

Built on Faith, Knowledge, Respect

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Week 10 2026

Thursday 2nd April

Rosary Park Catholic School

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

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: 6pm Saturday Branxton; 8am Sunday Greta

APRIL		MAY	
Thu 2 nd	LAST DAY OF TERM 1	Wed 6 th	Diocesan Cross Country
Mon 20 th	FIRST DAY OF TERM 2	Thu 7 th	Mother's Day Stall
Tue 21 st	School Athletics Carnival	Thu 7 th	Baiame Cave Excursion – Year 4
Fri 24 th	PUPIL FREE DAY	Fri 8 th	Mother's Day Liturgy & Breakfast
Sat 25 th	ANZAC Day March	Mon 11 th	Sports Jersey Day for DIPG – gold coin donation in memory of a former student
Mon 27 th	PUBLIC HOLIDAY – Anzac Day	Wed 13 th	Assembly at 9am
Tue 28 th	Anzac Day Liturgy – 9am	Mon 18 th – Fri 22 nd	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK
Wed 29 th	Assembly at 9am	Thu 21 st	School Spelling Bee

Principal's Message

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you all have a happy and holy Easter time, our most important event as a Christian community.

We reflect on the Easter triduum from the chant of 'Hosanna!' on Palm Sunday to Good Friday when those chants change to 'Crucify Him, Crucify Him!' It is a reflection on our humanness of being both saint and sinner. Held in tension as we look to do better and be more the saint but noting that sometimes we get some things wrong. Jesus dies to help us tip our balance for goodness. Our prayer from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday should always be one of gratitude, for strength, for grace, for forgiveness and for the transformation only Jesus can bring.

I hope that this Easter season is able to bring you this over the break.

MAT life skills program

In Term 1 our Year 5 / 6 children completed this weekly program. This was a therapeutic martial arts program that combined the principles of physical and mental wellbeing with those of therapeutic martial art training techniques. Its format engaged and empowered young people to learn life skills and to better manage the challenges in their lives. The program used drills, games, metaphors, and stories to deliver the physical, and mental wellbeing objectives.

We thank the trained life skill instructors Darius and Lisa Wingate-Pearse (with the assistance of class teachers) for leading the children every week, commencing in the second week of Term 2, on a Tuesday. Please refer to your note, which was given out by teachers / place on Compass.

The philosophy of the program is BE STRONG - BE CALM - BE KIND - TRY HARD

Students had a great time breaking the boards for their final session. The effort, focus and encouragement of all was to be commended.

Winter Uniform

Changeover to winter uniform occurs in Term 2. Unless we have a cold snap earlier, all children are expected to be in full winter uniform by the start of Week 4 (11 May). In the two weeks prior to this, parents are welcome to use their discretion and if there is a cold snap children can wear their Winter uniform. Your support is greatly appreciated to maintain our very high uniform standard.

All items are available at LOWES CESSNOCK.

Staffing

We say farewell to Mrs Debbie Parkes, who, after 40+ years of invaluable service to Catholic Education, will be finishing up today.

Thank you for everything Mrs Parkes, and good luck for the future.

Mrs Kirsten Renelt will be working in the Year 1 White Class alongside Mr Redgrove. Kirsten comes with 10 years' experience in Catholic Education, and hails from Sydney. Her previous school was St Patrick's Primary School, Sutherland. She comes highly recommended by her former Principal.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Kate Burgess, who has relinquished her position with the Diocese to take on a different career. Kate has been with Rosary Park for quite a while and has been a steady, calm and friendly staff member to all. You will be sadly missed, Kate.

Miss Chelsea Edwards will be working in the Year 6 classroom for the remainder of the year.

Mr Travis Dicks will be working alongside Miss Graham for Terms 2-4 in the Executive Release Space on Fridays.

We farewell Zoe Koster, who sadly leaves us in the Pastoral Care Worker Role. She is replaced by Mrs Charmaine Clark, who is currently a Pastoral Care Worker with St Paul's Gateshead and is highly experienced and recommended.

