

## ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

155 Reservoir Road, Blacktown South NSW 2148 Phone: 8869 6200

www.stmichaelsblacktown.catholic.edu.au stmichaelsblktn@parra.catholic.edu.au facebook.com/StMichaelsBlacktownSouth

#### DIARY DATES Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March YEAR 2 SWIMMING WEEK Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March

- 9-10:30am Year 1 Open classrooms followed by an early morning tea with your child 10:30-11am
- 2:15pm Queen's Platinum Jubilee Commemoration tree ceremony Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March
- Diocesan Swimming Carnival at Blacktown pool
- Parent Newsletter published
   Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March
- 9:15am NAPLAN Year 3 Writing
- 12noon NAPLAN YEAR 5 Writing

#### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March

- 9:15am NAPLAN Year 3 Reading
  12noon NAPLAN YEAR 5 Reading
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March
- St Patrick's Feast Day
- 2pm Whole School Assembly All Welcome

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Monday 20<sup>th</sup> –24<sup>th</sup> March YEAR 4 SWIMMING WEEK

- Monday 20th March
- 9:15am NAPLAN Year 3 Conventions of Language
- 12noon NAPLAN YEAR 5
   Conventions of language

# Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March HARMONY DAY CELEBRATIONS

#### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

- 9:15am NAPLAN Year 3 Numeracy
- 12noon NAPLAN YEAR 5 Numeracy

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

• Evacuation Practise

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

School Photo day

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April

Daylight Saving ends
 PALM SUNDAY

## Parent Newsletter Term 1 Week 8 2023

We acknowledge the Darug people, the traditional custodians on whose land we educate our students.

Dear Parents, Carers, Students and Friends,

Last week we celebrated Catholic Schools Week. The students and staff have been reflecting on their experiences of school and learning. They have recognised the gifts and talents of those who have taught them and those who they have learnt with. We have even heard stories that children have shared of their parent's experiences of school when they were young.



Catholic Schools week coincided with Family Week and this has certainly provided parents and children the opportunity to spend time together at school on Tuesday during the open classroom activities and on Friday

with our welcome BBQ and Disco.

This week we continue our recognition of Catholic Education on Monday with the Year 1 open classroom activities and the commemoration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Trees, on Tuesday the Diocesan Swimming Carnival and our celebration of St Patrick's Day on Friday. Children are invited to wear **GREEN MUFTI** instead of their uniform on Friday.



#### Student Attendance

Australia has one of the very best education systems anywhere in the world. Each day, our young people are provided with opportunities to learn more about the world they live in through their experiences in and out of the classroom. Schools teach children about themselves, their relationships with others and about life beyond school. This includes preparing them for the workforce.

Regular attendance at school is critical to ensuring that every student has the kind of opportunities in life that they deserve. When students are not at school, they are missing out on so much. Without the knowledge, the skills or the support that schools are so good at providing, young people can get left behind and find themselves underprepared for a fast-paced and often very challenging world. The attached infographic provides some surprising statistics worthy of our attention.

At the end of term 1, all students that have 100% attendance will be recognised and receive a certificate for their achievement.

God Bless, Mrs Sue Veling Principal



ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT St. Michael's is a Catholic community in which children, teachers and parents nurture a sense of personal worth as they work together in a safe, happy, challenging and faith-centred learning environment.

### PUPIL FREE DAYS FOR 2023

In Term 1, apart from the Pupil Free Days held on 27th and 30th January, there will be a Pupil Free Day on Monday 24th April, which has been set aside as a Formation Day for our staff.

In Term 2 the Pupil Free Day will be on Friday 9th June.

The Pupil Free days in Terms 3 & 4 are yet to be decided.

# FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents & Carers,

### NAPLAN

The official NAPLAN testing period for Years 3 & 5 is scheduled between **15th and 27th March**.

All Year 3 & Year 5 students will require headphones for the practice tests. Please make sure your child has working headphones on these days. These cannot be the Bluetooth or earbud type.



