

Friday, 2nd May 2025



Dear Parents, Carers, & Students,

This Easter Season, we have returned to a new school term with corridors filled with the joy and celebration of Easter. Our school, like all schools at this time, experience lots of noise and busyness, with a mix of Easter joy and the smiles expressed by children and staff reconnecting with each other.

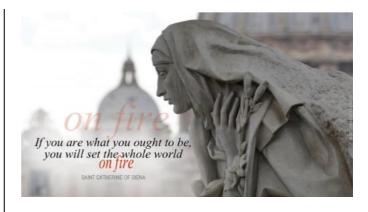
Last week's news of the passing of Pope Francis has certainly made us reflect upon his legacy and conviction to live a life through the charism of St Francis of Assisi. Pope Francis, through his leadership, demonstrated the qualities of Christ's compassion, empathy and understanding, qualities we seek to emulate and teach our own children.

For twelve years, our Holy Father has urged a new missionary heart in the Catholic community, a Christ heart that seeks to cultivate a simple faith in the risen Jesus who is alive in us and his Church.

Pope Francis has impacted directly on us who serve in Catholic education inviting and encouraging us always through hope, to renew our relationship daily with Christ. Only through this simple faith, our trust in God, will we flourish.

With every blessing.

Des Noack **Principal**



Last Tuesday, we gathered as a school to celebrate St Catherine of Siena's Feast Day. As a Catholic principal, having led many schools, I must take the opportunity to acknowledge how prayerful and respectful our students were during this very special Mass. Our students are a credit to their parents for the reverence and understanding they have when gathering and participating in Mass. The charism of each Catholic school is created and strengthened by the name it is given. For us, our school's charism is based upon the person, the life, the humanity and the sacredness revealed through the life of St Catherine of Siena. To understand St Catherine of Siena's charism better and how we can apply this to our own lives, we have provided a short article within this newsletter that highlights why she is so important to the Church, but also to our own school.



celebrating Mother's Day

With Mother's Day coming up on Sunday 14th May we are looking forward to celebrating with our mums with a Mother's Day Mass at 9.15am on Wednesday 7th May 2025, followed by classroom visits and a special morning tea to be hosted in the corridors of the school.

For our mums and special guests, we ask that when attending Mass, please note the seating plan that will be displayed on the monitors.



Cyber Safety & Digital Wellbeing

This term, our students will continue to take part in the Inform & Empower's Cyber Safety & Digital Wellbeing program. Developed by qualified teachers, these incursions are designed to help create safer and more positive online experiences for your children.

Parents and carers will be given resources to support conversations with your children at home. You will receive a concise "tip sheet" each term that outlines what your child learned about in class and how you might open up these important conversations at home.

We encourage our families to please access the our school's Online Safety Hub: https://scmeltonwest.onlinesafetyhub.com.au/

This link provides you with exemptional resource around cyber safety and the use of technology that can socially and emotionally impact your child. We strongly encourage you to make yourself familiar with these resources.



Through the initiative and persistence of several of our Year 5 students, we have established a Coding Club that will be hosted on Tuesday's and Thursday's during lunch recess break.

This extra-curricular activity will be supervised by staff with up to 15 students participating at any one time. Updates regarding the progress of this new activity will be posted via the newsletter later this term.

TERM 2

Foundation

Healthy Digital Habits

Making good screen time choices (what and when) creating vs consuming

ears 1/2

Healthy Digital Habits

Screen time, green time, balance, sleep habits, comfortable & uncomfortable feelings, putting down the tech

ears 3/4

Healthy Digital Habits

Screen time, green time, balance, how tech makes us feel, sleep habits, uncomfortable feelings

/ears 5/6

Healthy Digital Habits

Our relationship with tech, why it's hard to put down the tech, green time, sleep, uncomfortable feelings



Lest We Forget

On the 25 of April at the Melton War Memorial I attended the annual dawn service with my mum for ANZAC Day. The service was attended by a variety of different schools in the area like St Francis, St Dominics, Wedge Park and St Anthonys.

As we arrived, we noticed there were a lot of people. When the dawn service started, they began to talk about the war and all those soldiers who sacrificed their life for us and our country. There was a story told about my great, great uncle and I was very proud to be able to wear his war medals.

Once they had finished all the different schools and families laid a wreath at the Melton War Memorial pillar to commemorate all the different soldiers who died. I, along with Mason and Alana from Grade 6, represented St Catherine's by laying a wreath.

