



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Week 8

Thursday 5th December 2025

Rosary Park Catholic School Station Street, Branxton NSW 2335

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

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

IMPORTANT DATES

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

DECEMBER		2026	IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026
Thu 4 th	Christmas Concert 🎄	FEBRUARY 2026	
Fri 5 th	PUPIL FREE DAY	Mon 2 nd	Years 1 to 6 commence school
Tue 9 th	YEAR 6 GRADUATION	Wed 4 th	Kindergarten start with part day
Wed 10 th	SPECIAL ASSEMBLY – Howard Ward Music Extravaganza	Mon 9 th	Kindergarten FIRST FULL DAY OF SCHOOL
Thu 11 th	STEP UP DAY 9:15 am	Other 2026 Dates	
Fri 12 th	PRESENTATION DAY 9:45 am	Mon 15 – Wed 17 Jun	Year 5 Great Aussie Bush Camp
Wed 17 th	FINAL DAY OF SCHOOL FOR 2025	Wed 19 - Fri 21 Aug	Year 6 Canberra Excursion

Principal's Message

Feast of Christ the King

O Lord our God, you alone are the Most Holy King and Ruler of all nations. We pray to You, Lord, in the great expectation of receiving from You, O Divine King, mercy, peace, justice and all good things. Protect, O Lord our King, our families, and the land of our birth.

Dear Parents/Carers

As this is the final Newsletter for 2025, I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of me, my staff, and our children throughout the year. It's been a hectic yet very productive and rewarding year. I wish all our year 6 children all the very best as they embark on the next phase of their school journey.

In addition, to those families leaving us at the end of 2025, I thank you for all that you have contributed to our community and wish you all the best for the future.

Throughout 2025, we have gathered as a community to celebrate liturgies, a Christmas concert, donated to St Vincent de Paul and Missions, attended excursions and incursions, sports gala days, choir and band performances and many, many more that would not be possible without the support and dedication of the parents and staff of Rosary Park.

I am truly grateful for all that we do together to enrich the lives and learning of the children in our community. Thank you to all students, families and staff who make Rosary Park such a fantastic place.

I would also like to thank Fr Thomas for his great support of our school this year. Finally, a big thank you to my wonderful colleagues who all work hard every day to deliver a quality education in a caring environment.

I wish all our children and families a safe and happy holiday break. I hope all families take the time to experience the great joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus, our saviour.

We look forward to you joining us for our end of year liturgy from 9:45am on Friday 12 December. We will also hand out our end of year awards and announce our 2026 leaders at this time.

Staffing Changes since last announced

Phoebe Bridge will be working in Year 3, in an executive teaching role. We are very grateful to have retained her services for the year.

Classes/Teachers for 2026

Kinder Blue: Kylie Lunn	Kinder White: Ellen Rae
Year 1 Blue: Louise Kevin	Year 1 White: Nicholas Redgrove (Monday - Wednesday) Debbie Parkes (Thursday-Friday)
Year 2 Blue: Naomi Allen	Year 2 White: Nick Standing
Year 3 Blue: Maeve Lawson	Year 3 White: Danika Graham (Monday - Thursday) Phoebe Bridge (Friday)
Year 4 Blue: Grace Dever	Year 4 White: Terry Fitzsummons
Year 5 Blue: Nellie Connolly	Year 5 White: Simone Cameron
Year 6 Blue: Paige Pringle (Monday - Thursday) Kate Burgess (Friday)	Year 6 White: Emelia Lindus (Monday - Wednesday / Friday) Kate Burgess (Thursday)

RFF teacher: Chelsea Edwards (PE) M-T-W

Library teacher Melanie Flynn M-T-W

Learning Support Teacher- Kathryn Piggott / TBC

Pastoral Care worker – TBC

English As additional Language Dialect teacher 2 days/week- Janelle Dixon

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander teacher 9 days/fortnight- Katrina Easton

All parents will be notified of their child's 2026 teacher and class via a note by Tuesday for Year 3, 2026 and all other students on Wednesday (the day before the Step-Up day). Please take a moment to share with their 2026 teacher some information, your hopes, and goals for them for the coming school year. This can be accessed via Compass, it is already available (view post from Miss Groves for instruction).