Students who are absent when their class participates in the tests can sit catch-up tests later in the test window. If your child will be away during the NAPLAN testing time, please ensure you have notified your child's teacher via the school office. Please find attached below the timetable for assessments:

	Week 8		Week 9				Week 10		
	Wednesday 15 March Day 1	Thursday 16 March Day 2	Friday 13 May Day 3	Monday 20 March Day 4	Tuesday 21 March Day 5	Wednesday 22 March Day 6	<b>Thursday</b> 23 March Day 7	Friday 24 March Day 8	Monday 27 March Day 9
Morning Session 9-11	9:15am Year 3 Writing 40 Mins	9:15am Year 3 Reading 45 Mins	9:15am Catch Up Tests	9:15am Year 3 Conventions of Language	No Tests due to Harmony Day	9:15am Year 3 Numeracy 45 Mins	9:15am Catch Up Tests	9:15am Catch Up Tests	9:15am Catch Up Tests
Middle Session 11:30am -1:30pm	12pm Year 5 Writing 42 Mins	<b>12pm</b> Year 5 Reading 50 Mins	11:45am Catch Up Tests	45 Mins 12pm Year 5 Conventions of Language 45 Mins *Last day for Year 3 Writing Catch Up tests	249	12pm Year 5 Numeracy 50 Mins			

### **Royal Life Saving Incursions**

Over the last two weeks, we had the Royal Life Saving visit Years 1-6 for a 'Water Smart' incursion. Royal Life Saving's goal is to make every Australian kid 'Water Smart' so they can enjoy a lifetime of active and safe participation in aquatic sports and recreation. Students learnt about dangers around aquatic environments and safe behaviours, reach and throw rescue techniques and basic resuscitation.

Miss Rebecca Teulan Assistant Principal



### KINDERGARTEN 2024 ENROLMENTS ARE NOW OPEN INFORMATION SESSION & SCHOOL TOURS SATURDAY 29th APRIL at 10AM FRIDAY 23rd JUNE 4PM

Please pass this information onto neighbours, friends etc. who may be interested in enrolling their child at our wonderful school. All interested families are required to register their interest or attendance by ringing the school office on 8869 6200. Enrolment forms can be downloaded from our website or collected from the school office.

# **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

### PROJECT COMPASSION - Third Sunday of Lent



**Priscilla** lives in the Hwange district in Zimbabwe with her husband, Charles, and their two grandsons. Climate change continues to bring unprecedented challenges for people living in the most vulnerable and remote communities in Zimbabwe.

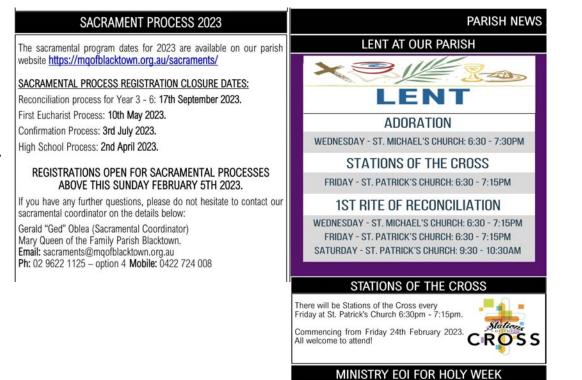
With the support of Caritas Hwange, Priscilla learnt conservation farming skills to grow drought-resistant crops to support her family during the current food crisis. Priscilla was able to produce a bumper harvest in her first year of practising conservation farming. Priscilla used the funds from her harvest to start poultry farming, which enabled her to sell eggs to pay for her grandchildren's school fees, books and stationery. The poultry farming provides a safety net for Priscilla and her family during times of hardship, like the current drought.

While the situation in Zimbabwe and across eastern Africa remains dire, the work of Caritas Hwange means that Priscilla can learn the skills she needs to build resilience and support her family during this current food crisis.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. We will send home details of when you can return your Project Compassion box. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations*.

Our World Youth Day Mufti Day raised over \$1600 to help the Diocesan pilgrims attend World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. Thank you for your generous support.

Mrs Anne Easton Religious Education Coordinator





### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED A LEARNING AWARD IN TERM 1 WEEKS 5 & 6.

