



Kurmond Public School

Effort Courtesy Safety Responsibility Achievement

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E kurmond-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Term 1 Week 6 24th February – 7th March, 2025

Principal's message

As we are at the end of Week 6, it has been wonderful to see our students thriving in both their learning and friendships. They have been demonstrating our school's core learner qualities: determination, collaboration, curiosity, resilience, and motivation in their daily activities. Whether they are tackling new challenges in the classroom or working together in the playground, it is inspiring to witness their growth.



A strong partnership between home and school is essential for student success. If you ever have concerns about your child's learning or well-being, we encourage you to communicate with their teachers. Open conversations allow us to provide the best support and ensure that every student has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

A big thank you to all the parents and caregivers who attended our Meet the Teacher Night and the Gotcha4Life session. Your involvement and support are truly appreciated, and we value the opportunity to build strong connections between school and home.

We also want to acknowledge the importance of supporting our children when they face challenges, such as trying out for sports teams or auditioning for dance performances. While not every student will be selected every time, these experiences provide valuable life lessons. As parents, we can help our children develop resilience by encouraging them to keep trying, learn from setbacks, and celebrate the achievements of others. Life is full of moments where things don't always go our way, and learning to navigate these situations with a positive mindset is a skill that will serve them well into the future.

Thank you for your ongoing support in fostering a strong and encouraging school community. We look forward to working together to help our students grow and succeed!



DATES TO NOTE

February	
24 th 25 th	Leadership camp @Brewongle
Fri 28 th	PSSA indoor trials

March	
Mon 3 rd	Clean up Kurmond
Tues 4 th	Volleyball continues
Wed 5 th	Welcome BBQ / Meet the Teacher Gotcha4Life Parent presentation
Fri 7 th	Zone Swimming Carnival Gymnastics continues
12 th – 24 th	NAPLAN Years 3 – 5
17 th – 24 th	Harmony Week
Tues 18 th	P&C AGM & March meeting
Tues 25 th	Meteors @ Try Athletics
Wed 26 th	Easter mufti
Thurs 27 th	Sydney West Swimming

April	
Wed 5 th	Cross Country Carnival
Thurs 4 th	Colo HS visit the Rockets
Thurs 10 th	K-2 Easter hat parade & raffle draw
Fri 11 th	Last day of Term 1

Note: These dates may be subject to change. Don't rely on previous newsletters for correct dates. Always check latest newsletter or note on website for most up to date information.

Student learning at Kurmond ...

K/1 Rockets

Kindergarten learnt all about patterns last week. They explored two-part patterns and labelled them, while the Year 1 Rockets focussed on three-part patterns. Then they learnt about using flip, slide and turn to create mandala patterns. They created incredible designs!



1/2 Light Years

The 1/2 Light Years are busy with reading groups and participating in their daily number sense activities. They investigated attributes and properties of 2D shapes by making shape trains. They also enjoyed a paint splatter activity in visual arts last week!



1/5 Meteors

The Meteors have had a busy fortnight looking after the chickens, planting their first batch of vegetables, making fruit salad and enjoying a history lesson on our school. They have continued to work on their morning literacy routine and in mathematics they have looked at creating patterns. The Meteors have also been incorporating the Gotcha4Life Mental Fitness Program into their weekly routines.



