



Howrah News

Issue No. 2 – 12 February 2020

CALENDAR

13 February

Children's University
Parent Meeting 3:15pm –
3:45pm

17 February

- LiL commences
- P & F Meeting

20 February

Year 6 Leadership Day
(Orana)

28 February

Howrah Year 3-6 'Fun
and Run' Athletics
Carnival

9 March

Public Holiday – 8 hour
day

18 March

School Photos Day 1

23 March

School Photos Day 2

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Dear Families

We have had a wonderful start to the year with lots of happy faces and settled students. Thank you for supporting your children by being positive and supportive about school life. As a matter of interest, the Department asked us to video two Prep students about their thoughts regarding their first day. If you would like to take a look at the videos, you will find the two students sharing their thoughts in a video shared on the on the school Facebook page yesterday.

Attendance every day is critical to every child's success. This newsletter includes the list of authorised reasons a student may be absent from school. The Education Act provides for times when absence from school is unavoidable, such as illness or urgent family matters. Also included on the list are bereavement and religious festivals. Importantly, you will also note that family holidays are not an authorised reason for absence as outlined in the Education Act. Teachers need to code family holidays during term time as 'unauthorised absences' even when we receive an email explaining the absence. While we recognise the benefits of family holidays, we will be coding them as unauthorised absences in alignment with the Education Act. We strongly encourage families to use designated school holiday time for holidays so children can maintain their connection with their learning program. Similarly, collecting children early for swimming lessons or long weekends away are not considered authorised examples of absence and will be coded accordingly as an 'unauthorised absence' by staff as required by the Education Act. We all want our students to do well and being at school every day is one of the ways this occurs.



STUDENT ABSENCES

If your child is absent it is important that you notify the school on the day by calling the absentee line.

6246 6366

or

SMS 0418 159 088

We need you to provide
- the child's name, your name, your relationship to the child and a detailed reason for the absence.

If you are unable to do this, we require a short note explaining the reason for the absence.

LAUNCHING INTO LEARNING

Our Launching into Learning Program caters for children aged from birth to age 5. Sessions are conducted in our Kindergarten on Mondays from 9:15am – 10:45am.

Children enrolled to attend Kindergarten in 2021 are invited to join the Launching into Learning program.

Sessions commence on Monday 17 February.



LIST OF AUTHORISED REASONS FOR CHILDREN TO BE EXCUSED FROM SCHOOLS

- a. bereavement of a person with whom the school-aged child or youth has a close, significant or family relationship; or
- b. medical, legal or related appointments; or
- c. where the school-aged child or youth has witnessed or been subjected to family violence; or
- d. terminal illness of an immediate family member; or
- e. where a natural disaster or extreme weather event prevents:
 - i. a school-aged child or youth from a non-government school safely attending their enrolled school; or
 - ii. a school-aged child or youth from a State school safely attending their enrolled school or nearest State school; or
- f. participation of a school age child or youth in a:
 - i. recognised learning experience (e.g. a music examination); or
 - ii. cultural activity (e.g. participation in NAIDOC Week); andinitiated by an independent student or parent, where the principal is of the opinion that the experience or activity has educational value to the school age child or youth; or
- g. attendance at a recognised event (e.g. a State, National or International level event sanctioned and organised by the official governing body) as:
 - i. a participant; or
 - ii. an official of a team or other body, competing or participating in that event ; or
 - iii. an official otherwise engaged in that event; or
- h. where an independent student or parent objects, as a matter of conscience, to his or her school-aged child or youth participating in a school activity specified in the *Education Regulations 2017*, and
 - i. the independent student or parent notifies the school's principal in writing at least two (2) days in advance of that school activity occurring; and
 - ii. that activity will occur for at least one (1) full school day; and
 - iii. separate supervision of the school-aged child or youth is not possible; or
- i. where an application for home education has been received by the Registrar and provisional registration has been granted; or
- j. where the parent or independent student notifies the principal of an absence due to sickness, temporary or physical incapacity later than five (5) days from the date of the absence.

The Parents and Friends Committee are meeting next Monday at 7:00pm in the boardroom. Please feel free to join this vibrant group of willing parents/carers who work hard to make a difference for every student. The following week, the School Association meets on Monday 24 February at 7:00pm. Your participation is welcomed. We will shortly be calling for nominations for the School Association, so please consider a role in this vital part of the Howrah Primary School Community.

Next week, Launching into Learning begins in the Kinder room. We have one session a week now with two staff running the sessions: Robyn Fazackerley and Claire Bradley. Later in the year, our Pre-Kinder sessions, being led by our Kinder staff, will begin. These will be held on a Thursday from Term 3 onwards. In the meantime, please join us for our launch of LIL next Monday.

