

# SOTA *Speak*

School of the Air Newsletter



**October 2024 Term 4**



## Message from the Head of Campus

Welcome to Term 4! I hope the camaraderie from our week at Leigh Creek Area School and the excitement of Glendambo's gymkhana recharged you for the final stretch of the school year.

In my penultimate issue of SOTA Speak, I want to shine a light on our dedicated staff and their contributions to our school community.

Despite the high turnover during my five years at SOTA, each colleague has shared valuable insights, enriching my perspective on work, life and sense of place. Distance education has its own challenges, and adapting to SOTA's distinctive context can feel unsettling for those discovering that previous strategies don't seamlessly fit here. Those who view this as an opportunity to explore the strengths of SOTA, bringing openness, flexibility, and a willingness to redefine effective teaching and partnerships, can truly thrive here.

Among teaching staff, Ms Mel and Miss Megan have worked with me the longest, joining a year after I did. With Ms. Mel's leaving at the end of the year, her professional and steady support for students, supervisors and families will be missed. Miss Megan's vibrant personal approach has created lasting connections that go beyond the schoolroom. Together, they have strengthened community bonds and have been supportive guides for new staff.

Misses Kaur and Morley, who joined us in 2023, have embraced SOTA's challenges with enthusiasm. They've grown impressively, achieving full teacher registration, gaining

permanency with the Department, and sharing their practice at an international distance education conference. By visiting families and attending gymkhanas, they've connected with the outback culture and deepened the school bonds with the community.

Newcomers Miss Stringer, Mr. Moyne and Jonathon have added different strengths; Miss Stringer's enthusiasm for our youngest students' imagination and way of learning, Mr. Moyne's passion for sport and technology and Jonathon's joy in supporting student learning have enriched the school culture. Miss Stringer's affinity with the outback will be invaluable when she steps up as the SOTA Coordinator next year. Our latest recruit, Angela brings a positive spirit and enthusiasm to contribute to our school community.

Finally, Jordan and Kristy who have supported me since the day I started in 2020, have been my pillars of strength. Jordan's meticulous care of our IT ecosystem, and though Kristy has moved on, her complete dedication to the school, staff, and community is deeply carved in my memory.

Thank you, to each and every colleague for your contributions to the school community and my love of our little school. We might have different viewpoints, and yes, there have been moments of disagreement, but we always worked through them to create a place that we can all be proud of.

I know you'll continue the good work that you do, greeting your students on the last day with the same excitement and dedication as on the first. Your warm and collegial support for your new head of campus, Fiona Mulder will inspire her as she grows the school alongside you.

Best wishes  
Lai Kuan Lim



## EVENTS

Graduates' Dinner: **7 December**  
Get Together: **8 - 9 December**

## OPFA & CGC

As the end of the term, and year, draws closer, we urge everyone to consider taking on positions on both OPFA and CGC to ensure the smooth running of our wonderful school. Without the input from these committees, fundraising, face to face planning, money distribution and policies would be left in limbo so it is vital we keep a strong support group going!

Don't forget to support the SOTA trucker hat drive and also, send on the auction letter for Kat to businesses for our end of year auction.

Keep cool and start the preparations for the end of year celebrations!!

Cheers

Leah – OPFA chair  
Petie – CGC chair

### OPFA & CGC AGM

3pm Wednesday, Week 7

## DES

Happy term 4 everyone, DES would like to thank everyone who helped us by purchasing a pair of the 'DES Footy Shorts'. They were a great success and together with the help from Southern Rustic (who organised the entire presale, production, and distribution) we were able to raise \$2000 to go toward some more learning tools and experiences for your schoolrooms.

During this term DES has some fundraising goodies to get out to you very soon. We have just put out an email form seeking expressions of interest in a 'DES Australian Bush' scented candle. We are hoping these could be a great Christmas gift or a lovely addition to your family homes.

There is also a run of tea towels. We are in the final design stages and we will have an order form out in the coming days. The tea towel has a collage of self portraits done by each student and we hope this is also a piece of memorabilia for the students whether they are graduating this year or if they have just started school and everywhere in between.

As always DES has many more plans working their magic in the background.

If you didn't receive an email about the candles or want to know more please don't hesitate to email [desgoverness@gmail.com](mailto:desgoverness@gmail.com).

Regards,  
The DES governess group



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## Competitions

### School Magazine Cover

Get creative and have a chance to feature your photography on the cover of our 2024 school magazine!

