



Black Swan News

Grahamstown Public School



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Term 1, Week 2
2 February 2022

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to Grahamstown Public School for another wonderful year of learning!

Welcome to new staff 2022

This year we have a few new faces joining us at GPS. The staff structure for 2022 is:

Principal: Michele Winn

Assistant Principal Curriculum and Instruction: Alison White & Allison Bourke

Assistant Principal Learning & Support: Sue Holloway

Assistant Principal K-2: Veronica Teasdale

Assistant Principal 3-6: Deb Marsh

Lizards: Raechelle Linn

Hedgehogs: Tracey Higgins

Kindergarten Lemurs: Renae Le-Leu

Kindergarten Lobsters: Kate Lockwood

Year 1 Rosellas: Renae Roddom

Year 1/Year 2: Kelly Finnane & Sophie Clarke

Year 2 Chipmunks: Kristine Cheney

Year 2/Year 3 Crocodiles: Kristy Cant

Year 3/Year 4 Manta Rays: Ashleigh Riley

Year 3/Year 4 Megalodons: Shelby Matthews

Year 4/Year 5 Rock Wallabies: Susan Riddle

Year 5/Year 6 Bears: Katie Brown

Year 5/Year 6 Monkeys: Jocelyn Millgate

Year 5/Year 6 Tigers: Owen Todhunter

Teacher Librarian: Amy Gordon

Learning & Support Teacher: Marilyn Willoughby

Support Teacher: Robyn Fuller, Joanne Anderson, Mark Landa, Renae Moss, Hayley Dufour

Counsellor: Emily Coutts

Chaplain: Nathan Hanley

Support Staff

School Administrative Manager: Danielle Wood

School Administrative Officer: Jodi Callaghan (Tue-Fri) & Angela Blyton (Mon&Wed)

General Assistant: Mark Cant

School Learning & Support Officer: Sue Van Hoof, Devina Daidu, Melissa Hitchcock, Krystal Green, Diane Smyth, Denis Flaus and Jacqueline Flaus

Canteen Supervisors: Nikki Cassar & Rebecca Bartush

Staff on Duty from: 8.30am

Starting Time: 9am

Lunch: 11am – 11.40am

Recess: 1.25pm – 2pm

Home Time: N-Z 2.50pm, A-M 3pm (until further notice)

Office Hours: 8.30am – 3.05pm

Sport Houses: Colman-Blue, Hastings-Maroon/Red, Finnan-Yellow, Eldon-Green

COVID-19 Term 1 School Operations

We will start 2022 with a layered approach to COVID-smart measures that have been developed in partnership with NSW Health to help to minimise transmissions at school. The health and wellbeing of our students and staff remain our priority, and these measures are designed to help to keep our school open and our students learning in the classroom.

These key measures include:

- Rapid antigen test (RAT) kits will be provided to all students to help monitor your child's health and minimise transmission of COVID-19 across our school.
- Wearing of surgical masks indoors is required for all staff and students in Year 7 and above and strongly recommended for all primary students. Masks will be provided by the school if required.
- Only fully vaccinated visitors essential to delivering and supporting learning or wellbeing can come on a school site.
- Up to two parents or carers are allowed to accompany their child into school on their first day of Kindergarten or Year 7 or students starting at a new school.
- Students will be kept in their year groups on school grounds, with staggered drop-off and pick-ups, break times, playground and canteen access to minimise the spread of COVID-19 across cohorts.
- We will continue to use good hygiene, enhanced cleaning, good air flow and ventilation in learning spaces, as well as physical distancing practices.

While this is not going to be a normal start to the school year, we know that being together in the classroom is the most effective way for students to learn and grow. Your child's relationship with their teacher is important, but as we manage potential disruptions to staffing due to COVID-19, they may get to meet more teachers than usual.

Rapid Antigen Tests

We will distribute packs of rapid antigen test (RAT) kits for all students and staff at the start of Term 1.

The use of RAT kits is an important step to support the health and wellbeing of our students and staff. They are a quick and easy screening tool to help detect COVID-19. It is a simple process of placing a nose or throat swab in a chemical solution, which is put onto a scanning device. Results can be ready within 15 minutes. Use of RAT kits is highly recommended but not mandatory.

Instructions are included in the kits detailing how to use the tests, check the results and dispose of the tests safely.

You can also download the instructions through the [Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#) website. The user guides will also contain a contact number for the suppliers if you need additional support.

