LEARNING AT QUEEN OF PEACE

Term 3, 2026

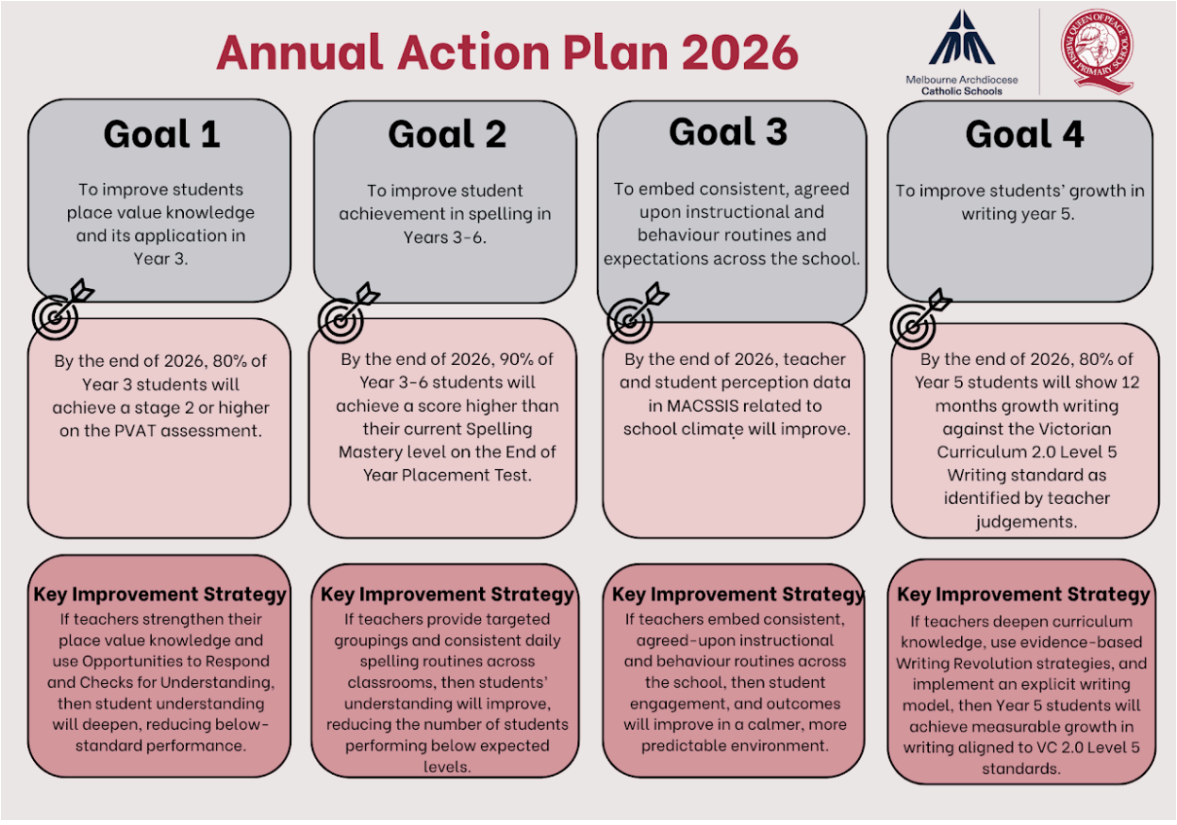
Dear Parents and Carers, 16.7.26

Welcome to Term 3! I hope everyone had a wonderful break and has returned refreshed and ready for another exciting term of learning. The teachers have been busy preparing engaging learning experiences and opportunities for the children to connect, grow and thrive.

There is much to look forward to this term, including learning about NAIDOC Week, Queenship of Mary, Science Week, Book Week, Grandparents Day and many other special events. We are looking forward to a fantastic Term 3 filled with learning, achievement and community celebration.

Annual Action Plan (AAP)
As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, the 2026 Annual Action Plan (AAP) outlines the key priorities shaping our work across this year. These priorities are informed by school data, staff collaboration and community feedback.

In 2026, our improvement efforts are focused on strengthening outcomes in English and Mathematics, while continuing to refine our instructional and behavioural routines to support high-quality teaching and learning across the school. Below is an overview of our priorities, goals and improvement strategies for the year.



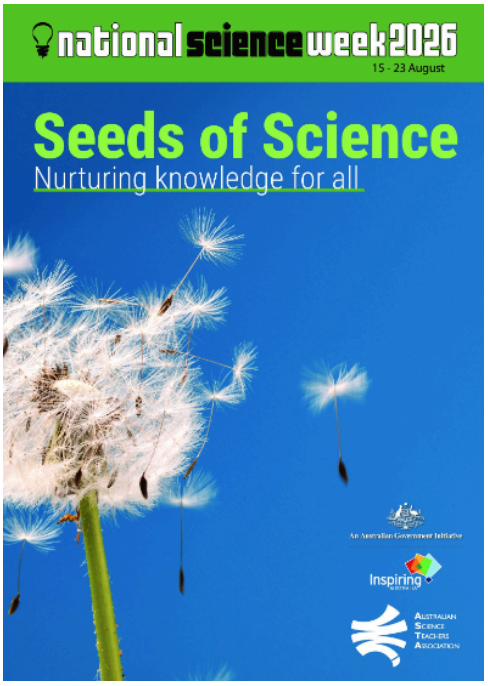
NAIDOC Week

This year, NAIDOC Week celebrates its 50th anniversary with the theme *"50 Years of Deadly."* In Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, the word *Deadly* means excellent, successful and something to be proud of. The theme recognises and celebrates the achievements, contributions and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples over the past 50 years, while acknowledging their ongoing impact on Australian society. Throughout the term, the children will engage in learning experiences that celebrate and deepen their understanding of First Nations histories, cultures and achievements.

