



MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

5-15 Windrock Ave Mt Ridley PO Box 433 Craigieburn VIC 3064

Phone: 7303 1200

Email: principal@motherteresa.catholic.edu.au

www.motherteresa.catholic.edu.au

NEWSLETTER

December 6th 2021

*"Unless we believe and see Jesus in the appearance of bread on the altar,
we will not be able to see him in the distressing disguise of the poor."*

Mother Teresa

To All In Our Learning Community,

In this final newsletter for 2021 I wish extend my thanks to the Mother Teresa Primary School staff and all families for their ongoing support of our learning community this year. To our children you are truly amazing- your resilience and capacity to move from onsite learning to remote learning in a matter of hours on a few occasions is commendable. While for some remote learning was challenging and for others the return to school routine brought different challenges, you continued to embrace the learning opportunities that came your way. There is no doubt it was not the year we were expecting.

During the year we eagerly waited for lockdowns to be over and then discovered we were in lockdown again. We sought answers to a cure of this disease. Some farewell loved ones and others cared for the sick. We now experience a greater sense of hope as we tentatively engage with others and reconnect with family and friends. Many of these experiences were foreign to us...but are they?

The Anawim, a Hebrew word describing the poor, the marginalised, the meek and humble continued to remain faithful to God in times of hardship and difficulty. This faithful remnant as they were also know waited for the coming of the Messiah, the king who would set them free. While we live within a prosperous country with access to basic needs including health care we have perhaps been given a glimpse of the experience of waiting and longing. This waiting and longing for the Anawim and the Christian today is realised in the birth of Jesus, celebrated at Christmas. A life that provided hope for the faithful remnant, a life that ended in death that led to resurrection – a new and everlasting life. A life that brought and brings hope, love and peace.

As we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas we are invited to recall the poor and needy and take action that makes the presence of Jesus a reality in the lives of all people. One way we can do this is through participating in the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. For further details about this appeal see the body of the newsletter.

Christmas Blessing to you and your family. Every blessing for the New Year!

Kind Regards,

Chris

This Week's Happenings

Monday 6th December

Tuesday 7th December

*Professional Learning – Faith and Life Inquiry
Year 6 Farewell Mass 7pm*

Wednesday 8th December

Professional Learning – Faith and Life Inquiry

Thursday 9th December

*School closure Day – Planning 2022
No school for children*

Friday 10th December

Confirmation Celebration 7pm

School Closure Day ~ this Thursday 9th December

This coming Thursday 9th December the staff will be engaged in a planning day for 2022 with our educational consultant Kath Murdoch. As per termly dates published there will be no school for children this day.

Year 6 Farewell and Mass ~ this Tuesday 7th December

Our Year 6 children will have the opportunity to celebrate their years of primary school at a Mass and Farewell to be held this Tuesday 7th December 7pm at Our Lady's Church. This celebration can include parents and siblings.

Confirmation Celebration ~ this Friday 10th December 7pm

Our Year 6 children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Friday December 10th 7pm at Our Lady's Church in Craigieburn. Fr Varghese will be the principal celebrant and confer the sacrament.

All Adults attending the sacramental celebrations are required to be fully vaccinated and will be required to provide proof of vaccination through the Service Victoria App or a hardcopy of their vaccination certificate.

Density limits no longer apply for religious celebrations, which means an invitation can be extended to family members who are fully vaccinated.

Staff Farewell

Next week we farewell two staff. Miss Kirby Fisher is joining the school community of St Mary's, Lancefield and Ms Annette Gasbarro is joining the learning community of St Fidelis, Moreland. We wish both Miss Fisher and Ms Gasbarro all the very best as they join their new community in 2022. We thank them for all they have contributed over their time with us. We will have the opportunity to formally farewell them at our final whole school prayer for 2021 next week.

We also thank Mrs Karen Larkin for her work with us this year after coming out of retirement to engage with some of our Foundation to Year 2 children.

School Photos 2021 – Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School

Annual school photos have been taken by Arthur Reed Photos.

To view the images of your child and order photos, you will need to first register online.

1. Go to <https://order.arphotos.com.au> and enter the 2021 image code for your child (*from their personalized flyer*)
2. Tap on 'Add another child' to enter the image codes of any siblings
3. Fill in your email and mobile details and then review all details before confirming your registration

That's it! When 2021 photos are ready, you will be notified by email and SMS.