Mr Fitzsummons will continue to be on leave for the time being and Miss Percival will continue in the role of Year 4 Blue teacher. Mrs Emily Capararo will replace her one day a week (Tuesday / Thursday alternate weeks), so Miss Percival can continue her EAL/D role.

Due to the illness of Nigel Levido earlier in the year, we have recruited Mr Ian Barnes to the role of Groundsperson for the foreseeable future. Ian is a local retiree, who has recent ties to Rosary Park and St Brigid's Branxton. His expertise and handyman skills will be a great asset to us going forward.

Miss Chloe Nicholson will be undertaking the Learning Support Role in May, when Miss Roberts goes on Maternity Leave. Chloe is a former student of Rosary Park and is studying to be a teacher, so this will be wonderful experience for her.

I know this is a lot of change, but my ultimate goal is stability for Rosary Park. Our demographic generally dictates that we get some turnover, but my real goal here is to have none!

Enrolments

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2026 are now open & will close May 22. Please visit our website www.branxton.catholic.edu.au then Enrolments – Enrol Online Now to submit your application, if you have a child eligible for kindergarten or know of someone intending to seek enrolment. We have a large number of enrolments and we would not want to see any siblings miss out.

Attendance Matters!

I wish to commend the large majority of our families who are getting their children to school, on time, every time. This has really helped with the improved standard of behaviour as the term has progressed.

Some attendance statistics for your reading pleasure:

- 93 % Attendance across the school in Term 1 - 2026 (2025 this time it was 88%)
- 82% Attendance Level Term 1 - 2026 - Attendance Level is the number of students attending school over 90% of the time.

We currently have 384 students at Rosary Park.

- 323 students have attended 90% - 100% of school.
- 106 students have 100% attendance.
- 59 students have an attendance rate between 45 - 79 percent.

The benefits of attendance and strong attendance are clear. The more a student is at school, the better chance they have to achieve academically, socially, emotionally and the better we can help students when they do have problems.

We know lives are busy and sometimes it necessitates absenteeism, however, this is your child's future and it rests on your shoulders, as well as ours.

Thanks to all of you for your support with this.

Anzac Day

Our local RSL will run their annual Anzac Day service on Saturday 25 April. Rosary Park children are invited to march (in full summer uniform) and attend the service. This will start with meeting from 10:45am between the hotel and the butchers, to march to the rotunda for the service. If this changes, we will advise.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL SUCCESS

Our Rosary Park swimmers have been nothing short of amazing in yesterday's Polding Swimming Carnival.

For those uninitiated, the POLDING region, was named after BISHOP JOHN BEDE POLDING, he was the first Roman Catholic bishop in Australia (from 1835), where eight years later he became the first archbishop of Sydney.

The POLDING region encompasses the Dioceses of Armidale (20 schools), Bathurst (27 schools), Broken Bay (39 schools), Lismore (34 schools), Wilcannia -Forbes (14 schools) and Maitland-Newcastle (46 schools)

With so many schools and students involved, to even make the trials for Polding is an enormous achievement!

- Ellie (Year 6) swam in the 50m Backstroke and 50 Butterfly and finish 6th and 11th respectively, swimming a PB in the process.
- Elke (Year 6) swam in the Breaststroke and finished 10th.

Well done to these two individuals for a superb effort!

SPECIAL MENTION

The following students have qualified for the NSW State Primary Schools Sports Association Swimming Championships in late April:

- Makayla (Year 3) finished 2nd in the Freestyle for her age group. This is an outstanding achievement and one we are all so proud of!
- Matilda (Year 5) had an absolute field day! She finished 1st in the following events:

1st Backstroke
1st Freestyle 50m
1st Freestyle 100m

In each of these events, Matilda swam over 2 - 3 seconds quicker than her Diocesan races, which is a magnificent improvement.

RELAY SWIM QUEENS!

Our Senior Girls Relay team, consisting of Elke (Year 6), Holly (Year 5), Ellie (Year 6) and Matilda (Year 5) finished SECOND in the relay, to the eventual winners, St Xavier's Gunnedah to qualify for the NSWPSA Swimming Championships! This is the 2nd year running we have qualified for this event in the relay and exemplifies the wonderful training and dedication our children have for the sport.

