raise is urgent and you cannot make it the meeting, please call, or send a detailed email a member of the P and F executive so that they can raise the matter in your absence or email our secretary on fiona.efremoff@glencore.com.au or rpcs_pf@outlook.com.au at least 3 business days BEFORE the meeting.

Our first meeting for 2023 will be held on Wednesday 8 February from 6pm. All are welcome!

Changes to Grade and Principal's awards

In recent years, we have worked hard at Rosary Park to build our children and staff's understanding of the vision and work of the founding sisters of our school- the sisters of Mercy and in particular Catherine McAuley who founded the sisters of Mercy in Ireland in 1831. This has included the formulation of new Vision and Mission statements for our school in 2020 and expanding our school prayer to include aspects of these statements and our Mercy Pillars in 2022.

Also last year, we introduced our grades taking one of the Mercy pillars to focus on in class. This has led to a deeper understanding for all our children of the Mercy pillars and how we can display these in our interactions with others. Every Monday at our assembly, our student leaders introduce the PBL rule of the week and the Mercy pillar which we will all try to focus on in our lives for the week. With this in mind, every Friday there will be one Mercy award given to a child who has consistently displayed this Mercy pillar. This will REPLACE the current award called 'Making Jesus Real' (MJR). Once a child receives ALL of the six Mercy awards (that is for respect, courage, compassion, service, justice and hospitality) they will receive a special set of Rosary beads which represents our school's patron saint, Mary (the mother of Jesus) and the special prayer that we pray to her- the Rosary.

Currently children are invited to hand in 3 merit and/or MJR awards to receive a principal's award at our Friday assembly. This practice will continue, obviously with the MJR award now being replaced by the Mercy award. Any MJR awards received by a child in previous years, CAN still be used for a principal's award. Children accrue multiple Principal's awards over the course of their education at Rosary Park. The following changes have been made to the reception of additional rewards for multiple Principal's awards:

- Once a child receives **5** Principal's awards, they will receive a Catherine McAuley card
- After **10** Principal's awards they receive our Rosary Park badge of excellence
- After **15** Principal's awards they receive a Cross + card (prayer) to acknowledge the child's efforts in consistently displaying the pillars of Mercy.

I am sure you will agree that these rewards add further meaning to the Mercy pillars for our children. As always, any questions or constructive feedback on these changes are welcome once the changes begin.

Standard Collection Notice

In today's newsletter you will see the Diocesan Standard Collection Notice. Upon enrolment of your child, you signed an agreement that you understood that the Diocese holds information on students and families. This standard collection notice explains that this information held about your child is able to be used by the school and diocese for the purposes outlined in this document. Please make sure you are aware of this document and contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Contacting Teachers

The best outcomes occur for our children when school and home, work together. We look forward to continuing to build the strong links between families and school. Your child's teacher is obviously an integral part of this and there may be times during the year, aside from our scheduled parent conferences in Term 2, that you need to contact your child's teacher. If so, contact can be made via the school's administration email: admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au. These emails will be forwarded to the relevant teacher by myself or Janelle Dixon (Assistant Principal). Teachers will respond to your email within 2 business days and during the hours of 8:15am and 5pm.

You can also contact your child's teacher through our office, by leaving a message for them by phone. They will return your call as soon as possible. As you can appreciate, teachers are very busy during the school day so any 'urgent' messages for your child regarding travel arrangements, medications, lunches etc must be made by calling the office.

Afternoon Pick up reminders

Rosary Park has a clearly defined Traffic Management Plan, developed several years ago in consultation with NSW Police, Cessnock Council and the Diocesan Safety and Wellness team. It is attached to today's newsletter. As part of this plan, we regularly review safe travel and road safety with our children. Parents are expected to do the same; we know the best way of doing this is by actually abiding by the road rules and following our set procedures to ensure the safety of everyone.

The parent car queue and pick-up process is a streamlined and organised process which allows staff to monitor children's movements more closely to their homes with known adults and ensure their safety by minimising their interaction with traffic, crossing roads etc.

I am extremely grateful to those parents who follow our procedures as we ask, demonstrate patience, and abide by road rules to ensure everyone's safety.

I encourage you to read and familiarise yourself again with this document which outlines the following:

- Parents are always to abide by traffic laws during drop off and pick-up times. No U turns, follow the 40km zone, do not park in or obstruct driveways.

