

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 2 2025

Thursday 31st July

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

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

Weekly Mass Times: 5pm Saturday Branxton; 8am Sunday Greta

| AUGUST | | SEPTEMBER | |
|----------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Fri 1 st | Aspire – Year 6 | Wed 3 rd | Father's Day Stall |
| Thu 7 th | Parish Mass 9:15am – Year 2 and Year 5 | Thu 4 th | Lower Hunter Soccer Gala Day – Stage 3 |
| Wed 13 th | Assembly 9:15am – Yr 1 Showcase and PEG meeting after assembly | Thu 4 th | Parish Mass 9:15am – Year 1 and 4 |
| Fri 15 th | Taronga Zoo Excursion – Year 3 | Fri 5 th | Father's Day Celebration – 12pm |
| Mon 18 th | Naidoc Week Celebration and Liturgy | Wed 10 th | Assembly 9:15am Yr 2 Showcase |
| Thu 21 st | Parish Mass 9:15am – Kinder, Year 3 and Year 6 | Fri 12 th | PUPIL FREE DAY |
| Wed 27 th | Assembly 9:15am – Yr 4 Showcase | Mon 15 th | Regional Public Speaking |
| Thu 28 th | Lower Hunter Soccer Gala Day – Stage 2 | Mon 22 nd | Diocesan Public Speaking |

PRAYER

"Lord, help us to live each day in a way that honors you. Give us strength, wisdom, and compassion."

"We pray for your presence in our lives, and for your guidance in all that we do."

"Thank you for your love and your grace. Amen."

Principal's Message

WELCOME BACK

We hope that you have had a terrific time with your children over the term break. Semester One is in the books, Semester Two is busy, yet fun and exciting at the same time! You will find all of the dates, items and events in our School calendar, on Compass and in a post in your news feeds. Please don't hesitate to contact the school if you are having difficulty locating this.

UNIFORMS

I wish to make note of the uniforms at school. We realise that the weather is getting colder and the wearing of a DARK BLUE BEANIE, generally purchased from FLANAGANS is correct uniform, for those children who require it. The provisos are that the beanie is only worn outside and it is taken off inside the classroom.

We strongly suggest jackets and jumpers be worn at school. These must be purchased either from our supplier or from the uniform shop and school (for those who require a second hand piece of clothing – please be aware that we don't stock all sizes as these are donated)

Black, polishable shoes are also a strong feature of our uniform. If you are having difficulty sourcing these, please send me an email and we can assist.

Students are required to tuck their shirts in, this is to foster a self-discipline and neat presentation. If the shirt is long-sleeve, then it is tucked in.

Ribbons, headbands, etc must either be NATURAL SKIN COLOUR, DARK BLUE or WHITE. Earrings must be sleepers or studs only. If the hoop of the earring is large enough for a pinky finger to go through, then it is too large. This is for basic safety.

Regardless of the hairstyle, any children's hair which is collar length, must be tied back. This is to help students learn by keeping hair out of their face and for hygiene purposes. Children's hair should not have patterns shaved into it. This is great for holidays, but not indicative of Rosary Park's presentation. We are encouraging of individual style, but our standards are once again to foster a self-discipline and a tidiness around presentation.

Please support the school with these endeavours.

CODE OF CONDUCT

More recently, I have become aware of Facebook groups and "car park chats" which have breached the guidelines of what is acceptable for our school's Code of Conduct. The School Community Code of Conduct reinforces our understanding of the rights and responsibilities each of us has in ensuring we provide an environment where our students can thrive.

Upon acceptance of enrolment and as a condition of continuing enrolment in our Catholic schools, all members of the school community are bound by this Code of Conduct.

I attach the Code of Conduct for Parents for reference:

Parents/Carers and volunteers in Catholic school communities agree to:

- ▶ Understand and abide by all diocesan policies, procedures and guidelines, which are available on the CSO website www.mn.catholic.edu.au/about/policies
- ▶ Model positive behaviour to their child and all children in the school community.
- ▶ Ensure children attend school on time, every day the school is open for instruction.
- ▶ Take an active interest in their child's school and their learning and to engage positively in all aspects of their child's learning.
- ▶ Participate in the Liturgical and Faith Life community of the school including participation in all aspects of the Religious Studies program regardless of personal beliefs.
- ▶ Work in a positive manner with the school to achieve the best outcomes for our child.
- ▶ Communicate constructively, respectfully and in a spirit of partnership with the school and use processes and protocols outlined in the CSO Complaints Resolution Policy documents when raising concerns.
- ▶ Communicate with their child's teacher or the Principal directly regarding any concerns about their child, other students, staff or community members.
- ▶ Reject aggressive, abusive and confrontational language and behaviour, as this is counterproductive to the sustainability of any relationship. Approaching students, community members and/or staff in a confronting manner will not be tolerated.
- ▶ Support all school staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students.
- ▶ Treat all school staff, students, other members of the school community, visitors and volunteers with respect in all dealings with them both personally and through the use of all social media technologies at all times.
- ▶ Discuss with the Principal any barriers to meeting the financial obligations agreed to at the time of enrolment and seek to form an agreement with the school to meet these.
- ▶ Ensure any agreement made with the school is honoured.

As Principal, I am cognisant of concerns that parents have from time to time and I encourage you to make an appointment to speak with me about these. Our staff are all here to make your child's and your experience of school, the best it can be.

We can not help or make efforts to put things in place to support children if we do not know about them. Facebook groups and "car park chats" are a great way to build community amongst Year groups, but speaking negatively about issues to do with the school is not only detrimental to our community-based approach to education, but it is not constructive, respectful, nor is it in the spirit of partnership. As stated above, in these instances I strongly encourage you to speak directly to me so we can work together to best support you and your child.

A reminder that emails are sent through the admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au platform and that the teacher / staff member concerned will answer your query within 48 business hours. Our first priority is the safety and wellbeing of your children so that we can effectively employ our outstanding pedagogy (teaching strategies) to get the best result for your child.

We are here to help, we just need to know about it and be communicated to respectfully and effectively.

GRANDPARENTS DAY THANKYOU

What a wonderful afternoon we had with our grandparents and families on Monday! I wish to personally thank every one that came to Rosary Park for a terrific experience. BIG thanks goes to Year Two teachers, students and special thanks to Father Thomas, for taking time from his rostered day off to be with us.

I also wish to acknowledge and thank the large majority of families who complied with our requests for alternate pick up arrangements and names for a relatively smooth (albeit lengthy) sign out. We are working on making this process shorter for our large scale events.

PUBLIC SPEAKING THIS TERM

We will be holding our Public Speaking competitions this term. These are a wonderful tradition, which were started many years ago now, as an initiative of one of our former Principals in the Diocese, as a response to public school competitions of the same nature.

Miss Graham will be holding a "masterclass" weekly to assist with Public Speaking. Please look for the note in Compass for more information about how to get involved.

MOBILE PHONES / WEARABLE DEVICES AT SCHOOL

We have been made aware recently of mobile phones / wearable devices being used at school. Our Diocese has a specific policy relating to phones or wearable devices. This may be located at the following link:

<https://policies.mn.catholic.org.au/document/view.php?id=132>

Our school has been in the process of developing a mobile phone / wearable device plan, which we will share upon its completion. Our preferred option for these devices, is that they are "switched off and away", as per the policy.

What is "Switched off and away"?

- This means all mobile phones and wearable technologies will be 'off and away' and stored safely in their bag or locker during school hours.
- Students will be responsible for switching off their mobile phones and wearable technologies upon entering school grounds and storing it safely in their bag or locker during school hours.
- Students are not permitted to remove their mobile phones and wearable technologies from storage to use during school hours including designated school breaks.
- Students may remove their mobile phones and wearable technologies from storage and switch on upon the conclusion of school hours when leaving school grounds.
- This approach applies to school-related settings

Please email me for further clarification if required and look out for the new plan on Compass shortly.

WEEK 4 SPORT ASSEMBLY / PEG FUNDRAISING MEETING

A brief message to inform everyone that Week 4 Assembly (Wednesday 13 August) is going to specifically dedicated to awards and recognition of sports achievements. We will also plan to be holding an aerobics demonstration as well as the showcase of Mercy Pillars for Year One.

A reminder that after the Assembly, we will be holding a meeting for anyone interested, in the Hall, to discuss future fundraising initiatives, which are fast approaching, such as the Father's Day Stall and Colour Fun Run. All welcome and all ideas are very much appreciated.

DIOCESAN ATHLETICS CARNIVAL – GOOD LUCK!

Next Wednesday is our Diocesan Athletics Carnival. We have a VERY STRONG contingent of athletes attending and competing for not only Lower Hunter Catholic Schools, but more importantly, ROSARY PARK. We wish you all the very best children, do yourselves, your families and us proud!

