

# BALAKLAVA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

We are aware that we are meeting and learning on the land where Kurna people have lived for thousands of years. We respect that their connections to this land and their cultural beliefs are still as important today as they will be in the future. We promise to look after all the living creatures and plant life whose survival depends on the water, air and environment of Kurna Country.

Thankyou to everyone who attend our  
End of Year Concert on Monday night!



## IMPORTANT DATES

### School Term Dates for 2025

#### Term 1

Tuesday 28th January -  
Friday 11th April  
(11 week term)

#### Term 3

Monday 21st July -  
Friday 26th September  
(10 week term)

#### Term 2

Monday 28th April -  
Friday 4th July  
(10 week term)

#### Term 4

Monday 13th October -  
Friday 12th December  
(9 week term)

### REGISTRATION DAYS

Wednesday 22nd 3pm - 5pm  
&  
Friday 24th 1pm - 3pm

Please note change  
from Tech lane to  
BUS ROAD



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Merry  
Christmas

I cannot quite believe we have reached the end of another school year. The year seems to have flown by. As I look back on the year, we certainly have packed it full of wonderful learning opportunities both in the classroom and outside the classroom. No wonder the students, families and staff are exhausted!

Have a wonderful break and we will see you all back here refreshed and ready to tackle 2025!



## END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Thankyou to everyone who attended and helped out at our End of Year Concert on Monday night! This event is a great way to showcase our learning for the year.

Thankyou to Marty Brice for being our MC for the night, you Christmas jokes are always a highlight of the night. Sue-Ann for assisting with rehearsals - enabling Mrs B to stay cool in the classroom.

Thankyou to Gav, Riley & Denny from Kemarob for the loan of the tautliner it was squeaky clean!

The Lion's Club and Lisa's Lattes for providing food and drinks.

Karl Holzberger or better known as DJ Holzy for ensuring everything sounds perfect and everyone can hear.

Please find photos from the evening on pages 8 - 10.



GOOD BYE & GOOD LUCK!

### Farewell & Best Wishes

This week, we bid farewell to several valued members of our school community:

#### **Jason Wilkey**

Jason has successfully completed an SSO traineeship at Balaklava Primary School over the past 18 months. His dedication to both his certificate and practical components has been commendable. We congratulate Jason and wish him all the best in his future endeavours.



#### **Bruce Birch**

Bruce joined us in the latter part of this term, contributing to the Disability Unit. His engaging approach, including the use of puppets, has been greatly appreciated by both students and staff.



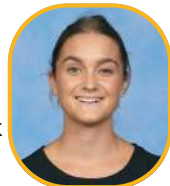
#### **Kym Palka**

We have been fortunate to have Kym Palka return to BPS this year, teaching in Rooms 18 and 2. As he approaches retirement, Kym will continue to contribute as a TRT rather than a regular weekly teacher. We look forward to working with him again next year.



#### **Taylor White**

Taylor re-joined our team this term after her big year abroad. Taylor is such a delight to work with and has such a calm and empathetic approach with the students she works with. We wish Taylor all the best in her future studies.



#### **Simone Garrard**

Simone has been teaching Year 5/6 students at Balaklava Primary School since 2022, with a big smile and an infectious laugh. During her time with us, she has provided a range of wonderful opportunities for our students and has been involved in many activities that goes along with being an upper primary teacher such as excursions, camps and graduation.



# Welcome back

## **Geoff and Kevyna Gardner**

We were delighted to welcome back Geoff and Kevyna Gardner this term to assist with our grounds. Their special touch has once again enhanced our environment. Kevyna is currently working on rejuvenating the Atco garden, and we are pleased that they will continue to support us in the new year. We are deeply grateful for their assistance, especially when we were without a grounds person earlier this term.

# CONGRATULATIONS

## **Congratulations to Our Contract Teaching Staff!**

We are delighted to announce the following updates for our contract teaching staff:

### **Jess Fiegert**

Jess has secured permanency at Balaklava Primary School. We are extremely excited and pleased for both the school and Jess.



### **Sam Otta**

Sam has secured a teaching contract for 2025 and will cover a range of roles in Term 1, including teaching one day per week in Room 2 alongside Jess Fiegert. Sam will then take over the full-time classroom teacher position when Jess goes on maternity leave.