- The school recommends a "Kiss & Go" process at the front of the school in the mornings where students exit the vehicle on the passenger (kerb) side only. The area (gravel) beside St Nicholas Early Learning Centre is out of bounds for unaccompanied students due to the danger of crossing the St Nicholas Early Education Centre Driveway. If it is necessary to park in this area, it is the school's expectation that a Parent/Caregiver will accompany the student to the school crossing to ensure their safety. As staff do not come on duty until 8:30am, students should not arrive at the school before this time.

- In the afternoons, *Parent Pick up and Go* is our preferred method of pick up and we appreciate Parents/Caregivers choosing this option to minimise adults on site as well as children and adults interacting with traffic.

Vehicles queue from ten (10) minute zone to the southern side of the pedestrian crossing (right of the school). They are to wait there until directed by a Staff member (5 cars at a time) to move into the pick-up zone. A staff member will call the family name and students are placed in the vehicle.

Note – A Staff member will place your child/ren in the vehicle on the kerb side (NOT roadside). Parents/Caregivers are to REMAIN IN THEIR VEHICLE and place the vehicle in PARK OR NEUTRAL. Whilst a Staff member can assist a child with their belt it is appreciated that in order to ensure the swift and smooth running of this procedure, children are able to do this themselves.

All five (5) cars leave this zone at THE SAME TIME before the next five cars are directed to the pick-up area. Family names A-L are to arrive at 3pm, while M-Z at 3:10pm. **Please do not arrive until your allocated time.**

Parents are asked NOT to park in St Nicholas car park as we will not walk children across the crossing to meet families. Parents/Carers will have to collect their child at the Meet and Greet. We need to minimise children and adult interactions with the traffic and crossing the road.

-If you are walking/riding bikes home with your child, they will cross with a staff and the walkers/bike riders and meet you near the church/cemetery.

-As per the Catholic Schools Office and Transport for NSW (TfNSW) Government guidelines, parents must give annual written permission for their child/ren to ride their bike or walk to/from school, with parents aware that children are under parent's duty of care once they leave school grounds. The School and TfNSW recommends that children under 10yrs DO NOT ride bicycles to or from school unless accompanied by an adult. Children under 12yrs should ride away from busy roads. They may ride bikes on the footpath unless there are signs that specifically prohibit cycling. These permission notes will come home via class teachers in coming weeks.

If for a very specific reason you need to pick up your child early one day from school, this must be done **before 2:30pm**. Please do not call the school office **UNLESS IT'S AN EMERGENCY** after 2:15pm asking for a message to be relayed to your child about a change to pick up arrangements.

We thank you for your cooperation with this plan to ensure the safety of our children & all members of our community.

St Nicholas OOSH Branxton

A reminder that St Nicholas OOSH offer before and after school care 7am-8:30am & 3pm-6pm, as well as Vacation Care in holidays. OOSH can be contacted on **0448 751 549** to make enrolment inquiries. Vacation care is available during holidays and pupil-free days.

Uniforms

Thank you to those families who have ensured their children have started 2023 with correct uniforms. Please remember that our uniform policy states sports socks are *plain white (no sport logos)* with predominantly white joggers.

Thank you for assistance with this.



Rosary Park Summer Uniform – Girls

SHORTS/ SHIRT	Peter Pan white collar shirt (emblem) and blue Midford shorts, white socks.
TUNIC	Blue & white check summer dress
SHOES	Black Shoes (lace up or Velcro) with white socks, to be worn above the ankle. Leather jogger style shoes are permitted

Rosary Park Summer Uniform – Boys

TOP	School blue shirt with embroidered logo.
SHORTS	Navy shorts, not cargo.
SHOES	Black Shoes (lace up or Velcro) with navy socks to be worn above the ankle. Leather jogger style shoes are permitted

Rosary Park Sports Uniform: Summer

TOP/ PANTS	Blue and White Sports Polo with school logo Navy microfiber shorts with school initials
SHOES/ SOCKS	Predominately white joggers. Plain white socks (no sport logos such as Puma, Adidas), worn above the ankle

Sport Term 1

<u>Kinder:</u>	Sports uniform day every Friday for all of term 1
<u>Year 1:</u>	Sports uniform day every Friday for all of term 1
<u>Year 2:</u>	Sports uniform day every Friday for all of term 1
<u>Year 3:</u>	Sports uniform day every Friday for all of term 1
<u>Year 4:</u>	Sports uniform day is Friday weeks 2–6, Wednesday weeks 7-11 for term 1

Year 5: Sports uniform day is Friday weeks 2-6, Tuesday weeks 7-11 for term 1
Year 6: Sports uniform day is Friday weeks 2-6, Thursday weeks 7-11 for term 1

Sport days:

For term 1 Rosary Park has received a sporting grant through Sport in Schools Australia. We have secured Cricket NSW and each grade will receive 4 weeks of Cricket skills coaching.

