

# Brighton Brief



8th March 2024

Brighton-Le-Sands Public School Newsletter



## Save the Date

### NAPLAN

NAPLAN runs from Wed 13/3 to Mon 25/3

### Week 7

Monday 11 March

- Sydney East Swimming for selected students

Thursday 14 March

- 5pm - Class 3W rescheduled Meet The Teacher

### Week 8

Wednesday 20 March

- 6pm Moving into High School & School Camp information session
- 7pm P&C Meeting

Thursday 21 March

- Harmony Day

### Week 9

Thursday 28 March

- Years 3 to 6 Eggshibition
- 2:15pm Years K to 2 Easter Hat Parade

Friday 29th March

- Good Friday Public Holiday

Monday 1/4/24

- Easter Monday Public Holiday

## Happenings

### *Student news and achievements*

Since our last newsletter summer has become autumn and we are half way through Term 1.

Our 2024 student leaders have today received their badges as part of the induction assembly. Thank you and congratulations to our captains, prefects, student representative council, house captains and vice captains and library monitors for volunteering your time to serve our school. Well done to all students who stood for election. Photos will be featured in our next newsletter.

Our swim team last Friday represented our school at the Botany Bay Zone Championships demonstrating our Strive 4 Five values. We are proud of your courage, responsibility, respect, cooperation and personal best. Thank you to our cheer squad of parent and spectators on the day for your support.

The first half of term 1 has seen some pleasing student attendance with an overall school percentage rate of 92.7%. We need to ensure that we stay above 90% as a minimum.

Thank you to class 5D who provided us with the featured photo on this page, busy in their class.





## Reminders

A reminder to families that supervision at school starts at 8:30am in the morning and finishes at 3pm. Students should not be at school unsupervised outside of these hours. With the start of autumn this past week it is unfair for children to be left in the rain and cold in the playground.

If parents require care outside of school hours they should contact our out of school hours provider Little Sails. They operate the Hub adjacent to the North Hall. If you are going to be late collecting your child from school which we do understand happens from time to time providing the office with as much advance notice as possible is preferred, it can be difficult getting messages to students right on 3pm bell time.

### Register for School Bytes

Please ensure that at least one parent has an account. Contact the office for an activation key if your child has a shared custody arrangement. We have included a flyer in this newsletter.

[WEBSITE LINK](#)

## Introducing Class 5/6S

Teacher  
Ms Stathopoulos

Class 5/6S were our assembly hosts for Week 5 .



# From the Relieving Principal

## *Mrs McKinnier*

Over the past two weeks it has been a pleasure to witness the maturity and composure of our students in representing the school. Last Friday at zone swimming our students were supportive of their peers and accepted success and disappointment with humility. Today we equally saw our students receive their leadership badges as recognition of their roles for 2024 across the school. Well done to all students.

### **MOBILE PHONES AND COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

As signaled in our last newsletter we have completed our review of mobile phone and communication devices and starting Monday the updated procedures will be implemented. We will allow for a period of transition with reminders and support being given to students over the first few weeks.

The main change is that we will no longer be using the joint strategy of either off and away or store in the office - instead it will be all in the office.

Our procedures are available on the [school website](#).

### **EASTER ACTIVITIES**

A friendly reminder that this term Good Friday and Easter Monday are during school term and not in the school holidays.

- Please support our P&C Easter fundraising initiative and consider donating an item for the raffle. We welcome donations of Easter eggs, colouring books, stationery and reading books. These can be delivered to the school office.
- Easter eggshibition for students in Years 3-6 will be held all day on Thursday 28th March.
- Easter hat parade for students in K to 2 will be held on Thursday 28th March at 2:15pm.

These activities are optional only.

### **NAPLAN**

All the best for Years 3 and 5 students for their NAPLAN exams over the coming weeks. Our last newsletter included some tips to help prepare students.

Remember that NAPLAN is a single point on your child's education journey.

You can help your child prepare by keeping them in a calm headspace and reminding them to simply do their best.

Thank you to our staff for their work, especially behind the scenes, in preparing for the tests. Children use our school technology which is set up in the library and this involves considerable set up and pull down after the test. In addition our library program is moved to classrooms. We appreciate this work to support our students.