A massive congratulations to you all and we cannot wait to see how you all go at state level next Term!

Thank you

I would like to personally thank every student, staff member and parent / friend of Rosary Park for Term One. There have been some changes and for the most part, they have been very well received. There will be some more change as the year goes on. It will be subtle, but it will be about your child's best interests and safety.

As always, I am more than happy to receive any feedback, both strengths and areas of development, for Rosary Park. We cannot grow as a school if we don't know where to go next.

Have a Happy, Holy and safe Easter break.

Mr Ashley Borg
PRINCIPAL

Assistant Principal's Message

As we come to the end of Term 1, I'd like to thank our students, staff and families for a fantastic start to the school year. It has been a busy term full of learning, settling into routines and getting back into the swing of school life, and everyone has worked incredibly hard.

The upcoming holidays are a well-earned chance to slow down, rest and recharge. Time away from the school routine is so important for children's wellbeing. Whether it's spending time with family, playing outside, reading for enjoyment or simply having a few quieter days, these moments help students return to school feeling refreshed and ready to learn.

During the break, we encourage families to focus on balance. Light reading or practising skills in fun, everyday ways can be helpful, but most importantly, the holidays should be a time to relax, have fun and enjoy being together. Happy, rested learners are always better prepared for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

We are already looking forward to welcoming everyone back for Term 2, ready to build on the strong foundations set this term. There is lots of exciting learning to come, and our staff are eager to continue supporting students as they grow and learn.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. I hope all families enjoy a safe, restful and enjoyable holiday break. We pray that you find peace and hope in this Easter Season.

Maryanne Hacker
Assistant Principal

Religious Education Coordinator's Message

As our first Term of 2026 draws to an end I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Easter.

I would like to thank our teachers, staff and students who have facilitated in some reverent and impressive liturgies over the past week as we moved through Holy Week. A special thank you to:

Year 3: Palm Sunday

Year 1: Holy Thursday/Last supper

Year 5: The crucifixion.





After the holidays, the following classes will be facilitating the following days with liturgies and special events:

- Year 2: The Resurrection (Monday, 20th April @ 9am)
- Year 4: ANZAC Day Liturgy (28th April @ 10:45am)
- Kindergarten: Mother's Day Performance following breakfast on May 8th. Breakfast will be served from 7:30am. All Mother's, Grandmothers and mother figures are welcome on this special occasion.

We would like to thank our families for their generous donations during our season of Lent for Project Compassion. Our target was \$300 for our walk for water event, project compassion boxes and QKR donations. I am pleased to announce that we have well and truly exceeded this target. We will announce our final figure at a school assembly next term.

Mr Borg was our lucky (or not so lucky staff member) that had the most money donated towards this cause and was the lucky staff member to be drenched!

Wishing all of our families a safe, holy and enjoyable Easter break.

An Easter Prayer

Loving God,
On this joyful Easter day,
We thank You for Jesus,
Who rose from the tomb
And brings us new life.

Thank You for Your love
That is stronger than death
And Your light that shines in our hearts.

Help us to be people of hope,
To be kind and forgiving,
And to share the joy of Easter with everyone we meet.

Bless our school, our families,
And all who need Your care today.
May we always remember
That Jesus is alive
And walks with us every day.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Nicholas Redgrove
Religious Education Coordinator

Harmony Day

On Friday the 20th of March, our Rosary Park school community came together to celebrate National Harmony Day. Harmony Day is an annual event designed to highlight and appreciate cultural diversity, inclusiveness and respect for all. It focuses on the message 'everyone belongs', something which was made clear to all upon entry to our school.



Our Harmony Day celebrations began with a whole school Liturgy, which invited us to recognise the rich diversity within our school. Through acknowledgements, songs, prayers and readings, we were reminded that everyone belongs and that our differences make us stronger.



After a goose-bump inducing whole school rendition of 'We Are Australian', open classrooms were available to any attending parents, caregivers and guests. A shared lunch shortly followed, before a variety of cultural games and activities were made available to any willing participants.

We let our Harmony Day festivities continue to be a special reminder that 'everyone belongs'. From the symbolism of the colour orange to the positive response to students speaking in their native tongue, we are grateful for all who made this special day, so memorable.