When it was done, everyone gathered to sing the Australian National Anthem. We then all stood for one minute of silence. In my mind I was thinking about the people who sacrificed their life for me, my family and our country. Once the dawn service had finished everyone got up and started socializing with one another, mainly talking about who they had as a soldier in their family.

Thank you for reading my ANZAC Day recount



A very special thanks to Margaret, her husband Albert & her son Lukas who set up the amazing ANZAC display located in our school's corridor outside the Grade 2 classrooms. The display, supported by our teachers providing learning around the use and importance of each item has given our students a much deeper appreciation for the contribution our service men and woman make to country. Albert himself served in the military and we are very privileged to be able to access the resources he has made available to us.





Year 5's will be putting on a talent show to showcase their talents for the whole school to see. The show will take place in the hall on Wednesday 18th June during the middle block and should run for no longer than 1 hour. Further details about this closer to the time.



Our vegetable garden continues to flourish producing some very odd shaped vegies!





Be strong.
Be brave.
Be fearless.
You are never alone.

- Joshua 1:9



Term 2

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

Term 3

Monday 21st July – Catholic School Mission & Identity Professional Development Day 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



Why She Is Our Saint

We often hear the word "influencer" attributed to individuals on social media today. In fact, so much so that it's become rather superficial and a badge given to anyone sharing their opinions and their top shopping finds.

However, if you rewind hundreds of years ago, you can come across a true influencer of her time: <u>St. Catherine of Siena</u>, a 14th-century mystic, diplomat, philosopher, and so much more.

Her prolific theological writings had such an influence on the Church and in politics that she was made a Doctor of the Church. Despite the fact she lived centuries ago, she can indeed act as a wonderful role model to modern women in various aspects of life, as you can see below:

Have courage to speak out

Unusually for her time, Catherine fearlessly engaged with political and ecclesiastical leaders, advising and challenging them on matters of governance and spirituality. Her example can inspire modern women to speak up against injustice and inequality, and to advocate for change.

Gain strength in faith and spirituality

Catherine's deep spiritual devotion and her commitment to her faith gave her the strength to overcome societal constraints and pursue her calling as a mystic and spiritual leader. In a world where spirituality can be sidelined or misunderstood, her unwavering faith can inspire modern women to embrace their spiritual journeys and find strength and solace in their Christian beliefs.

Show compassion and care for others

Catherine was known for her immense compassion and dedication to serving the sick and the marginalized, even during times of plague and political unrest. Her example can inspire today's women to cultivate empathy, kindness, and a sense of responsibility towards those in need, whether in their local communities or on a global scale.

Have intellectual and artistic pursuits

Despite the limitations placed on women's education and intellectual pursuits during her time, Catherine engaged in theological debates, authored letters and treatises, and even influenced political decisions. Her commitment to intellectual and artistic endeavours can encourage modern women to pursue education, intellectual curiosity, and creative expression, breaking through barriers and striving for excellence in their chosen fields.

Stay true to your path

Catherine's life story reflects her unwavering determination to follow her own path, despite societal expectations and norms. Her journey from a humble background to becoming a respected spiritual leader can inspire modern women to embrace their autonomy, pursue their passions, and chart their own course in life, regardless of obstacles they may face.

Catherine of Siena's life and teachings offer a wealth of inspiration for women in today's world, encouraging them to be courageous, compassionate, intellectually curious, and empowered in their pursuit of truth, justice, and personal fulfillment.





Week 3

ONLINE CYBERSAFETY SESSION FOR YEAR 1-6 THIS WEEK

Monday 05/05

Parent Support Group Meetings

Tuesday 06/05

- Parent Advisory Committee 7:00pm
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Wednesday 07/05

- Mother's Day Mass 9:15am (Whole School) & Morning Tea
- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Shon Productions Filming Day 1
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm
- Eucharist Family Night @ 6:30pm

Thursday 08/05

- Mother's Day Stall
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm
- Parent Support Group Meetings

Friday 09/05

- Parent Support Group Meetings
- Year 3 Excursion National Gallery of Victoria

Saturday 10/05

Saint John Avila

Sunday 11/05

- Mother's Day
- 4th Sunday of Easter: WHITE
- World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Week 4

ONLINE CYBERSAFETY SESSION FOR YEAR 1-6 THIS WEEK

Monday 12/05

- Saints Nereus and Achilleus Saint Pancras
- Yr 4 Excursion Melbourne Museum
- Yr 2 Incursion Metro Trains Awareness

Tuesday 13/05

- Our Lady of Fatima
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Wednesday 14/05

