Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to Term 3.

This week we celebrated Grandparents Day on the feast day of St Joachim and St Anne. By tradition Joachim and Anne are considered to be the names of the parents of Mary, the Mother of God. We have no historical evidence, however, of any elements of their lives, including their names. Any stories about Mary's father and mother come to us through legend and tradition. The legend tells that after years of childlessness, an angel appeared to tell Anne and Joachim that they would have a child. Anne promised to dedicate this child to God.

It was the parents of Mary who nurtured Mary, taught her, brought her up to be a worthy Mother of God. It was their teaching that led her to respond to God's request with faith.

It was their example of parenting that Mary must have followed as she brought up her own son, Jesus. It was their faith that laid the foundation of courage and strength that allowed her to stand by the cross as her son was crucified.

To young children, their grandparents are simply beautiful and they tell them so. Both generations are helped to see themselves as God sees us – loveable, good and made in his image. For most families, grandparents are the 'Central Bank of Memories'. Grandchildren never tire of hearing stories about their own parents when they were children. Their stories and our memories of them need to be shared and celebrated - as we did today at Mass.

A Child’s Prayer for Grandparents
Dear God, please bless my grandparents.
Thank you for the life they gave my parents and for the life they give to me.
For the ways they helped me and made me strong, I give thanks.
For the ways they love me no matter what, I rejoice.
For the ways they have paved the road that leads me here, I am grateful.
Let them grow in wisdom and joy in life.
Let them find peace and rest from their work.
Let them be healed of every sickness and pain.
And let them see with their own eyes the glory of your Son, Jesus, in the love of their children and grandchildren.
Bless them always until they come to rest in you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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In addition to celebrating our Grandparents, our school feast day always occurs during the winter holidays (16th July). Our Lady of Mount Carmel is the patron of our school and of the Carmelites, who are the order of priests of our parish. Mary lived her life with a deep faith and a contemplative spirit. She confronted many moments of despair as well as great moments of rejoicing. With Mary, St Joachim, St Anne and our own Grandparents as inspiration, may we live our lives with courage, faith and love.

All the very best for the week ahead.