Primary children (Years 3-6) will begin cricket skills on Friday 10th February (weeks 3-6)

Infants children (Kinder – Year 2) will begin cricket skills on Friday 10th March (weeks 7-10)

School Attendance

The Education Amendment (School Attendance Bill) states that ALL children must attend school EVERY day that they are well enough to be there. Parents are DISCOURAGED from taking children out of school for holidays during school time. School work will not be set by the class teacher if you choose to take your child away on holidays during the school term.

The main points:

- All absences must be recorded and kept by the school for 7 years. Parents must give the school a reason for their child's absence (Compass, email or by phone) within 7 school days, otherwise it is marked in school records as an 'unexplained absence.'
- Principals may request a doctor's certificate if leave is for several days OR there are patterns of absence e.g. every second Monday.
- Parents are urged to avoid booking holidays in term time. If, however, your child needs time from school (more than 10 days) you must complete an 'Exemption from Attendance' form available from the Principal, PRIOR to exemption. It cannot be granted retrospectively. These are retained by the school. Exception from Attendance over 100 days in a 12-month period must go to the Minister via the Catholic Education Commission NSW.
- According to the Guidelines: Principals and the Diocesan Director may grant exemptions due to exceptional domestic circumstances, including, but not limited to participation in family holidays during school term, subject to being satisfied that this is in the best educational interests of the child.

School Website

Our website can be accessed via, <http://www.branxton.catholic.edu.au>

Our 2023 newsletters can be accessed there by clicking on the Newsletters button.

We also have relevant diocesan policies (which are followed by the school) on our website site such as Privacy & Complaints Resolution for Parents and Carers.

Please have a look, any constructive feedback or ideas about features or additional information you would like to see on the site is welcome.

Camps 2023

Our school resource fee is \$495 per child and will include one excursion for each class. In 2023, Year 5 children will attend Aussie Bush Camp 7-9 June 2023. The cost of the camp is not covered by the school resource fee and will cost approximately \$390/child.

Year 6 will attend a Canberra excursion from 20 -22 June 2023. The cost of the camp is not covered by the school resource fee and will cost approximately \$450/child.

Camps are NOT included in the resource fee.

Student Leaders

2023 Leaders

Congratulations to our 2023 Leaders. They will receive their badges at our opening school liturgy on **Thursday 16 February at 10am.**

Mercy team leader: **Ella Grainger**

PBL Team leader: **Ava Jacka**

Active Lifestyle Team leader: **Cohan Young**

Environmental Team leader: **Lacey Norton**

Sport Leaders:

Freeman House Leader: **Brody Billington-Sarina and Holly Wilson**

Thorpe House Leaders: **Owen Simpson and Kai Mueller**

Bradman House Leaders: **Will Ledingham and Miley Robertson**

Fearnley House Leaders: **Isabelle Ward and Asha Messenger**

Helping your child settle into the new school year (Source: Beyond Blue)

Occasionally feeling scared or fearful is all part of growing up. But some kids find it much harder to manage stressful situations and the world can be scarier for them than for other kids their age.

A particularly stressful situation is when children start kinder or primary school. Separation anxiety refers to the fear kids have when being separated from their parents or caregivers. It's very common in early years. The Australian Parenting Website has some great tips for helping a child deal with starting childcare, kinder or school:

- Help your child adapt to a new setting by spending time at the new place with them before the separation. If you're there when your child is introduced to their teacher or caretaker, they're more likely to develop trust quickly.
- If your child is feeling very upset and showing signs of separation anxiety before you arrive, have a chat to the childcare centre or the school so they're aware of the situation.
- Tell your child when you're leaving and when you'll be back. Sneaking out can make matters worse. At the same time, don't drag out your goodbye.
- Keep a calm and cheerful manner when leaving. If you look stressed, your child will likely pick up on this and get upset.
- Don't use negative phrases like, "stop being such a baby". Instead, reinforce positive behaviour by complimenting them when they are behaving well.