- Saint Matthia
- YEAR 5 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 15/05

- International Day of Families
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Friday 16/05

Saturday 17/05

Sunday 18/05

- Saint John I
- 5th Sunday of Easter White

Week 5

ONLINE CYBERSAFETY SESSION FOR PREP THIS WEEK Monday 19/05

• Emergency DISPLAN Practice

Tuesday 20/05

- Mary, Mother of the Church
- Saint Bernadine of Siena
- Yr 2 Incursion Transport Rail Awareness & Safety
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Wednesday 21/05

- Saints Christopher Magallenes and companions
- Staff Flu Vaccination Program
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm
- YEAR 4 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am

Thursday 22/05

- Saint Rita of Cascia
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Friday 23/05

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Saturday 24/05

- Our Lady, Help of Christians
- First Eucharist Presentation and Commitment Mass @6pm

Sunday 25/05

- Saint Gregory VII
- Saint Mary Magdalene de Pazzi
- Saint Bede
- 6th Sunday of Easter-WHITE

Week 6

National Reconciliation Week Monday 26/05

- Saint Philip Neri
- National Sorry Day

Tuesday 27/05

- Saint Augustine of Canterbury
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Wednesday 28/05

- YEAR 3 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 29/05

- Saint Paul VI
- LSO Meeting 2:15 3pm
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Saturday 31/05

- The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- First Eucharist for SCS and SD @11am (SD Choir) and 1pm (SCS Choir)
- Sunday 01/06
- The Ascension of the Lord-WHITE
- Jesus commissions the eleven, ascends to heaven-Luke 24: 46–53

Week 7

Monday 02/06

Saints Marcellinus and Peter

Tuesday 03/06

• Saint Charles Lwanga and companions

Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 04/06

- YEAR 2 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm
- Interrelate Human Development Family Night -Tricky Talks 6:30 - 8:00pm

Thursday 05/06

- Saint Boniface
- LSO Meeting 2:15 3pm
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm
- Inform and Empower Parent session

Friday 06/06

- School Closure Day
- Saint Norbert
- Saint Marcellin Champagnat

Saturday 07/06

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Sunday 08/06

- Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
- PENTECOST SUNDAY-RED

Week 8

Monday 09/06

- King's Birthday Public Holiday
- Mary, Mother of the Church

Tuesday 10/06

- Parent Advisory Committee 7:00pm
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Wednesday 11/06

- Saint Barnabas
- YEAR 1 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am
- Whole School Assembly 2:15pm

Thursday 12/06

- LSO Meeting 2:15pm 3pm
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Friday 13/6

- Saint Anthony of Padua
- ONWZ principal Network
- Instalment 2 Family Fee Payment Due

Sunday 15/06

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY-WHITE

Week 9

Monday 16/06

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Tuesday 17/06

• Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday 18/06

- YEAR 6 and Prep ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am
- Year 5 Talent Show 11:30am 1:30pm
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 19/06

- Feast of Corpus Christi
- Saint Romuald
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Friday 20/06

- Saturday 21/06
- Saint Aloysius Gonzaga

Sunday 22/06

- Saints John Fisher and Thomas More
- SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (Corpus Christi)-WHITE

Week 10

Monday 23/06

• Saint Paulinus of Nola

Tuesday 24/06

- THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
- Staff Meeting 3.30pm 4:30pm

Wednesday 25/06

- Saint Romuald
- 2026 Prep Enrolments Close
- Whole school mass for the Feast of the Sacred Heart @ 9:15am
- Whole School Assembly 2.15pm

Thursday 26/06

Staff Meeting 3.30pm - 4:30pm

Friday 27/06

- Saint Cyril of Alexandria
- Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Semester 1 Student Reports Sent Home Saturday 28/06
- The Most Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sunday 29/06

Saints Peter And Paul -RED

Week 11

Monday 30/06

• The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

Tuesday 01/07

 Parent Teacher Learning Conversations 3.45pm to 7.15pm

Wednesday 02/07

- YEAR 5 ATTENDING PARISH MASS @ 9:15am
- Parent helper afternoon tea
- Whole School Assembly 2:15pm

Thursday 03/07

- Saint Thomas
- Parent Teacher Learning Conversations 3.45pm to 7.15pm

Friday 04/07

- Saint Elizabeth of Portugal
- Last Day of Term 2
- Dismissal Time 3.15pm





This Weekend's Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (21:1-19)

Jesus stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples. It was by the Sea of Tiberias, and it happened like this: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two more of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said, 'I'm going fishing.' They replied, 'We'll come with you.' They went out and got into the boat but caught nothing that night.

