



FALLS CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL

TALKABOUT

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Term 1 - Week 3

Wednesday 10 February 2016

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Attendance: I would like to remind parents of the importance of ensuring their children attend school every day. Attached to Talkabout is a flyer that explains the department's policy for attendance and your legal responsibilities in sending your child to school.

Days off for illness need to be explained by parents with a note or phone call to the school explaining your child's absence. Days off for such things as birthday celebrations and helping at home are not acceptable reasons for student absence and the absence must be noted as unjustified by the school.

High rates of absence, either justified or unjustified will be monitored and letters will be sent to parents, via mail. The home school liaison officer may also become involved in cases of high absences.

Habitual late arrivals at school also need to be explained. Sleeping in is not a justified reason for a student's late arrival at school. It is important that all students arrive at school on time to maximise their learning and to know what is happening at school.

If you have any questions about this policy please come and talk to me.

Signing students in: It is a legal requirement that parents and carers sign their children in at the office if they arrive at school after the bell rings at 8.55am. Students receive a late slip that they give to their teacher when they arrive at the classroom.

Likewise, if parents are picking students up early they must first visit the office and sign them out. Teachers will not release students until parents hand them the red slip from the office.

These measures are to ensure the safety of our students at all times.

P&C Meeting: the AGM will be held tomorrow night at 6.15pm in the old 5/6 room. Meetings are child friendly. I hope to see you there.

Assembly: We had previously said our first assembly would be held next Thursday. However, I have to attend a meeting in Sydney so we will postpone our first assembly to week 6 – Thursday 3 March.

School Leaders: Year 6 students will be asked to consider standing as a school leader and if so will make a speech to the students (on Monday 22 February) about why they would like to be a school leader and what qualities they possess. Students will vote after this and the new leaders will be announced at the assembly in Week 6.

LMBR: Later this year our school will be phasing in a new finance and administration system. This system is called Learning Management and Business Reform (LMBR). As part of this Karen will attend 15 days of training during Term 3 and I will attend 5 days with follow up learning occurring here at school. Staff will also be trained in some of the new features.

As a result of this, we will be asking all parents to update contact details (form attached to Talkabout) to ensure all information is right when we begin to move over to the new system. There will be changes in how we collect money and do refunds. I ask that you be patient with us as we learn the new system.

School Photos: Carol Linnane from Rainbow Photographics will be taking our school photos on Thursday 24 March. Order forms will be sent home in the next few weeks.

Please come and see me if you have any questions or concerns.

Nicole.

K/2 NEWS

We are slowly getting into our routines in the classroom. Kinder continue to settle in well and are enjoying learning new things.

Home Readers for Years 1 and 2 went home yesterday. Please return them daily so students can take a new book home each night.

Homework – it was great to see so many students return their homework last Friday. Any homework that is handed in on Monday does not get marked until the end of the week as I do not have time during the day to mark it. Please ensure homework is in a book or folder. If you are

unsure about any areas of your child's homework please come and talk to me and I will explain it to you.

Lost clothes – after last year's water fun day Mason ended up with extra clothes and towel in his bag. If your child lost these please come and see me – they are here at school all clean and ready to be returned to their rightful owner!

Please come and see me if you have any questions or concerns.

Nicole.

3/6 NEWS

We had a great start to our Friday Spelling tests and Dictations with most of the class doing very well. I'm hoping that this Friday everybody shines!

Library borrowing was quite good last week. Many of the class chose to keep their books at school to read during DEAR time.

We are continuing to look at place value in Maths. Our new textbooks have arrived!!

"The Magic Rainforest" is the John Marsden book we have started and this week's homework has vocabulary from the first 2 chapters. Advertisements and persuasive language is the focus in writing this week.

I would like the children to bring their School Diaries to school as soon as they get them please.

Keep in touch,

Lyn.

MS CULLEN

Firstly I would like to congratulate all of the students that entered artwork into the Nowra Show. Awards were presented to the following students: 2nd Place - Chrystel and Sealisha Buckley. Highly Commended to Kiho Luke and Commended to Liam Henkel. This term during Science, K/2 are studying a unit of work called **Watch it Grow** which focuses upon lifecycles of plants, humans and animals. 3/6 are exploring plant and animal diversity and survival within desert environments in the unit **Desert Survivors**.