Best wishes for a great week.

Kind regards
Sue Bullen - Principal

FACEBOOK PAGE

Please "like" our school Facebook page, which we will keep updated with information for your convenience.

2020 SCHOOL LEVIES

School levies for Year 5 have increased in 2020 due to the introduction of a Year 5 Leadership day. Levies for all other year levels remain the same:

Kindergarten	\$148.00
Prep, 1, 2	\$218.00
Year 3 & 4	\$253.00
Year 5	\$293.00
Year 6	\$299.00

DENTAL WASTE RECYCLING

Year 6HP are collecting used

- Toothpaste tubes and caps
- Toothbrushes
- Toothbrush and toothpaste outer packaging
- Floss containers

and organising to have those waste products recycled. Please support this initiative!



YEAR 3-6 'FUN AND RUN' ATHLETICS DAY – 28 FEBRUARY

Parents, carers and family members are welcome to come along and enjoy our school 'Fun and Run' Athletics Day with us from 9:30am to 2:45pm on Friday 28 February. The main focus of the day is on participation. Our fun activity stations will be run by the Clarence High Sports Leaders.

Could students please wear appropriate shoes, house coloured t-shirts if possible (*Banksia – Green, Waratah – Red, Acacia – Yellow*), hats and sunscreen and bring any medication, drink, healthy snacks etc.

A program with the events and times is attached to this newsletter. Some events will need to be run at recess and lunch times during the week of our carnival. Students will be given at least two days notice to get prepared. We will have House meetings soon to elect House Captains and Vice Captains and I would like to wish all the candidates good luck.

Following the 'Fun & Run' Athletics Day, two Howrah Primary Interschool teams will be selected and entered, giving more students the opportunity to represent our school and experience interschool competition.

Scott Broadby - PE Teacher



LEARNING IN FAMILIES TOGETHER (LIFT)

Learning in Families Together (LIFT), is a new initiative at Howrah Primary that will build your confidence and skills to support your child's learning at home. It will provide opportunities for parents/carers to be active in their child's learning so they can be given the very best start to their education.

Mrs Fazackerley will start the program in Term 1. Early childhood classes will be notified of the date and time when parents will be invited into their child's classroom.



Working together with the school, you can make a difference to your child's learning.

CHICKENPOX

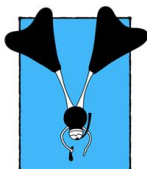
We have been advised that there are some students who are currently away from school as they have chickenpox. This is a notifiable disease and we appreciate knowing this information so we can tell other families. Please see the attached fact sheet provided by the Department of Public Health for further information.

*Sue Bullen
Principal*

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS:

20 February

- Underwater Hockey held at Clarence Pool. Come-and-try session for Years 5-6 from 7:30pm – 8:30pm



29 February

- Westerway Primary School is celebrating its 100th anniversary. All past and present students, staff and parents are invited from 10am-3pm.



March

- 5-12 year old Learn to Surf Programs. To book, visit www.coastrider.com.au



For more information about these events, please see our noticeboard.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS NEWS

Next P and F Meeting

Our first meeting for the year will be held on Monday 17 February at 7:00pm. We welcome any members of the school community who have ideas for fundraising, and how to spend our funds this year to join us, or anyone who is interested in the comings and goings of the school.

Fundraising Facebook Page

Have you liked the P&F Fundraising page yet? Get all the latest news re fundraising, events, and some great offers from local businesses to help with our fundraising efforts. <https://www.facebook.com/Howrah-Primary-School-Fundraising-549669868445295/>

Start the chat before someone else does



Start the chat about online safety and help make every day a Safer Internet Day!

Join in the Safer Internet Day buzz

This year Safer Internet Day will be celebrated on Tuesday, 11 February 2020. The theme is 'Together for a better internet' and Australia's eSafety Commissioner is encouraging parents to mark the day by starting family conversations about online safety.

You can download our Safer Internet Day resources at esafety.gov.au/sid and use them to start the chat about online safety with your family.

Explore Australia's online safety hub

Check out eSafety's great range of advice and resources. Get started by visiting our **parents and carers** pages and reading the practical tips for kicking off an online safety conversation. You can also download our **'Parents guide to online safety' booklet** (available in 5 languages), look through **eSafety Kids** with your family or get familiar with our **step by step advice** for reporting different types of online abuse. Find out more at esafety.gov.au

Join our free parent webinar

The session will cover how to start the chat about harmful content, contact with strangers and cyberbullying.

Helping Kids Thrive Online

12th February 2020 at 8:00 PM (AEDT) 14th February at 2020 12:00 PM (AEDT) **Register now at esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars**



eSafety Commissioner

esafety.gov.au/sid



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