Wednesday 10 December will be the Step-Up Day for any student in Year 3 – 2026. All other students will be “stepping up” on Thursday 11 December.

Advanced Notice

In 2026, our year 5 students will attend Great Aussie Bush Camp 15-17 June in 2026 (approx. cost \$450/child) whilst our year 6 students will have their excursion to Canberra on 19 – 21 August 2025 (approx. cost \$500/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.

School fee information for 2026 will be sent out once received by the Catholic Schools Office. Our school resource fee is \$610.

Compass

Please be aware that if your child is leaving Rosary Park **(including year 6 students)** you will lose access to all your child's Rosary Park reports as of our last school day (Wednesday 17 December). Please download and/or print the reports before this date.

Semester 2 Student Report

The semester 2 reports will be available via Compass from Wednesday 10 December. Should you wish to discuss your child's report with the class teacher/s please contact them via admin@branxton.catholic.edu.au

Canteen Changes

Our last canteen day is Friday 28 November. It will open Friday 12 December for ice blocks, with the Pupil Free Day being 5 December.

Wishing you a happy, holy, and safe Christmas,

Mr Ashley Borg

PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal Message

Just a few reminders as we near the end of the year.

End of Year Awards

Reminder that the end of year awards will be held at school on **Friday 12th December at 9:45am**. There will be assigned seating for the children receiving awards and some general seating. There will also be a section of seating assigned for Yr5 parents of children who prepared and delivered speeches for 2026 leadership roles. Please note that parents will NOT be informed if their child was successful in obtaining a leadership role prior to the ceremony.

All 2026 student team school leaders, as well as sports leaders will be announced as a part of this end of school year liturgy and awards ceremony.

End of Year PB4L Reward – Water Play Day

On Tuesday 16th December we will celebrate our year of Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) rewards with Water Play Day. There will be a timetable giving each grade time to participate in water fun games outside for a period of the day. Our Year 6 PB4L team and teachers will help to run the games for the children.

Details for children -

- Come to school in old clothes or swimmers with board shorts, a t-shirt AND a hat. (Shoulders must be covered and children MUST have a hat and closed in shoes to participate.)
- Children bring their sports uniform AND shoes to get changed into after the water activities.
- Shoes will get wet, so a spare pair and socks is recommended.
- Please bring a towel to dry off and a plastic bag to put wet things in.
- Clothes will get wet and may get dirty – old clothes please.

PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS ARE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

Each class will be allocated 30 minutes throughout the day to participate in the water activities.

End of term Child Protection and safety lessons

As always at Rosary Park we revisit our safety and child protection lessons at the end of each term before the holidays. Teachers will be providing the opportunity for students to identify safe people in their home circle, as well as safe behaviours when in the community. If you would like to have these conversations in your home, you may find the following resources helpful.

Kids Helpline online - <https://kidshelpline.com.au/kids>

The Kids Helpline website has an abundance of child friendly fact sheets and videos to support all areas of child and adolescent wellbeing and mental health. The resources are sorted into age ranges to ensure your child can access quality age-appropriate materials.

Road Safety - <https://www.safetytown.com.au/>

The Safety Town website is a NSW State Government initiative and has resources for students, parents and teachers. It has government videos and fact sheets about helping to keep your children safe as a passenger and pedestrian. Games and quizzes help to engage students in safety messages about bike safety and simple road rules.

Social Media Account Age Restrictions

As you would be aware, from 10 December 2025, Australia will introduce laws that prevent anyone under the age of 16 from creating or maintaining accounts on major social media platforms. The legislation, or social media delay, is designed to protect the mental health and wellbeing of young people.

The responsibility for enforcing these restrictions lies with the social media companies, not with students, parents or schools.

Resources ·

- Parents can read more about the social media delay:
[Social media age restrictions and your family | eSafety Commissioner](#)
- We understand this is a significant change for some of our students. Like all changes, we encourage parents to prepare your child for the social media account age restrictions through a variety of resources:
[Social media age restrictions: Get-ready guide for parents and carers | eSafety Commissioner](#)
- FAQs via the safety commissioner are here:
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions/faqs>

Holiday Learning

Don't forget to keep learning during the holiday break. There are many simple ways to continue the learning for your child/children during the holidays. Never underestimate the impact of participating in simple learning games and activities with your child/children. One of the most valuable things you can do with your child/children is to read with them. Not only does this build their vocabulary, but also their oral language and comprehension.