At home, you can work together with your child to develop coping strategies for their anxiety. Here are six great ways to get on top of it:

- **Slow down.** This is always the best place to start. Take some slow, deep breaths together. Breathe in for three seconds, hold for three, then out for three. Once they're feeling a bit calmer, you can talk through what's worrying them.

- **Think positive.** Remind them of times they've dealt with similar issues. "Remember the time your friend Andy didn't play with you at lunch, you played tiggy with Keely and Matt and had a great time."
- **Help them to challenge the scary thought with facts.** "Sharks can't live in a swimming pool." "Every time Mum goes out for dinner, she comes back." Make a plan together for what to do if things don't go as they'd like. "If you forget your workbook, it's okay, just borrow a piece of paper to write things down and we can glue it in later when we're home."
- **Have a go.** Kids often worry about making mistakes. This can lead to them avoiding situations or activities. Encourage your kid to give new things a try and let them know that it's about fun, not being perfect.
- **Check yourself.** Try taking a step back and wait before you jump in to help your child. Figuring things out for themselves, learning to problem-solve, is an important step and will help them to be a resilient adult. Over-protective family members can reinforce a child's fears that the world is a dangerous place and that they can't handle it.
- **Be the example.** Be a model for your child. Kids pick up signals from adults, so by showing calmness in dealing with stressful situations, you are showing them the way.

More support for your anxious child can be found on Beyond Blue's [Healthy Families](#) website. A health professional can help you develop strategies tailored to your child.

Principal award recipients from late 2022:

Congratulations – Tony P, Shelle C, Ari S, Liam R, Phoebe C, Samantha R, Elara B, Asha J, Liam R.

Rosary Park is truly a unique School and Parish community with an inclusive and nurturing atmosphere where we learn together and enrich the lives of each other. I am very much looking forward to continuing to work with you, your children, and the staff this year to ensure that every child at Rosary Park thrives in 2023!

Kind regards,

Sallyanne Stanbridge (Principal)

Assistant Principal Message

Welcome back to 2023!

Welcome back to the 2023 school year. I hope that you have enjoyed some quality time with family and friends over the Christmas break. It is wonderful to welcome back known faces and exciting to see many new faces in our grounds and classrooms this week.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you to reach out if there is anything you are unsure of or concerned about. Please call or email the school if you have any questions or concerns and we can discuss ways to best support you and your child. I look forward to sharing an exciting and successful school year with you and your family.

Homework Policy Update

Over the break our executive and staff have discussed and reviewed the Rosary Park Homework Policy and Procedure.

Teaching staff at Rosary Park recognise that home factors like parental involvement, the availability and access to technology and parents working long hours can make a measurable difference to home study success. It is highly recommended that reading with, and to your child should be part of a nightly routine. Reading is one of the most beneficial educational activities parents can participate in with their child, especially in the early years.

It is acknowledged that the quality of home activities set is more important than the quantity. As such, time spent on homework may differ depending on the capabilities of the child. As a guide, the following times are recommended as a **MAXIMUM** any child should spend completing tasks. Across the week the following activities and time frames apply:

Grade	Timeframe	Activity Focus	Optional Activities
Early Stage 1 (Kinder)	10 minutes per night or 40 minutes per week	-Daily Reading -Number knowledge and recognition	A range of optional activities may be suggested in a term matrix. These activities will be age/grade appropriate and give parents a guide as to what else they could be doing with their child should they choose to complete them. Teachers will not “chase up” these activities but will acknowledge them if they are completed.
Stage 1 (Years 1&2)	10 minutes per night or 40 minutes per week	-Daily Reading -Number/working with numbers	
Stage 2 (Years 3&4)	15 minutes per night or 60 minutes per week	-Reading/comprehension -Working with numbers/Mathematical thinking -Possible Typing Skills	
Stage 3 (Years 5&6)	20 minutes per night or 80 minutes per week	-Reading/Comprehension -Mathematical thinking/reasoning -Typing skills -One assignment per term – research skills to prepare for high school (By Semester 2 Yr 6)	

Teachers will outline specific home activities requirements to parents at the beginning of the school year and each subsequent term where required. This may include specific recommended tasks, or in some cases homework grids, with additional optional tasks, to allow students to choose tasks that interest them.