Until next newsletter, stay safe and well. God Bless,

Ashley Borg
Principal

Assistant Principal's Message

NAPLAN Results

Last week we sent home our 2025 NAPLAN results to families. Children are placed under one of 4 proficiency standards. Exceeding, strong, developing, and needs additional support. Overall, as a school we had some pleasing results, achieving above national average in many areas. This data helps to inform our next steps for curriculum focus areas moving forward.

It is important to note that NAPLAN is a "point in time" assessment and does not always give an accurate reading of how your child is achieving academically. There are many variables that can impact a child's result, and this is why any questions or concerns are best directed to the class teacher. Many assessments are conducted throughout a school year and all results need to be taken into consideration when reviewing a child's strengths and areas for development.

If you would like to discuss your child's results, or you would like anything on the report explained, please reach out to the school for support.

PB4L

Rosary Park is a PB4L school which means we have a focus on the promotion of positive behaviours.

As we come to the beginning of Semester 2, we celebrate the positive relationships built and learning progress made by students and teachers during the first half of the year. Students have been awarded merit certificates, mercy awards, principal awards and gotcha tokens for displaying positive behaviours.

As a PB4L school we focus on just 3 school rules:

I am safe

I am respectful

I am an active learner

Under each of these rules we have behaviour focuses. These are specific areas to help children understand what is expected when following that rule. Our behaviour expectations are linked with our mercy values. Our rules and behaviour expectations are displayed in a poster with our mercy values highlighted in bold.

Each week we focus our attention on just one rule and behaviour expectation. The rule is presented to the school community by the PB4L team on Monday mornings. As a community we discuss what the expected behaviour will look like in different places around the school. When children return to class the rule and behaviour expectation, including the mercy value, are taught specifically and displayed in the classroom as the focus for the week. Teachers look for students displaying the focus behaviour throughout the week and award gotcha tokens when children display the rule. Weekly mercy and merit awards are also awarded to children which also helps to reinforce these positive behaviours.

The focus rule and behaviour expectations are set for each 2 week period in a term. As a staff we continually reflect on current data and observations to revisit particular behaviour expectations when data shows the need. This is the reason for open weeks allowing for "alternate" focuses when required.

Our Semester 2 planned PB4L Scope and Sequence is attached below.



Rosary Park Catholic School
PBL and Mercy Value Scope and Sequence
Semester 2 2025

| Term 3 | School Rule | Behaviour Focus | Mercy Value |
|---|------------------------|---|-------------|
| Week 1 and 2 | I am Respectful | I show service to others when I follow instructions | Service |
| Alternate 2 | | | |
| Week 3 and 4 | I am an Active Learner | I show justice by having my equipment ready. | Justice |
| Alternate 4 | | | |
| Week 5 and 6 | I am Safe | I show courage when I am in the right place at the right time. | Courage |
| Alternate 6 | | | |
| Week 7 and 8 | I am an Active Learner | I show hospitality when I include others and share ideas in group work. | Hospitality |
| Alternate 8 | | | |
| Week 9 and 10 | I am Safe | I show compassion when I use safe hands and feet | Compassion |
| Alternate 10 | | | |
| Term 4 | School Rule | Behaviour Focus | Mercy Value |
| Week 1 and 2 | I am Safe | I show respect when I wear my uniform (including my hat) correctly. | Respect |
| Alternate 2 | | | |
| Week 3 and 4 | I am an active learner | I show justice when I actively contribute to tasks and value <u>others</u> contributions. | Justice |
| Alternate 4 | | | |
| Week 5 and 6 | I am Respectful | I show compassion when I give everyone a fair go | Compassion |
| Alternate 6 | | | |
| Week 7 and 8 | I am Respectful | I show hospitality when I say kind words and use my manners | Hospitality |
| Alternate 8 | | | |
| Week 9 and 10 | I am Respectful | I show service to others when I follow instructions | Service |
| Alternate 10 | | | |
| Procedures | | | |
| Every Monday morning the PBL team will introduce the rule for the week during morning assembly. All staff take time to teach the rule in the classroom for 10 mins with a focus on the "Mercy language" and how the pillar fits. Mercy awards, with a focus on the Mercy Pillar, are given out at assembly along with class merit awards. Staff review behaviour data and choose possible alternate rules at the Monday morning meeting. | | | |

Label Uniforms

At this time of year when the mornings are cold, and the rooms are warm, we often have many jumpers and jackets left around the school. Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly labelled, especially hats, jumpers and drink bottles. The names fade over time and are difficult to read. Please check that the name on items is still clear so we can return items to their owner. Thank you for assisting with this.

