



Friday, 13th December 2024
Term 4 - Week 10 of 11

Family Carols Evening

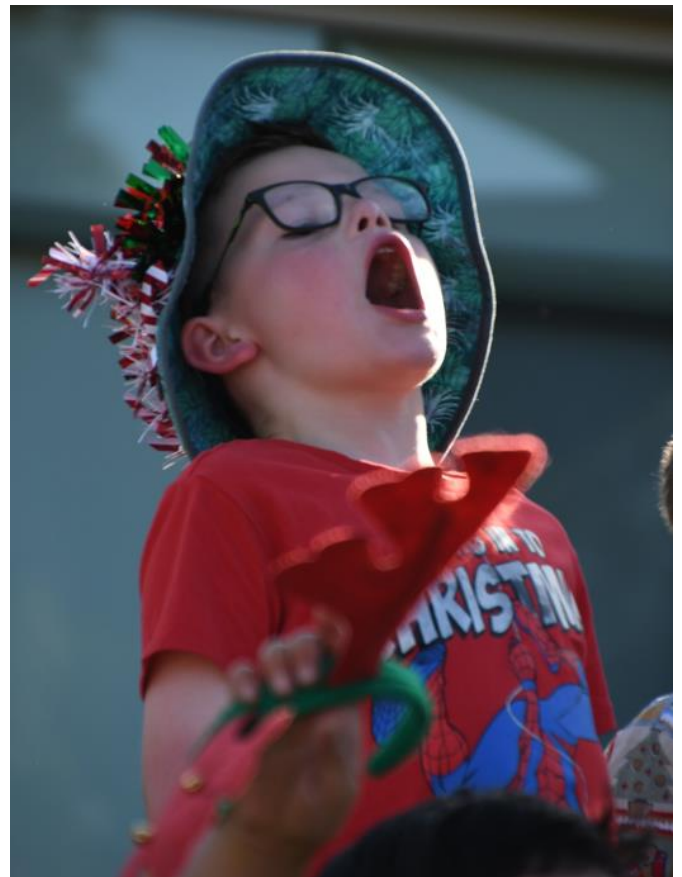


Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends

What a fabulous evening we experienced last Wednesday night. The joy, smiles and relaxed atmosphere made it such a wonderful family night for our families and friends who attended. We were blessed with the weather and an amazing attendance by all.

The photo above provides the perspective of what our children see looking back at an enormous audience. Thank you to our staff and families who have encouraged them so well in preparing them for the performance. They certainly did us all proud.

A very special thanks goes to our Performing Arts specialist teacher, Ms Lauren Jaimeson. Her organisation, planning, communication and enthusiasm were rewarded by the outstanding performance of our students and the joyful atmosphere created by the participation of our families.



Next Week's Ceremonies and Activities

Monday: 16th December

Year 6 Big Day Out

Grade 6 students will be having a great day at Torquay undertaking a course in surfing and kayaking with the company "Go Ride a Wave" to celebrate their final week at St Catherine's and undertake further water safety learning. We ask that parents please ensure that they are present at the school no later than **5.30pm (expected arrival time)** to collect their child. It's a big day out and they will be looking forward to getting home for a shower, dinner and bed. **Please ensure that your child is at school no later than 8.15am. We are not waiting for late comers.**

*A Reminder To Make Sure Your Child
Wears Sunscreen.*

Tuesday: 17th December

Parent Helper Afternoon Tea 2.15pm

An opportunity to thank the many parents who have assisted us throughout the year as parent helpers. Their assistance has been invaluable in enhancing our ability to access resources along with supporting children's learning.

