



Cowwarr Primary School Newsletter

Respect | Responsibility | Resilience | Self belief

Acting Principal: Mrs Chanae Johns

E: cowwarr.ps@education.vic.gov.au

P: 03 5139 7100

M: 0493 637 982

20 October, 2023

TEAM: 'Together' We Achieve More

There is a lot of activity that will be taking place in the school over the next few weeks. Some of these changes we will notice today. The school is currently undergoing works and upgrades to the building as part of the Shelter in Place works program, through the Department of Education. Over the next few weeks, we will see some changes to the landscaping of the school, the playground and to some of the structures of the main building. After working with the Department and School Council over the last few months, we have negotiated the changes that will have the least amount of impact on the aesthetics of our school. I look forward to what these changes will look like once all works are complete.

We have finally had a settled week back at school and have been able to get back into the business of learning. The students have been out in the garden and completing works to get our garden beds ready for a big compost/soil delivery this week. Last week we planted some watermelon seeds and have been learning about the life cycle of plants as part of our 'Plants in Action' STEAM unit of work. This pairs perfectly with our Sustainability unit. The last 2 weeks we have been learning about bees, pollination, and pollinators. All this work is very exciting as we can bring our learning together to help Miss. Marg create a wonderful garden space for the school community.

The Sale Show is coming up and Mrs. Anderson has been busy preparing the students' entries for the Show. We extend our invitation to families and parents to join us on the day and travel on the bus. It has always been a fabulous day out, and another day that I am looking forward to this year. Please let us know if you would like to join us on the day.

With the weather starting to get a bit warmer, we are on the kids about being sun smart and sun safe. We have sunscreen available here for the students to access, but if you have a preferred sunscreen

CALENDAR 2023

TERM 4

OCTOBER

Fri 27th Swimming program

NOVEMBER

Fri 3rd Sale Show

Mon 6th Pupil free day

Tue 7th Melb Cup public holiday

Mon 13th Dental van visit this week

Tue 14th School council 7pm

Fri 24th Pupil free day report writing

DECEMBER

Tue 12th Statewide transition

Thu 14th End of year concert

Tues 19th Final school day 2023

Wed 20th Staff PD



Monday 6th November

Public Holiday



Our school is highly protective of our children and adheres to the Government Child Safety guidelines

because of sensitivities etc. can you please provide your child with their own sunscreen.

As always, we have an open door to our school families if you ever wish to discuss you child and their learning. It is term 4, so the last term of the year. Learning is a team effort, and we want to encourage as much input from not only students and teachers, but from families as well.

Thank you, as always, for your support of the Cowwarr Team.

Mrs. Johns
Acting Principal

Athletics

Congratulations to Kaley who placed third in hurdles on Wednesday at the Regional Division of Athletics. This is a tremendous effort from one of our team members, yet again. Fingers crossed Kaley that you can progress to the State Division level.



Swimming

We have now completed 2 weeks and 4 lessons of swimming. We really are lucky to be able to offer these swimming lessons to our students at no cost to families. You can never learn how to swim 'too much'. It is such an important skill to learn, especially considering all the bodies of water we have in our local areas. We love seeing everyone in the pool and taking advantage of this event that the school can offer to our students and families.

SIP

As mentioned, the school is undergoing some works over the next few weeks. Some of these works include the following items...

Tree removal of trees at the front of the school.

Tree trimming to trees near the playground.

Vegetation removal from the front and edges of the building.

New mesh guards/screen over the windows.

Replacement of some wood materials near the toilet blocks.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out and come and speak with me about the Shelter in Place program.



Swimming



Miss Marg's Mental Health Motivations

Social and Emotional Learning at home with family.

Talk about feelings

Encourage children to discuss how they're feeling and then listen with empathy so they feel understood. Children can be shown that while feelings are normal and all feelings are okay, it's important to understand them.

Effective praise can be motivating

Praise helps children to think positively about themselves. Effective praise acknowledges the individual, is specific, compares how they're going with past performance, connects feelings of enjoyment with the experience, and links success to effort.