Warm Regards,
 Janelle Dixon

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

Parish Mass Times:

This term we have re-commenced attending our parish mass on a Thursday. Every grade will have the opportunity to attend Mass at 9.20am led by Fr Thomas. See below dates when classes are attending Mass. Parents are more than welcome to join us at the church on a Thursday.

| Week and Date | Grade to attend Mass |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 7 th August Week 3 | Year 2 and Year 5 |
| 21 st August Week 5 | Kinder, Year 3 and Year 6 |
| 4 th September Week 7 | Year 1 and Year 4 |

Mercy Pillars:

At Rosary Park, our school is founded on the charism of the Mercy Sisters. The six Mercy Pillars are embedded across all grades and are a key part of our school life and identity. With seven grades and six pillars, Kindergarten focuses on God's love—a beautiful and meaningful introduction in their first year of school.

As part of our agreed practice, each class revisits and completes a lesson on their Mercy Pillar at the beginning of each term. This term, Kindergarten explored God's love by creating flowers to represent how God's love grows in us each and every day. They also used hearts to remind us that God's love is always with us—especially in our own hearts.



Mercy Show case: Honouring Our Mercy Tradition – Term 3 Assemblies

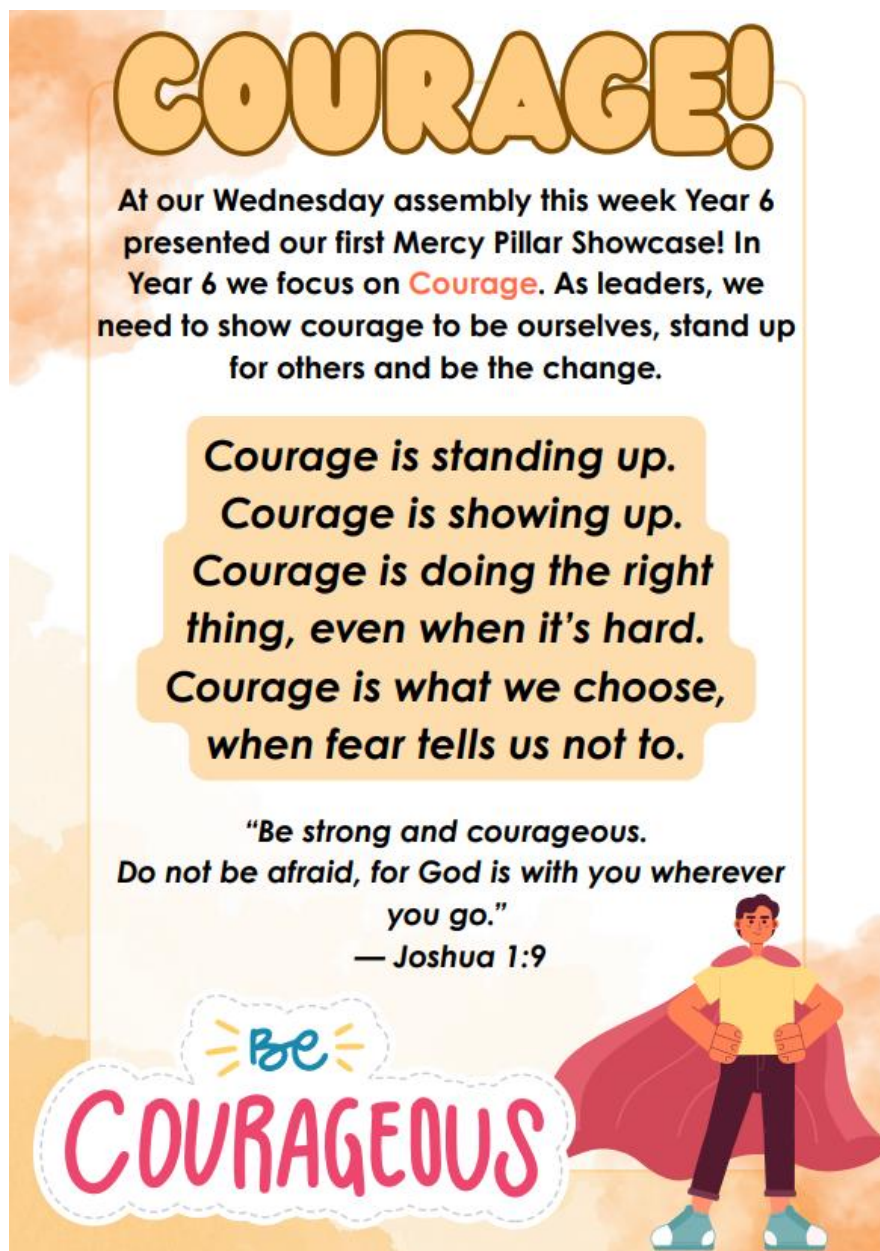
As a school founded on the Mercy tradition and inspired by the works of the Sisters of Mercy and Catherine McAuley, we are committed to helping our students live out the Mercy Pillars in meaningful ways.