We're inviting all students to submit a photo that captures the spirit, joy, and uniqueness of SOTA. The winning photos will make the magazine front or back cover, with credits to the photographer.

Instructions:

- Taken by student
- Landscape format
- Represents SOTA
- Due on 18 November
- Email to Miss Morley: [rebecca.morley219@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:rebecca.morley219@schools.sa.edu.au)

### SOTA Art Competition 2024

Showcase your creativity in our 2024 Art competition! We want to see your creative talents at Get Together. We're accepting all forms of art—whether it's a drawing, painting, photo, craft or sculpture.

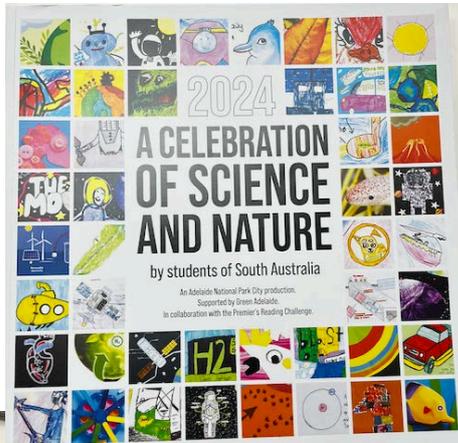
The competition is organised by the following age divisions:

- R - 3
- 4 - 7
- Adults

Please submit your art entry by 10am, Friday, 6 December at SOTA. The panel will judge the entries at 1pm on that day.

All art work will be displayed on Sports Day for everyone to view. Winners will be announced at the Awards ceremony.

# Achievements



Congratulations to Year 1 Simba for winning the R-2 Space category of the Premier Reading Challenge: STEM competition. His artwork was included in the 2024 A Celebration of Science and Nature by Adelaide National Park and Green Adelaide. What an imaginative piece of work, Simba!

We are also proud of Year 5 George for winning the People's Choice Award in the Solar and Sun Bungala Sculpture Exhibition organised by Australian Arid Lands and Port August City Council. George's sculpture, Ol' Lady Emu was crafted with old toys and tools that he found at the dump. Can't wait to see your next creation, George!

A big congratulations to Blythe, Elli, Molly and Tessa for their successful completion of the Certificate III in Community Services. Balancing work with study was not an easy feat, but you stayed resilient and worked through the challenges. Well done!



## Term 4 Week 2

### **Miss Stringer:**

Emmett for starting tasks promptly and taking great care to complete them more neatly and according to instructions. Emmett has also shown improvement in building stamina and concentration, listening attentively for longer periods, and contributing willingly to class discussions.

### **Ms Norina:**

Alex for demonstrating enthusiastic engagement in lessons and consistently completing learning tasks.

### **Miss Kaur:**

Eli for having an amazing start to the term, actively participating in class discussions and completing his follow-up tasks on time. Well done Eli!

### **Miss Morley:**

Lachie for timely completion of his work and consistent willingness to have a go in lessons.

### **Miss Megan:**

Lilly for her excellent start to Term 4, showing strong resilience and persistence, especially by applying herself to do extra work in Mental Maths and in her writing tasks.

### **Mr Moyne:**

Lisma for showing growth in her reading and writing stamina since the last visit. Keep up the enthusiasm for learning!

### **Lai Kuan:**

Molly for supporting Lisma and PJ's interest in reading and helping them build confidence and responsibility in their own learning. Also, for being so helpful to teachers during school events.

## Miss Megan's Home Visits

This term started with a big trip to Glendambo for the gymkhana. It seemed like half of the SOTA community was present for this fantastic event. Miss Kaur, Miss Morley and Miss Stringer shared in the festivities and we all celebrated the sportsmanship and accomplishments of the participants. It was wonderful to catch up with some of our graduate students as well.

Miss Stringer and I visited Ingomar Station in Week 1 and then we popped in to The Twins to say hello. Meeting Parl, the tame wombat was just lovely and even though the visit was brief, it was so nice to see how well everyone is doing there. Next, I had another great week in Siam and it was wonderful, once again, to see how much all of our students have progressed in their learning over the course of the year.

This term is bound to go quickly. So I am making the very most of every day and savouring the time I can share with you all.