### **Bec Houston**

Bec will return in 2025 as a contract teacher. Having recently become a grandmother, she will teach four days a week next year to balance her teaching and family commitments.



Of late, her activity regarding who stole the Mona Lisa has been engaging and enjoyed by all. We are grateful for her contributions to teaching and learning at BPS and wish her all the very best as she embarks on her new role at Adelaide West next year.

This announcement has been made since the class placement letters were sent out yesterday.

### **Jess Bushnell**

Wendy was given the opportunity to farewell (for now) Jess Bushnell as she embarks on maternity leave.



Here is the speech that Wendy delivered:

Jess wears many hats and each one is worn with unparalleled talent, dedication and love. First and foremost, Jess is a gifted musician, who for those who don't know, has recorded her own albums for purchase on iTunes and Spotify and others I'm not aware of! I often listen to her songs while driving to and from school!

With the students, Jess has inspired a passion for playing instruments, singing and dancing. Teaching, mentoring and awakening the joy of music into the choir each year has been her major achievement.

But her talents don't stop there!

As a technology expert, Jess has brought innovation into every corner of her work. By teaching design and technology as well as Music, Drama, Media Studies, et al, and sharing her knowledge with colleagues, Jess has shown us how creativity and tech go hand in hand.

Jess is also a passionate advocate for sustainability and the importance of recycling. Whether in the classroom, at home or in the community, Jess leads by example showing us all how small actions can make a big difference.

And now, you are about to take on your most exciting and rewarding role yet: becoming a parent!

As we celebrate all that you have accomplished, we can't help but feel happy for this next chapter in your life.

There is no doubt you will bring the same warmth, love and creativity to your family. Here's to you and all the beautiful music, connections and memories you've yet to create.

We will miss your kindness, compassion and friendship.

Congratulations and thank you for everything!





### **Sue-Ann de Vries**

Sue-Ann will return to teach Auslan for two days per week and fill the Arts position for two days a week while Jess B is on maternity leave.

### **Mandy Tiller**

Mandy will join us in 2025 as our Autism Inclusion Teacher for two days a week. Mandy's role is to support educators on how to best support and educate autistic students.



**We will keep you updated in the New Year regarding the Science Contract, Year 3/4 Contract, and the introduction of the Year 2/3 teacher, Chloe.**

## **School Volunteer Award**

At our End of Year Concert on Monday night we presented one of our valued volunteers with the *School Volunteer Award for Outstanding service to Balaklava Primary School for 2024*,  
***Congratulations Kerry Michalanney.***

Kerry's contributions to our school often goes unseen, but the impact of his efforts is felt by all of us. No matter how big or small the task is he is always willing to lend a hand. His ongoing involvement, even after his children have finished here at Balaklava Primary School, speaks to his commitment to this community. He was an active member of the Governing Council and is invaluable when it comes to assisting with information about local roads and infrastructure.

If we were to write a list of jobs that Kerry has helped out with over the years we are sure we would not be able to keep track of them all as he will just pop in and complete the job. He has been doing jobs since his children were students at BPS but since he has no attending children here at BPS he still gets willingly dobbed in by his wife to complete the odd jobs.

We would like to thank Kerry for his tireless support of BPS both in the past, currently and no doubt into the future.

Kerry, once again thank you for everything you have done and continue to do for our school. We are truly grateful for your tireless dedication.

Once again Congratulations Kerry, a well deserved award.



## **End of Year Celebration**

# *Raffle Winners*

Thank you to all who donated towards the classroom hampers! Thank you to the Mendoz and Baker Family who donated a hamper each which added two extra hamper prizes!

A very special thank you to our amazing hamper wrapper, Sue Jones! Sue comes in especially to wrap all the hampers.