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EVENTS



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G.E.M. News

Virtual Academy INNOVATE 2026: Empowering the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs

Jaxon Chaffey, our Year 5 Virtual Academy student engaging in the Enterprise unit, immersed himself in Innovate: Bridging Business, Technology, and Education – a dynamic, real-world learning experience held at the University of Newcastle's Q Building on Honeysuckle on Monday 30th March.

Throughout the day, students explored the evolving landscape of business and technology, engaging with industry professionals, academics and mentors to deepen their understanding of innovation and entrepreneurship. From collaborative workshops to the inspiring mentor walk along the Honeysuckle foreshore, students were challenged to think critically, creatively and with purpose.

A highlight of the event was learning from an exceptional panel of presenters:

- Madison Boyd – bringing insights from running two McDonald's franchises, and working in politics and government, inspiring students to embrace a growth mindset
- Dr Stephanie Zhou – expert in innovation, entrepreneurship, and AI-driven design thinking
- Ashlee Flewitt – leading youth enterprise through the Young Business Minds Awards
- Dr Caitlin Mollica – specialising in social impact, leadership, and community development

Together, they shared powerful perspectives on leadership, innovation and creating meaningful change in the world.

We are incredibly proud of Jaxon for his creativity, curiosity and commitment to making a difference. Events like Innovate exemplify the power of connecting learning with real-world application – shaping future leaders, thinkers and changemakers.





Caroline Donohoe
Rosary Park Branxton Gifted Education Mentor

COMMUNITY DAY! GRETA TREE PLANTING

On Wednesday the 1st of April we took 15 students from Year 5 and 6 to the Greta Tree Planting Community Day! This group was made up of Year 6 leaders and Year 5 aspiring leaders!



The students learnt about the plant species native to the Branxton/ Greta area and were able to plant some of these species.

Between the 15 of us we planted over 300 native plants in the area!



We also learnt about invasive weed species and how they impact our environment. The Sticky Nightshade is a weed that is becoming a problem in our area. If you see this plant please give your local council a call!



The tree planting day was very interesting. It was interesting to learn about the plants native to the area and how replanting them helps the habitat. We also learnt that planting these plants help the local wildlife such as the Regent Honey Eater that is currently being reintroduced to its native area. It is most found in Greta. The Area we planted on use to be a horse racing course and now it is only a few metre away. This area has been deserted throughout time but with our help today we are hoping to restore the natural plants and hope to see it thrive again! - Braxton, Year 6





Weekly Awards

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

Week ending 27th March 2026 (Week 9)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Kai B	Isla C	Gloria P
Kinder White	Lawson H	Walter J	Ivy S
Year 1 Blue	Hunter W	Lottie L	George H
Year 1 White	Savannah R	Riley m	Reuben L
Year 2 Blue	Kylan K	Mon B	Aurora M
Year 2 White	William H	Ava S	Pearl B
Year 3 Blue	Bonnie D	Charlie L	James L
Year 3 White	Amarni L	James D	Lylah H
Year 4 Blue	--	--	--
Year 4 White	Ayla	Leo B	Charlie D
Year 5 Blue	Annabelle L	Mackenzie H	Finn M
Year 5 White	Anderson P	Zoe H	Kade B
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Week ending 2nd April 2026 (Week 10)

Class	Class Award One	Class Award Two	MJR Award
Kinder Blue	Navy S	Alby B	Libby S
Kinder White	Edie B	Zavier A	Matilda D
Year 1 Blue	Ari P	Harlyn H	Harvey S
Year 1 White	Gordon H	Asha W	Zaylee D
Year 2 Blue	Isla C	Thomas S	Ivy t
Year 2 White	--	--	Bruno B
Year 3 Blue	Makayla C	Mia D	Carley O
Year 3 White	Addison M	An N	Armaan S
Year 4 Blue	--	--	--
Year 4 White	Grayson B	Piper R	Harley R
Year 5 Blue	--	--	--
Year 5 White	--	--	--
Year 6 Blue	--	--	--
Year 6 White	--	--	--

Principal's Awards:

Good for kids
good for life



Healthy Screen Habits

Screens are part of everyday life, but balance is key for growing kids.