Miss Megan





## Mr Moyne's Itinerant Visits

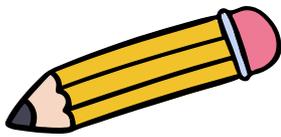
Hi all, I hope everyone had a wonderful break. During the end of Term 3 and start of Term 4 I visited a number of places in which everyone demonstrated hard work, persistence and enthusiasm within the schoolroom. Students were keen to apply their sport skills in games such as hockey, tennis and softball. They also had the opportunity to interact with different kinds of technology including the Dash robot ball launcher and the CoSpaces 3D coding software. I look forward to seeing many more of you in the upcoming weeks of Term 4. Have a great term!





## Miss Stringer - Reception / Year 1

In Literacy students will explore the genre of letter writing applying language and text skills learned throughout the year. This will include a letter to Santa and fingers crossed for a reply!! Students will also complete weekly writing tasks choosing from their own topics to best engage each student. We will finish off the term with a Christmas booklet and Christmas themed spelling words to practice our phonics skills.

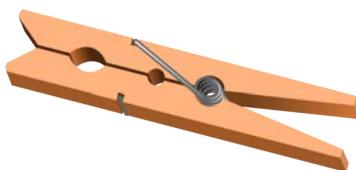


In Maths we are focusing on money. Students will learn about Australian coins: explore the meaning behind the images on each coin and recognise, describe and order Australian coins according to their value. Year 1 students will begin to work out change and simple coin addition.

Students will also look at aspects of measurement, comparing and ordering duration of events using every language and connecting days of the week to familiar events and actions. Year 1 students will also tell time to the half hour and Describe duration using months, weeks, days and hour.

All students will consolidate their learning on hundreds, tens and ones as maths warm up activities.

In Science students will explore objects, purpose and materials with a range of activities to investigate materials and their intended use.



The joyful sound of the recorder will once again fill outback schoolrooms across SA as we learn the notes of the recorder and do our best to learn a couple of basic songs. Students will join up with the Year 7 students to practise a Christmas song for the end of year presentation.



In Term 4 Health lessons, Reception students will engage in activities which encourage self-reliance, and some activities will include seeking help from trusted adults, when appropriate.

Year 1 students, will be encouraged to use their problem-solving skills but also taught to recognise when they need to ask for help from trusted adults. A series of safety symbols will be introduced and aspects of safe play and behaviour in the outdoors will include the importance of protection from the sun.

The final lesson for both Year levels will introduce the concept of bullying and students will explore how to respond to unkind behaviour.

The PE program will develop and refine shot put, discus, running and long jump skills.



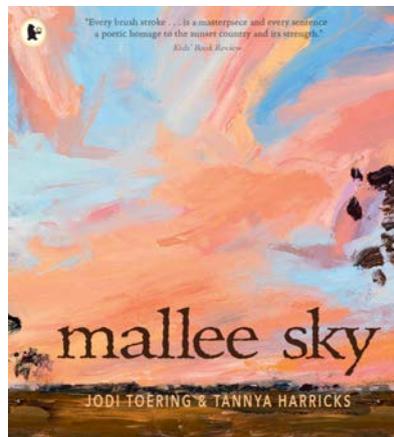
Mid year intake students will continue to build their stamina in readiness for 2025 with a weekly book focus and daily activities based around the topic of the book. They will continue to explore numbers 1-10 then move onto days of the week, shapes and finish off with a Christmas booklet. Students will continue phonics exploration practice the hearing and manipulation of sounds within words as well as basic reading and writing skills.





## Ms Mel's - Year 2/3

This term in English we will begin by learning about the Mallee region. Our learning will focus around a book called *Mallee Sky*, which delves into themes of life on the land and drought. We will examine descriptive language used by the authors before trying our hand at poetry, specifically cinquain poems. The second half of this term will see us learning more about different types of poetry and creating our own literary masterpieces.

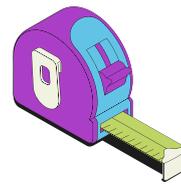


For our LLP this term we are centring our learning around PROJECT AUSTRALIA! This project incorporates Science, HASS, Visual Arts and Music with some links to our English unit. We will begin by looking at our connection to people and places in Australia before moving on to explore the special connection of First Nations Peoples to their Country. Then we'll dive underneath the surface of our fine country to learn about its radical rocks and miraculous minerals. Before beginning our investigation into how First Nations stories can be shared using visual arts and music.



This term in Math, students will focus on measurement, specifically mass and area. They will learn to measure mass and area using both informal square units and formal units, including grams, kilograms, centimeters, metres, and kilometres. Students will practice these skills and apply them to real-world situations.