Congratulations to the following winners of the hampers:

- **Room 6 Hamper:** *Richard Barr*
- **Room 7 Hamper:** *Julie Sheehan*
- **Room 8 Hamper:** *Rhys Willmer*
- **Room 2 Hamper:** *Helen Driver*
- **Ber 1 Hamper:** *Lil Pym*
- **Ber 2 Hamper:** *Riley Cooper*
- **Ber 3 Hamper:** *Malinda Roesler*
- **Ber 4 Hamper:** *Vanessa J*
- **Room 18 Hamper:** *Tracy Hale*
- **Room 20 Hamper:** *Wayne Atlas*
- **Mendez Hamper:** *Cox*
- **Baker Hamper:** *Margaret Gadd*

Dear Parent/Caregiver, *in your January pack you will receive:*

- 2025 M&S Charge invoice per student
- 2025 Info-tech levy invoice per student - **4<sup>th</sup> and subsequent students** are exempt
- 2025 Swim levy invoice per student R-5 \$15 & Yr6 \$5
- 2025 Performances levy invoice per student
- 2025 School Card online application form information. **Available at** [School Card scheme](#) page on the SA GOV website **opening mid January 2025.**
- Tips & Reminders
- Audiri & Qkr instructions
- Communication App information
- School Expectations
- Nut & Seed Aware School information

*Plus where applicable:*

- 2025 Yr 6 Aquatics Camp total invoice and 2025 Yr 6 Magazine
- Statement of credits with and /or any outstanding amounts owed to BPS

**REGISTRATION DAYS: for ALL students as per BUS ROAD outdoor car lanes**  
**January 2025 Wed. 22<sup>nd</sup> 3pm -5pm & Fri. 24<sup>th</sup> 1pm-3pm**

**NB: EXPRESS LANE Click and Collect for those who have made prior payment / School Card application & have forms completed.**

Payment can be made in the following ways:

- **Cash or cheque** (made payable to Balaklava Primary School) - **Eftpos**
- **Qkr.** - **Direct Debit** to: BSB: 065 000 Account: 12133346
- **Phone** on the 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - **Instalments** by arrangement with office staff.

**Registration Packs will be issued** immediately following the Payment of Fees **OR** Completion of 2025 SCHOOL CARD form **OR** the Payment of \$55/student and **INSTALMENT PLAN AGREEMENT** signed.

2025 Materials & Services plus Extras, Ready Reckoner

	<b>1 student R-Yr5</b>	<b>1 student Yr6</b>
M&S	300	300
less 2025 M&S Rebate	-200	-200
ICT levy	10	10
Swimming levy	15	5
Performances levy *	40	40
*less early pay discount	-5	-5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>TOTAL before 2/2/25 *</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>TOTAL after 2/2/25</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>School Card families</b>	<b>1 student</b>	<b>1 student</b>
M&S	0	0
ICT levy	10	10
Swimming levy	15	5
Performances levy	40	40
*less early pay discount	-5	-5
<b>TOTAL before 2/2/25 *</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>TOTAL after 2/2/25</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Additional Payments</b>		

Please note change from Tech Lane to **BUS LANE.**

Please keep your eye out for the January mail out which includes this information about Registration Days as well as invoices and important information about the 2025 School year.

- Yr 6 students approx. \$130/stu Aquatics camp deposit **\$30 by 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb**
- Yr 6 students \$30/stu Magazine optional – **payment by end of T3**
- Yr 6 students \$40/stu POLOSHIRT – size, order & pay at TADS by **9<sup>th</sup> Feb**





FROM ALL THE STUDENTS & STAFF  
AT BALAKLAVA PRIMARY SCHOOL

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A

*Merry  
Christmas*

AND  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR





# 2025 SCHOOL TERM DATES

**Term 1**

**Tuesday 28th January - Friday 11th April**  
*11 Week Term*

**Term 2**

**Monday 28th April - Friday 4th July**  
*10 Week Term*

**Term 3**

**Monday 21st July - Friday 26th September**  
*10 Week Term*

**Term 4**

**Monday 13th October - Friday 12th December**  
*9 Week Term*



# Last day of School

**Friday 13th December, Week 9**

***Early Dismissal - 2:10pm***

*We hope you all have a wonderful break and we will see all your smiley faces back here on Tuesday 28th January 2025!*





# 2024 END OF YEAR

# CONCERT











# 2024 GRADUATION FOR

# Year 6's

## ***For the Masonic Lodge Award (Community)***

- Positive attitude
- Puts in effort in all areas
- Consistency effort in work and behaviour
- Community orientated, helpful and respectful

It is an honour to announce the Masonic Lodge Award for Community. This award recognises an individual who embodies the values of positivity, effort, consistency, and community spirit. The recipient of this award has shown an unwavering commitment to helping others, always volunteering and taking initiative without waiting to be asked. With a kind and caring nature, this individual has consistently offered support to staff, students, and community members alike. The dedication to working with and assisting anyone in need is truly commendable. This person's actions have made a significant impact on our community, fostering a spirit of cooperation and respect.