Even if you registered last year, it's important that you do it again each year using your child's new image code to link their photos for the current year with your contact details.

To ensure you are ordering school photos for the current year, please wait for notifications that 2021 images are online before placing orders.

In the webshop you can view photos and customize your photo package; Choose ANY layout, ANY image and purchase multiple digital image downloads.

All photo orders will be sent directly to the address you provide when ordering.

REGISTER ONLINE NOW to be notified when 2021 school photos can be viewed and ordered.

End of Year School Reports

Each family will receive an email next Monday indicating that their child's report is ready to be accessed. Please check your junk mail if you have not received it in your inbox!

COVIDSafe Steps

Minimising the transition of COVID-19 means we are committed to the 'Three Vs of, Vaccination, Ventilation and Vital COVIDSafe Steps, these include:

- ensuring any workers and visitors on site meet the current vaccination requirements

- taking all steps possible to maximise external air flow and good ventilation
- wearing and encouraging the wearing of face masks
- reduce congestion at the beginning and end of the school day
- maintaining physical distancing between staff and where possible, students
- maintaining strong hygiene practice (Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd)

Parents are asked not to enter the school grounds unless they require to go to reception. Access to reception is via our Windrock Ave school entry gate. You are required to use the QR code prior to entry and to wear a mask.

Unwell children

Children who are unwell are NOT to be sent to school. Please seek medical attention or access COVID testing if you or your child are unwell or have COVID symptoms (e.g. runny nose).

We ask that all families are aware of the requirement to remain in isolation as per health directives if they are COVID positive or in contact with a tier one exposure. If it is a school contact you are required to provide a negative PCR test to the school before returning children to school.

Education Contacts are required to have a negative COVID-19 PCR test before returning to school. In addition, Education Contacts are strongly recommended to have a negative PCR test 6 days after last contact with a case (no quarantine required while awaiting result).

Education Contacts are strongly recommended to daily rapid antigen tests (RAT) when attending school.

Your ongoing support of our learning community for the health and welling of all in our community is appreciated.

Mother Teresa PS Mini Vinnies Team



The Mini Vinnies group are supporting the St Vincent de Paul Society, by organising and arranging donations for their 2021 Christmas Appeal. We are seeking to reach out and show compassion others by donating basic pantry items. Through these donations we will be able to help those families in need during Christmas time.

We invite you to donate what you can. Some of the non-perishable items that you could donate include:

- Pasta
- Canned Food
- Rice
- Tomato Sauce
- Dried Fruit
- Self-raising and plain flour
- Cereals and Oatmeal
- And any other pantry items

Donations can be left in baskets around the school from tomorrow Tuesday 30th November until Friday the 10th of December. The Mini Vinnies team will be collaborating in collecting and organising these items.

Thank you, Zara and Keana on behalf of the Mini Vinnies Team.

End of year ~Tuesday 14th December

Our school year will conclude for children on Tuesday 14th December at 3.30. We will conclude as is our school tradition with whole school prayer at 3pm. Staff will conclude school on Wednesday 15th December after engaging in further planning for 2022.

2022 Book Packs

Book packs are ordered through WINC online service and **if ordered and paid for by 1st December 2021 delivery fee will be avoided.** The order form for book packs have been forwarded to families. For your reference the site is wincschools.com.au and the Mother Teresa Primary School access key is 5TY6X. A softy copy is attached to today's newsletter also.

School Year 2022 ~ Start Dates

Our school year will begin on different days depending on your child's year level. Please note when your child is to return to school.

Monday January 31st 2022 - Years 1, 3 & 5 children to come to school for the day.

Year 1, 3 & 5 children are required to attend school in their full summer school uniform and to bring their brain food, morning tea and lunch and all stationary to school this day.

This includes books, pens, pencils, glue sticks, book box, two boxes of tissues, art smock and headphones.

This will be a normal school day for the children. They will have their photo taken and engage in a number of literacy and numeracy tasks. School will begin at 8.50am and conclude at 3.30pm.

Tuesday February 1st 2022 - Years 2, 4 & 6 children to come to school for the day.

Year 2, 4 & 6 children are required to attend school in their full summer school uniform and to bring their brain food, morning tea and lunch and all stationary to school this day.

