



Learning Together in Harmony

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Thank you for your cooperation over the past term in meeting the changing requirements for COVID19 restrictions. Our COVID restrictions remain in place at this time. Parents can access the department's latest advice here: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families>

Please inform the school if any member of your family is being tested for COVID. If there are family members being tested for COVID-19, then all family members should also be kept at home until the results are confirmed as negative.

It is also really important that we have all parent contact details up to date during this time. If you have changed your phone numbers or email addresses, please let the school know ASAP.

This will be our last newsletter before our break. We wish everyone a safe and relaxing holiday. We look forward to seeing all students return on Monday 12 October for Term 4. Wow, where did the term go!

KINDERGARTEN TRANSITION

Due to COVID restrictions our Kindergarten orientation events are currently on hold. We would like to let our families know that we are working on alternate arrangements so please keep an eye out on Facebook, Skoolbag and the newsletter for information regarding transition activities early in Term 4.

ACCOUNTS

Invoices are being sent home again today. It would be appreciated if these are paid by the end of term. If you are having difficulty making payments please see Mrs Leary.

HOME READERS & LIBRARY BOOKS

K-2 students change their home readers on a weekly basis as part of homework. Currently, a rather large amount of home-readers and library books have not been returned. Please return these by the end of the term or unfortunately we will have to invoice parents for their replacement.

COVID: EXPLAINING ALL ABSENCES

It is vitally important that any absences including partial absences from school are explained as soon as possible. Students who return to school after an illness or day/s absent **MUST** have provided an explanation before or on the day of return.

Normally parents have 7 days to explain the absence, but COVID guidelines require a more stringent reporting process. A reminder that any student tested for COVID must provide evidence of a negative result before they can return to school. (E.g. screen shot, Doctors Certificate, clinic notice). If students have had symptoms and have *not* been tested they are to be excluded from school for a period of 10 days. Additionally, the student must be symptom free for at least 3 days before returning to school.

Thank you for keeping our students safe and meeting this COVID requirement.

SCHOOL FACEBOOK PAGE

A reminder to parents who have questions about school policies, changes and events are advised that the Facebook page is not monitored on a regular basis and they should not rely on a response. Parents are encouraged to call the office if they have a question or enquiry in regards to school business.

SCHOOL SURVEY

As mentioned in our last newsletter over the next two terms our school will be writing our new school plan for 2020-2024. Over the next week we will be sending out a survey via Skoolbag to all parents so that you have the opportunity to provide feedback on what we are doing well, where we can improve and what they would like to see included in the next school plan.

Your voice is really, really important in our planning process and really urge every parent to complete the anonymous survey for us by the end of term.

Parents interested in reading more about the school planning process can click on the link below. This will take you to the Department of Education's resource page that provides extensive information about the School Excellence in Action process.

<https://www.education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/school-excellence-and-accountability/2021-school-excellence-in-action>

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART - REMINDER

Next Friday 25 September we will be participating in JRFH skipping tabloid activities. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 restrictions, parents will be unable to attend. Please don't forget to fill in your sponsorship forms online.

Students only need to bring recess on this day. They do not need lunch. The school is providing them all with a 6-inch SUBWAY for lunch and a snack. No cost to students. Please let the school know if your child has any allergies or unable to eat subway. Students have already ordered their lunch preferences.

TILES NEEDED

Year 6 students are preparing to create a special mosaic artwork to leave as a gift to the school as they head off to high school. To bring the artwork to life we are seeking donations of unwanted tiles in the school colours - red, white and blue. New, used or even broken tiles will be welcomed. They can be left at the school gate or office. Thank you.

CANTEEN HELPERS

Please contact the office if you wish your name to be placed on the roster for Term 4.

15/09/20 – Megan

22/9/20 – Annemarie

STAFF EXTENDED PROFESSIONAL LEARNING WEDNESDAY - 9.9.20 (3.15PM – 6.15PM)

Last Wednesday evening the staff participated in a professional learning evening which represents half of one of our staff development days scheduled for December 17th and 18th. These days are gazetted for teacher development after the students finish their Term 4 learning. However, many schools reschedule the hours during the year as they are more timely for forward planning and professional learning which can be used immediately in classrooms.