For younger children

- Identify numbers and letters/words in the environment when driving in the car, walking around town or at the shops
- Play karaoke – let children read the words and sing, this builds graphological or picture (what a word looks like) knowledge to assist reading and spelling
- Build multiplication knowledge – identify grids or arrays in the environment how many rows and how many columns
- Cook together – talk about mass the meaning of kg, g, l, ml etc
- Use adjectives (describing words) to describe some objects in nature – who can think of the most describing words
- If you must watch something on a screen, turn on subtitles for more exposure to print
- Count down the days of the holidays on a calendar
- Use an analogue clock to identify bedtime, bath time etc Where is the big hand? What does it mean when the big hand is on 6? etc
- Categorise objects using various criteria eg. Size, shape, colour, manmade/natural
- Use items in the environment to create an artwork

For older children

- Estimate the total of a group of objects in the trolley
- Calculate the cost of a day out – movie tickets plus the cost of lunch for the whole family etc

- Cook together – double or halve the ingredients in a recipe to allow for more/less people
- Read the instructions to a new game
- Read a book with your child – you read left hand pages and they read the right – ask questions about the text and different words to build comprehension and vocabulary knowledge.
- Design an outdoor obstacle course and time how long it takes to complete the activities – can you get faster over the holidays?
- Use a calendar
- Tell the time on an analogue clock

As we come to the end of the year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for entrusting Rosary Park with the education of your children. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to work with so many wonderful families and children every day.

To those leaving our community, I wish you every happiness for the future, may you always remember the lessons and values you've been taught at Rosary Park, and for those returning next year, I look forward to working with you again in 2026.

I wish you all a safe, happy and holy Christmas time. I hope you have the chance to spend some quality time with your family and friends.

Janelle Dixon

Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

End of Year Liturgy and Awards

On **Friday, 12th December at 9:45am**, we will come together as a whole school community to celebrate the year that has been — a year filled with learning, growth, and many moments of joy. Our End of Year Liturgy and Awards is always a special occasion, and we warmly invite families to join us as we give thanks for the journey we have shared.

Reserved seating will be available for families who have been contacted regarding their child receiving an award. We also have reserved seating for parents of our Year 5 students who have applied for a leadership role in 2026, as this is a significant milestone in their school journey.

During the liturgy, we will proudly announce our new school leaders and sport leaders for 2026. This is a beautiful moment for our community as we recognise the gifts and potential of our young people stepping into leadership.

Farwell message:

As many of you already know, my time at Rosary Park is coming to an end, and I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt thanks to this wonderful community.

It is hard to put into words just how much this place has meant to me. Rosary Park has been more than a school — it has been a second home filled with warmth, faith, and genuine care. Serving as REC has been a blessing, and I am incredibly grateful for every moment shared with our students, staff, and families.

To our students: you have been the heart of my role. The relationships we have built, the conversations we've shared, and the countless little moments — from liturgies to playground chats — have brought me so much joy. Watching you grow in confidence, kindness, and faith has been one of the greatest privileges of my career. Your enthusiasm, honesty, and big-hearted spirit have brightened my days more than you will ever know.

Thank you for welcoming me so openly, for trusting me in this role, and for allowing me to walk alongside you in the faith life of our school. Our liturgies, celebrations, and everyday interactions are memories I will carry with me always.

This community will forever hold a special place in my heart. I leave with deep gratitude, pride, and affection for the people who make Rosary Park such a unique and beautiful place. Although I am moving on, Rosary Park will remain part of my story, and I will carry you all with me into the next chapter.

Thank you for everything. I will miss you dearly and will keep you in my prayers.

Advent: Last Sunday was the first Sunday in Advent. This marks the beginning of the Church Year. This is where we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus over the next four weeks. The first candle, which is purple, symbolises hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ.