This includes books, pens, pencils, glue sticks, book box, two boxes of tissues, art smock and headphones.

This will be a normal school day for the children. They will have their photo taken and engage in a number of literacy and numeracy tasks. School will begin at 8.50am and conclude at 3.30pm.

Wednesday February 2nd 2022 - All children Foundation to Year 6 at school

Foundation children will commence school at 8.50am if they have siblings at school and 9.30am if they are new to our community.

Foundation to Year 6 children at school today



Movember – Thanks

Tuesday of last week saw the end of November and therefore the end of Movember. A big thank you to the members of our community who supported our Movember fundraising effort either through donations or encouragement. The “Mo Bros” raised over \$1700 towards Men's mental health awareness and research for prostate and testicular cancer.

What's Happening in the Learning Spaces

“Parents should be educated in the language of schooling, so that the home and school can share the expectations, and the child does not have to live in two worlds – with little understanding between the home and the school”. John Hattie, 2009

Foundation - Year 2 Learning Spaces

The ‘Taking Action’ phase of inquiry allows students to assess their final understanding and growth in skills. (Kath Murdoch, 2015)

As **inquirers** we are entering the **taking action** phase of our inquiry into the arts. We are **reflecting** on what we have learnt to apply new skills. As learners we have had time and opportunity to participate in writing conferences. During these experiences we engaged in dialogue with our



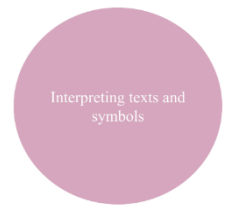
peers to share a personal story. The aim of sharing a story is to teach others about ourselves. As **writers** we have made our stories visible for others to read by developing a storyboard or narrative. As **thinkers** we will find ways to be creative and share the same story through a different art form.

We will have time and opportunity to **reflect** on our journey of inquiry this term. As **thinkers** we will reflect on the ways in which applied the skills of a **researcher** by considering the following 'I can... statements'.

- *I can use my creativity to share my thinking in different ways.*
- *I can explain my thinking.*
- *I can give reasons.*

We will use a scale to assess our own abilities to apply each of these skills. To extend our thinking further we will justify our thinking by engaging in the thinking routine '**What makes me say that is...**'

As people of a Catholic faith community we have entered the **Season of Advent**. We will have time to engage in dialogue with others in our learning community and **activate our prior knowledge** to share what we already know. As hermeneutical learners will then have the opportunity to **interpret** various signs and symbols and identify the connection to Advent. To extend our thinking further we will respectfully listen to songs such as 'Come, Lord Jesus, Come.' As **thinkers** we will **interpret** the song lyrics and make connections to the ways in which Christians prepare and wait for the coming of Jesus.



As **readers** we are continuing to use PM eCollection each day to consolidate a various reading strategies that we have been learning. We will continue to engage in focus groups to listen to a variety of stories and consider the way in which narratives have a *beginning*, *middle* and *end*. Many of us continue to focus on onset and rimes, digraphs and syllables. We encourage children who are learning sight words to continue being **persistent** by practicing each day.



As **mathematicians**, we will continue to participate in small focus groups to apply different strategies to solve a range of multiplication and division problems. Many of us continue to **find out** about equal groups, arrays, skip counting and repeated addition. As **thinkers** we look for connections between multiplication and division. When engaging in dialogue with others we always remember to **justify our thinking** to share how we solve a problem.



Year 3 – 4 Learning Spaces

As a **Catholic dialogue** school, we will continue to have **time** and **opportunity** to inquiry into the season of **Advent**. We will use the key thinking moves **activating prior knowledge**, **describing**, **interpreting** and **wondering** as we engage in the thinking routine **See Think Me We**. As **hermeneutical learners**, we will **interpret** the symbols related to Advent and **reflect critically** on what we think they symbolize within the Catholic faith. We will allow opportunities for Catholics believers as well as **believers from different faiths** to make meaning of these within their own lives and community.

This term, we have been engaged in a Faith and Life Inquiry focused on the **role of art in communities**. We have **reviewed**, **revised** and **reflected** on what we have learned and will be working towards putting our learning into action. We will be designing artworks to represent the **Bridging Centre**. We have identified the piece of art we want to create and the message we want to express. Some of us will have **opportunities** to **collaborate** with others and while others will work individually. During this process, we will strengthen our **collaboration** skills and consider how we might share our ideas respectfully when we work in groups.