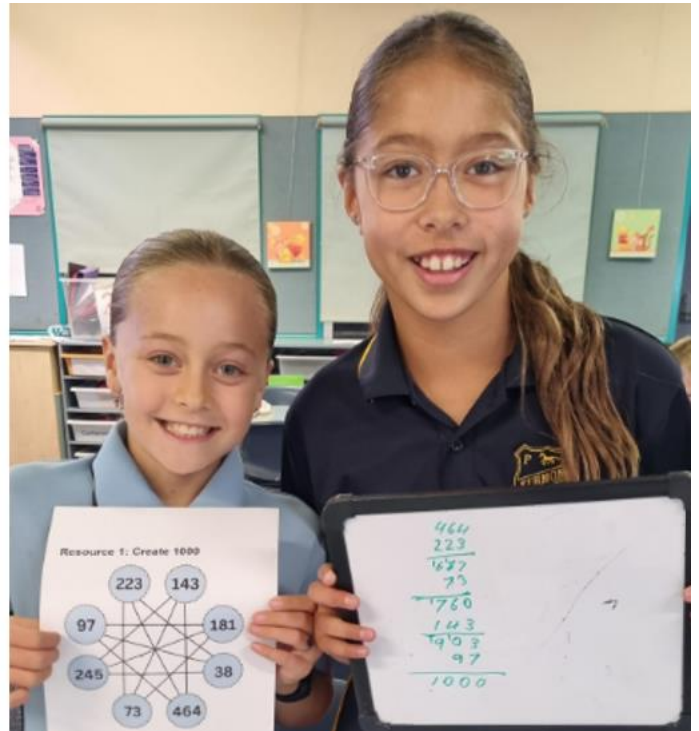
3/4 Galaxies

The 3/4 Galaxies have been working on their multiplication facts, segmenting words using the Sound Waves spelling program and creating beautiful artworks. They have been learning about mental fitness through the Gotcha 4 Life program and getting fit indoors when it was too hot.



4/5 Shooting Stars

The 4/5 Shooting Stars have been busy playing volleyball, writing a procedural text and playing mathematics games. They are working collaboratively in all tasks and are demonstrating their flexibility on Fridays during gymnastics sessions.



5/6 Comets

The 5/6 Comets have been amazing learners in class and on the sporting field. They have explored narratives in class through their text study, Storm Boy by Colin Thiele and are also starting to write components of narratives. Each week they have enjoyed the volleyball sessions with Ty, the gymnastics lessons with Ben and leading Peer Support lessons with their groups. Well done, Comets!



Staff learning

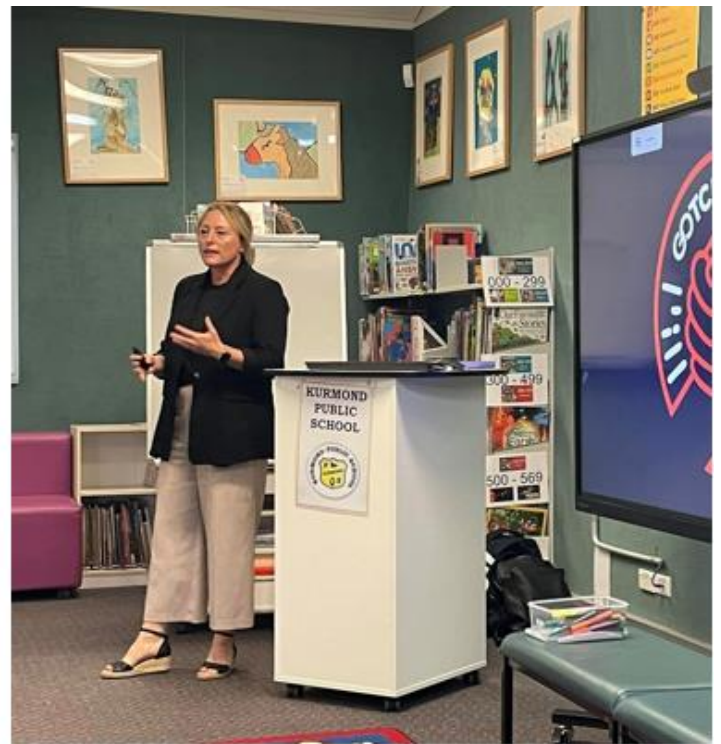
Last week our staff met us a team to discuss programming requirements, students' assessments, IEPs and professional development plans. During QTSS (Quality Teaching, Successful Students) sessions, teachers have been working with Mrs Tomlin and Ms Foster on literacy and numeracy programs and diving into students' data to plan for learning.



Kurmond Connect – Meet the Teacher and Gotcha4Life

We were thrilled at the success of this week's *Meet the Teacher* session and *Gotcha4Life* parent presentation! It was wonderful to see so many parents, teachers, and staff come together with a shared commitment to supporting our students' educational journey and well-being. The *Meet the Teacher* event provided a fantastic opportunity for families to connect with our dedicated educators, gain insights into classroom expectations, and strengthen the vital home-school partnership. Open communication and collaboration between parents and teachers play a crucial role in ensuring the best possible learning environment for our students, and we appreciate the time and effort everyone invested in making this event so meaningful. We were also privileged to host the *Gotcha4Life* parent presentation, an inspiring session focused on mental fitness and the importance of strong social connections for our children. The insightful discussion provided parents with valuable strategies to help foster resilience, emotional well-being, and a supportive community around our students. A heartfelt thank you to all parents and teachers who participated. Your dedication to working together ensures that our students have the best support both in and out of the classroom.