Next, they will explore angles, with a particular emphasis on understanding right angles. The term will conclude with an examination of chance and probability.



Finally, in CPC this term we are learning about protective strategies to keep ourselves by using assertive responses, observation skills and persistence and applying these to 'What if ...?' situations to practise our problem-solving skills.



In Health, Year 2 will be encouraged to use their problem-solving skills but also reminded to recognise when they need to ask for help from trusted adults. A series of safety symbols will be introduced and aspects of safe play and behaviour in the outdoors will include the importance of protection from the sun. The final Health topic is the importance of inclusivity.

Year 3 will consider changes they can make to their daily routines to increase physical activity levels and they will investigate how food practices differ between families, communities, and cultural groups. They will look at how food preparation and consumption are used to celebrate and pass on cultural beliefs, practices and values and they will recognise the health benefits of establishing and maintaining good health.

The PE program will develop and refine shot put, discus, running and long jump skills.

## Miss Kaur - Year 4/5

### Term 4 Overview

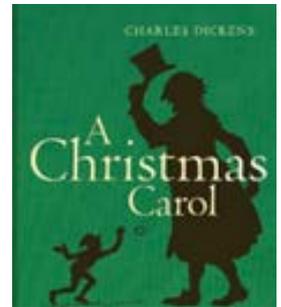
Hello everyone and welcome back to Term 4. I'm so excited and can't wait to kick off the new term! I'm looking forward to seeing all the amazing learning activities the Year 4/5 superstars will be doing.

Let's have a look at what's in store for this Term.

#### **English:**

This term, students will focus on narrative writing and explore A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. They'll study key features of narrative writing while also looking at grammar elements, including parts of speech and sentence types.

Students will be completing weekly comprehension and grammar tasks on IXL English. Additionally, students will continue to engage in weekly spelling and DORF tasks.



#### **Maths:**

In Maths, students will focus on understanding and applying measurement concepts. They will learn to calculate the perimeter and area of regular and irregular shapes and explore the volume and capacity of objects. Students will also develop skills in converting between different units of measurement, such as millimetres, centimetres, and meters, and use these concepts to solve real-world problems.

Students will continue to work on IXL Maths to consolidate their Maths understanding.



#### **HASS: Geography**

In Geography, students will explore how human and environmental factors influence places. They will examine how natural elements like climate and landforms shape a location, while also analysing human activities such as agriculture, urbanisation, and industry. Students will investigate how these factors impact the sustainability and liveability of places, fostering an understanding of the relationship between people and their environment.



### **Science:**

In Science, students will study adaptations in plants and animals that help them survive in different environments. They will explore how specific physical and behavioural traits, such as camouflage, hibernation, and drought resistance, enable organisms to thrive under varying conditions. Students will investigate how these adaptations contribute to the survival of species and examine the impact of environmental changes on living things.



### **CPC (Child Protection Curriculum)**

This term in CPC students will learn to recognise different forms of abuse including cyberbullying. They will review the network of people they could talk to and learn some protective strategies.



### **Arts: Music**

Our Arts focus is on Music. We will explore the function and importance of beat in music, improvise, and experiment with beat and rhythmic patterns, and record and perform musical ideas using graphic notation.



### **HPE (With Mr. Moyne)**

In Health this term, students will be examining the need to balance time spent using electronic devices and playing outdoors. They will also learn about interacting safely, securely and respectfully online including how to create secure passwords and getting help when needed. Within physical education, students will be practising and refining their skills in athletics in preparation for the upcoming SOTA sports day.



Let's continue our learning journey into Term 4!  
Best wishes,  
Miss Kaur

## Miss Morley - Year 6/7

Welcome back, I hope you have had a wonderful holiday and are feeling ready for your final term at SOTA! This term will be a short but full term as we prepare to farewell our students for their move to high school.

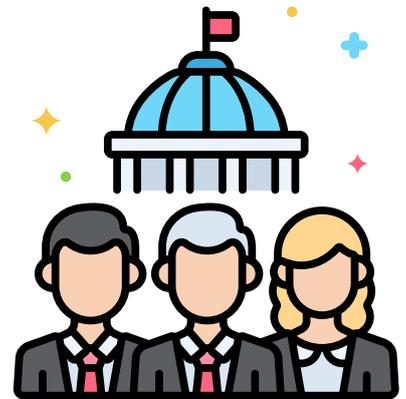
### English

This term in English, we will be exploring narratives in poetry, focusing on the poem *The Jabberwocky* by Lewis Carrol. Students will develop their grammatical understanding and writing skills by examining how specific vocabulary choices and text structures can be used to set a scene and tell a story, before experimenting with their use in their own narratives.