100 Days of School

This term, in week 3 the Foundation children will celebrate their 100 days of being at school. This is a significant achievement for our Foundation children who have done a wonderful job settling into school life.

Science Week



National Science Week is Australia's annual celebration of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It recognises the important contributions of scientists, innovators, engineers, designers and entrepreneurs who help shape our world.

The 2026 theme, *Seeds of Science: Nurturing Science for All*, encourages children to explore how curiosity, inquiry and collaboration help scientific knowledge grow. Just as seeds need the right conditions to flourish, learning develops when ideas are explored, shared and applied to real-world challenges. The theme celebrates the journey of discovery, from asking questions and investigating ideas to sharing knowledge that benefits others.

In Week 10, children at Queen of Peace will celebrate National Science Week through a range of engaging learning experiences and activities. Parents and carers are invited to visit classrooms on **Wednesday 16th September** from **3:00 pm to 4:00 pm** to celebrate their child's learning and enthusiasm for science.

Book Week

From the 22nd August to Friday 28th August, we will be celebrating Book Week with the theme *"Symphony of Stories."* The highlight of our celebration will be the Book Week Parade on Monday, 24th August where the children have the opportunity to dress up as their favourite book character. This year's Book Week theme celebrates how diverse books and unique voices come together to create a harmonious reading community. Just like an orchestra blends different instruments, varied stories spark imagination and encourage the children to share new perspectives. We look forward to a fantastic week of celebrating this symphony of reading together!

Religion

During the month of August, we celebrate three major feast days.

- 8th August – Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross, Mary Mackillop is Australia's first saint
- 15th August – The Assumption of Mary, at the end of her life, Mary, the mother of Christ, was taken body and soul into heaven to live with her son, Jesus Christ
- 22nd August – Feast of the Queenship of Mary, our school feast day

The children will be learning about these important events in the weeks of their feast day. Mary, Our Lady, holds a special place in the Catholic faith and is a model of faith and trust in God. She said yes to God's invitation to be the mother of Jesus and lived her life with love, faith and devotion to God and others.

Knowledge Curriculum

This term, our knowledge unit will focus on **Science.**

In Term 3, **Foundation** children will learn to think and work like scientists by exploring the world around them through curiosity, questions, and hands-on investigations. They will ask "why," "what," "how," and "when" questions as they observe, explore and record their thinking in science journals. The children will investigate materials and their properties, identifying different materials such as wood, plastic, metal, glass and fabric, and describing how they feel, look and behave. They will also explore how things move by investigating pushes and pulls, discovering how forces can make objects move, stop, or change shape. Through practical activities and simple experiments, the children will develop their ability to observe carefully, ask questions, and explain their ideas like young scientists.

In Term 3, **Years 1 & 2** children will build on their Foundation science learning by developing their ability to think like scientists. They will ask questions, make predictions, and record their observations in science journals using drawings and simple sentences. The children will investigate materials and their properties, exploring how objects are made from different materials such as wood, plastic, metal, glass and fabric, and how properties like hard, soft, smooth, rough, bendy and stiff determine their use. They will also extend their understanding of forces by exploring pushes and pulls, and how these affect movement, including how objects move, stop or change direction, as well as the effects of friction and gravity. Through hands-on investigations, the children will test ideas, explain their thinking, and deepen their understanding of the world around them.

In Term 3, **Year 3 and 4** the children will deepen their scientific thinking by working more like scientists through investigating, testing and explaining their ideas using evidence. They will explore how science is used to understand and explain the world, including how forces such as pushes, pulls, gravity and friction affect movement, and how materials have different properties that make them suitable for specific purposes. The children will conduct fair tests and investigations into motion, materials, states of matter and energy changes, recording their findings in data tables, diagrams and science journals. They will learn that scientific ideas are based on evidence and can change when new information is discovered. Through hands-on experiments and design challenges, the children will analyse results, draw conclusions and apply their understanding to real-world situations.

In Term 3, **Year 5 and 6** the children will explore the science concept of change, investigating how materials can change in size, shape, appearance and composition through physical and chemical processes. They will examine changes in states of matter, including how heating and cooling cause solids, liquids and gases to behave differently. The children will also explore how light changes direction when it is reflected or refracted, and how shadows change depending on the position of a light source. Through hands-on investigations, they will apply the scientific method to plan fair tests, collect and analyse data, and use evidence to explain their findings. They will also develop an understanding that scientific ideas can change when new evidence is discovered, strengthening their ability to think critically and work like scientists.

Teaching Science Through the Commonwealth Games

The Commonwealth Games take place in Term 3 and provide an engaging real-world context for the children to explore science in action. Through the Commonwealth Games, children will investigate how science is used to improve athletic performance and safety. They will explore the materials used in sports equipment and uniforms, and how properties such as strength, flexibility, and lightness support movement and efficiency. For example, athletes often wear fitted, stretchy clothing to help reduce air resistance and improve speed, while sports shoes are designed with cushioning and grip to support impact and stability.

The children will also investigate how sporting equipment is designed to reduce friction and improve movement, helping athletes perform at their best. In addition, they will explore forces such as push, pull, gravity, and friction across a range of Commonwealth Games events, including running, jumping, spinning, and landing. Through these investigations, the children will develop an understanding of how scientific principles are applied in sport to enhance performance and support athlete safety.

Term Three promises a range of engaging learning experiences that support the children to grow and achieve success. Sincere appreciation is extended to families for their continued partnership in supporting learning.

Joanne Pearce
Learning and Teaching Leader