#### <u>Kindergarten</u>

Kavin Maharjan, Celine Jbara, Max Krumins, Harmonie Amankwah, Valeria Okechukwu, Erik Barden, Keira Estepa, Jordan Allan, Daniel Demello, Aveneet Bhangu, Paul Cassar, Anvia Christian, Raynav Chand, Max hayton, Angie Asfour, Elisha Geda.

#### Year 1 & Year 2

Irene Rofiel, Bhavya Singh, Aubree Macklin, Alexis Christie, Charlie Krumins, Zyra Kaur, Harriet Edwards, Chantelle Bachak, Geordan Arias, Spencer Thompson, Mathew Opio, Vaughan Whitmore, Francesco Agresta, Iysha Reddy, Julian Queddeng, Kiyan Darji, Cameron Dela Cruz, Sarina Gulati, Reanne D'Mello, Kalden Bardewa, Brody Rowling, Kate Nilon, Nathaniel Karam, Aveline Saccasan, Keifer Halagao, Patrick Oke, Claire Polley, Sienna Tuara, Anthony Cassar, Martha Chabiet, Sophia Capeski, Prince Rauniyar.

#### Year 3 & Year 4

Aliet Acuoth, Jaxon Michalski, Jake Dizon-Esguerra, Elly Todd, Ruby Pickering, Naya Faiek, Lincoln Whitmore, Ievan Reddy, Emmanuel Micallef, Liam Thuaux, Tia Najjar, Ella Bullivant, Namo Verma, Charlotte O'Neill, Ayesha Zaman, Joseph Will, Lorian Aquilina, Jordan Saliba, Bhagauti Bhola, Sophia Azar, Kristen Feata, Seth Macic, Krisha Patel, Lachlan Ackroyd, Alexander Messiha, Sophia Tahmasby, Charlie Smith, Saahil Dave, Gurnur Kaur, Alex Cataldo, Hoorain Chaudhary, Gracie Nelson.

#### Year 5 & Year 6

Breanna Jaber, Kaiden Halagao, Parthena Shenouda, David Dhugga, Karm Abou Alway, Christian Jbara, Maria De Dios, Anastasia Grills, Elora O'Neill, Amelia Ventrice, Alivyah Geda, Wieu Ajack, Aavni Nand, Jwaj Deyb, Tanisha Chandra, Lisa Aryal, Ivy Hebden, Florence Muyu, Jamall Knight, Nathaniel Nepomuceno, Louise Obra, Christopher Touto, Jaiden Michalski, Jasmine Bowden, Antonia Duque Gaviria, Arjun Shah, Eesha Lal, Ayak Mayen, Bentley Haeven-Vaz, Riyaan Shah, Tia Koutchavlis, Joseph Muratore.

### **PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP**

The PRE-LOVED Uniform shop is open each Wednesday morning between 8:30-9am and Wednesday afternoon between 2:45-3:15pm. Thank you to Nola Downie, Michelle Barden and Chelsey Gillett for volunteering to help out with this community service.



### CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for two volunteers that can represent St. Michael's at the <u>Parent</u> <u>Representative Council</u>. The PRC is the peak parent body that represents and supports parents, families and caregivers of students enrolled in all Primary and Secondary Catholic Schools within our Diocese.

The PRC works in collaboration with the Bishop, the Executive Director of schools, Parish Priests and Catholic School Principals and School parent bodies in providing additional support to families throughout their child's learning journey within the

Catholic Education System.

Every school in the Diocese of Parramatta can have one PRC Parent Rep and an Alternate Parent represented. These Representatives speak on behalf of their School's Parent Body and community representing their parents within the PRC. This provides important two-way communication between local school parent communities, their local school and the greater diocesan parent body of the PRC.

The School Reps primary role is one of communication and building close partnerships with the School leadership team and school parent body. If you are interested and are available to attend one general meeting each term on Monday of Week 6 of the school term, please contact Mrs Veling.