Across Term 3 and 4 each grade will begin our assemblies with a 5-minute showcase of their grade's Mercy Pillar. These creative presentations may include poems, songs, artwork, short dramas or other imaginative ideas.

We warmly invite all families to attend these assemblies and support our students as they celebrate and share the values that shape our Mercy community.

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Week 4 | Year 1 - Respect |
| Week 6 | Year 4 - Justice |
| Week 8 | Year 2 – Compassion |
| Week 10 | Year 3 - Hospitality |
| Term 4 Week 2 | Kindergarten – God’s Love |
| Week 4 | Year 5 – Service |

Thank you to Year 6 for presenting their Mercy Pillar courage at our assembly.



Celebration of the Feast Day of Saint Anne and Joachim (Grandparents' Day)

As the grandparents of Jesus, Saint Anne and Saint Joachim are considered the patron saints of grandparents, with their feast day celebrated on July 23rd. Their love for one another and for Mary is an example to us of how God calls us to live. They also remind us to honour our own grandparents and to thank them for the blessings they have passed down to us in love.

It was lovely to see so many of our grandparents (and elderly friends) at Rosary Park on Monday to celebrate this feast day, and the contribution of all grandparents in the lives of our children. The children loved having their grandparents and elderly friends to show around the school. A special thankyou to the Year 2 staff and children for their hard work in preparing and running the liturgy. Here are some wonderful examples of the things our Year 2 students love about their grandparents:



God bless,
Mackenzie Gageler
Religious Education Coordinator

YEAR 6 EXCURSION TO CANBERRA

PACER REBATE

Our Year 6 students have recently undertaken an education tour of the National Capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy. The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the National Capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$45 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate will be paid directly to the school upon receiving our documentation. This rebate reduced the cost of the Canberra excursion by \$45 for our families.



In Term 3, Week 1 Mrs Dixon, Ms Burgess, Miss Gageler, Miss Easton and Mr Standing, took Year 6 away to Canberra to learn all about Australia as a Nation. We had a wonderful time learning about Australia's history, culture and future plans and consolidate our learning through a variety of learning opportunities. We were so proud of the respect and maturity Year 6 showed towards our wonderful guides, workshop facilitators and Dan Repacholi in Parliament house.



The Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House is a living museum of social and political history, located in a nationally listed heritage building in Parkes, Canberra. We enjoyed visiting the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House. It helped us understand Australia's social and political history by interpreting the past and present and exploring the future.

Old parliament house was interesting especially the old Senate where the parliamentarians sat.

- Cooper

It was cool to see the Blue Print Room where we could see who could vote in the particular time.

- Sophie

We had to wear gloves inside so that the oils on our hands don't damage any of the surfaces inside

- Shelle



I liked how we did a roleplay of passing a bill and the roles of each person in the House of Representatives. We had a frozen yogurt with Dan Repacholi and saw the Lego design of Parliament house.

- Lilly

I loved how we got to sit in the rooms above the House of Representative and the Senate and people in the chambers waved at us

- Maxwell

The glass case which showed all the medals The Governor General can give out was very interesting. - Cooper

We found out that the Governor General like modern artworks which she changes in the house. - Samantha

I enjoyed being able to play the Piano in the Governor General's House. - Sophie



In the Unknown Soldiers' tomb there was an artwork that represented every occupation in war that this person could have held. -Kendra

I found it interesting that they had the wall with all of the soldiers names who had died and you could put a poppy for those people.- Ellie

To see and learn about our history of war and see the items that they used in those wars.- Owen G



The bus trip was fun because we got to play songs and fun games. - Ruby

There was a natural disaster room in Questacon. We also got to do heaps of cool science experiments. - Kendra

The slide at the National Arboretum park was really fun while we had morning tea on Friday. - Shelle

I found it fun to play on the swings and push the teachers on the swings at the National Arboretum - Alyssa

We are so thankful for this learning opportunity. We would like to personally thank our parents for supporting us to go to Canberra and our teachers for giving up time away from their families, staying awake until we all went to sleep and putting up with us on that long bus trip!

