



THE WILLOW WEEKLY

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Friday, 7th of June, 2024

Willowmavin Primary School resides on the lands of the Taungurung people.

We acknowledge their leaders past and present and pledge to respect the earth, the life and the waters of these lands.

CELEBRATING LEARNING IN...

In the 2/3/4 classroom

These last few weeks in the 2/3/4 classroom, we have been learning about the life cycles of different Living Things. A life cycle is the process of Living Things and how they grow through the stages of life. Some might have 3 or even up to 6 stages of their life cycle! Froglet, puggle and hatchling are some of the stages that we have come across in our research. A froglet is the 3rd stage of a frog's life cycle, a puggle is 3rd stage of an echidna (they are monotremes, which are mammals that lays eggs!) and a hatchling is the 3rd stage of a snake or chicken. We made booklets and looked at all types of Living Things, mammals, reptiles, fish, birds, amphibians, insects and plants to see all the changes they go through and how they differ. To finish off this week, we made life cycles to connect to our chosen Living Thing that we have created an information text for, which we can't wait to show everyone when they are done!

Written by Lucas, Nick and Jack A



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Celebrations!

Nothing like the arrival of a newborn baby to brighten the spirits! We have just learnt this morning that Mrs Walton has given birth to boy number 4 on Sunday, June 2nd. Harvey Drew Walton arrived at 11:24am and, weighing in at 4.27kg, he certainly made it into the heavyweight division! Both Hayley and Harvey are doing well, and along with Ledger, Spencer, Hudson and Parish, are just smitten over their latest addition.

Congratulations to Hayley and Parish and the boys!



Staying Well

As we enter into another Willowmavin Winter, it is an ideal time to remind of the importance of hygienic practices that will best ensure the health of all members of the WPS community. Regularly washing hands (particularly after going to the bathroom and prior to eating), along with appropriate use of hand sanitiser, will help to minimise the transmission of any nasties across the school community. If children are presenting as being unwell, we of course ask that they do not attend school. It is unfair on the child themselves (as well as their classmates and teachers) to attend school when they are ill – particularly if they have an illness that is contagious. Where students are found to be unwell at school, parents will be contacted to pick them up .

School is Better When Your Child is Here

Continuing on from the above, given that we are now in the cold and flu season, it is particularly important that students attend school when they are healthy and able to do so. In this newsletter, you will find a “School is better when your child is here” article. This article provides tips on setting up routines that will get your child to school on time, every day they are healthy and able to be here. With it likely that students will miss a day off here or there due to being unwell, it is imperative that further days are not lost due to students feeling tired or not in the mood for school or simply having a family day at home. This article also talks about the impact of regular lateness to school. We have regularly mentioned the impact on learning for not only students arriving late, but also the interruption this causes to the class, disrupting the learning for other students. Consistent night and morning routines can assist with a smooth and timely transition from the bedroom to the classroom for students. If you are having trouble getting your child to school on time or at all, please have a read of this article and explore the resources it provides links to.

And remember, the school is here to support you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's classroom teacher should you need further support to get your child to school on time, every day.

Newsletter Survey

A reminder that we are seeking feedback on our school newsletter. Thank you to the 7 members of our community who have currently responded. Average completion time is currently 1 minute and 14 seconds, so it literally will take less than a couple of minutes of your time to complete. Thank you once again for your time and feedback. <https://forms.office.com/r/rnDBVbCAGP>

Carparking

In the Week 2 newsletter of this term, carparking on Kennedy's Lane was addressed. A particular focus was on the issue of cars reversing out of carparks, across Kennedy's Lane so as to drive directly out to Willowmavin Road. To avoid this, some are reversing into the parks when arriving at the school. Whilst this can be convenient when leaving, please only reverse into the angled carparks when it is clear that you will not hold anyone else up.

Signing Off

We don't need to share the same opinions as others, but we need to be respectful.

Until next time, take care of one another and be the best you can be!

Mr. O'Callaghan

School is better when your child is here

Going to school every day is the most important part of your child's education. There are no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness. The best thing you can do is support your child to get to school every day.

A positive attitude towards school, healthy habits and routines, and parental involvement can support your child's regular school attendance and prevent chronic absence patterns.

When your child misses just... they miss



5 mins
per day

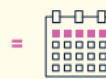


3 days
per year

When your child misses just... they miss...



1 day
per fortnight



4 weeks
per year

and over

= 1 year missed
over their school life

When your child misses just... they miss



30 mins
per day



18 days
per year

When your child misses just... they miss...



1 day
per week



8 weeks
per year

and over

= 2.5 years missed
over their school life

Adapted from material © State of New South Wales (Department of Education), 2023

1. Establish positive habits to promote attendance

- Set good bedtime and morning routines to make the process of getting to school smoother for everyone. Try to prepare as much as possible the night before, e.g. school uniform, school bag packed.
- Ensure your child gets enough sleep and exercise to support their physical and mental health.
- Talk positively about the importance of school attendance with your child. Explain that it is an important part of growing up, a legal obligation and that you expect them to attend every day.
- Show an interest in your child's school and become involved where possible. Keep notes, newsletters, etc. in a place where they are visible reminders of school news for the whole family. Talk about school activities in a positive manner.
- Discuss any changes to usual routines in advance with your child, such as alternative drop-off and pick-up arrangements, to ensure clarity and minimise anxiety.