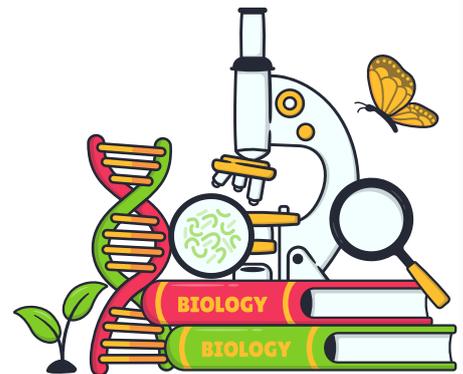
### HASS

In HASS we will be examining Australia's government system and the roles of local, state, and federal governments in supporting our communities and services. We will also investigate the process of law-making, from the initial proposal of a new law to its final implementation, and the governmental systems that are required.



### Science

Our focus is Biological Science, and we will be exploring what living things need to survive and continuing from our Leigh Creek science lessons to examine food chains and food webs, investigating how living things fit together in ecosystems depending on their surrounding environments.



### Music (Year 6)

In the Arts, we will continue to learn about the music elements, identifying and reflecting on their use in music pieces from different genres, before using them to perform and compose music using digital tools and on their recorders.



### Mathematics

In Mathematics, we will finish the year learning about Data, Statistics, and Probabilities. In this unit, we will examine how different graphs represent discrete and continuous data and investigate how media can present data in different forms to influence or mislead their audience. Our class will also explore and represent the likelihood of different outcomes in chance experiments, before designing and conducting investigations regarding the probability of an event.



### Transition Program

This term instead of CPC, we will be spending one lesson a week preparing our students for their transition to high school by equipping students with essential study skills and organisational strategies. The class will learn about time management, independent study habits, and strategies for overcoming obstacles, to develop student confidence and readiness for this change.



### HPE

In Health this term, students will be exploring how they are feeling about 'change' - in particular the transition into secondary schooling. They will develop the skills necessary to deal with any concerns about change in an optimistic and encouraging way. Within physical education, students will be practicing and refining their skills in athletics in preparation for the upcoming SOTA sports day.



## SOTA Book Club

Hi parents, teachers, govies and students of SOTA! Look at all of these great book reviews all of the kids have done! There are some from Yellow Brumbies, Blue Dingos and Red Eagles, and a bunch of different books to learn about and maybe even read! Keep them coming, reviewers!

Lara

**Title:** Puppy Place: shadow: chapter 7

**Author:** Ellen Miles

**Reviewer:** Lara (Brumbies)

**What is it about:** I liked how they were tacking care of shadow as their own even though they had to give him away.

What did you like: How they loved him and took care of him.

**Age recommendation:** 4+

**Rating:** 7/10



**Title:** Whitney and Britney Chicken Divas

**Author:** Lucinda Gifford

**Reviewer:** Bonnie (Brumbies)

**What it's about:**

This book is about 2 chickens called Whitney and Britney who were really bored and decided to go to Club Sparkles and ended up performing there. They called themselves the Chicken Divas. Eventually their owner discovered that Whitney and Britney had been sneaking out at night, and she decided to join them and then their stage name became Foxy and the Chickettes.

