



# Howrah News

Issue No. 21 – 27 July 2022

## CALENDAR

### 26 July

- Think U Know eSafety presentation  
Parent/Carer/Staff in  
the Multi-Purpose Hall  
3:00pm – 4:00pm

### 27 July

- Think U Know eSafety  
presentation Year 3-6

### 4 August

- Australian Maths  
Competition

### 5 August

- Cricket Tas visit

### 9 August

- ICAS – Digital  
technologies

### 10 August

- ICAS – Writing
- Jack Jumpers visit

### 11 August

- Year 6 Band Tour

### 15-17 August

- External School Review

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Dear Families

Welcome back to school for the start of Term 3! It has been so fantastic to see staff and students back this term, refreshed and ready for a wonderful term of learning!

We welcome a number of new students and staff and know that our children will make them feel like a part of the Howrah family in no time!

On Monday, our staff came together for a day of professional learning and it was a rich and valuable experience. We discussed the vision and direction of the school for the rest of the year and how we can provide an inclusive, creative, strengths-based and inquiry-focused environment for our students.



## COVID-19

The health and safety of students and staff has been, and always will be, our top priority. Our Term 3 approach to manage COVID-19 is outlined in our COVID-safe schools operational plan. The plan builds on everything we've learnt since the start of the pandemic.

The Department of Education (DoE) has worked closely with Public Health to ensure schools continue to be safe places for learners. Many COVID-safe measures that you are familiar with continue to be in place to limit the impact of COVID-19 in our schools.

COVID-19  
updates  
for Term 3

[coronavirus.tas.gov.au](https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au)



## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY**

We have a number of vulnerable members in our school community, including students, staff, parents, carers and other family members.

Please help by keeping your children home when they are unwell. Already we have steps for COVID-19, however if your child contracts any contagious disease (in particular chicken pox, shingles or measles) the office **MUST** be notified immediately so that we can put in place protective processes for our most vulnerable people.

## **RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS FOR STUDENTS**

Kits are available at the school office. Please phone or email to request these and they will be sent to your child's classroom to go home at the end of the day.



## **LIBRARY READING CLUB**

Where: Howrah Primary Library

When: Tuesday and Thursday

Time: 8:30am – 9:00am

Who: Prep and Year 1 students

With increased COVID-19 cases in our community leading into Term 3, our staff and visitors are strongly recommended to wear face masks when indoors, or if they are unable to physically distance. Wearing a face mask is not a requirement for students, however it is strongly recommended by Public Health when indoors as well as when they cannot physically distance. Students will be supported to wear masks by their school when they choose to.

Face masks and rapid antigen tests continue to be readily available for students and staff at all Tasmanian Government schools.

It is common to see increased illness at this time of year, so it remains important that we all continue to practise our COVID safe behaviours, stay at home if unwell and get tested.

As always, when your child is well, the best place for them to be is at school learning with their friends and teachers.

We will need to continue to be flexible as some elements of our plan may change during the Term. We will continually monitor the situation, make changes as necessary and keep school communities informed.

Ange Mieзитis

Principal

[angela.mieзитis@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:angela.mieзитis@education.tas.gov.au)

## **EXTERNAL SCHOOL REVIEW**

As part of our continuous school improvement, we will be involved in an External School Review from August 15-17. The purpose of External School Reviews is to support schools to raise achievement, sustain high performance and provide quality assurance to build public confidence in government schools. A letter about the External School Review was emailed to all families on Monday. If you need a copy, please contact the school office. More information is below:

## **External School Review – information for parents and the community**

The Department of Education regularly reviews all Tasmanian Government Schools. The Reviews are an important part of how the department supports each school.

The Reviews are about providing schools with quality and independent feedback to help them continue to improve the learning outcomes for students and achieve the department's commitment to inspire and support all learners to succeed as connected, resilient, creative and curious thinkers. Reviews are not used to compare schools or to rate the performance of school staff. They are about supporting schools in a differentiated way, with reviews tailored to each school's context and need.

Each school is reviewed approximately every four years – providing valuable opportunities for self-reflection and improvement. The External Review Team conducts the Reviews.

### **The Review process**

Experienced educators undertake Reviews. Each Review Team consists of two to four reviewers, however, the number of reviewers and the length of the Review depends on a range of factors, including the size and context of the school.