Additional information

- School staff will **not** be administering the rapid antigen tests to students.
- RAT kits should be collected from school by a parent or carer and the tests completed at home in the morning before attending school.
- Each student will receive an initial supply of 4 RATs to be used twice a week in the morning before attending school.
- It is recommended that staff and students that return to school after recovering from COVID-19 do not participate in rapid antigen test surveillance for 28 days (four weeks after recovery) following release from self-isolation. This is due to NSW Health advice that people who have recovered from COVID-19 have a low risk of contracting it again in the following 28 days. After 28 days (from week five after recovery) staff and students may resume participation in RAT surveillance.
- Negative results do not need to be reported to Service NSW or to the school.

Annual Swimming Carnival

Our first sporting event for 2022 is our Annual Swimming Carnival on Monday 7 February at Lakeside Leisure Centre. Students will depart school at 9.15am and will return to school at approximately 2.45pm. Only students swimming in an event will be attending the carnival. If your child is not attending the carnival, they will be expected to attend school as usual. This will be a closed event with no parent spectators allowed. This ensures we are meeting COVID-19 Guidelines. Permission notes and \$5 are to be returned to the office by **Friday 4 February**.

Changes to Afternoon Routine

Please ensure students are aware of their afternoon routine, whether that be catching the bus home, walking home or meeting parents at the front/back gate. We recommend putting a note in your child's school bag as a reminder if their routine changes day-to-day. If there is an unexpected change of routine during the school day, please call the school office. We will continue to stagger the pickup times of an afternoon to reduce congestion at the school gates. **Students that are being collected by a parent/guardian with a last name starting from N-Z will leave at the 2.50pm bell and all other students will leave at the 3.00pm bell.**

Student Absences

If your child is absent from school, please call the office 4987 6510 to explain the absence. If you have not informed the office during the day a text message will be sent to your nominated mobile number requesting an explanation, please reply to this message informing why your child is not at school. This is a legal requirement.

Late Arrivals/Early Leavers

If your child arrives at school after 9am they will need to present to the office to receive a late slip and a text message will be sent to your nominated mobile number requesting an explanation as to why they were late.

If you need to collect your child early from school, please phone the office ahead of time so that your child can meet you at the school gate when required.

It is important that children attend school for the full school day so please endeavour to avoid late arrivals and early pick-ups as much as possible.

Class Dojo

Have you downloaded the Class Dojo app for your phone or mobile device yet? Messages and reminders are regularly sent to our parents through this handy, free app – available for both Apple and Android users. Please contact the office if you have not received your login details.

Payments

All payments are required to be handed into the office, not to the classroom teacher. Please place exact money and permission note in an envelope or zip locked bag with your child's name and class noted on the front. Payments can also be made online.

Parent Online Payment (POP)

Parents can make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the school's website by selecting 'Make a payment'.

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities. There is also a category called 'Other', this is to cover items not covered in the previous headings. Other can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice. When you access the 'Make a payment' you must enter:

- the students name, and

- class OR
- the students name, and
- date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number if you are aware of these. These are optional fields. This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner. These details are not passed back to the school.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed. Details of the payments are sent daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child's account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school. Please ensure the permission slip is sent to the school office with the receipt number noted on the permission note.

Names on Clothing/Uniform Items

It is important that students have their uniform and other clothing named for school. Please spend 5 minutes writing the names on labels or somewhere so that the items can be identified. Please don't forget to write on hats and jumpers.

You can use a permanent laundry marker to label clothes, hats and shoes, or sew or iron on personalised labels. Please regularly check your children's school items to make sure those labels haven't fallen off or faded with washing. Owners cannot be found if the items are not named.

Medication at school

When a **medical practitioner** has prescribed medication that must be administered during the school day, parents are responsible for:

- bringing this need to the attention of the school
- ensuring that the information is updated if it changes
- supplying the medication and any 'consumables' necessary for its administration in a timely way
- collaborating with the school in working out arrangements for the supply and administration of the prescribed medication.

Key points to remember:

- Parents of children who require prescribed medication to be administered at school must complete a written request.
- **Medication is provided in a blister pack packaged by the pharmacist.**

Please note: Students' immediate access to prescribed medication is very important for the effective management of conditions such as asthma.

Health Conditions

We welcome information from parents about your child's health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child's health care needs change or if a new health condition develops. Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the school. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child's health and wellbeing. Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as **emergency contacts**. We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information that you provide will be stored securely and will only be used to support your child's health needs or as otherwise required by law.