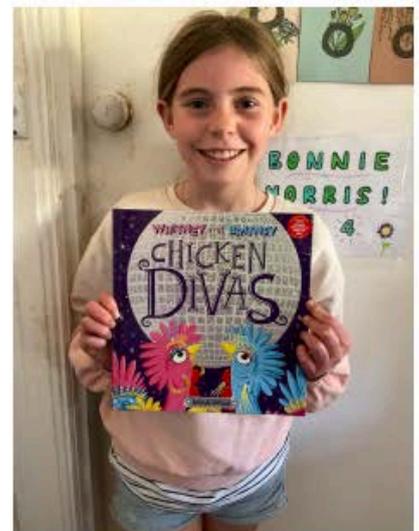
**What I enjoyed about it:**

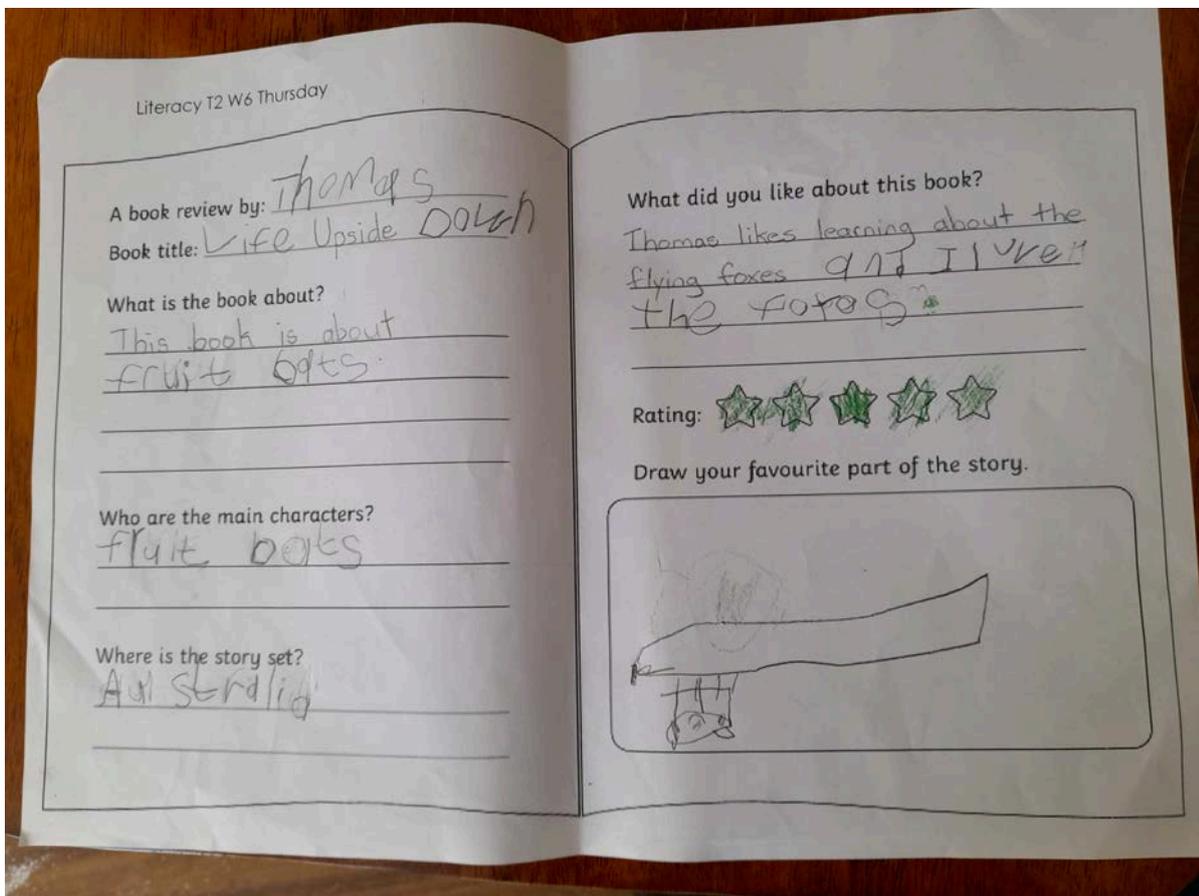
This book is funny and really good for young children. The text rhymes and it is full of fun words. I like the drawings. They are good for younger readers because they are colourful and sparkly.

**Age recommendation:**

3 - 8 years of age

**Rating:** 10/10





**Title:**

What The Ladybird Heard

**Author:**

Julia Donaldson

**Reviewer:**

Alex (Blue Dingos)

**What it's about:**

This book is about a farm with a horse, a pig, a duck, a goose a hen, a sheep, a dog a fine prize cow, a cat that purred, a cat that meowed and a ladybird that never said a word. One night the ladybird saw some thieves making a [plan to steal the fine prize cow.....

**What I enjoyed about it:**

I enjoyed the part when the animals tricked the thieves into going the wrong way while they were trying to steal the cow. I also love how the book rhymes all the way through.

**Age recommendation:**

4-6-year-olds

**Rating:** 10/10

# Happy World Teachers' Day

Student Council celebrated World Teachers' Day with many messages from students and one of our favourite Slim Dusty's songs.

Thank you, SOTA teachers!