Kurmond students are attendance champions

Congratulations to our Week 6 attendance champions: In 1st place 1/2 Light Years with an astonishing 95.14% attendance rate, in close 2nd place the K/1 Rockets with 95.02% and in 3rd place the 4/5 Shooting Stars with 93.48%. Our whole school attendance rate is 93.4% this week. Well done, Kurmond we are ahead of other schools in the Hawkesbury Network!



Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

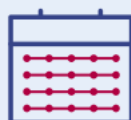
they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight



= 4 weeks

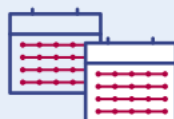


= Over 1 year missed

1 day per week



= 8 weeks



= Over 2.5 years missed

Welcome to our new staff

We have welcomed new staff to Kurmond Public School at assembly with their staff badges in the last two weeks. We hope they love being part of our beautiful school!



Aussie of the Month

Congratulations to Ruby M from the 1/2 Rockets on being named as the February Aussie of the Month. Ruby is kind, helpful and considerate to her peers and teachers. She is most deserving of being named as Aussie of the Month.

Congratulations to Brooklyn B from the 5/6 Comets on being named as the March Aussie of the Month at today's assembly. Brooklyn is a kind, helpful and courteous school citizen always supporting her teachers and peers. She has been exceptional with her Kindergarten buddies and always tries her best in learning and on the sporting field. Well done, Brooklyn!



The Premier's Reading Challenge for 2025 launched on February 24. Students in Years 3-6 will be able to start entering the books they read as they finish them. According to the rules, students are also permitted to enter any books they have completed since the end of last year's Challenge.

At Kurmond PS, we place great importance on promoting quality literature and the Premier's Reading Challenge is an example of one of the ways we pursue this goal. Over the past three years, our school has consistently achieved outstanding success in this Challenge, with 100% of students completing the PRC.

Years 3-6

To successfully complete the Challenge, primary students (Years 3-6) must enter 20 books, including ten from the prescribed PRC list for their age level. Books from higher grade levels are also acceptable. The remaining ten books can be of their choice, regardless of whether they appear on the list.

Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2

For students in K, 1 and 2, the Challenge is simpler. They need only to listen to the books to meet the challenge. Teachers at Kurmond will handle the entry of books for these students. As the PRC booklist encompasses a wide range of quality literature, teachers will integrate plenty of PRC books into their regular curriculum.

Acknowledgement

All students who complete the Premier's Reading Challenge will receive a certificate from the Premier. Special Gold certificates will be awarded to those who have completed the challenge four times and students who have completed the Challenge seven times will receive a Platinum award from the State Premier. Students achieving the Challenge ten times (in Year 9 or 10) will be presented with a PRC medal and Challenge completion certificate. Many students at Kurmond PS are already well on their way to receiving one of these prestigious awards. I have full confidence that Kurmond can once again achieve a 100% success rate in this Challenge!

Happy Reading!

Mrs Allerton

Teacher Librarian

The Meteors' artwork

Congratulations to the Meteors class on being invited to complete artworks to be displayed at the Nirimba Education Office Art Exhibition for the 'See The Ability' display. The artworks look awesome! You should be very proud of yourselves!



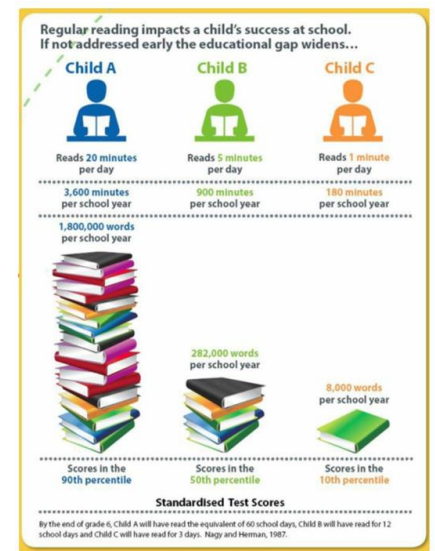
Peer Support

Peer Support sessions this year are focussing on making and maintaining friendships. Our senior students are amazing leaders sharing fabulous strategies with their peers. Students have been having wonderful discussions with their groups, sharing the qualities they value most in a friend, such as kindness and being a good listener. Well done, Kurmond!