Prep Christmas Nativity 2.30pm

Prep students will be performing the Christmas Nativity to the school community at 2.30pm. It will be performed in the school hall. All welcome

Year 6 Graduation Liturgy & Presentations – 6.00pm

The agenda for the evening is as follows:

- Welcoming
- Liturgy
- Video presentation
- Speeches by School Captains & teachers.
- Presentation of Graduation Gift that consists of 2025 Grade 6 Year Book, Graduation Certificate

Wednesday 18th December

Last Day Of School

9.15am – 10.15am
10.45am – 10.55am
10.55am – 11.25am
12.30pm – 1.05pm
1.05pm – 1.15pm
1.15pm – 1.45pm
2.00pm – 2.45pm

End Of Year Mass

Eating Time
Morning Recess
Final Classroom clean
Eating Time
Afternoon recess

End of Year Awards

Including the announcement of our **2025 Student Leaders**

2.45pm

All classes gathered on the oval.

2.55pm

Year 6s move to the centre of the oval surrounded by remainder of school. Once all gathered, a special blessing and farewell takes place.

3.05pm

Prep to Year 5s return to the classrooms to collect bags. Year 6s to remain on oval with family and friends.

3.15pm

Prep to Year 5's dismissed from classrooms and Year 6's dismissed from oval.

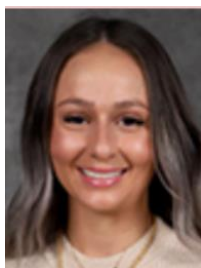


Staffing Update

We are very pleased to welcome Louise Talarno to St Catherine of Siena. Louise will be teaching Grade 6C

Also joining our staff is Miss Maree Nesci. Maree is

currently finalising her teaching qualifications and will join us as a Learning Support Officer in anticipation of formal VIT verification occurring early next year. She comes with tremendous recommendations from her current school employers, and we are looking forward to her working with the Year 1 team.



CRAFTING A MEANINGFUL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



Congratulations to Priscilla L (5A), whose Acknowledgement of Country Design was selected as the winning design for our school in creating a large display for our school hall. Priscilla will work with a graphic designer to refine her art work prior to formal publication and printing of it. We have taken the opportunity to republish the meaning behind the artwork presented.



In this drawing I chose to use red, black and yellow. These are the colours on the Aboriginal flag. I drew moving kangaroo footprints because kangaroos are an Australian native animal.

On the bottom right, I drew the symbol for people meeting in a group. This represents the community. I then started to get creative so I decided to draw a connected water hole in the colours black, red and yellow.

The handprint with the Aboriginal flag is a connection to the indigenous Australians, who are the custodians of our land. Underneath the hand, I drew a snake to represent the Dreamtime story about creation.



Enrolment Availability

It is great to see new enrolments occurring each day as we move closer to the **2025 school year**.

Following discussion with the staff and agreeing on class numbers as prescribed by the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement, class sizes are capped at the following numbers:

Prep to Year 2 – maximum **26** students per class
Year 3 to Year 6 – maximum **28** students per class

Based upon these numbers, we would like to take this opportunity to advise parents that there is limited spaces in many of our year levels next year.

The following outlines the current spaces available for the 2025 school year. Please note that once we have reached the cap for that year level, all further applications are placed on a wait list. This was the case for the Year 5's this year.

Prep – 2 further enrolments available
Year 1 - 12 further enrolments available
Year 2 - 11 further enrolments available
Year 3 - 9 further enrolments available
Year 4 - 10 further enrolments available
Year 5 - 4 further enrolments available
Year 6 - 3 further enrolments available

As the school's academic performance continues to grow and our current families continue to speak highly of the school, we envisage that there will be strong growth in the coming years. Since the 2023 August census of 487 students, we are expecting our 2025 February census to be 515 students. The school has a maximum capacity of 570 students across 21 classrooms.

If you know of families with children who may be commencing school in **2026**, we would strongly encourage you to ask them to contact the school to register their child's name. There is no cost associated with this, however it is an opportunity to ensure a placement, in alignment with our enrolment policy, when the time comes.