Change of Address/Phone Numbers

If you have moved house recently or have a new mobile phone number or perhaps a new work phone number – please call the office and we can update your details. Don't forget to keep us updated with your nominated emergency contacts details too.

Library Books

Please ensure that all school library books that were borrowed in 2021 and have not been returned to school yet are sent back to the school library ASAP.

Scholastic Book Club

Book Club brochures will come home in the coming days and orders are due in by Wednesday 16 February 2022.

Orders must be online and can be made at the following link through the Loop portal <https://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/>

P&C Meeting

Our first P&C meeting for 2022 will be Thursday, 17 February 2022 at 3.15pm in the school library (Please don't enter the school grounds until 3.10pm). All families who have been fully vaccinated are invited to come along.

Thank-You!

A special thank-you to Toni Waanders for the screen printing on the Kindergarten Library bags.

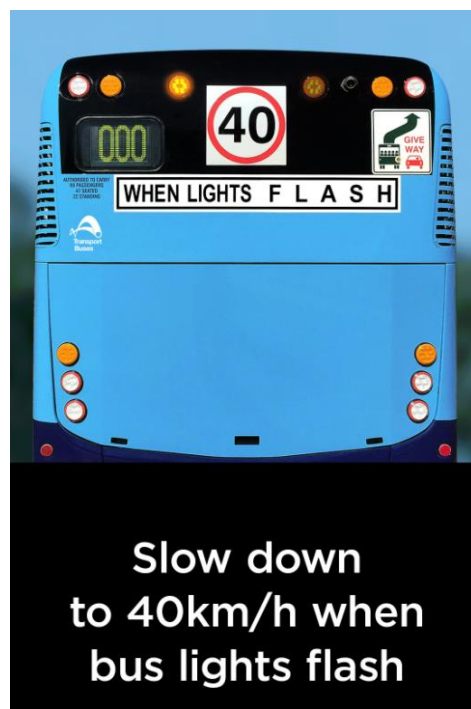
School Bus Flashing Light Campaign

Motorists

- School zones are now back in force. Reduced speed limits and additional demerit points apply.
- You must also slow down to 40km/h when bus lights flash.
- Lights flash on buses to warn motorists that buses are picking up and dropping off children.
- You must slow down to 40km/h when overtaking or passing a bus displaying flashing lights.
- You can help keep children safe by:
 - Sticking to the speed limit and following the road rules in school zones
 - Slowing down to 40km/h when bus lights are flashing
 - Looking out for children crossing the road near bus stops, in school zones or along bus routes
 - Giving way to buses when they merge back into traffic.
- For more information visit <https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/be-bus-aware/bus-flashing-lights.html>

Parents

- Parents have an important part to play in keeping children safe around roads.
- Never drop off or meet your child on the opposite side of the road to the bus stop or call them across the road. Always drop them off or meet them on the same side of the road as the bus stop.
- Remind your children to always wait until the bus has gone before choosing a safe place to cross the road.
- For more information visit: <https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/be-bus-aware/bus-flashing-lights.html>





Want \$500 to help you with school costs?



Saver Plus is a financial education program for families and individuals on a tight budget to develop life-long savings habits.

To join, participants must:

- ✓ Have a current health care card OR pensioner concession card
- ✓ Be studying yourself OR have a child in school
- ✓ Have regular income from work, yourself OR your partner

For full eligibility requirements, speak to a Saver Plus Coordinator.

Here are some of the school costs the \$500 can be used for:



laptops & tablets



uniforms & shoes



books & supplies



sports fees & gear



lessons & activities



camps & excursion

For more information, please contact Saver Plus:



saverplus@bsl.org.au



saverplus.org.au



1300 610 355



@SaverPlusAU

Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ and delivered in partnership with local community organisations. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services.

Good for kids

good for life



What makes a healthy lunch box?

A healthy lunchbox is made up of everyday foods from the five food groups – grain foods, fruit, vegetables, dairy and meat and alternatives. Eating a range of everyday foods will give your child energy to play, learn and grow.

Follow this guide for an easy everyday lunchbox:

Crunch&Sip®: 1 serve of fruit or vegetables

Recess: 1 serve of fruit or vegetables + 1-2 everyday snacks

Lunch: Sandwich/wrap/roll or leftovers containing everyday ingredients

Drink: Water

Add an **ice brick** to keep the food cool and safe



[SWAP IT | Good for Kids, Good for Life \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://nsw.gov.au)



Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District

HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au
<http://www.goodforkids.nsw.gov.au/>