PALS (Parents as literacy supporters)

Last week, our volunteer PALS program started for 2025. It was lovely to see new faces join us in the library to support our students with extra reading before school. Every student in the school has a folder with books at their level in their folders and are invited to attend before school on days that the program is running. Usually this will be from Tuesdays – Thursdays as indicated on the weekly Class Dojo reminder. Older students are also encouraged to attend and listen to younger students read. This process benefits both the younger reader and the more capable reader. If you have 10 – 20 minutes to share at drop off from 8.50am it would be greatly appreciated.



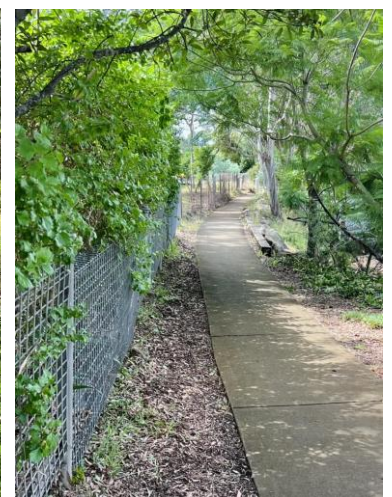
P&C AGM & March Meeting – save the date

Our AGM and March meeting is on Tuesday 18th March. All positions are declared open, and members of our community are invited to nominate for all positions. A note informing our community has been sent home this week. We look forward to receiving nominations and welcoming and working with our 2025 P&C Executive.

We are so grateful to Amber who through bringing up the idea at the last P&C meeting, is dedicating her time and skills to making our school shine. Amber has vowed to work on a school garden each week for our school to make it look even more amazing. This week she started with the magnolia path at the entry to the school. It has already made a world of difference!

Thank you, Amber who runs '**Ladie Tradie**' and is a busy mum to Tanner, Braxton and gorgeous Hartley.

A huge thank you to Ben, Cooper's dad in the Rockets, for clearing the path this week for all our walkers who walk along the perimeter of the school and into Kurmond Road.



Thank you to our P&C

Our students are loving the new playground equipment which arrived this week, frisbees, balls, foot balls and basketballs! These were purchased with money raised by our amazing Kurmond Public School P&C from the colour run in 2024. They are already providing many hours of fun. Thank you, P&C! We love them!



Guitar Group

Many students have joined the guitar group this year. They have been meeting each Monday lunchtime under the expert guidance of Mrs Morgan and Mrs Rowan. I am certain lots of hard work, practice and dedication will lead to success for these students.



Clean Up Kurmond

Thank you to everyone for taking part in 'Clean Up' Kurmond. We are so proud to always keep our school looking beautiful!



School hours at Kurmond

Our school hours at Kurmond are 9.10am – 3.10pm. Formal supervision at school starts from 8.40am. Prior to this time there is no teacher on duty to supervise children and therefore children should not be dropped off at school. If you require care before or after school hours, please contact Inspire, our Out of School Hours provider on 1300 665 275.

Sporting News ...

Hawkesbury Dance Troupe

Congratulations to Lucien and Willow for being selected in the inaugural Hawkesbury Dance Troupe. They are part of a dance group representing 11 different schools in the Hawkesbury. We can't wait to see you performing at a variety of festivals this year.

Hawkesbury PSSA teams

Congratulations to the following students who tried out for Hawkesbury PSSA teams and were successful. Good luck as you prepare to represent our school and zone.

Boys Soccer: Jenson

Girls Soccer: Brooklyn T and Sienna

Touch football: Pearl and Sienna

Girls Basketball: Holly and Samara

Boys Basketball: Riley

Netball: Sarayah



2025 Dance groups

Well done to all students who tried out for dance groups this year and congratulations to successful students. You will be very busy in the coming weeks, learning routines and preparing for upcoming auditions. Thank you to Ms McKinnon and Ms Foster for giving up their time to provide this opportunity for our students.



Volleyball program

Last week we started our volleyball program with Ty. Students have been learning ball skills associated with volleyball. Students are loving each session and are building up to playing games against each other. The SRC are planning on having lunchtime mini competitions this term as a fun lunchtime activity. This program is free of charge to families as we access it through a Sporting Schools Australia grant which we applied for last year and were successful at receiving.



Gymnastics program

The Gymnastics program with Ben from ZingActiv is continuing to be a great success with our students. Balancing, turning, lifting and jumping are all part of the weekly skills they are building on.



Hawkesbury Zone Swimming Carnival 2025

Congratulations to all our students who received ribbons for their achievements at the 2025 school swimming carnival at assembly last week. We also presented ribbons to our super-fast parent competitors at assembly for being such great sports on the day. Good luck to our competitors at the Zone Hawkesbury Carnival today. I will update our community after all results are known.