## **Meet The Teacher - 3W**

**What: Class 3W (rescheduled)**

**When:** Thursday 14th March at 5pm

**Where:** 3W Classroom

# From the Relieving Principal

## Mrs McKinnier

Time with friends, assignments, an important math lesson or getting picked for a sports team – we don't want any one of our students missing out. Days missed here and there add up.

With regular school attendance your child will have the best opportunity to learn and improve their wellbeing.

### ATTENDANCE

It has been pleasing to see the overall attendance rate of students this year sitting currently above 90%. We have included at the end of this newsletter information from the Department of Education regarding the importance of attendance and explanations for when students are away from school.

We are aware that families do at times wish to travel for extended periods.

Please note the following aspects of the School Attendance Policy:

- 14.1 - from the beginning of 2015, Family holidays and travel are no longer considered under the exemption from school procedures. Travel outside of vacation period is now counted as an absence for statistical purposes.
- 14.6 - where the principal considers that the travel is appropriate during school term, the principal should issue the parent with an Application for Extended Leave - Travel for completion and inform the parent that if the application is accepted, the absences will be recorded as "L" - leave.
- 14.7 - Principals should request travel documentation, such as travel itinerary or e-ticket and ensure this attached to the application.
- 14.9 - When the travel period exceeds one school term access to Distance Education must be considered.

More information on the School Attendance Policy can be found at: [SCHOOL ATTENDANCE POLICY](#)

Whilst the preference is that family holidays take place during school holidays, please keep in mind when making plans that we are unable to approve and justify any extended leave that exceeds one school term. ***An Application for Extended Leave must be completed and this can be obtained online in the school bytes parent portal under forms.*** Please contact the school office if further clarification is required.

School attendance impacts students' academic achievement and other long-term outcomes. Non-attendance is linked with poorer academic achievement and long-term student outcomes.

- Higher rates of absences have been associated with lower NAPLAN scores (Hancock et al. 2013; Daraganova et al. 2014).
- In NSW, students who report positive attendance behaviours in Year 7 are on average 3 months ahead in their learning by Year 9, compared with students who have poor attendance behaviours (Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) 2017).



## Moving into High School

**What:** Moving into high school plus Stage 3 camp information evening

**When:** Wednesday 20th March at 6pm

**Where:** North Hall



# Sport Information

*Updates from our sport programs*

## Concussion

The Australian Medical Association recommends students being symptom free of concussion for 14 days before returning to sport.

Students who have suffered a concussion within 14 days of the event, must provide written clearance from a medical practitioner prior to participating.

If your child sustains a concussion, or experiences any concussion symptoms, in the 14 day period prior to the event commencing, you must report this to team officials (teachers) and a medical clearance is required for your child participating in the event.

Please see staff especially when the concussion occurs away from school as we will not be aware of the concussion.



*Well done to following students with results that gained them selection in the zone team for the Sydney East Championships in swimming.*

### **Scarlett**

*11 yrs age champion  
11 yrs 50m freestyle and butterfly  
11 yrs 50m backstroke and 200m individual medley  
11 yrs 50m breaststroke*

### **Marvelyn**

*8yrs 50m freestyle*

### **Amali**

*8yrs 50m freestyle*

### **Oscar**

*8yrs 50m freestyle*





# Library News

*Information from our librarian Ms Bent*

## Library News

It has been great having students in the library and borrowing books!

Library lessons are on the following days:

- Monday: 2/1S, 2R, 4T, 6/5S
- Tuesday: 1G, 1W, 4/3H, 5D, 6T
- Wednesday: 3L, 3W, 4P, 5K
- Thursday: 2M, 6D
- Friday: Kindergarten

All students have begun the Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC). Students in K-2 will complete the PRC with their teachers. Students in 3-6 will have two library lessons on the PRC before bringing their PRC logs home (an information sheet will also be included). Please note: NAPLAN will be held in the library during Week 7 & 8 and may disrupt borrowing.

Happy reading!

Mrs Bent

Teacher Librarian



## Premiers Reading Challenge

The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge is now open.

### What is the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge?

The PRC is a statewide Challenge that encourages students to develop a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students and enables them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition, but a challenge to encourage each student to read, to read more, and to read more widely. All students who complete the challenge and have their reading record validated by the school's PRC coordinator will receive a certificate signed by the Premier of NSW.