Provide play opportunities

Playing with peers provides practice in important social skills, like sharing, taking turns and cooperation. Families support children by praising appropriate behaviour. For example, "When you shared your sporting equipment that made it fun for both of you."

Choices

Children need practice in making choices appropriate for their age and experience level. Families can help them build decision-making skills by encouraging them to explore options and consider the reasons for their choices. Involving children in family decision-making helps them to develop related skills and drives cooperative relationships.

Teach assertive communication skills

Show children how to confidently and respectfully communicate their thoughts, feelings and needs to others in an assertive way. For example, "I really don't want to play that game. It's too dangerous. Let's play a different game instead."



The benefits of strong educator-family relationships are clear. Research consistently shows the importance of social and emotional wellbeing and academic achievement.

The development of positive relationships between families and educators takes effort from all parties and typically develops over time rather than over a single event.



FOUNDATION TRANSITION

Dates and Times

Monday 20th November

Monday 27th November

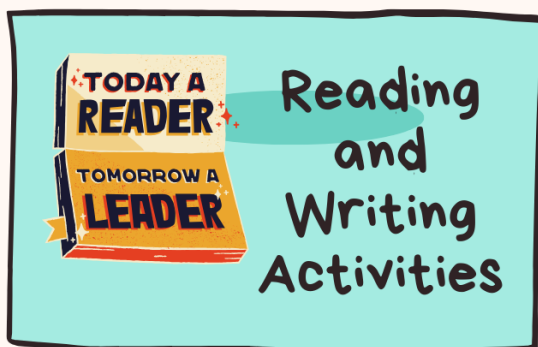
Monday 4th December

Monday 11th December

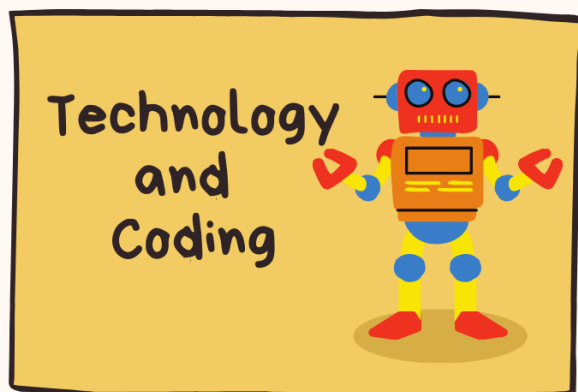
9.00 am until 11.30 am.



Art
Activities



Reading
and
Writing
Activities



Technology
and
Coding



Science
Experiments



IT'S NOT OK TO BE AWAY

ATTENDANCE AND WHAT IT CAN MEAN FOR YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY

What does your attendance really mean...the CUMULATIVE effect of POOR ATTENDANCE			
– Be Smart Be There, if Not Ask for Help! –			
If a student miss...	That equals	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that is...
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years
Understanding the LINK between REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE & ACHIEVEMENT			
– Be Smart Be There, if Not Ask for Help! –			
Attendance Rate	Missed School	Achievement	Social Emotional Impacts
Attendance Rate Equal to or Greater than 98%	These students have missed 4 days or less in a school year	High chance of achieving to best of their ability	Positive relationships in and with school
Attendance Rate Between 95 - 97%	These students have missed 5-10 days in a school year	More likely to be achieving well at school	Find it <u>fairly easy</u> to get back in touch with the learning program after absences
Attendance Rate Between 90 - 94%	These students have missed 11-20 days in a school year	Find it challenging to keep in touch with the learning program	At somewhat risk, should aim to improve their student attendance to keep up with work and connections at school
Attendance Rate Between 80% - 89%	These students have missed 21-40 days in a school year	Hard to catch up on missed work. Have missed up to 1 day every week, which equates to 2.5 years schooling missed by Year 12	Very difficult to keep in touch with schoolwork and to maintain social connections – Individual support recommended
Attendance Rate below 80%	These students have missed more than 40 days in a school year	Have regularly missed more than 1 day per week	At high risk of 'disconnect' from school. They are almost certain to experience academic and social difficulties – Group meetings and individual supports required

Based on 200 academic days or 40 weeks per year – adapted from Improving School Attendance (DET, 2019)