Congratulations to Joe Tiller, the recipient of the Masonic Lodge Award for Community. The contributions and selfless service are an inspiration to us all. Thank you for making our community a better place.

## ***High Academic Achiever 2024***

Each year among the graduating class of Year 6's one of them is one who has excelled academically and shown remarkable responsibility and reliability.

This student has consistently achieved outstanding grades, demonstrating dedication and a passion for learning. Their commitment to excellence and their supportive nature have made a lasting impact on our school community.

As we look to the future, we are confident that these qualities will lead to continued success and fulfilment.

The recipient of the 2024 Academic High Achiever is Emilee Moulds.

Congratulations, Emilee, on your exceptional achievements. We are incredibly proud of you and excited for all that lies ahead.



*Congratulations Joe & Emilee*





# Balaklava Primary School

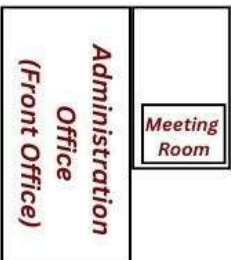
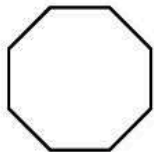
## 2025 Classroom Map

### Banksia Building

### Playground



Pre-loved  
Uniforms



### Leadership for 2025

Principal: Dianna Jarman

DP: Michelle Pudney

Wellbeing Co-ordinator: Cherie Cleary

Curriculum Co-ordinator: Jo Michalanneey

**Open Space Unit**



**NO PEDESTRIAN OR VEHICLE ACCESS: BUS ROAD ONLY**

**Main School Entrance & Exit**

Wallace Street

Wombat Crossing

# YEAR 4/5 EXCURSION TO

# **BOUNCE**

## FREE SPIRITS UNLEASHED





# YEAR 3/4 EXCURSION TO

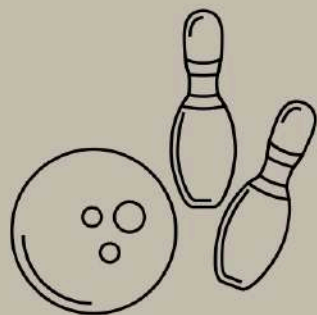
# BAROSSA BOWLAND

AND DINOSAUR  
THEMED MINI GOLF





# Ber 2 and Room 2



In week 8, we went on an excursion to Barossa Bowland.



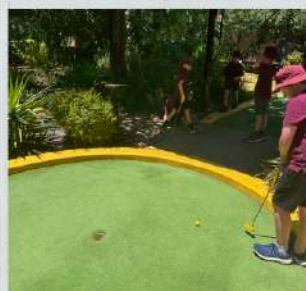
I loved clicking the dinosaurs buttons to hear what the sounds were.



We played mini golf and had a game of bowling



For lunch we had hot dogs and chips.