### How many books do students need to read?

Students in Kindergarten to Year 2 are challenged to read or experience 30 books. 20 of these books must be from the relevant Challenge booklists, and up to 10 books can be personal choice books. Books can be read with a parent, carer, teacher or another student.

Students in Year 3 to Year 10 are challenged to read 20 books independently. At least 10 of these books must be from the relevant Challenge booklists, and up to 10 books can be personal choice books. If a book is from an approved PRC series, students can enter up to 5 books as Challenge books, and can read up to 10 other books from the same series as Personal Choice books.

More information on the rules of the Challenge can be found on the [PRC website](#).

Books must be added to a student's online reading record by Friday 23 August 2024 in order for their reading record to be validated and receive a certificate.



# EASTER

BRIGHTON-LE-SANDS PUBLIC SCHOOL



## *Eggs-hibition Years 3 to 6*

Thursday 28th March

Children in Years 3-6 are welcome to bring a display in any one of the following categories. Displays need to be taken to the North Hall before school. This is an optional activity only.

CATEGORIES  
MOST UNUSUAL EGG  
BEST CHARACTER EGG  
MOST ARTISTIC EGG  
BEST SPORT EGG  
BEST ANIMAL EGG

## *Easter Hat Parade Kinder, Year 1 & Year 2*

Thursday 28th March at 2:15pm

Children in Years K-2 are welcome to bring a decorated hat to wear in a parade with their class.

Hats are typically made at home with an Easter theme.  
Hats need to be suitable for students to wear whilst walking.  
Children need to carry their hat independently to class before school.

Please do not put chocolate on the hat.

*The parades will be held in the South Playground.  
Parents are asked to enter via the gates near the South Playground.  
If we happen to have rain the parade will unfortunately need to be cancelled as we do not have another suitable venue available.*

# Easter Activities 2024

## P&C News

*Our P&C are always looking for volunteers-  
Can You Help?*

### P&C EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

#### FRIDAY 15TH MARCH

- Final day for Easter donations to be delivered to the school

#### WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH

- 7pm P&C Meeting in the school library

#### THURSDAY 28TH MARCH

- Easter raffle drawn

#### WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY

- P&C Mother's Day stall

## Easter EGG RAFFLE

Thursday | March 28th

Raffle tickets will be sent home with students within the next week.

DONATE

The P and C would like to ask for Easter themed donations. Some suggested items may include:

- Chocolates
- Easter gift bags
- Colouring books
- Easter teddies
- Craft items
- Story book

We appreciate all donations and ask to please deliver them to the school office before 15th March 2024.

Thank you for supporting our school



## Uniform Room News

*Our Uniform Room welcomes donations of pre loved uniforms with a quality that ensures they can be worn again by other students.*

*Finally this facility is for pre loved school uniforms only. Please ensure that additional clothing is not included in donation bags.*





School Bytes

# Parent App

Available now!

Download on the App Store or Google Play by clicking the image below.



## Key Features

- Get real time push notifications from your school
- Stay signed in and save your card for secure payments for fees and excursions
- Give consent, sign forms and respond to attendance alerts
- View the school calendar and news

Download on the  
**App Store**

GET IT ON  
**Google Play**

# Completing Absentee Notes and Notices

## Information for parents and carers

It is important to tell the school if your child has to be absent from school and to provide a reason for the absence.

Principals are legally responsible for keeping accurate records of student attendance.

Principals are also responsible for deciding if the reason given for an absence is justified.

Wherever possible, parents and carers are encouraged to provide an explanation for absences before the absences occur.

The Principal of the school has the right to question parents' requests for their child to be absent from school. The Principal also has the right to question an explanation given for a child's absence from school.

To explain an absence parents and carers may:

- send a note, fax or email to the school
- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

### Bilingual Absentee Notes

Three bilingual absentee notes are available to assist you to inform the school of your child's absence.

Absentee note 1 should be used when a child is absent for 1 whole day.

Absentee note 2 should be used when a child is absent for more than 1 day.

Absentee note 3 should be used when a child is absent for part of the day.