2025 Prep Transition

Today, our new Prep students for 2025, together with their parents and carers, gathered for one last time. We began this session with a very simple prayer that we would like to share with all parents. It's a prayer of blessing for our children, a reminder of our own relationship with God and the responsibility we have in doing our utmost as parents and teachers in raising our children "to be who God meant them to be".

A little hint – if you wish to pray this prayer with your child, as you use the words "I bless you", use your thumb to make the sign of the Cross upon their eyes, mouth, ears and heart. In turn, you might like to invite your child to bless you in the same way.

I bless your eyes

***May you always see the wonders
of God's creation in this
wonderful world***

I bless your mouth

***May you always speak in a kind
and generous way to and of
others***

I bless your ears

***May you always be open to
hearing the stories of your family
and your faith***

I bless your heart

***May you always love as I love you
and as God loves you***

***You are precious to me and to
God.....***

Remember your Baptism,

***I bless you in the name of the
Father, and of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit.***

Amen.





[Luke 3:10-18](#)

A reading from the this weekend's holy Gospel according to Luke:

What, then, must we do?

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.



There Is Something of Danny in All of Us.

A Reflection On This Weekend's Gospel



During Advent, Daniel went to his mother demanding a new bicycle for Christmas.

'Danny, we can't afford it', she said, 'so write a letter to Jesus and pray for one instead.'

'Dear Jesus, I've been a good boy this year and would appreciate a new bicycle. Your friend, Daniel.'

Now Danny guessed that Jesus really knew he was a brat so he tore it up and tried again.

'Dear Jesus, I've been an OK boy this year and I want a new bicycle. Yours truly, Daniel.'

Danny knew this wasn't true so he tore it up and tried again.

'Dear Jesus, I've thought about being a good boy so may I have a new bicycle? Daniel.'

Finally, Danny thought better of making these false claims and so ran to the Church.

He went inside and stole a small statue of Mary and ran out the door. He went home, hid it under his bed and wrote this letter.

'Jesus, let's face it, I've broken most of the Commandments; tore up my sister's doll and lots more. I'm desperate. I've got your mother Mary, if you ever want to see her again, give me a bike for Christmas. You know who.'

There is something of Danny in all of us.

We often think that we can bargain with God to get the best possible deal out of life. The problem with this bargaining image is that it is based on faith that does not believe in Advent. The bargaining image of God is the furthest thing from the mind of the

writers of today's readings – Zephaniah, the Canticle from Isaiah, Philippians and Luke. Each of them rejoices in the undeserved gift God gives to the world. We do not deserve God's love given to us in the Babe of Bethlehem. It is God's overflowing goodness which pours out in Jesus and through him and the Spirit we have been welcomed into the family of God and bear his name.

These Scriptures remind us that God has not held back one thing in his love for us. By becoming one with us in our flesh, God has done everything he can to assure us of his saving love. He has shown us all what can be shown about how to live lives of sacrifice, justice and love to transform our world.

In this Sunday's Gospel people are full of wanting to know what they can do to earn God's love. The crowds, tax collectors and soldiers ask what they can do to gain God's favour. While there is much to do, Advent reminds us every year that all we do is a response to the initial, undeserved goodness of God.

Still the image of us 'doing a deal' with God is so prevalent in our theology and prayer. 'I will be a better person if I get well.' 'I will return to Sunday Mass if I pass my exams.'

All dreadful stuff. And the Church has to take some responsibility for this and correct it.

Advent teaches us that we have to witness to a God who risked everything so that we might know love and life in this world and in the next. We hold and proclaim, in season and out of season, a God who emptied himself of power and might and came to us as a baby.

That's not the profile of a deal-doer. It's the portrait of a lover.