### KISS AND DROP IN THE MORNINGS

Procedures for using the Kiss and Drop Area

Once in the Kiss and Drop Area:

- Drive up to the furthest free space and stop vehicle
   Child exits care, with their school bag on the KERB SIDE
- ONLY and closes the car door.
- Driver DOES NOT get out of the vehicle
  Driver waits until the car in front moves off and follows
- DO NOT pull our and overtake car in front

This procedure has been developed with the children's and driver's safety as a priority.

### 2023 SCHOOL FEES TERM 1

Term 1 fee statements have been mailed to you and are due on 15th March. If you are experiencing any financial hardship or have any queries regarding your account, please do not hesitate to contact me. Larissa Braddick on 8869 6200 or email <u>lbraddick@parra.catholic.edu.au</u>.

# **HEALTHY CANTEEN NEWS**

Dear Parents, Carers and children,

It is Week 8 and the temperatures are hovering around 30+ degrees. Summer is certainly still here. Hopefully with a cool change coming we can all get some much needed relief.

To help cool our student's, the canteen has been selling Icy Cold Water for \$2.00 each, frozen oranges \$1.50 each and of course our famous Frutti Ice blocks (70 cents) and Snap ice blocks (1.20 each) with all being in big demand.

Our famous Healthy Canteen Brownies are finally back in stock for \$1.20 each. Brownies can also be ordered online on the Flexi App, but unfortunately due the nature of the product these will need to be collected from the canteen.

Don't forget to tell your child to pick up their **recess order** directly from the canteen. They can go directly to the canteen window without waiting in line.

### Add A Spoonful of Healthy and Delicious

The Canteen will be helping St Michael's to celebrate Harmony Day on Tuesday 21st March by selling everything orange. So let's celebrate as one in harmony!

- Homemade orange (sugar free) ice blocks \$2.00 each
- Fairy Bread with orange and multi coloured sprinkles \$1.20 per slice or 60 cents per half slice.
- Frozen oranges \$1.50 each or 1/2 a frozen orange 80 cents.
- Orange Jelly \$2.00 each and orange frutti Ice 70 cents each.

I look forward to preparing and supplying your children's recess and lunches with love!.

Regards Amanda Healthy Canteen Manager

### 2023 SCHOOL PHOTOS



School photos will be taken on Friday 31st March. To order online, go to your COMPASS app. (Information on how to do this is attached below) During this process you can place orders for additional children and sibling photos. Sibling photo envelopes are also available in the office for parents or students to pick up if required. Children K - 6 are to wear full school summer uniform on the day.

## **FROM THE LIBRARY**

## Premier's Reading Challenge 2022



The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is an initiative by all the state governments in Australia. The aim of the PRC is to reignite the love of reading in our children. It is not a competition to see who finishes first. Children are encouraged to read, read more books, and read books that might be different to what they would usually read.

The challenge requires children to read a set number of books depending on their grade. Children can borrow books from the school library or your local public library to read as part of their Challenge. Parents and carers are not expected to purchase books for their children to read for the PRC.

Last year 64 children completed the challenge. We are looking forward to many more children joining the challenge and completing it this year.

You could register your child online via this <u>form</u>. Paper registration forms will be sent out to classes over the next couple of days. Please remember that you need to register your child/children only once.

### Audiobooks on Sora and Wheelers

Audiobooks are a great way to introduce children to longer format books. You could use an audiobook together with a print book so the children can read along with the narration.

- <u>Access our collection of nearly 1500 audiobooks available on Sora.</u>
  - Access our collection of over 250 audiobooks available on Wheelers.

All these books are completely free for all our students and can be accessed on any device anywhere at all. Children will need to use their CSPD credentials to log-in to Sora and Wheelers.

If you are new to the school or would like to know more about how to access Sora and Wheelers, these two short videos will guide you through the process.

- <u>Sora</u>
- <u>Wheelers</u>

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please contact me via email <u>stmichaelsblktnlibrary@parra.catholic.edu.au</u>

Happy Reading

Librarian

## **SPORTS NEWS**



### SOCCER REPS FOR PARRAMATTA DIOCESE

Congratulations to Bryson Debono in Year 6 who successfully made it through to the Parramatta Diocese Soccer squad for 2023 and will now proceed to the Mackillop Trials in May to continue on in his sport pathway journey....could they be our next Australian Socceroos!

### ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Wednesday 8th March, 14 of our students represented our school at the Zone Swimming Carnival held at Mount Druitt Pool. All of our students demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and performed exceptionally well against some outstanding schools.

Congratulations to the following students who have placed in the top 4 for their age category and are invited to represent the Diocese at Blacktown Pool on **Tuesday 14th March**. We look forward to hearing about their achievements!

Name	Events
Matilda Edwards	<ul><li>Junior Girls Relay</li><li>8yr Girls 50m Freestyle</li></ul>
Callie Marsden	Junior Girls Relay
Charlize Pickering	Junior Girls Relay
Sophia Azar	<ul> <li>Junior Girls Relay</li> <li>9yr Girls 50m Freestyle</li> <li>Junior Girls 50m Butterfly</li> </ul>
Jacinta Thompson	<ul> <li>Opens 100m Freestyle</li> <li>11yr Girls 50m Freestyle</li> <li>11yr Girls 50m Backstroke</li> <li>11yr Girls 50m Breastroke</li> <li>Senior Girls 200m IM</li> </ul>
Ava Whilesmith	8yr Girls 50m Freestyle
Alexander Koufos	12yr Boys 50m Freestyle
Daniel Jemison	Senior Boys 50m Freestyle (Multiclass)
Harkeerat Singh	Senior Boys 50m Backstroke (Multiclass)
Mikaela Fenech	11yr Girls 50m Breastroke
Dominic Azar	Senior Boys 50m Butterfly





























### SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

On Friday 10th March, our school conducted the annual Cross Country Carnival. The school community was in high spirits, with lots of excited children ready to test their endurance, as well as highly supportive classmates, teachers and parents. It was wonderful to see so many people come together to celebrate the sporting prowess that our students can deliver. Congratulations to the following students who placed in the top 6 for their competitive categories:

### St Michael's Cross Country Results 2023

### 8/9 years (Combined Age Group)

1	Lucas Gec	Alexia Vivelis	
2	Marcus Babela	Scarlett Tuara	
3	Malek Michael	Aija Laksevic	
4	Patrick Oke	Antonia Agresta	
5	Nadan O'Regan	Matilda Edwards	
6	Jaxon Michalski	Dhanashree Jadeja	

#### 10 years

1	Lachlan Ackroyd	Arok Michael	
2	Thomas Krumins	Jacey Ragasajo	
3	Ethan Davies	Kethana Pradeep	

4	Harry Bajada	Dina Kuanza
5	Samuel Angallo	Amy Patel
6	Michael Bangug	Charlize Pickering

#### 11 years

1	Sam Kome	Elora O'Neill	
2	Christian Babela	Jacinta Thompson	
3	Jaiden Michalski	Hayley Haeran-Vaz	
4	Marko Bukvic	Breanna Jaber	
5	Jaxson Stevenson	Jhalak Dadhania	
6	Rushi Patel	Samantha Ridout	

#### 12/13 years (Combined Age Group)

1	Bryson Debono	Adhieu Michael	
2	Braxton Gec	Enola Arima	
3	Xavier Wong	Savannah Elia	
4	Dominic Azar	Maria Salhab	
5	Eshaan Dave	Bronte Said	
6	Alexander Koufos	Violet Stevens	

Students who have placed in the top 6 but did not complete the course within the maximum time limit, are ineligible for the Diocesan Carnival.

The Diocesan Cross Country Carnival will be held at Eastern Creek on Wednesday 10th May 2023 (Term 2, Week 3). Students will be provided with their permission notes in the coming weeks.

A special thank you to all of the parents who volunteered to support us in hosting this event safely. Without your assistance, this event would be challenging to conduct.

An extra special thank you to our wonderful sport captains who conducted their roles with professionalism and proactivity, providing the school community with excellent examples of the wonderful role models that you are.

We look forward to hearing how our Cross Country runners perform at our upcoming Diocesan Carnival.

