### Absentee Notices

If the school has not received an explanation for a child's absence they may send you an Absentee Notice.

Principals use the Absentee Notice to contact parents within two days of an unexplained absence. The Absentee Notice must be completed in English and returned to the school within seven school days, giving a reason for the absence.

### Completing details of absences

Sections of the Absentee Notes and the Absentee Notice ask you to provide details for your child's absence or partial absence.

For the school to be able to understand the reasons given, these sections should be completed in English. Possible reasons are provided in this leaflet and have been translated into English for you to copy onto the forms, if applicable.

If you have difficulty understanding the Absentee Notes or Absentee Notice or with completing the details you may telephone the school to explain the reason for your child's absence. If you telephone the school you do not need to fill in a written note as well.

### Telephone Interpreter Service

If you need an interpreter to assist you to contact your child's school, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The interpreter will call the school and stay on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.



## Possible reasons for absence

### Medical reason:

Flu  
Stomach-ache  
Diarrhoea  
Cold  
Headache/Migraine  
Strong pain  
Fever  
Broken bone  
Vomiting  
Infectious illness eg chicken pox  
Nose bleed  
Asthma  
Rash  
Injury  
Medical appointment  
Dental appointment  
Optometry appointment  
Physiotherapy appointment  
Specialist appointment  
Other - I will telephone the school to explain

### Family reason:

Funeral  
Moving residence  
Arrival or departure of an immediate relative from overseas  
Unavoidable involvement in a serious family incident  
Other - I will telephone the school to explain

### Other reason:

Misadventure and unforeseen events  
eg fire, flood  
Participation in special event, eg attendance at a religious ceremony  
Family holiday  
Transport difficulty  
Unavoidable delay  
Other - I will telephone the school to explain



Education &  
Communities

Public Schools NSW

# Compulsory school attendance

Information for nsw government school principals



**Schools support parents by monitoring student attendance and helping to address attendance issues when they emerge.**

The aim of this brochure is to provide an overview of amendments to the *Education Act 1990* which came into effect in 2010 and outline the intersection with Keep Them Safe.

In New South Wales, 'compulsory school-age' means that all children from six years of age are legally required to be enrolled at and attending school or to be registered for home schooling. After they complete Year 10, and until they turn 17 years of age, students then have the following options. They may also be in:

- full-time further education and training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship);
- full-time, paid employment of an average of 25 hours per week; or
- a combination of both of the above.

Parents or carers are responsible for making sure that their children comply with these legal requirements. Schools support parents by monitoring student attendance and helping to address attendance issues when they emerge. Where schools have unsuccessfully tried a range of strategies to help resolve a student's non-attendance, schools can request assistance from regional attendance officers of the Department of Education and Communities for additional support.

## **Keep Them Safe: A shared approach to child wellbeing**

The *Protecting and Supporting Children and Young People Policy (2010)* sets out the roles and responsibilities of all staff in relation to child protection including training, reporting risk of harm, and supporting children and young people. If the principal or workplace manager suspects a child or young person is at risk of significant harm they must report to the Community Services Child Protection Helpline (telephone 13 3627).

Where a principal or workplace manager suspects a child or young person is at risk of harm which does not meet the threshold of significant harm but is not trivial they must contact the Child Wellbeing Unit (telephone 02 9269 9400 at local call charges).



Where there are concerns that a child or young person is habitually absent, in addition to following the department's policies and procedures for school attendance, all staff should consider whether the habitual absence places the child or young person at suspected risk of harm and where there are concerns that it does, convey these concerns to their principal or workplace manager.

The Mandatory Reporter Guide has been developed to assist staff in making decisions about the nature and seriousness of child protection concerns and what action should be taken in response to these concerns. This guide can be accessed at <http://www.keepthemsafe.nsw.gov.au>.

### What are some of the provisions in the Education Act 1990 ("the Act")?

- Section 22A Obtaining information about children of *compulsory school-age*

(1) Any *relevant institution* or other person may provide information to the Department of Education and Communities solely for the purpose of assisting the *Director-General* to ascertain:

(a) the age, identity or whereabouts of a child who is not receiving *compulsory schooling* or who is not participating in education, training or paid work as an alternative to receiving *compulsory schooling*, and

(b) the reasons why the child is not receiving that *schooling* or not so participating.