**“THEN THE GRINCH
THOUGHT OF SOMETHING
HE HADN'T BEFORE!**



**WHAT IF CHRISTMAS, HE
THOUGHT, DOESN'T COME
FROM A STORE.**

**WHAT IF CHRISTMAS ...
PERHAPS ... MEANS A
LITTLE BIT MORE?"**

– DR SEUSS



2025

Week 1

Monday 27/01

- **Australia Day Public Holiday**
- *Saints Timothy and Titus*
- *Saint Angela Merici*

Tuesday 28/01

- *Saint Thomas Aquinas*
- **School Closure**
- 2025 Staff Planning Day –
 - Welcoming of new staff
 - Staff Handbook - Code of Conduct
 - School Organisation
 - Student Medical Needs
 - Student Profile Books
 - Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEP)

Wednesday 29/01

- **Grade 1 to Grade 6 Students Return To School**
- **Preps Testing Day**
- Appointments for Prep students re testing

Thursday 30/01

- **Prep Testing Day**

Friday 31/01

- **Prep Testing Day**
- *Saint John Bosco*

Saturday 01/02

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Sunday 02/02

- The Presentation of the Lord *Luke 2: 22-40*
- 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - WHITE

Week 2

Monday 03/02

- *Saint Ansgar and Saint Blaise*
- **Preps first day of school - 8.50am till 1.30pm**
- Exec Team 9.30 – 11.00am
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm – 4.30pm
- Exec Team 9.30 – 11.00am
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm – 4.30pm

Tuesday 04/02

- **Parent Helper Training 9.00am (Legal & Classroom Support)**
- **Preps second day of school - 8.50am till 1.30pm**

Wednesday 05/02

- *Saint Agatha*
- **Prep Day Off - Scheduled testing of Prep students**
- **Whole School Mass 9.15am – Opening Of School Year**
- Commissioning of staff

Thursday 06/02

- **Prep Students commence full school days: 8.50am – 3.15pm**
- *Saints Paul Miki and Companions*
- *Saint Josephine Bakhita*
- *Waitangi Day (NZ)*
- **Parent Helper Training 2.30pm (Legal & Classroom Support)**
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 07/02

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Saturday 08/02

- *Saint Jerome Emiliani*
- *Saint Josephine Bakhita*
- International Day of Prayer

Sunday 09/02

- An abundance of fish are caught by Simon. *Luke 5: 1-11*
- 5th Sunday In Ordinary Time -GREEN

Week 3

Monday 10/02

- *Saint Scholastica*
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30 pm
- Exec Team 9.30 – 11.00am
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Tuesday 11/02

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- *Our Lady Of Lourdes*
- **Parent Teacher Conversations 3.30 to 5.00 / 5.30 to 8.00pm**
- **No Staff Meeting**

Wednesday 12/02

- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm – Students Only
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Prep Day Off - Scheduled testing of Prep students
- **Year 6 Attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am**
- No Staff Meeting

Thursday 13/02

- *World Day of the Sick*
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- **Parent Teacher Conversations 3.30 to 5.00 / 5.30 to 8.00pm**
- **No Staff Meeting**

Friday 14/02

- *Saints Cyril and Methodius*
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Emergency Displan Practice

Sunday 16/02

- 6th Sunday In Ordinary Time -GREEN

Week 4

Monday 17/02

- 2026 Prep Enrolments Open
- Exec Team 9.30 – 11.00am
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Tuesday 18/02

- **Parent Helper Training 9.00am (Legal & Classroom Support)**
- **Parent Advisory Committee 7.00pm – 8.00pm**

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Wednesday 19/02

- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm
- Prep Day Off - Scheduled testing of Prep students

- **Year 5 Attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am**

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- **Enrolment night for Sacraments @ 7pm (Hall)- St Dominics and St Catherine of Siena**

Thursday 20/02

- WORLD SOCIAL JUSTICE DAY
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- **School Canteen Committee 7.00pm**

Friday 21/02

- *Saint Peter Damien (commemoration)*
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Saturday 22/02

- *The Chair of Saint Peter*

Sunday 23/02

- *Saint Polycarp (commemoration)*
- 7th Sunday In Ordinary Time- GREEN

Week 5

Monday 24/02

- **Prep's Commence Full-Time**
- Exec Team 9.30 – 11.00am
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Tuesday 25/02