We will spend some time next week **reflecting** on ourselves as **mathematicians**. We will look back at the **skills** and **strategies** we have learnt over the semester and continue to consolidate them. As part of identifying our **growth over time** and areas for **further improvement** we have been engaging in

individual 1:1 **Maths Assessment Interviews** and **post assessments** to identify the changes in our thinking and mathematical understanding in relation to **multiplication and division**.

Year 5 – 6 Learning Spaces

Our year 5/6 children will be engaged in lots of celebrations this week!

This Tuesday evening we farewell our Year 6 children at a Mass and presentation evening. In a COVID-19 environment our year 5/6 children will also celebrate this farewell with a movie day and pizza lunch at school.

A number of our Year 6 children will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday evening. We wish all our Confirmation candidates all the best.

As a Catholic Dialogue school our learning related to this Sacrament has enabled us to consider the ways in which Catholic believers seek to live lives that reflect the presence of the Holy Spirit alive and active. In particular, our inquiry into the lives of the saints and those beatified saw us explore the life of Blessed Carlos Acutis, a young contemporary beatified 10th October 2020. His life is one example of how we might live today. This learning has enabled us to see a different perspective on the life's of the saints who at time can seem far from us.

As reflective learning this week we will continue to document our Faith and Life Inquiry journey related to the arts. We will also have the time and opportunity hear all voice as we evaluate our Faith and Life Inquiry learning this year and consider the areas of learning we would like to engage in next year.

Learning Hermeneutically

As part of Faith and Life inquiry, we reflect on our dialogue using hermeneutical prompts. This week we invite families and our wider community to find out and sort out their own thinking about the prompt, '*Allowing the Catholic tradition to affirm and sometimes confront my view,*' in the context of the season of Advent.



Allowing the
Catholic tradition to
affirm and
sometimes confront
my view

This hermeneutical prompt invites us to consider how the Catholic story and tradition shapes our own belief. There are times where we may feel that Catholic tradition aligns with our personal view of the world. There are other times where we may feel challenged by the Catholic tradition. It is through continual reflection and being open to dialogue that we are able to come to an understanding about what Catholic tradition means for us today, as individuals and as a Catholic Dialogue School community. It is through such dialogue that we are able to be open to encountering God's love.

The season of Advent makes up part of the traditions and rituals of the Catholic Church. The word Advent means 'waiting'. It is a time where Christian believers are invited to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus through prayer.

This week you are invited to dialogue about this prompt with your children. What do they understand about Catholic tradition? As a family you are invited to use the following questions to reflect about what the season of Advent might mean for you today;

- In dialogue with the Catholic tradition how might the Advent season invite you and your family to be open to the presence of Christ in the world today?
- Where might you be able to see visible signs of hope, love, joy and peace this Advent amongst the business of our daily lives?
- If you are a non-Christian believer or from another Christian tradition how might the Catholic tradition provide insight into your own faith or worldview?

Visual Arts

Express- I can learn to create works that convey an idea, a feeling or a meaning.

As **thinkers** we have been **tuning in** and **finding out** about the Studio Habit “Express”

As **artists** we **explored** how art can help tell our story and the story of others.



“My art tells the story about when I was three my family went to Iraq. We had a tiny house and there were shops near my house. It was very hot in Iraq. After two years we came back to Australia.”

William



“My art tells the story about me at my home. I like playing with my dog and watching the sun from my backyard. Sometimes I can feel sad but when I see a rainbow in the sky I feel happy.”

Ally



“My art tells the story of a man who is going to the park. He will sit on the bench and watch the people play.”

Stella

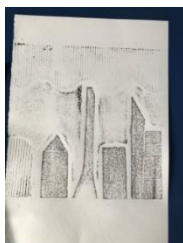


“My art tells the story about me and my friends having a play date. We are blowing up balloons and making funny shapes with them. We played on the trampoline too. I always feel so happy when I play with my friends.”

Aylen

Develop Craft

As **thinkers** we have been **tuning in** and develop Craft **finding out** about the Studio Habit **Develop Craft**. We have been learning to use tools, materials and new techniques to make artworks. We are continuing to develop our knowledge and understanding of different Printmaking techniques such as stamping, stencils and collagraphs



Sometimes the paper moves when we are printing and the print doesn't come out as we had planned. But that's ok! It's great to see what happens. No two prints are ever exactly the same!