At Rosary Park, flexibility will be set around the assigning of home activities so that families have the opportunity to return these activities within a week or two. Homework will not be set during school holidays. Teachers will not set work if parents choose to take their child on holidays in the school term. Home activities will run over different time spans, depending on grade and home activities set. In most cases, limited set work focusing on reading and mathematical skills will be assigned. An extra matrix may be set as “suggested but not mandatory” activities for children to

complete by choice. Parents are asked to provide a note of explanation if homework is not completed or is causing issues at home. Teachers follow up with parents if homework is not handed in once in a term. If tasks are not completed again, it is acknowledged that families have chosen not to complete home activities with their child.

The full Home Activities Policy & Procedure is attached for you to look at if you choose.

Uniform

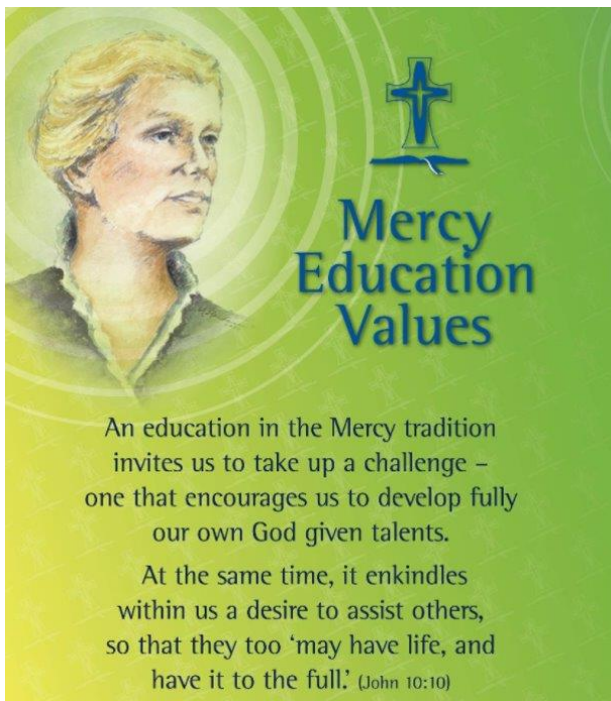
Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform each day. This includes **limiting jewellery**, **tying hair back** if it is long enough to touch the collar and ensuring the **correct shoes and socks** are worn. If your child is not in full uniform for any reason, we do ask that you write a note explaining the reasons for this. If you have any questions about uniform, please contact us at school.

Warm Regards,

Janelle Dixon (Assistant Principal)

Religious Co-ordinator Message

Beginning of Year Staff Liturgy

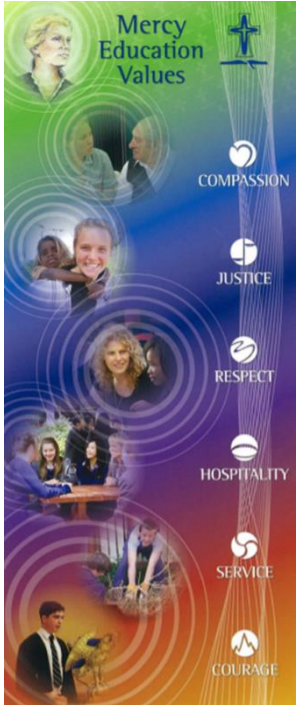


On Friday 29th January, the staff gathered to begin the new school year in prayer. We celebrated our 'mercy' heritage, listened to 'The Word of God,' shared prayers of hope for the year and gave thanks for our many blessings. We look forward to celebrating the beginning of the year as a whole school community in the coming weeks.

Rosary Park Mercy Charism

At Rosary Park we celebrate our Mercy Charism by recalling the life of Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy. At the beginning of the year, we focus on lessons that outline some of the positive impacts of the Sisters of Mercy throughout our world. Each grade at Rosary Park has a focus mercy pillar to specifically teach and demonstrate throughout our school community. With the exception of Kindergarten who focus on God's love for us.

You might like to have a conversation with your child/children about their mercy lessons, identify people they know who show these values and discuss ways they think they could demonstrate this value in their school and home communities.

<p>Grade specific Mercy Pillars</p> <p>Kinder – God's Love</p> <p>Year 1 – Respect</p> <p>Year 2 – Compassion</p> <p>Year 3 – Hospitality</p> <p>Year 4 – Justice</p> <p>Year 5 – Service</p> <p>Year 6 – Courage</p>	
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Regards

Joshua Garnsey (Religious Coordinator)

Sport News

Just a reminder parents are invited to our Swimming carnival awards assembly this Friday 3 February from 2:15pm. Children will receive ribbons and medals from our carnival held in December 2022.