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- **Reconciliation Family Night for St Catherine of Siena and St Dominics @ 6:30pm**

Wednesday 26/03

- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm
- **Year 4 Attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am**

Thursday 27/03

- *Saint Gregory of Narek (commemoration)*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 28/02

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Sunday 02/03

- 8th Sunday In Ordinary Time-GREEN
- Clean Up Australia Day

Week 6

Monday 03/03

- **Whole School Photo Day**
- Exec Team 9.30 – 11.00am
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Tuesday 04/03

- **Shrove Tuesday**
- *Saint Casimir (commemoration)*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 05/03

- **Ash Wednesday Mass @ 9:15am**
- Instalment 1 - Family Fee & Student Levy Payment Due
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm
- Northern Region Principal Reference Group 2.00 – 4.00pm

Thursday 06/03

- Northern Region School Improvement Network (All Day)

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 07/03

- *Saints Perpetua and Felicity (commemoration)*
- **World Day of Prayer**

Saturday 08/03

- *Saint John of God (commemoration)*
- International Women's Day
- **Reconciliation Presentation and Commitment MASS @ 6:00pm**

Sunday 09/03

- *Saint Frances of Rome (commemoration)*
- 1st Sunday of Lent-VIOLET

Week 7

Monday 10/03

- **Labour Day – Public Holiday**

Tuesday 11/03

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 12/03

- **Year 2 Attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am**
- **Sacrament of Penance 7.00pm**
- **NAPLAN Commences for Year 3 & 5**
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Thursday 13/03

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 14/03

-

Saturday 15/03

-

Sunday 16/03

- 2nd Sunday of Lent-VIOLET

Week 8

Catholic Education Week

Monday 17/03

- *Solemnity of Saint Patrick (Dress In Green)*
- *Saint Gertrude*
- Exec Team 9.30 – 11.00am
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Tuesday 18/03

- *Saint Cyril of Jerusalem*
- **Parent Advisory Committee 7.00pm – 8.00pm**
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 19/03

- *Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
- **Year 3 Attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Thursday 20/03

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 21/03

- Mass of Saint Patrick for Schools

Saturday 22/03

- *Saint Turibius de Mogrovejo (commemoration)*

Sunday 23/03

- 3rd Sunday of Lent-VIOLET

Week 9

Monday 24/03

- Exec Team 9.30 – 11.00am
- Team Leaders Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Tuesday 25/03

- *The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 26/03

- **Year 1 Attending Parish Mass @ 9:15am**
- Whole School Assembly 2.30pm

Thursday 27/03

- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Saturday 29/03

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Sunday 30/03

- 4th Sunday of Lent-VIOLET

Week 10

Wednesday 02/04

- **Last day of Term 1**
- *Saint Francis of Paola*
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm
- Student Dismissal 3.15pm

Thursday 03/04

- **School Closure Day - Staff PD**

Friday 04/04

- **School Closure Day - Staff PD**
- *Saint Isidore*



Term 1

Tuesday 28 January – Staff Planning Day

Thursday 3rd April – Team Charters

Friday 4th April – Team Charters

Term 2

Friday 6th June – School Closure Day - Teacher Time In Lieu

Term 3

Monday 3rd November – School Closure Day - Teacher Time In Lieu

Term 4

Friday 21st November– 2026 Curriculum Planning Day

Thursday 18th December – 2026 Student Handover Day

Friday 19th December – 2026 Classroom Preparation & Staff Function



Prep A

Frazer A - For excellent results in Maths fluency. What a Champion!!

Micah B - For bringing JOY into the classroom and sharing it with your team mates in Prep A.

Nelson B - For excellent results in Maths fluency. What a Champion!!

Prep B

Matilda C - For being a knowledgeable learner and correctly mapping out your words with the "oa" digraph.