It was light by now and there stood Jesus on the shore, though the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus called out, 'Have you caught anything, friends?' And when they answered, 'No', he said, 'Throw the net out to starboard and you'll find something.' So they dropped the net, and there were so many fish that they could not haul it in. The disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord.' At these words 'It is the Lord', Simon Peter, who had practically nothing on, wrapped his cloak round him and jumped into the water. The other disciples came on in the boat, towing the net and the fish; they were only about a hundred yards from land.

As soon as they came ashore they saw that there was some bread there, and a charcoal fire with fish cooking on it. Jesus said, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.' Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fiftythree of them; and in spite of there being so many the net was not broken. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples was bold enough to ask, 'Who are you?'; they knew quite well it was the Lord. Jesus then stepped forward, took the bread and gave it to them, and the same with the fish. This was the third time that Jesus showed himself to the disciples after rising from the dead.

After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my

lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He replied, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Look after my sheep.' Then he said to him a third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was upset that he asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' and said, 'Lord, you know everything; you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.

'I tell you most solemnly,

when you were young

you put on your own belt

and walked where you liked;

but when you grow old

you will stretch out your hands,

and somebody else will put a belt round you

and take you where you would rather not go.'

In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, 'Follow me.'



Scholars suggest that the 21st chapter of the Gospel of John is a later addition to the gospel, especially given the finality of the language at the end of chapter 20. The style of chapter 21 is much more church-oriented than the earlier chapters. The barbeque breakfast on the beach takes on a Eucharistic feel and the passage is at pains to portray Peter as the leader of the disciples and the one chosen by Jesus to provide leadership into the future. We must remember that the Gospel of John was written almost 70 years after the death of Jesus and if this final chapter is indeed an addition then it is likely written some time in the 2nd century. It was only in the late 1st and early 2nd centuries that the church began to adopt a structure of bishops as leaders of communities and it was important to clearly establish the authority of Peter as the first leader of the Church and the authority of his successors. Obviously, a scriptural reference to Jesus' choice of Peter would have cemented the

case and so this later addition to the Gospel of John may have been constructed to serve this purpose.

Regardless of its original intended purpose, this passage provides a wonderful account of the appearance of the resurrected Jesus to his disciples. Like other post-resurrection accounts, the disciples do not at first recognise Jesus and it is not until the miraculous catch of fish that the beloved disciple declares, 'It is the Lord'. In a beautifully everyday touch, the risen Jesus prepares breakfast on the beach for the disciples and blesses the simple food in the same way as he did the bread and wine at their last supper.

Gospel Focus - Do you love me?

Three times Jesus asks Peter, 'Do you love me?' and three times Peter answers, 'You know I do'. Some writers suggest that the three-fold question by Jesus and the three-fold reply by Peter is intended to balance out the triple denial of Jesus by Peter at the time of the arrest and trial of Jesus. Where once Peter denied even knowing Jesus, he now declares his love for Jesus in no uncertain terms. It is a reminder to all of us that there is no act that we can perform that cannot be forgiven by God and from which we cannot come back.

Historical Context - Feed my sheep

When Jesus asks Peter, 'Do you love me?' and Peter repeatedly assures Jesus that he does, Jesus instructs Peter to 'Feed my sheep'. This image of feeding sheep is used to describe the caring leadership Peter is to take over the other disciples and the other followers of Jesus. The image of a shepherd has carried through the years and finds expression in the stylised shepherd's crook (crosier) that is carried as a symbol of office by bishops. The people of the church are often referred to as the bishop's flock – further carrying on the image of a shepherd and his sheep.

Have you thought? - 153 fish

When the disciples drag ashore their miraculous haul of fish, the gospel writer tells us that there were 153 fish! This seems an odd number and an odd fact to specifically mention. Mathematically, 153 is a number with several interesting attributes, and historically, it has been suggested that the ancients believed that there were 153 species of fish or 153 nations in the world. Like nearly every number used in the Bible, its meaning is symbolic, not literal. It is intended to convey that the catch of fish was huge and is indicative of the vast numbers of people who will be caught up in the disciples' new ministry.



Prep A

Herjok D - For always being on task and listening to instructions. Great job Herjok!

Kyrac B - For being a focused learner in the first week of term 2! You are a superstar, keep it up!

Prep B

Tong M - For being caring during our St Catherine of Siena Feast day Mass.

Hannah G - For being an inquisitive learner during maths and trying your hardest with our partitions to 5.