Canteen News...

Thank you to Renee, Cassandra, Leah, Matt, Di and Vicky who have volunteered in the canteen in the last fortnight. We are extremely grateful for your time and efforts. If you can help, please contact Rachel Bennett 0425 101 475 or the school office 4573 1648. When the canteen is open, parents will be able to order using the following link: <https://myschoolconnect.com.au/kurmondps>.



School uniforms

All uniform orders are to be placed **online** through My School Connect. Please follow the link – [uniform orders](#). Orders will be filled by one of our P&C members, on Mondays and Wednesdays. Orders will be sent home with your child on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Please ensure uniform items are clearly labelled with names so we can return any found items promptly.

Parenting ideas article

At Kurmond, we have a subscription with Happy Families. They have free webinars for parents and school staff and a fabulous library of articles with parenting tips.

The link to access these is as follows: <https://schools.happyfamilies.com.au/login/kps>

The password is: happykps

This week, I have attached an article on the importance of belonging for our children. How as parents we can partner with schools, nurture connections at home and champion children's interests. I hope you find it of interest.

Kind regards.

Mrs Patricia Beggs

Principal Kurmond Public School

Success through Endeavour



March Birthday Celebrations

Alexander L	Anna G	Buster R
Bryce R	Lorelai S	Jessica V
Olivia C	Amber C	Amelia D
	Logan W	



The Power of Belonging

Why Feeling Connected at School Matters More Than You Think

We all want our children to be happy and successful at school. We focus on their grades, their friendships, and their extracurricular activities. But what if I told you that one of the most important factors for their well-being, both now and in the future, is their sense of belonging?

A fascinating new study from Monash University has shed light on the profound impact of school belonging on long-term mental health. Associate Professor Kelly-Ann Allen, the lead researcher, followed over 1500 individuals from adolescence to adulthood, examining the link between their feelings of connection at school and their mental well-being later in life.

The findings were striking: those who felt a strong sense of belonging in high school experienced fewer mental health challenges in their twenties. This connection was evident even after accounting for other factors like academic achievement and family relationships. In other words, feeling like you fit in, that you matter, that you're part of the school community, has a lasting positive impact on your mental health.

Why does belonging matter so much?

Think back to your own school days. Remember that feeling of walking into a classroom where you felt welcomed, valued, and supported? Or perhaps you recall the opposite—the sinking feeling of being an outsider, of not quite fitting in. These experiences shape not only our immediate well-being but also our long-term sense of self and our ability to navigate social and emotional challenges.

When children feel like they belong, they're more likely to:

- **Engage in learning:** They're more motivated, attentive, and eager to participate in classroom activities.
- **Develop positive relationships:** They feel more comfortable interacting with peers and teachers, fostering friendships and a sense of community.
- **Cope with stress:** They have a support system to turn to when faced with academic or social challenges.
- **Build resilience:** They develop a stronger sense of self-worth and the confidence to navigate life's ups and downs.

So, how can we, as parents, foster a sense of belonging for our children?

1. Partner with the school:

- **Open communication:** Stay connected with your child's teachers. Attend school events and parent-teacher meetings. Be an active participant in your child's school life.
- **Advocate for your child:** If your child is struggling socially or emotionally, don't hesitate to reach out to the school counsellor or other support staff.
- **Support school initiatives:** Get involved in school activities and events that promote a sense of community and belonging.

2. Nurture connections at home:

- **Family time:** Prioritise quality time together as a family. Share meals, play games, and engage in activities that foster connection and communication.
- **Emotional support:** Create a safe and open environment where your child feels comfortable expressing their feelings and concerns. Validate their emotions and offer unconditional love and support.
- **Social skills:** Help your child develop strong social skills. Encourage them to engage in activities that foster friendships and positive peer relationships.

3. Champion their interests:

- **Encourage exploration:** Support your child in exploring their interests and passions. This could involve extracurricular activities, hobbies, or simply pursuing their own unique curiosities.
- **Celebrate their strengths:** Focus on their positive qualities and accomplishments. Help them develop a strong sense of self-worth and confidence.
- **Foster autonomy:** Give them age-appropriate choices and responsibilities. Allow them to make decisions and experience the consequences of their choices (within safe boundaries).

The Bottom Line:

School belonging isn't just about feeling happy and comfortable in the classroom; it's a crucial ingredient for long-term mental health and well-being. By partnering with the school, nurturing connections at home, and championing our children's interests, we can help them build a strong foundation for a happy, healthy, and fulfilling life.



Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters and grandfather to 1 granddaughter. He is the parenting expert and co-host of Channel Nine's Parental Guidance, and he and his wife host Australia's #1 podcast for parents and family: The Happy Families Podcast. He has written 9 books about families and parenting. For further details visit happyfamilies.com.au.

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BEFORE SHCOOL

Tennis Coaching

TERM 1, 2025



KURMOND PUBLIC SCHOOL	MONDAY'S
Years 3-6.....	8:10 - 8:40am
Kindy - Year 2.....	8:40 - 9:10am

- Cost \$10 per student per class
- Limited spaces available, maximum 8 students per group
- Racquets provided

CONTACT US

P) 4578 8999

E) tennis@insidethelines.net.au

REGISTER



Scan the QR CODE

or go to:
<https://bit.ly/41cUhgJ>



Enrolment process for Yr 7 AgSTEM Specialty Class 2026

OPEN SOON

Please email the School for an Enrolment Package and to register for our Virtual Information Session on March 12th at 7pm. Registrations close March 11th at midday.

centreofexcellenceinaged-h.admin@det.nsw.edu.au

KURMOND PUBLIC SCHOOL Canteen Roster – Term 1 2025

Please add your name to the roster

Contact Rachel Bennett 0425 101 475

or School Office – 4573 1648 or kurmond-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Wednesday	5 Feb	12 Feb	19 Feb	26 Feb	5 Mar	12 Mar	19 Mar	26 Mar	2 Apr	9 Apr
	CLOSED	CLOSED	Louise F Adeline	Cassandra C Renee S	Leah M	HELP! HELP!	Leah M	Louise F Kristin M	Adeline	HELP! HELP!
Friday	7 Feb	14 Feb	21 Feb	28 Feb	7 Mar	14 Mar	21 Mar	28 Mar	4 Mar	11 Mar
	CLOSED	CLOSED	Meika	HELP! HELP!	Matt V Vicky B Di P	HELP! HELP!	Adeline	HELP! HELP!	HELP! HELP!	HELP! HELP!

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS! 😊

Assembly Merit Awards

Effort, Safety, Responsibility, Courtesy and Achievement

Term 1 Week 5 & 6

White Class Merit Awards

Class	Name	Reason
1/5 Meteors	Harrison T	Effort: Consistently demonstrating diligent effort and dedication.
K/1 Rockets	Chayse V	Responsibility: Being an excellent Year 1 role model in the Rockets.
	Adeline R	Effort: Showing enthusiasm and joy when she is learning.
1/2 Lights Years	Ryan R	Effort: Demonstrating continuing effort in all his learning areas.
	Syla B	Courtesy: Being a courteous student towards her peers and teachers.
3/4 Galaxies	Braxton S	Effort: Trying hard in all areas of his work.
	Aurelia D	Courtesy: Always being a considerate and polite class member.
4/5 Shooting Stars	Nickeah D	Effort: Trying her best during handwriting and dodgeball activities.
	Seraphina S	Effort: Trying her best and applying herself when learning.
5/6 Comets	Lucien S	Responsibility: Demonstrating responsibility in running a peer support group with dedication, empathy and leadership.
	Mason J	Effort: Showing effort and motivation by actively questioning, listening and contributing to discussions.

Learner Quality Awards



Class	Name	Reason
1/5 Meteors	Gianluca D	Curiosity: Being a curious and motivated learner.
K/1 Rockets	Blair D	Determination: For being a determined learner when using her sounds to read and write words.
1/2 Light Years	Arlo D	Motivation: Being a motivated learner and trying his best in all learning areas.
3/4 Galaxies	Juno O	Determination: having a determined attitude during mathematics lessons.
4/5 Shooting Stars	Anastasia S	Determination and motivation: For being a determined and motivated learner.
5/6 Comets	Chanelle V.	Curiosity: Demonstrating curiosity by asking questions and eagerly exploring new topics.

Merits

Weeks 5 and 6	1/5 Meteors	K/1 Rockets	1/2 Light Years	3/4 Galaxies	4/5 Shooting Stars	5/6 Comets
50 Merits	Harrison T Bradley L	Ruby M	Alexander L			
100 Merits	Halle L					Peter C Mackenzie S
150 Merits						
200 Merits			Angela W			Sienna K Addison D William R Mason J
250 Merits						Brooklyn T Sebastian B
300 Merits		Joel V				