2. Changes in your child's attitude towards school

We all have those days when it is just too hard to get up and feel motivated to go to work or school, but if this occurs regularly, it may be a sign that your child needs support. Early intervention is vital to address physical, emotional or social reasons for school avoidance before it progresses to chronic absence problems and on to school refusal.

Signs of school avoidance to look out for

- feeling sick before school, e.g. waking up with a headache, stomach-ache or sore throat
- tearfulness, clinginess and dawdling before school – struggling to get out of bed, leave the house or get out of the car
- complaints about attending school and reluctance to talk about school
- missing classes and being late for class.

What is happening at school?

Early signs of school avoidance may be identified at school through observations and insights by your child's teachers. Work in partnership with the school to support your child's attendance and wellbeing.

3. What can you do when you see the signs?

- Work with your child to understand what is happening and so that they feel supported and empowered. Listen with compassion but be consistent in expectations.
- Speak with your child's teacher(s) about your concerns.
- Consider taking your child to the GP to rule out or address any physical or emotional health problems.
- Request and attend school meetings with your child and their teacher to develop strategies to support increased attendance.

Further Resources

[Anxiety About Going to School](#) (Victorian Government)

[Attendance and Missing School](#) (Victorian Government)

[School Refusal: Children and Teenagers](#) (Raising Children Network)

[Understanding School Refusal](#) (Headspace)

[School Refusal](#) (Be You)



BE YOUR BEST



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



SAFE



Student of the Week



Term: 2

Week: 6



F/1 Julian
2/3/4 Jack
4/5/6 Georgia



BE YOUR BEST



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



SAFE



Student of the Week



Term: 2

Week: 7



F/1 Roman
2/3/4 Tyler
4/5/6 Charlotte



BE YOUR BEST



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



SAFE



Smile Squad is the Victorian Government free school dental program. It offers free dental care to all Victorian government primary and secondary school students.

We want all students to get the most out of school.

Tooth decay can get in the way of learning. It can be painful and affect sleep and concentration.

Smile Squad is here to help children and young adults keep their mouth healthy and decay-free.

Regular checks help spot and treat any problems early.

You have the option of your child being seen either at school when our Examination Truck visits, or you can bring your child into our clinic for one-on-one personal care.

Sign your child up for free dental care with Smile Squad at your school or to be seen at your local public dental clinic contact (03) 5793 6126.





Become a foster carer

Support a local child or young person

berrystreet.org.au/fostercare



**BERRY
STREET**



WIN WITH SMOKIN' JOE'S AND KILMORE VILLAGE

WIN: Enter our Colouring Competition

Get your textas and crayons ready, colour our Pizza Chef and you could WIN - 2 Traditional Pizzas, 1 Garlic Bread and 1.25L Soft Drink from Smokin' Joe's Pizza & Grill.

Collect your colouring sheet from our store or hit the button below to print your own copy. Please pop your completed artwork into our store. Get your entry in by Friday 14th June. The winner will be announced Saturday 15 June 2024. The prize is not redeemable for cash.

Loyalty cards
now available



Lunch special

Any Traditional Pizza \$10.99

(Pick up only, 11am - 2pm Everyday)

OPEN FROM 11AM EVERY DAY

Let us cater your next party,
meeting or function!

Call 03 4710 5706





WILLOW WORKS



Listed below are current general maintenance and repair items at the school. If you are able to help with these items, please speak with the office or your child's classroom teacher. All materials required for these jobs will be paid for by the school. We are able to organise access to the school grounds after hours if this is more suitable for families.

Thank you!



Item	Date
Balustrade on x2 staircases to be replaced.	03/08/23
Lubricate playground equipment	25/10/23
Repair sinks in art room	25/10/23
Blind cord to be screwed back into place in Breakfast Club room	25/10/23
Sliding door in art room to be repaired so that it moves smoothly	25/10/23
Hole covered on side of admin building	25/10/23
Safety gate (on BER deck) lock to be removed	25/10/23
Open windows in art room and admin office	09/11/23
Remove wood pile and tall grass behind container	07/12/23
Re attach the paper towel holder to the boy's bathroom wall	21/03/24
Generator shed concrete slab to be cut back to allow door to open	06/06/24
Panel removed from generator shed and replaced with clear panel to allow light in	06/06/24
Carpet tiles replaced in F/1 classroom	06/06/24
Fencing around BER deck area to be repaired	06/06/24
Mulch pile in staff car park to be removed	06/06/24



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RESILIENCE



SAFE



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What's On...

Dates To Remember

June

- 10th King's Birthday PH
- 11th School Nurse Visit
- 13th Werribee Zoo Excursion
- 17th Pharaoh Excursion
- 19th Regional Cross Country
- 28th Last day of Term 2



Birthdays

June

- 4th Alex M
- 12th Charlie McK
- 30th Mr Mills



Other.....

Pallets

Thanks to FoodBank, we have a wooden pallet delivered to our school each week. If we have any crafty families that might like to create something with those pallets for the school yard, please let us know. Photos for ideas...