### 2023 SWIMMING PROGRAM

Each grade will attend in a different week during Term 1. Classes go at different times during the day.
SWIMMING LESSONS for Term 1 2023
Year 2: Term 1 Week 8, March 13th – 17th

Year 4: Term 1 Week 9, March 20th - 24th

### PARENT VOLUNTEER MODULE

Throughout the school year, St. Michael's Primary School participates in a number of sporting events that often require parents to volunteer and support our school. It is a requirement for these volunteers to complete a Child Protection module which stays current for two years upon completion.

We are always looking to see who is able to volunteer at our events, including carnivals and gala days. If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the module located at the following website: https://www.parra.catholic.edu.au/about/student-safety/volunteer-and-contractor-training The module takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Yours in Sport, Mrs Amanda Ireton Sports Coordinator

# **GRIP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE - Year 6**

On Wednesday 8th March 2023, we travelled to Homebush Olympic Park to engage in the GRIP Leadership Conference. GRIP is an acronym for **generosity, responsibility, integrity and people.** These are seen as the core values of good leadership. On the day we learnt many things about leadership that we hope to use in our role as school captains. We learnt that leaders lead with the "Four Hs" - **hear, help, and show happiness and humility.** We mixed and spoke with students from other schools (there were 172 schools present on the day!) We played numerous games that each had a central theme/lesson of how to be a good leader. We will be sharing some of the experiences with our grade and hope to put into practice all the key ideas and values that we learnt.

Georgia Allen, Eshaan Dave, Shimmer Ghodke and Alexander Thuaux





## **KINDERGARTEN INCURSION**

On Wednesday 1st March, Kindergarten had their first incursion! We had special visitors from Ranger Jamie Tours teaching us about the importance of our environment and special places for people and living things. The students participated in hands-on activities including bug catching, bird house making, caring for our waterways and habitat making. The students learnt more about Australian animals and the places in which they live. Every student participated enthusiastically throughout this exciting and memorable day!











MSP Sydney West T: 02 9831 5505 E: sydneywest@msp.com.au www.msp.com.au



### **St Michaels PS**

#### Photo day for your school is on Friday 31st March 2023

You will soon receive an email from MSP Photography providing you with instructions to order school photos. If you have any problems with online ordering, there will be a small amount of cash order forms provided to the school office and with our photographers on the photo day.

#### How to place your order via Compass.

- 1. Click the Community Tab in the Compass App
- 2. Select Photos
- 3. Place your order

A late/processing fee will apply for orders received 1 week after photo day. All family/sibling orders must be placed by 11pm the day before photo day.

Proudly Powered by O Compass



### St Patrick's Day Mufti Day Friday 17th March 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

Т

This Friday 17th March we celebrate St Patrick's Day. To remember a great Saint, we invite all students to wear **Green Mufti** for a \$2 donation. The money raised will go towards purchasing some new sports equipment.

Students are invited to bring a \$2 gold coin donation to school or parents can donate online via the QKR app. Please make sure your child is wearing suitable enclosed shoes and appropriate clothing including a hat.



# HARMONY DAY 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Harmony Day** is celebrated around Australia on 21st March each year. Harmony Day is a celebration of our cultural diversity. It is about community participation, inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. The theme in 2023 is **'Everyone Belongs'**.

On **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March**, St Michael's will celebrate Harmony Day. Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. On the day, we encourage students to either **wear the colour orange or something that represents their culture** such as a national costume or hat.

Throughout the day, students will be involved in activities linked to the key messages of Harmony Day. Students in each grade will work together to create a window display to showcase the importance of unity. This most creative grade display will be chosen by Miss Teulan and a prize will be awarded to each student.

We invite all parents to attend our whole school assembly on Tuesday 21st March at **12.30pm.** We will join together to pray, sing and celebrate our unique community, in which 'everyone belongs'. Following our assembly, parents are welcome to stay for a **picnic lunch** with their children on the playground.

We look forward to celebrating Harmony Day as a school community. It is our vision that as a community we will continue to grow in unity and appreciation for our multiculturalism, on and beyond Harmony Day.

Kind Regards,

Natasha Pullen Instructional Leader