Prep C

Hunter W - For displaying a readiness to learn and trying your best to complete set tasks with a growth mindset.

Elijah K - For trying your best to form the letters that we have been learning. Awesome work!

Year 1A

Georgia D - For having a growth mindset in learning and always having a go.

Immaculate N - For always entering school with a bright smile and a ready to learn attitude.

Achirin G - For reading 25 nights. Fantastic work. Keep up the great reading!

Lincoln G - For reading 25 nights! Keep up the amazing reading.

Year 1B

Madelyn F - For always following the PBL value of listening and following directions of all staff. You are a great role model!

Marilyn A - For using her phonological knowledge when spelling words. You are a super star!

Year 1C

Amalia E - For a fantastic start to the term and showing growth in responsibility and independence. Your positive attitude and efforts to take charge of your own learning are shining bright!

Aluel A - For demonstrating our PBL values of responsibility and respect, in everything that you do. We are so lucky to have a classmate like you.

Year 2A

Charbel G - For your participation in whole class sessions and taking responsibility for your own learning. Keep up your excellent growth mindset!

Marcus B - For taking responsibility for your learning by asking for help when needed. Keep up the wonderful effort Marcus!

Year 2B

Faith H - For consistently being a leader in the classroom! Your passion for learning, readiness with materials, and positive attitude set a positive example for others!

Oscar J - For doing a fantastic job reading, writing, and drawing four-digit numbers. Your dedication is shining through.

Year 2C

Davina A - For your hard work in writing a detailed recount about Easter using adjectives and time connective words. Excellent work.

Mary Z - For writing a detailed recount about Easter using similes, compound sentences and a range of adjectives and time connectives. Excellent work.

Year 3A

Aishia S - For your excellent effort and enthusiasm to identify patterns in multiples of three and four during mathematics. Keep up the great work!

Evie C - For your excellent effort and enthusiasm to identify patterns in multiples of three and four during mathematics. Keep up the great work!

Year 3B

Penny S - For being an excellent role model of the PBL values. You always demonstrate the four values of being kind, respectful, responsible and safe. What a star!

Ivan J - For your focus and effort with your learning. You always demonstrate being ready to learn. What a star!

Year 3C

Samiya S - For challenging yourself in skip counting by 3's and 4's. Well done for believing in yourself.

Grace S - For consistently completing your writing tasks within the allocated time and to a high standard.

Year 4A

Payton R - For developing quality expanded sentences by using adjectives, conjunctions and adverbial phrases to add more detail. Amazing!

Morgan G - For showing amazing growth already in your understanding of decimals and accurately representing decimals to the tenths place.

Amazing!

Year 4B

Theoneste H - For following classroom expectations to complete his learning.

Rose L - For her carefully thought-out questions and responses during Maths and Religion.

Year 4C

Irah K- For developing well-structured sentences by effectively using sentence expansion techniques and adding adjectives. Well done!

Sienna P- For consistently staying on task and demonstrating a strong commitment to learning. Your full participation is amazing, well done!

Year 5A

Peyton K- For your hard work and dedication in getting your persuasive writing piece started with an excellent introduction. Keep up the great effort!

Dau D- For always giving his best effort and taking the initiative to ask for help to better understand concepts and successfully complete learning tasks. Great job!

Year 5B

Isabelle B -For writing a detailed and thoughtful introduction to your persuasive text, carefully following structure. Amazing work!

Gabriel M - For demonstrating your knowledge and skills in solving division problems in fraction form. Well done!

Year 5C

Harvey A - For trying hard to stay on task, being organised and finishing your work on time. These are skills that will help you achieve amazing things!

Indiana C - For your growth in your reading skills and ability to stay on task. Well done!

Year 6A

Mason G - For your respectful participation in the ANZAC memorial which demonstrates great community spirit and an appreciation for our shared history.

Annabelle B - For your thoughtful reflection on your maths learning and proactive approach in asking clarifying questions which shows great maturity and commitment to your academic growth.

Year 6B

Leona P- For being a wonderful role model in the classroom, always listening carefully, following instructions, and completing all your work with care and focus. Well done, Leona!

Jacob A - For showing fantastic thinking in Maths, confidently using a range of strategies to compare fractions with related denominators. Your creative problem-solving skills make you a true Maths star!

Year 6C

Habeeb F - For outstanding participation and impressive efficiency in completing tasks throughout the past week.

Chloe D - for completing tasks, active participation in class, and willingness to go the extra mile by helping a classmate during Maths lessons.