The Review Team looks closely at each school's performance data and will speak with staff, students, parents and the community to get an accurate picture of the school. Reviews are structured around a small number of lines of inquiry, which have been agreed upon by the Review Chair, the principal and relevant Learning Services and School Improvement Team staff.

The Review Team will provide the school with a report summarising their findings and recommended improvement strategies to maximise student outcomes. Principals are encouraged to share this information with staff and the community to guide the school's future improvement focus.

### **Participation in school Reviews**

Feedback from parents and the community is an important part of school Reviews, and parents and community members are encouraged to participate in the review.

### **More information**

Parents and community members interested in further information relating to school Reviews are encouraged to make contact with their principal.

### 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.

### LOST PROPERTY

Our lost property is overflowing with named and unnamed clothing, hats, balls, etc. Most of the named items have been returned to students but many items are unnamed or have a name of a student no longer at our school. Please check the bins for lost items and name all clothing clearly so it can be returned. Items left at the end of term will be disposed of.

### KITCHEN GARDEN

We are very keen to get some gardening happening as soon as possible and would love some parent/carer volunteers who might have some time to help us get started. Please let our office know on 6246 6333 if you are available and we will be in touch.



### 5/6 SCIENCE INQUIRY

Years 5 and 6 are inquiring about all things glass this term, including how it is made, what it is used for, and whether it is an environmentally friendly material.

As part of our inquiry, we are asking students to take an audit on how many glass jars/bottles etc are used in their household in a week.

Please encourage your child to have a look in your recycling bin the day before collection and record their findings? We will be using the data to inform a STEM project we are undertaking.

We will be collecting this data in week 3 of term (starting the 8 August).

Thank you

Ana Prior  
Science Teacher



### ONLINE SAFETY SESSION

On Tuesday we held a parent and staff information session by ThinkUKnow. Thanks to those parents and carers who attended. Ms Sierink has recorded the session.

ThinkUKnow develop resources and advice for parents, carers and educators, children and young people to prevent online child sexual exploitation. Sessions are led by the Australian Federal Police.

ThinkUKnow's top tips for parents and carers to keep their children safe:

- Supervise children's online activity – have access to their device/apps/messages
- Ensure children only talk to people on the internet they know and trust, and know never meet someone in person you've only 'met' online.
- Instil in them to think before you post something on the internet about another person.
- Learn how to block and report on the sites you and your children use.
- Have a list of health and wellbeing services for your children to access for further support.

<https://www.thinkuknow.org.au/index.php/resources-tab/parents-and-carers>

At the session, the eSafety Commissioner's website was mentioned as an excellent resource for families. The site has lots of information about different apps that children may be accessing and using. It is updated regularly and keeping pace with the ever-changing online environment.

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/esafety-guide>

## LAUNCHING INTO LEARNING

Our Launching into Learning Program caters for children aged from birth to age 5.

LiL sessions are:-

Monday 9:15am – 10:15am  
10:35am - 11:35am

Friday - 1:45pm – 2:45pm

**Bookings are essential.** Each person attending LiL must book in prior to the session.

Booking link:

<https://sobs.com.au/pt3/parent.php?schoolid=2164>



## PRE – KINDER SESSIONS

Children must be enrolled for Kindergarten in 2023 to be eligible to attend Pre-Kinder. Enrolment packs are available from the school office. Pre-Kinder sessions are on Fridays at the Kindergarten and will run from 9:15am-10:15am.

Booking is essential and information has been provided to enrolled families.

A photograph of a piece of lined paper with a handwritten 'TO DO' list. The items are 'CLASH WITH', 'CALL BOSS', and 'WALK DOG', all of which are crossed out with diagonal lines. Below the list, the words 'REMEMBER THE FLU' are written in large, bold, capital letters.

# Get your flu and COVID-19 shots

Remember the Flu!  
Get your flu shot today.

**Free Flu and COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic**  
Flu 6-months+  
COVID 5-years+

## Howrah

Community Centre  
11 Howrah Road

**Sunday 31 July 10am – 3.30pm**

Bookings preferred  
[coronavirus.tas.gov.au](https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au)  
**1800 671 738**  
Walk-ins welcome

KEEP IT COVID safe  
Tasmanian Government



## CONTACT DETAILS

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