### Where school based strategies have failed to restore regular school attendance

Principals help to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of students. Where schools have tried a range of strategies to address a student's habitual absence other options are available such as requesting support from the Home School Liaison Program. Prior to 2010, the only legal option available to enforce school attendance was prosecution in the Local Court, resulting in the imposition of a fine and/or a community service order. There is now greater flexibility in proactively dealing with cases of habitual absence. It is hoped that the majority of non-attendance matters will be resolved through a pre-court process such as those set out below. Please note, in reading the information below, one process does not necessarily follow another. Some actions may occur concurrently.

#### ■ *Compulsory schooling undertakings*

The Principal may make schooling arrangements with one or more parents or carers of a child that includes a written 'undertaking' by the parent/s or carer/s with respect to compulsory schooling for the child (a "compulsory schooling undertaking"). The arrangements may be made before, during or after a conference. A compulsory schooling undertaking is admissible in evidence. Undertakings deal with specific issues contributing to the habitual absence. Examples may include that:

- transport will be provided to get the child to school
- an alarm clock will be used and the child will be out of bed at a set time
- the parent will attend drug and alcohol counselling sessions.

Signed undertakings should be kept by the school and a copy provided to the parent or carer.

Where schools have requested support and a case has been accepted onto the caseload of a home school liaison officer and/or an Aboriginal student liaison officer, the following actions are coordinated at a regional level via the Home School Liaison Program.

#### ■ *Compulsory school attendance conference*

The Children's Court or the Director-General of the Department of Education and Communities can direct that a conference takes place, convened by a trained conference convenor, where a child of compulsory school age is not attending school. The aim of a conference is to reach an agreement under which the child will regularly attend school. Conferences involve the school, parents, sometimes students and other people who are likely to be able to help resolve attendance issues, including representatives from other agencies and organisations. The conferencing process also presents an opportunity for other professionals or individuals to identify and provide support for a student and their family to help restore a child's school attendance.

*It is important that schools continue to support students and their families during these processes. The school principal or deputy principal should attend the conferences.*

#### ■ *Action in the Children's Court*

If other options have not been successful or are not appropriate, it may be necessary to seek intervention of the court. In cases involving older children (aged twelve and above) if it is clearly established that the poor school attendance is not the fault of the parent, an application involving the child, alone, may be commenced. The proceedings in the Children's Court are less formal than prosecutions in the Local Court. This has allowed older children to attend the Court with their parents.

Applications to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order will be made by a member of the regional attendance team who, for the purposes of the applying to the Children's Court will be referred to as the "attendance officer". All court appearances will be undertaken by a legal officer, or a local solicitor engaged by the legal officer.

The court may order the parent to attend a conference and/or issue an interim 'Compulsory Schooling Order'. An interim order requires the parent to ensure that the child is enrolled at and attending school. Compulsory Schooling Orders can either be quite general in nature, for

example, an order that a parent engage with relevant Departmental staff, or that they attend a conference. Alternately, orders can also be reasonably involved and comprise numerous components, such as an order to attend drug and alcohol counselling, and/or have a child medically assessed by a particular medical practitioner.

Note: It is anticipated that a significant number of matters will have been subject to a Director-General's conference prior to reaching the Court. However this will not always be the case. In cases where parents have refused to attend a conference, it is anticipated that the Application to the Children's Court will, in addition to seeking a Compulsory Schooling Order, also seek an order that the parent attend a conference.

#### ■ Prosecution in the Local Court

Where parents continue to fail to see that their children are enrolled at and attending school, the matter may be taken to a Local Court. Such measures are in place to ensure that all children of compulsory school age receive the education they deserve. This action can only be taken by, or with the written consent of, the Director-General of the Department of Education and Communities. Legal Services Directorate acts on behalf of government schools.

An action for breach of a Compulsory Schooling Order issued in the Children's Court must be undertaken in the Local Court. Penalties for these offences carry a maximum fine of \$11,000.

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

#### **Policy, information and brochures:**

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/attendance.php>

#### **New School Leaving Age:**

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leavingschool/index.php>

#### **Keep Them Safe:**

<http://www.keepthemsafe.nsw.gov.au/home>