- Year 6

Rosary Park Concert Band

It's not too late to join our Talented Concert Band.

We have positions available for;

ALTO SAXOPHONES
PERCUSSION (DRUMS)
FLUTE'S

Please contact Howard Ward on 0419 663 389 for more information.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM!

FROM TERM 3 WEEK 3 WE ARE GOING...

Waste Free

TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS!

This means that on Tuesday and Wednesday of each week we will remove the bins from our playground. We ask that you pack your child's lunchbox using as little packaging as possible! This is an effort to minimise our waste and bring to light just how much unnecessary packaging is used. With the extra use of containers, we ask that you check everything is labelled with your child's name. Thank you for supporting our Environmental leadership team's goal!

Here are some inspiration photos of waste free lunchboxes.



Weekly Awards

Congratulations to those children who have received awards this past fortnight.

Week ending 25th July 2025 (Term 3 Week 1)

| Class | Class Award One | Class Award Two | Mercy Award |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Kinder Blue | Alexander H | Zara S | Tillie E |
| Kinder White | Reo G | Henry W | Reggie B |
| Year 1 Blue | Ally C | Spencer C | Hunter B |
| Year 1 White | Mon B | Astrid C | Olivia M |
| Year 2 Blue | Noah L | Connor T | Abbey A |
| Year 2 White | Claire D | Jesse J | Johnny L |
| Year 3 Blue | Ava W | Tristan C | Jenson F |
| Year 3 White | Tommy E | Hendrix M | Sonny R |
| Year 4 Blue | -- | -- | -- |
| Year 4 White | William M | Aubree M | Campbell C |
| Year 5 Blue | -- | -- | -- |
| Year 5 White | -- | -- | -- |
| Year 6 Blue | -- | -- | -- |
| Year 6 White | -- | -- | -- |

Week ending 1st August 2025(Term 3 Week 2)

| Class | Class Award One | Class Award Two | Mercy Award |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Kinder Blue | Hudson W | Zaylee D | Louis H |
| Kinder White | -- | -- | -- |
| Year 1 Blue | George A | Harley-Rose H | Mason P |
| Year 1 White | Dylan J | Isabelle S | Isla C |
| Year 2 Blue | Zoe C | James L | Madi N |
| Year 2 White | Indy M | Millah L | Amelia H |
| Year 3 Blue | William M | Alfie W | Charlie D |
| Year 3 White | -- | -- | -- |
| Year 4 Blue | Aramaia M | Baxter D | Imogen M |
| Year 4 White | Layla M | Mackenzie H | |
| Year 5 Blue | Hunter B | Addison K | Luke H |
| Year 5 White | Liam R | Aria G | Tao D |
| Year 6 Blue | Evie S | Luke W | Cooper C |
| Year 6 White | Darby T | Halle G | Mia W |

Principal's Awards

Samantha F, Jensen F, Cooper S, Ally C, Ava W, Reo G, Hunter A-L, Harrison A-L, Jaiden X



Crunch on Vegetables!

Primary school aged kids need up to 5 serves of vegetables every day.

A serve is half a cup of cooked vegetables or one cup of raw salad vegetables.

School is a perfect time to increase vegetable intake! Pack more vegetables for school with these tips:

- ✎ Chop carrot, cucumber, capsicum or celery into vegetable sticks.
- ✎ Pack small, bite sized vegetables in containers. Try snow peas, cherry tomatoes, baby cucumbers or broccoli.
- ✎ Cook extra vegetables the night before and store them in the fridge ready to be added to the lunchbox.
- ✎ Let your child help choose, prepare and pack the vegetables.



Hunter New England
Local Health District

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

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.

Unless otherwise stated, the advertisements placed in this newsletter are placed by independent third parties who have no legal relationship with The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. The activities or services of the advertisers are not supervised or controlled in any way by the Diocese. The Diocese is not in a position to endorse the advertisers, or the services provided and makes no representation about these matters. Accordingly, the Diocese cannot accept any responsibility for the advertisers or the activities or services that are subject of these advertisements.