Grace N - For being an inquisitive learner and always asking questions.

Prep C

Achirin G - For always displaying a love of learning and consistently producing excellent outcomes. Congratulations Achirin!

Imani M - For bringing JOY into the classroom and sharing it with your team mates in Prep C.

Aanaya K - For mapping and writing words with the 'oa' digraph. Well done Aanaya!

Year 1C

Xavier M - For demonstrating the PBL value of kindness to your peers and teachers.

Sophia N - For writing a detailed recount highlighting the events of the Christmas story. Well done!

Year 2A

Quinn B - For having a growth mindset when making a Christmas tree pop-up card. Fabulous work!

Victoria D - For showing kindness to your classmates. Well done!

Year 2B

Benjamin M - For continuing to grow in confidence by participating in our classroom learning discussions.

Dhieu A - For continuing to show the PBL value of respect towards all your peers. Well done Dhieu!

Year 2C

Mayom A - For trying hard to show our school values every day and for always showing you are ready to learn. Well done Mayom!

Sabrina S - For your positive attitude and growth mindset in all learning areas and the joy that you bring each day! Fantastic effort Sabrina!

Year 3A

Liberty G - For showing amazing growth in your PAT S results. Great work!

Mikayla M - For showing great improvement in your PAT R results. Keep up the great work!

Year 3B

Fennet T - For demonstrating the PBL value of kindness, you are always cheering others up and spreading happiness wherever you go.

Jax G - For your incredible growth in confidence throughout the year. Your determination, courage, and willingness to step out of your comfort zone have been truly inspiring. You have been an amazing part of 3B

Year 3C

Guak D - For consistently demonstrating kindness, by being helpful within the classroom. You are a wonderful classmate to have. Thank you Guak.

Chris T - For consistently demonstrating mindfulness and respect in our classroom this year. You have helped to create a positive and welcoming learning environment this year, thank you.

Year 4A

Mace Z - For showing responsibility for your learning this week. Well done!

4A Class - For your amazing growth in your learning throughout the year. Amazing effort!

Year 4B

Sarah B - For being respectful and responsible during our excursion by participating enthusiastically in all the activities.

Marco S - For showing the PBL value of kindness to your teachers and peers. Awesome!

Year 4C

Taylah C - Focus and participation in the excursion. It was great to see your dancing abilities during the traditional Indonesian dance.

Chloe A - For being a role model of PBL for the class during our excursion. You consistently demonstrate all the four PBL values of Respect, Safety, Kindness and Responsibility

Year 5B

Jamie N - For showing great improvement and growth in your learning. Great work!

Summer L - For showing the PBL value of kindness to your teachers and peers. Awesome!

Year 5C

Mia Kaltner - Demonstrating outstanding leadership qualities in and out of the classroom, you hold yourself to such high standards.

Avalon Sutton - Incredible effort crafting our 3D shapes this week and decorating them in the theme of Avent.

Year 6A

Whole of 6A- For their massive accomplishment achieved in 2024 on both an academic and socio-emotional level! It has been an absolute blast! Best grade 2024!

Year 6B

Deng A - For all your hard work this semester. Great to see you becoming so confident to make inferences and sharing your mathematical explanations with the class. I am so proud of you.

Tiffany S - For your hard work in our final maths unit. You made fantastic growth in solving algebra problems. I am so proud of you.

Year 6C

Whole of 6C- For completing Year 6! You have worked hard, shown incredible dedication and grown into fantastic learners. Congratulations on accomplishing so much this year! It has been a pleasure to teach you all! All the best for secondary school!

Mathematics Award

Logan F (4C)- For successfully recalling all the multiplication facts up to 12 x 12! Amazing effort.

Nathaniel T (4B) - For successfully recalling all the multiplication facts up to 12 x 12! Amazing effort.

Performing Arts

Nolan D (5A) – For an amazing performance at the Carols Night. Well done!