# YEAR 6 EXCURSION TO



WEST BEACH  
ADVENTURE





# JAM BAND

just add music





# JAM BAND

just add music



# WEEK 7 ASSEMBLY AWARDS



## Room 6

Kate, Chelkiah, Emma, Ethan, Ava & Ashton



## Room 7

Zaphera, Emma, Mitchell & Lucy



## Room 8

Zakkary



## Room 2

Alfred, Charlotte, Hayley & Maddox



## Ber 1

Mahli, Matilda, Holly & Gus



## Ber 2

Joel, Chloe, Rosie & Danny



## Ber 3

Nate, Kaiden & Tobie



## Ber 4

Coby, Rhea & Cody



## Room 18

Sarah, Amity, Jed & Lucas



## Room 20

Charlee



# WEEK 7 LEXIE AWARDS

## BLUE

Ella, Lans, Abby,  
Jack & Fred



## RED

Kendall, Eva  
& Aubree



## BRONZE

Sarah, Kyron, Alfie,  
Holly, Kendall, Rosie,  
Ava, Chloe & Archer



## SILVER

Willow & Matilda



# PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE



Room 6



Room 7



Room 8



Room 2



Ber 1



Ber 2



Ber 3



Ber 4



Room 18



Room 20



# WEEK 7 READING AWARDS



**25 Nights**  
Cohen, Saskia, Georgia, Hunter, Ethan, Herc & Marlee



**50 Nights**  
Carson, Eli & Gus

**75 Nights**  
Sebastian, Hazel & Savannah



**100 Nights**  
Shayla, Haylee, Hugo, Jyran & Kaiden



**125 Nights**  
Fergus & Liam



**150 Nights**  
Jed Sieboth



**275 Nights**  
Madison

## Celebrating Culture and Creativity: A Workshop with Scott

We were honoured to welcome Scott Rathman, a distinguished Aboriginal artist, to our school for an inspiring workshop. Scott began by sharing the values of First Nations people, emphasising their deep connection to the land, respect for elders, and rich cultural history. He also spoke about the impact of the Stolen Generation on his family, highlighting the loss of their homeland and languages.

Scott then shared insights into his life as an Aboriginal artist, explaining how his artwork serves as a visual storytelling medium. He described how iconography can convey deep meanings and encouraged our students to explore their own stories through a writing and drawing workshop.

The workshop focused on what students enjoy most about their learning and social interactions at school. They were tasked with prioritising two aspects and creating drawings using their unique iconography. These creations will contribute to a BPS story, which Scott will use to develop visual designs for school signage and more.

Our students were highly engaged throughout the workshop, interacting with Scott respectfully and demonstrating consistent effort. They produced some great ideas, showcasing their creativity and understanding.

This enriching experience not only fostered artistic expression but also deepened our students' appreciation for Aboriginal culture and storytelling.



*Special thanks also to Vivienne Churchett for joining us for Scotts workshop and also to continue her work on our mural tiles. It was so lovely to have her back on site.*

# THANK YOU!

*Special thank you to Kirsty Williams who has very kindly donated a microwave to the school.*

Thank you



23





MERRY Christmas from Room 6



## Activities

December 14th to 21st, 2024

Wooden 'Santa Please Stop Here' signs

Wooden Christmas Keyrings

Temporary Christmas Tattoos

Scratch Board Antlers, Christmas Ornaments & Stickers

Fuzzy Art Gift Tags



# Christmas at the Library 2024



Library Closed from 12pm Saturday 21st December, 2024.

Re-open 6th January, 2025 at 9am

SCHOOL HOLIDAY  
OPENING HOURS  
Mon - Fri 9:00AM - 4:30 PM  
(closed for lunch 1 - 2PM)  
Saturday 9AM - 12PM

Phone: 0438 086 006

## WIN

### A Balaklava Swimming Pool Family Day Pass

One winner per age group

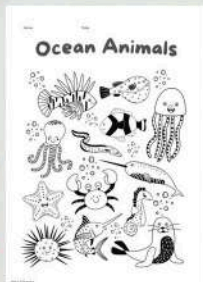


## Summer Colouring in Competition

Collect from  
14th December, 2024

Ocean Animals  
5 to 8 years

Hello Summer  
9 to 12 years



Complete & Drop off  
to the library by  
7th January, 2025  
Winner contacted  
10th January, 2025





## Weekly Activities

January 6th to January 11th 2025

Plaster Sea Animals to paint

January 13th to January 18th 2025

Stickle Puffs: Stick and Create

January 20th to January 25th 2025

Australia Activity Bag (Ages 6+)

Edison Robots



# Summer at the Library 2025

## WIN Colouring in Competition

A Balaklava Swimming Pool  
Family Day Pass

Complete & Drop off  
to the library by 7th January, 2025

Winner contacted  
10th January, 2025



January 6th to 25th, 2025



Please note there are no Children's Uni Activities these holidays.

Please note all our activities are available daily. While stocks last. There is no bookings needed. All activities need to be supervised by an adult especially for young children as some items may be choking hazards. Some activities you will need to collect from staff and register that you have taken part in it as they are one per child for the duration of the holidays.

Go fishing at the  
library

Explore under the sea  
in our sensory bin

Ocean Animal Bingo



Scratch patterns  
into Sea Animals

Colour stained glass  
fish frames



STAY OUT OF THE SUN  
TAKE PART IN OUR  
EVERYDAY FUN

Construct with Magna  
Tiles

Colour with Hey  
Diddle Mats

Build with Straw Tube  
Construction



Please note all our activities are available daily. While stocks last. There is no bookings needed. All activities need to be supervised by an adult especially for young children as some items may be choking hazards. Some activities you will need to collect from staff and register that you have taken part in it as they are one per child for the duration of the holidays.