Students who have made it to the regional swimming carnival on the 15th of February will receive notes next week with more information regarding the day.

Sporting trials for Year 5 and 6 Students only:

In the coming weeks we will be having school trials for both netball and soccer. Students who play at a competitive level are encouraged to trial. Students who are successful will go on to trial at a regional level to make a team for our region. Students will be notified about trials next week.

Thanks

Mackenzie Gageler (Sport Coordinator)

Library News

Safer Internet Day

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/whats-on/safer-internet-day-2023>

Save the date for Safer Internet Day 2023 which will take place on Tuesday, 7 February 2023.

Safer Internet Day is a global event that brings together communities, families, schools and organisations from more than 200 countries to help create safer online spaces.

This worldwide initiative is celebrating 20 years in 2023, making it a great time to reflect as well as look forward.

Why it's important to **Connect. Reflect. Protect.** this Safer Internet Day



Almost half

of children were treated in a hurtful or nasty way online in the past year¹

26%

of children have treated someone in a hurtful or nasty way online in the past year²

1 in 10

children have been the target of hate speech online³

30%

of teens have been contacted by a stranger online⁴

47%

of 14 to 17 year olds have received a sexual message from someone in the past year⁵

Many parents of 14 to 17 year olds aren't aware their children have viewed potentially

harmful content⁶

67%

of adults have had a negative experience online in the past year⁷

30%

of LGBTIQ+ Australians experience online hate speech — double the national average⁸

32%

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples* also experience hate speech — double the national average⁹

Technology has evolved dramatically in the past two decades and the benefits have been huge. These developments have also exposed us to many risks with real-world impacts, making online safety awareness even more important.

That's why we are calling on Australians to **Connect. Reflect. Protect.**

Connect safely and with purpose – by keeping apps and devices secure and using social media in positive ways.

Reflect before we act – by taking a moment to consider how what we do and say online may affect others.

Protect ourselves and others by taking action – by telling family, friends or colleagues about eSafety and how we can help.

By doing these simple things, we can work towards making every day a Safer Internet Day.

Borrowing

Library borrowing will begin on Monday the 6th of February. All students are required to bring a library bag on their borrowing day to protect the books they borrow. **No bag = No Borrow.** Any child that returns damaged books will be billed for the replacement copy/ies. Please see below for borrowing times:

Monday – Year 1B, All Year 2, All Year 3, All Year 5.

Tuesday – Year 1W

Wednesday – KB, All Year 4, All Year 6.

