Good morning everyone,

This time last year, I stood here and celebrated that we'd finally made a full year in school since the pandemic.

We were tired then, we're tired now. But amid the madness that is December in not only schools but family life, I take my time today to give thanks for the many blessings we have had this year. Sometimes we really need to dig deep to find them, but there are always things to be thankful for.

I am grateful for our new Preps who have come such a long way since they first started. Their Assembly recently simply blew me away. One of my favourite parts during assemblies each week is how strongly our Preps clap for their classmates when they receive an award.

I am so grateful for the Year 1/2s and the incredible independence they begin to show at this age group. Whenever I'm in their classrooms, they know exactly what they're doing and they help me work out what I'm supposed to be doing.

I am grateful that I got to experience Year 3/4 camp with an incredible bunch of students. I am so proud of how many of them overcame their fears and challenged themselves to try new things.

I am so proud of the Year 5s who are preparing for leadership, no matter what it looks like. Some will wear a leadership badge, others will lead the school by their example. I am also super proud of those who applied for official positions, knowing that they might not get one. You are so courageous.

I am so proud of the way our Year 6s presented themselves last night during graduation. Every single student was able to leave their differences behind and unite for a fantastic night. They were inclusive and so supportive of each other.

I am so grateful for the teachers we have here at St Mary's. They are dedicated and always looking to improve their teaching. They are always looking out for our students and go the extra mile to help students work through their difficulties.

I am grateful for our parent community who continue to inspire me to do better, who are so helpful to others in need and are so often on the look out for how they can help.

After watching our recap video, I am truly grateful for the year we have been given. It hasn't always been easy, but we are indeed a fortunate community.

Enjoy your Christmas break. I know I will!
God bless you and your families this Christmas and into the new year.