White Hills Primary School 1916

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03 5443 0799

Aspire - Respect - Resilience - Responsibility

Term 1 Week 1 January 30th 2025 Newsletter

News from the School Leaders

Welcome Families

On behalf of the School, I welcome our 585 students, new and continuing, to White Hills Primary School for 2025. It is wonderful to see that our 28 classrooms have settled well, and we have had a calm start to the year. It was great to see many happy faces of students ready to start their new year of learning. Our teachers are well organised following the many hours involved in relocating to new rooms and preparing for the return of students. Well done to everyone!

We thank parents for their support in attending our Start-Up Interviews yesterday. This is a highly valued process enabling students to see their classroom spaces and for parents to meet their new teacher/s. We hope parents and carers found them equally as valuable and had the opportunity to share some important information. These really do help with a settled start to the year.

Bec Harper will be continuing as the Acting Principal for the beginning of the year and Kim Davies will be continuing as Acting Assistant Principal. We have been notified that the process will begin this term in recruiting a new Principal.

This year we have some new staff. A warm welcome to Morgan Clohesy (Prep), Jake Rusbridge (Year 3), Ms Hauxwell (STEM) and Qiang Fu (Chinese) We also welcome our new Education Support staff, Tilly, K'Pru, Alannah and Spencer to the WHPS team.

For 2025, our class grouping has been organised with an average class size of 20.5 students across our school. This is significantly smaller than what other schools are offering and a significant improvement on the class sizes at White Hill in 2023.

This year students will experience specialist teachers in the areas of STEM, Music, Visual Arts and Physical Education and Chinese.

Over the coming weeks, I will be asking classroom teachers, if they have not done so already, to ensure that parents are connected to Compass. When used appropriately, this will ensure that there is ample opportunity for communication

to occur between home and school. I am expecting that teachers will use and check this daily. I trust that parents will do the same and will be encouraged to communicate with teachers in this manner, when they are unable to pop-in.

Families are asked to ensure that all medical records of students and emergency contact details of families including mobile phone and residential records are kept up to date.

Our first few weeks the focus is all about setting up routines, expectations and building a positive classroom environment. We look forward to having a great school year together.

Regards Bec & Kim

Calendar of Events **Term 1 2025**
Wednesday 29th Jan – Thursday 28th March

Term 1
4th Feb – AFL Carlton Players Years 3 – 6
11th Feb – Netbook Information Session 9:00am & 5.30pm
14th Feb - School Photo Day
5th Mar - Foundation students attending fulltime.
10h Mar - Labor Day Public Holiday (No School)
17thMar - Years 3 - 6 Swimming Program (all week)
4th Apr - Last Day Term Early Finish 2.30pm
School Holidays 5th April – 21st April

Term 2
22nd April Term 2 Starts

Wellbeing

The Wellbeing Team is seeking volunteers to support our Breakfast Club program, currently running on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:30am – 9:00am. With your help, we aim to expand this program to provide breakfast to students every weekday. If you're interested in joining our team, please reach out to Ricky at 03 5443 0799 for more information. Your contribution can make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students. Regards Ricky & Brioney

2025 Housekeeping

Lunch Orders:
Just a reminder to change your child's year level and classroom when placing a lunch order. This will make sure that your child's lunch is being sent to the correct classroom in time for lunch.

SunSmart
With the summer heat, we are more vigilant than ever about being SunSmart at WHPS. Students are required to wear their hats at school and students without hats will need to spend lunch and recess time under the shaded 'hat tree'. Sunscreen is available in classrooms. Hats can be purchased from our uniform supplier Bob Stewart.

School Uniforms:
Please make sure you label all items coming to school eg. school uniforms, hats, bags, lunch boxes, drink bottles. Our Lost property is overflowing already with NO NAMED ITEMS. Labelled items are returned to classrooms.

Mobile Phones (Smart Devices):

White Hills Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school. We prefer that students do not bring personal mobile phones to school.

Students who choose to bring mobile phones (smart devices) to school must have them switched off and handed into the school office at the start of the day. Phones will be secured in locked storage at the office.

Mobile Phones must be switched off once students enter the school grounds in the morning. When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office – not on the mobile phone.

Staff Car Park Safety

Our staff carpark is a designated space for staff only. We have noticed that this is frequently used throughout the day by parents and carers. Please refrain from using this car park as it is a high-risk area and students are not permitted in this area. To ensure that we maintain the safety of our students, please use the parking spaces provided, outside the school.

Handing in Money

From time-to-time students may be required to bring money to school for an excursion or event. It is important that any money handed over by a student needs to be in an envelope with all the relevant information written on the front prior to being handed to the office.

COMPASS

Compass will be the primary source of information from 2025 onwards. Compass will be used for email communications, scheduling interviews, accessing semester reports, managing absences, sending out notes to parents and also making payments. If you have not already got your LOGIN details (or needing your password reset), please call in to the office ASAP.

Please feel free to drop in or contact the admin team if you need any help.

Regards Sabina, Danni, Fleur and Alannah