Thursday – KW

1. The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Catholic Schools Office (CSO), both independently and through its schools, collects personal information, including sensitive information, about students and parents or guardians before and during the course of a student's enrolment at the school. This may be in writing or in the course of conversations. The primary purpose of collecting this information is to enable the school to provide schooling to students enrolled at the school, exercise its duty of care, and perform necessary associated administrative activities, which will enable students to take part in all the activities of the school.
2. Some of the information we collect is to satisfy the CSO and the school's legal obligations, particularly to enable the CSO and school to discharge its duty of care.
3. Compass is the diocese's centralised digital student information management system and CeD3 is our centralised digital storage system. Compass is owned and operated by a third-party service provider (JDLF International) and CeD3 is owned and operated by the Catholic Education Network (CENet). The personal information in the system is accessible by:
 - Compass, for the purpose of providing technical support; and
 - CENet, to provide support to the diocese. CENet has access to the personal information from Compass when it is held in CeD3 as well as information collected from other sources and held in CeD3.
4. Laws governing or relating to the operation of a school require that certain information is collected. These include: *Education Act 1990 (NSW)*, *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002 (NSW)*, *Children's Guardian Act 2019 (NSW)* and *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW)*.
5. Health information about students is sensitive information within the terms of the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) under the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)*. We may ask you to provide medical reports about students from time to time.
5. If we do not obtain the information referred to above we may not be able to enrol or continue the enrolment of your son/daughter.
6. The CSO and school from time to time discloses personal and sensitive information to others for administrative, educational and support purposes. This may include to:
 - other schools and teachers at those schools
 - government departments
 - Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW), the school's local diocese and the parish, other related church agencies/entities, and schools within other dioceses
 - medical practitioners
 - people providing educational, support and health services to the school, including specialist visiting teachers, sport coaches, volunteers, counsellors
 - providers of learning and assessment tools
 - assessment and educational authorities, including the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), NSW Education Standards Authority, and NAPLAN Test Administration Authorities (who will disclose it to the entity that manages the online platform for NAPLAN).
 - people providing administrative and financial services to the CSO and school
 - anyone you authorise the CSO and school to disclose information to
 - anyone to whom the CSO and school is required or authorised to disclose the information to by law, including child protection laws.
7. Personal information collected from students is regularly disclosed to their parents or guardians.
8. The CSO and school may use online or 'cloud' service providers to store personal information and to provide services to the school that involve the use of personal information, such as services relating to email, instant messaging and education and assessment applications. Some limited personal information may also be provided to these service providers to enable them to authenticate users that access their services. This personal information may reside on a cloud service provider's servers which may be situated outside Australia.
9. The CSO's Privacy Policy, accessible on the CSO website, sets out how parents or students may seek access to and correction of their personal information which the school has collected and holds. However, access may be refused in certain circumstances such as where access would have an unreasonable impact on the privacy of others, where access may result in a breach of the CSO or school's duty of care to the student, or where students have provided information in confidence. Any refusal will be notified in writing with reasons if appropriate.
10. The CSO's Privacy Policy also sets out how parents and students can make a complaint about a breach of the APPs and how the complaint will be handled.
11. The school may engage in fundraising activities. Information received from you may be used to make an appeal to you. It may also be disclosed to organisations that assist in the school's fundraising activities solely for that purpose. We will not disclose your personal information to third parties for their own marketing purposes without your consent.
12. On occasions information such as academic and sporting achievements, student activities and similar news is published in school newsletters and magazines, on our intranet and on our website. This may include photographs and videos of student activities such as sporting events, school camps and school excursions. The school will obtain permissions annually from the student's parent or guardian (and from the student if appropriate) if we would like to include such photographs or videos or other identifying material in our promotional material or otherwise make this material available to the public such as on the internet.
13. If you provide the CSO or school with the personal information of others, such as doctors or emergency contacts, we encourage you to inform them that you are disclosing that information and why.



Term 1 Snippets 2023

Please see below a suggested fortnightly schedule that may assist you in planning your Term 1 school newsletters. Snippets may also be used to post on your school's Facebook page.

The below newsletter snippets are easy to copy and paste, and provide information to families on aspects of student wellbeing including healthy eating, physical activity and limiting screen time.

Term 1 Newsletter topics
Healthy Lunchbox Week
Encourage children to 'Eat A Rainbow'
WOW (Walk/wheel once a week)
Switch off the screen & get active!
Tips to increase vegetables at school



CSNSW SPORT WEBSITE (Primary Schools) How to guide

STEP 1. Go to csnsw.sport website



STEP 2. Find **MN Primary Tile**


Scroll down to the Diocesan/Associations section of the home page and select the Maitland Newcastle Primary Tile.



STEP 3. You are now on the **MN Primary Sport Website**.


- ▶ The Maitland Newcastle Primary Tile allows parents to view basic information for Primary pathway sports including event information and results, the current year's diocesan sports calendar and important notices for sports including wet weather information will now be found here.
- ▶ Any further questions beyond the sport-specific information on this website should be directed to your school sports coordinator.
- ▶ Please do NOT register for any sport without speaking to your school sports coordinator so that you follow the correct selection & registration process. There are several steps before registering at a diocesan level.

0418 583 226 | bernadette.duggan@mn.catholic.edu.au | Catholic Schools Maitland Newcastle 841 Hunter Street, Newcastle West 2302 | [Login](#)



Primary Sport

HOMEABOUTSPORTGALLERY



READ MORE →

Notices

12 Nov 2021
[CSNSW Contacts](#)
Contact information for Polding teams/individuals

Diocese Of Maitland Newcastle Calendar

< > today = Jan, 2022 Day Week Month

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	31	1 Jan	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1 Feb	2	3	4	5	6

Diocese Primary Tennis Trials

Sports

[Archery](#)
[Australian Football](#)
[Basketball](#)
[Cricket](#)
[Cross Country](#)
[Diving](#)
[Football](#)
[Golf](#)
[Hockey](#)
[Netball](#)
[Rugby](#)
[Rugby League](#)



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