As artists and communicators we have been observing our prints and discussing which print we think is the most successful and why. “I like this one best because in this print the tree looks good to me”.

Gabriel



Physical Education

“All kids need is a little help, a little hope and someone who believes in them.” - Magic Johnson.

In Physical Education learning this week all students will be engaging in learning with a major focus on the **fundamental movement skills** and the **Teaching Games for Understanding** model.

Foundation to Year two students will be practicing and revising their fundamental movement skills particularly the overarm throw with a major focus also on catching. Students will be activating their **prior knowledge** as we continue to **explore** sports that incorporate both throwing and catching.

Year 3/ 4 will also be practicing their fundamental movement skills particularly the overarm throw and be applying these as they engage in play based learning activities. As **learners**, students will be practicing the correct sequence when performing this skill and will be learning to throw with accuracy as they engage in games which will require them to think tactically.

Year 5/ 6 will continue to learn about the sport of golf. Through their learning we will learn about the importance of our posture, our stance when hitting and our body's position when making impact with the ball. Students will also learn about the importance of taking a full swing of the golf club when striking the ball.



Sustainability Learning

"...young people have a new ecological sensitivity and a generous spirit, and some of them are making admirable efforts to protect the environment..." (Pope Francis, Laudato Si #209)

This week a group of **Sustainability learners** will continue planting and preparing our vegetable garden for our summer harvest. A selection of vegetables and herbs such as tomatoes, celery, silver beet, spring onions, corn, beans, spinach, basil, oregano, thyme and chives will be planted in preparation for our summer harvest. We extend our thanks to all the families from our learning community for donating various vegetable seedlings or plants. As a school community we are happy to accept any seasonal vegetable seedling or plants that can be planted in our vegetable garden.

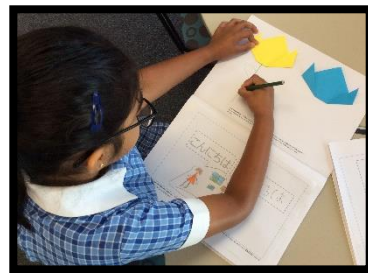
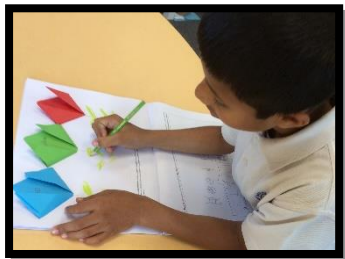


As a **learning community** we extend our thanks to all our **Sustainability leaders** Loveleen, Zara, Gabriella, Jessica, Lavenya, Stevie-Lee, Claudia, Amelia, Henry, Arusaan, Olivier, Breeta, Bethany, Keana, Tawonga, Toby, Shri-Shan, Brodie, Cassidy, Ryan and Mili for their ongoing commitment and amazing leadership for 2021. One of the major highlights for our leaders this year has been implementing the **kids teaching kids** program across our learning community. Throughout the year they have **demonstrated leadership, commitment** and ongoing support to our **learning community**. We

wish all our leaders the best for the future and hope that some will continue to share their expertise in this area in 2022.

Japanese

In **Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2** we have engaged in creating tulips using paper folding or **origami**. As part of this learning we have **made connections** with words for colours in Japanese. As **creative thinkers** and **collaborators** we followed teacher directions as we created our own origami tulip display.



In **Year 3-4** we will continue to **explore** words for **months of the year** in Japanese. As **thinkers** we will make **connections** with words for **months of the year** and **numbers** we already know. We will also explore what these words look like in kanji characters. We will make our thinking visible by creating a bookmark showing the month of our birthday in Japanese.

In **Year 5-6** we will continue to explore words for **months of the year** in Japanese. As **thinkers** we will **activate prior knowledge** about numbers and words for months of the year as we create a calendar page for a month of our choice. We will **make our thinking visible** by labeling the month of the year and dates on the calendar page in kanji characters. We will also decorate the calendar to represent the month we are creating the calendar about using images of the seasons and significant events for that time of year.