## Fiction (Historical & Literary)

**"Where the Crawdads Sing"** by Delia Owens  
This atmospheric novel blends a murder mystery with a coming-of-age story set in the marshes of North Carolina. It's a haunting exploration of isolation, love, and resilience.

**"The Night Circus"** by Erin Morgenstern  
A beautifully written tale of magic and mystery centered around a magical competition between two young illusionists. A perfect blend of fantasy and romance.

**"The Book Thief"** by Markus Zusak  
Narrated by Death, this moving story set during World War II follows Liesel, a young girl who steals books to cope with the trauma

Place some holds or borrow any of our suggested reading and ask our friendly staff for a free Holiday Reading tote bag.

# Summer Reading for Adults

## 2024 to 2025

## Mystery & Thriller

**"Big Little Lies"** by Liane Moriarty  
A gripping psychological thriller that delves into the lives of three women in a tight-knit community, with a focus on secrets, lies, and friendships.

**"The Silent Patient"** by Alex Michaelides  
A psychological thriller that centers around a woman who shoots her husband and then stops speaking. A therapist becomes obsessed with uncovering the truth.

**"The Woman in the Window"** by A.J. Finn  
A psychological thriller about an agoraphobic woman who believes she's witnessed a crime in her neighbor's house. A fast-paced page-turner.

## Science Fiction & Fantasy

**"The House in the Cerulean Sea"** by T.J. Klune  
A heartwarming fantasy about a middle-aged man who is tasked with investigating a group of magical children. Full of hope, love, and self-discovery.

**"Circe"** by Madeline Miller  
A retelling of the Greek myth of Circe, offering a feminist and refreshing take on the story. It's a tale of transformation, empowerment, and the complexities of the human experience.

**"Project Hail Mary"** by Andy Weir  
The latest sci-fi adventure from the author of *The Martian*. It follows a lone astronaut on a mission to save humanity, combining humor, science, and suspense.

## Non-Fiction

**"Becoming"** by Michelle Obama

A memoir by the former First Lady, offering an inspiring and personal look at her life, from her childhood in Chicago to her time in the White House.

**"Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind"** by Yuval Noah Harari

A thought-provoking look at the history of the human species, examining how Homo sapiens came to dominate the planet and what the future may hold.

**"Educated"** by Tara Westover  
A powerful memoir about a woman who grows up in a strict, survivalist family and her quest for education. It's a story of resilience and the transformative power of learning.

Place some holds or borrow any of our suggested reading and ask our friendly staff for a free Holiday Reading tote bag.

# Summer Reading for Adults

## 2024 to 2025

## Romance

**"The Rosie Project"** by Graeme Simsion  
A quirky and heart-warming romantic comedy about a genetics professor who designs a scientific survey to find the perfect wife, only to meet someone completely unpredictable.

**"Beach Read"** by Emily Henry  
A fun and emotional novel about two authors with writer's block who swap genres for the summer, leading to an unlikely romance.

**"The Hating Game"** by Sally Thorne  
A workplace romance full of wit, humour, and tension, as two co-workers with a deep mutual dislike end up falling for each other.

## Self-Improvement & Inspiration

**"Atomic Habits"** by James Clear  
A practical guide to building good habits and breaking bad ones, with actionable advice on how to make small changes that lead to big results.

**"The Power of Now"** by Eckhart Tolle  
A guide to living in the present moment, encouraging readers to embrace mindfulness and spiritual awakening.

**"Dare to Lead"** by Brené Brown  
A book about leadership, courage, and vulnerability, offering insight into how to lead with authenticity and heart.



# FAREWELL TO OUR 2024

# Year 6's



## CALENDAR DATES



**BALAKLAVA CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**  
Sunday 15th December 2024



**BALAKLAVA CHRISTMAS CAROLS**  
Sunday 22nd December 2024

**NO! SCHOOL**

**PUBLIC HOLIDAY**  
Monday 27th January 2025



**FIRST DAY OF TERM 1 2025**  
Tuesday 28th January 2025