SPORT NEWS

The Small Schools Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday, 17 February at Bomaderry Pool. All children in years 3-6 are invited to attend as well as year 2 children who turn 8 this year. **Children must be able to swim 50 metres to attend.** Notes were sent home for this carnival last week and they need to be returned by **THIS FRIDAY (12/2/2016)** so we can organise the transport.

Lyn Brown

CANTEEN NEWS

If you would like to help out in the canteen please leave your name and contact number with Karen at the office. The more volunteers we have the more days we can open, so please help if you can (even if it's only once a term, it all helps).

CANTEEN ROSTER

Tuesday 16 February - Leah Ryan & Kirsten Crowell

Tuesday 23 February - Sue Lightowlers & Tara Malone

P & C NEWS

Please note this in your diary -

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 11 February, 2016

(Term 1 Week 3) at 6.15pm in the old 5/6 classroom. All welcome!



BOOK CLUB

Issue 1 has been handed



out please return your order by Tuesday, 16 February.

KITTENS

FREE TO GOOD HOME!!

Male and female, around 5 weeks old.
Please contact Donna 0474 700 515.



CENTRAL
SHOALHAVEN
MOBILE
Preschool
UNIT INC

VACANCIES AVAILABLE!!!!

The Central Shoalhaven Mobile Preschool is a community owned, not for profit organisation. University and TAFE trained staff provide an educational program for children aged between 3 and 5 years, in a motivating setting to enhance each child's preparation for school.

We visit Callala Beach, Cambewarra, Falls Creek and Huskisson weekly.

Preschool hours are from 9am - 3.00pm,
extended hours available from 8am.

Come along and give your child the opportunity to make new friends within the local area. Subsidies are available.



All enquiries welcome

Phone: 44230571 /0432274244 /0412928095

We are a registered Preschool not a Long Day Care facility



Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to [complete their schooling](#).

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/programs/attendance.php>

The school leaving age:
<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leaving-school/index.php>

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5129

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities

Falls Creek Public School

CHANGE OF ADDRESS / CONTACT DETAILS

Family Name: _____ Date: _____

Given Names: 1st Child _____ Class: _____

 2nd Child _____ Class: _____

 3rd Child _____ Class: _____

New Address:		
Home Phone Number:		
Phone Numbers:	Mother - Work:	Mobile:
Phone Numbers:	Father - Work:	Mobile:
Change of Name:		
New Emergency Contact:	Name: Relationship to Student:	Phone:

- If any of your circumstances have changed could you please fill out this form and return it to the school office so we can update our records.

Thank you
Karen Morison

Falls Creek Public School - Term 1 2016

Term One	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT SUN
1	25 Jan Holidays	26 Jan Australia Day Public Holiday	27 Jan School Development Day	28 Jan Yrs 1 – 6 students return	29 Jan Kinder starts	30 31 Jan
2	1 Feb	2 Feb 1.40pm: NRL visit for the whole school	3 Feb	4 Feb Library borrowing starts	5 Feb	6 7 Feb
3	8 Feb	9 Feb Canteen starts for 2016	10 Feb	11 Feb P & C Annual General Meeting 6.15pm	12 Feb	13 14 Feb
4	15 Feb	16 Feb	17 Feb Yrs 3 – 6: Small Schools Swimming Carnival	18 Feb Assembly 2.10pm <i>POSTPONED UNTIL WEEK 6</i>	19 Feb	20 21 Feb
5	22 Feb K/1/2: Responsible Pet Program 12.20pm	23 Feb	24 Feb	25 Feb	26 Feb	27 28 Feb
6	29 Feb	1 March	2 March	3 March Assembly 2.10pm	4 March	5 6 Mar
7	7 March	8 March	9 March	10 March	11 March	12 13 Mar
8	14 March	15 March	16 March	17 March Assembly 2.10pm	18 March	19 20 Mar
9	21 March	22 March	23 March	24 March School Photos	25 March Good Friday	26 27 Mar
10	28 March Easter Monday	29 March	30 March	31 March Assembly 2.10pm	1 April	2 3 Apr
11	4 April	5 April	6 April	7 April	8 April	9 10 Apr
Hols	11 April	12 April	13 April	14 April	15 April	16 17 Apr
Hols	18 April	19 April	20 April	21 April	22 April	23 24 April