Australian guidelines recommend **limiting recreational screen time** and encouraging regular breaks, active play and good sleep routines.

Choosing screen-free time before bed and mixing screen use with movement, reading and family time helps support learning, wellbeing and healthy development.

The **Australian Guidelines** recommend no more than **2 hours** of recreational screen time (not including schoolwork) for children aged 5-17.



Source: <https://www.health.gov.au/>





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.

www.smallsteps4hannah.com

HANNAH'S STORY

Presented by
Michael Jeh
DV Prevention Educator



Small Steps 4 Hannah

This session aims to create more awareness and empower members of the community about the early warning signs of coercive control and the tragic but inspirational story of Hannah Clark, her children and family.

Brought to you by



Booking via QR or Try booking

Thursday 21st. May
Club Macquarie,
Argenton
2:00 PM




AFTER SCHOOL




REGISTRATIONS OPENING EARLY TERM 2

4 WEEK AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM | STARTS WED 20/5

RUN ON SCHOOL GROUNDS | 3:15PM - 4:15PM

ALL PARTICIPANTS RECIEVE AN AUSKICK/SUPERKICK PACK (SEE BELOW)



AUSKICK AGES 5-7



STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFO!



SUPERKICK AGES 8-12

Tues 7/4
Wed 8/4
Thurs 9/4
8:30am till 11:30am



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Greta Branxton Colts RLFC

🍌 Junior Players Wanted – Join the Colts in 2026! 🐎💙

The Greta Branxton Colts are still looking for a few more players to complete our teams for the 2026 season.

We are currently seeking:

- 🍌 UNDER 6'S- 2 PLAYERS
- 🍌 UNDER 7'S- 3 PLAYERS
- 🍌 UNDER 8'S- 2 PLAYERS
- 🍌 UNDER 9'S- 1 PLAYER
- 🍌 UNDER 10'S- 4 PLAYERS
- 🍌 U14 GIRLS TACKLE (13 AND 14 YEAR OLD GIRLS)

If your child is keen to be part of a supportive community club, we would love to welcome you to the Colts family.

Please use the link below to register

<https://profile.mysideline.com.au/register/clubsearch>

🔔 Please share this post and help us fill these teams so all our kids can take the field in 2026! 💙🍌🐎

PLAYERS NEEDED!

- UNDER 6'S- 2 PLAYERS
- UNDER 7'S- 3 PLAYERS
- UNDER 8'S- 2 PLAYERS
- UNDER 9'S- 1 PLAYER
- UNDER 10'S- 4 PLAYERS
- U14 GIRLS TACKLE (13 AND 14 YEAR OLD GIRLS)

 Colts

Hunter Wetlands Centre SCHOOL HOLIDAYS FUN

All About Lizards
 Everyday of School Holidays
 Look for Lizards on our Sensory Trail and in our Lizard Lounge. Complete the Quiz and you could WIN a prize!
 Cost: FREE with Entry

Wetlands After Dark!
 Wed 8th and 15th at 6.30pm
 Join our Expert Guide on this special after dark tour.
 Cost: \$7.50 Kids / \$15 Adult (suitable for 5years+)

Book Online

Campfire Yarns
 Fri 10^h April at 4pm-6pm
 Join Aunty Theresa for aboriginal storytelling around the fire.
 Cost: \$25 kids/ \$35 Adults (suitable for 12 years+)

Book Online

Reptile Encounters
 EVERY Wed, Sat & Sun at 11am
 We've added EXTRA Reptile Encounter shows for the school holidays! Meet & learn about our reptile residents!
 Cost: \$5pp + Entry

PLUS
 BBQ PICNICS
 PLAYGROUNDS
 CANOES
 GUIDED WALKS
 BIKE TRAILS

Critters & Craft
 Wed 8th & 15th April 10am-12pm
 Drop in from 10am-12pm for Lizard Craft and a close up look at our pond critters!
 Cost: FREE with Entry

1 Wetlands Pl, Shortland NSW | wetlands.org.au/upcoming-events

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