God Bless
Mackenzie Gageler

Weekly Awards

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

Week ending Friday 28th November 2025 (Week 7)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Lucas H	Harlyn H	Harvey M
Kinder White	Ava M	Harvey S	Byron R
Year 1 Blue	Tyler T	Carter L	Eva N
Year 1 White	Astrid C	Savannah R	Oliver B
Year 2 Blue	Claire D	Maci H	Johan C
Year 2 White	--	--	--
Year 3 Blue	Alfie W	Ava M	Stella G
Year 3 White	Hendrix M	Nicholas L	Kenny A
Year 4 Blue	--	--	--
Year 4 White	--	--	--
Year 5 Blue	James S	Linda P	Leah W
Year 5 White	Max K	Jye D	Addison S
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Week ending Friday 5th December 2025 (Week 8)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Hunter P	Owen E	Ivy E
Kinder White	Jaxon K	Emmett B	Hannah P
Year 1 Blue	Isla H	Bruno B	Ava S
Year 1 White	Archie A	Scott N	Olivia M
Year 2 Blue	Viv S	Addison M	Bonnie D
Year 2 White	Amarni L	Jasper W	Makayla C
Year 3 Blue	Josie W-H	Ethan T	Brooklyn Y
Year 3 White	Eli B	Harrison A-L	Lleyton L
Year 4 Blue	--	--	--
Year 4 White	--	--	--
Year 5 Blue	Dev T	Addison K	Braxton T
Year 5 White	Paige L	Liam R	Amarlie K
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Principal's Awards:

Jasper W, Willow J, Luke W x 4, Baxter A x 2, Tanner H, Leah W, Mackenzie H, Charli C, Lucas H, Ally C, Eva N, Ellie A, Tyler T, Matilda B, Jenson F, Maxx R, Harvey S, Stella M, Ava M-Z, Eyden G, Hunter W, Elke B, Noha M, Emily G, Winnie C, Angus W, George H, Carter M, Pearl B, Jesse S x 2, Reeve W



NEWCASTLE
PERMANENT

FREE
FAMILY
EVENT!

Carols *in the* Park

**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS UNDER THE STARS
WITH FOOD STALLS, LIVE MUSIC AND
SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS!**

**FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER
CESSNOCK SPORTSGROUND**

GATES OPEN 5.30PM | CAROLS FROM 7PM | FIREWORKS AT 9PM

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS STRICTLY AN ALCOHOL FREE EVENT



**SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
WWW.CESSNOCK.NSW.GOV.AU/CAROLS2025
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**CESSNOCK
CITY COUNCIL**



SINGLETON TOWN BAND STARTERS

**Did you have fun playing in the
Combined Schools Band at our Concert?**

STARTERS IS FOR YOU

**The Starters group is open to all
who are just starting on their musical journey.**

**Whether with their first ever instrument
or a new addition to their musical repertoire!**

***Brass, Woodwind and Percussion
ARE ALL WELCOME
with little to no experience required.***

**Our rehearsals are a time
to have a go, develop musicianship,
challenge and encourage each other to the next level.**

**Even if you've never played in a band before,
come along and have a go!**

**We're here for the love of music
and the community that it brings!**

No matter how young or old, all are welcome!

Contact us to let us know you'll be there!



secretary.stb@outlook.com



SingletonTownBand



singletontownband.wordpress.com



First Nations Game: *Birray*

Description: This is a game where a chaser (*birray*) attempts to tag (touch) other players.

Players: 4 - 8 (recommended for younger children)

Playing area: A space big enough to run around without any obstacles

Game play and basic rules:

- Players spread out around the playing area.
- Shutting their eyes (or blindfolded) the player who takes the part of the *birray* (march-fly) runs about trying to catch (touch) another player in the group.
- As soon as the player is successful, he or she makes an unpleasant noise (imitating the insect's buzz) near the ear of the player caught and also give him or her a 'pretend' pinch (indicative of the sting). The player caught (touched) becomes the new *birray* and the game continues.

Play suggestions:

- Spread out
- Keep moving, but watch out for the *birray*!
- Look out for other players



Source: Yulunga Traditional Indigenous Games



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.