The evening was spent looking at current school processes in literacy and numeracy and planning for the next school plan 2020-2024.

BOOK WEEK

Book week would normally be celebrated this during Term 3! The Children's Book Council of Australia has decided to postpone Book Week until Term 4 October 17-23, 2020. We hope to have a book parade of some kind, where students can come dressed in a costume for the day. This year's theme is: Curious Creatures, Wild Minds!

NEW CHICKENS

We would like to thank the McNamara family for our new chickens. They have settled into the school beautifully! We will need someone to care for them over the holidays. If you are keen please contact the office ASAP.

SPORT TERM 4

Unfortunately, once again due to current restrictions, we are unable to run our annual swimming program for sport next term. However, we are waiting to see if we have been lucky enough to receive a Sporting Schools grant for the students to participate in taekwondo for the term. We will keep you posted.



Ian turned 12 on 8 September

Ava turns 10 on 17 September

David turns 12 on 23 September

CLASSROOM NEWS

K/1/2

Welcome back Mrs Bird!

For the rest of the term we are back to normal. Mrs Bird and Miss Clarke Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Ms Tully and Miss Clarke Thursday and Friday.

We loved hearing all of your wonderful speeches over the last 2 weeks! It is not an easy thing to do speaking in front of your peers so well done to all of you!

There were many interesting topics including horses, best friends, netball, ballet, families and skateboarding.

It was great to see some sustained eye contact, discrete use of palm cards and to hear loud, clear voices.

Riddle of the week

What begins with T, finishes with T, and has T in it?

3/4/5/6













As the end of Term 3 approaches, the Astronauts have been busy with a range of regular classroom activities, assessments and surveys. Today the students in Years 4-6 completed the second part of the annual Tell Them From Me Survey. This survey provides valuable feedback to the school team as we prepare for the years ahead. Year 5 students have also completed Check-In assessments in reading and numeracy and Year 3 will have their turn next week. These assessments are designed to provide data that informs our teaching and learning programs. Students have shown their flexibility in the classroom, welcoming Mrs Hoytink for three days last week and this week so Ms Hartigan can complete her teacher accreditation. Students have explored mazes, Madagascan chameleons and the art of creating information posters. I hope you all enjoy a well-earned break in the holidays and that students return for Term 4 full of energy and enthusiasm. Ms H.



Good for Kids good for life SCAVENGER HUNT

Be active as a family and do the Bicycle NSW Scavenger Hunt. Try it by bike, scooter or skateboard!



- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | 1. Long grass | <input type="checkbox"/>  | 7. Flower |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | 2. Park bench | <input type="checkbox"/>  | 8. BBQ |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | 3. Water | <input type="checkbox"/>  | 9. Bin |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | 4. Play equipment | <input type="checkbox"/>  | 10. Bird |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | 5. Bridge | <input type="checkbox"/>  | 11. Scooter |
| <input type="checkbox"/>  | 6. Dog | <input type="checkbox"/>  | 12. Person running |

For more cycling tips and ideas search bicycle NSW, or visit bit.ly/BNSWCOVID

 **Health**
Hunter New England
Local Health District

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

LIBRARY NEWS

After reading *The Glimme* by Emily Rodda, students were asked to create their own world and write a description of it.

The Creatures Canyon

By Mia

The long slimy and monstrous serpent slithered deep in the starless canyon. Other bone chilling creatures lurked around at the base of the empty looking canyon.

Tiny glow worms scattered the insides of it. Bones would lay on the rocks spread across the surface of the alarming area. The shaky ruptured bridge had spiders and creepy crawlies mushroomed along it.

On one side was a charming valley of beautiful roses. On the other was what looked like a war zone filled with beaming blazing fires. The trees, or the no longer trees were black ash and dust that would make your eyes water.

The dark gloomy sky was packed with thick grey smoke and not one animal was to be seen in that blood curdling, disturbing place.

It smelt like dead bodies that had been mummified and spread across the uneven land. You could hear the beastly calls of the serpents and dragons that would make your ears ring.

You could taste the emptiness and darkness in the air. In the valley, bees surrounded flowers and cute little animals scuttled around. It smelt like love and happiness. The grass was soft and bright green.

It was like a piece of heaven had been compared to hell which was clearly divided by a frightening earth.