Cyber Safety

“As the world is increasingly interconnected, everyone shares the responsibility of securing cyberspace” - Newton Lee

In **Foundation - Year 2** we have been continuing to develop our understanding of using laptops particularly logging on, signing into our student accounts and creating documents using Google Docs. Some of the students from LS6 shared what they have learned over the last few weeks using the sentence starter **I have learnt**.

- **I have learnt** that you don't share your doc with anyone you don't know.
- **I have learnt** that you don't just press any button
- **I have learnt** how to change the colour of the page and the words on the page
- **I have learnt** that it saves on its own
- **I have learnt** how to change the colour of the words
- **I have learnt** about finding a background for the doc
- **I have learnt** how to change the colour of the background.

This week in **Year 3/4** and **Year 5/6** we have engaged in learning about **Digital Footprints, Internet Safety** and **Online Trolls** following on from topics covered during remote learning and connected to some of our learning from Terms 1 and 2 and covering a wide range of topics including posting appropriate messages, how to deal with online trolls, being aware of different terms and conditions apps have and monitoring how our data is kept safe.



On February 8th next year it will be **Safer Internet Day**, the theme of next year's day is **#PlayitFairOnline**. The aim of Safer Internet Day is to raise awareness of online safety and to encourage students to have positive online relationships.

Parent Webinars

During term 1 there are two webinars running through eSafety, **eSafety's parent guide to helping kids thrive online** and **eSafety's parent guide to cyberbullying and online drama**. Details for each are below.

Webinar Name	Date	Registration Links
eSafety's parent guide to helping kids thrive online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 8 February 12.30 to 1.30 pm Thursday 10 February 12.30 to 1.30 pm Wednesday 23 February 7.30 to 8.30 pm 	https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/7210543797385704461

Digital Technologies

"One of the reasons I love using LEGO bricks is because it makes the art very relatable and accessible; folks can connect with the art almost on a different level because they have played with it or their kids have played with it." ~ **Nathan Sawaya**

Foundation – Year 2 we will be continuing to explore Microsoft PowerPoint and learning about making a slideshow that can display different types of information. We will be curious while we use the Kiddle.co search engine to safely look up different facts about our chosen topics.

Years 3 – 6, we will continue rebuilding Lego sets for display, Lego helps us to improve many different skills. Lego can help us understand how to be engineers, as we construct different creations that use various objects such as gears, axels and wheels to create different moving objects.

Performing Arts

"Works of art make rules; rules do not make works of art." – *Claude Debussy*.

As **collaborators** and **thinkers** in Foundation, - Year 2 we will continue to tune in to the varying lengths of different musical notes. Students will be using different musical instruments to explore and discover how they can play notes that have varying lengths. This week we will be practicing the 'rest'.

As **thinkers** and **collaborators** in Year 3 - 4 we will continue exploring how to perform the hand signs for the musical notes E, G and A. Students will continue to explore the rhythmic concepts of quarter and eighth notes. Practicing to read and perform short rhythmic phrases using rhythm sticks.

As *thinkers* and *collaborators* in Year 5 -6 we will continue exploring how to perform the hand signs for the musical notes E, G and A and how these notes can be combined in different combinations on instruments to improvise and make up short melodic phrases. We will continue to explore the rhythmic concepts of quarter and eighth notes and start to explore sixteenth notes. Practicing to read and perform short rhythmic phrases using percussion instruments.

After School Care at Mother Teresa Primary School

Always Learning and Always Evolving



Term Four Dates

Tuesday 14th December

Term Four Concludes

Term One Dates 2022

Friday 28th January

Staff return

Monday 31st January

Year 1, 3 & 5 children at school

Tuesday 1st February

Year 2, 4 & 6 children at school

Wednesday 2nd February

All children at school

Welcome to our Foundation 2022 children

Monday 7th February

Child / Parent/ Teacher chats 1.30pm onwards

Children dismissed at 1pm

Wednesday 9th February

Foundation rest day

Foundation testing as per roster

Wednesday 16th February

Foundation rest day

Foundation testing as per roster

Wednesday 2nd March

Ash Wednesday

Season of Lent

Monday 14th March

Labour Day Public Holiday

No school today

Friday 8th April

Term one concludes

The following dates are correct at the time of printing. Please read the newsletter each week and note the weekly happenings particularly in light of COVID-19 health advice.