



# BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Nolan St, Berkeley 2506  
P.O. Box 56 Berkeley  
Principal: Mr A. Attard

2 December 2020



## From The Principal's Desk

### Upcoming Events



- Mon 7 Dec-** Swimming Scheme starts for Years 2 & 3 and runs for whole week
- Wed 9 Dec-** Semester 2 student reports go home
- Mon 14 Dec-** 9.30am 2020 BWPS Annual Presentation Day assembly– online via Zoom (see details below on how to join)
- Tues 15 Dec-** Year 6 Farewell– Dapto Leagues Club
- Wed 16 Dec-** Last day of school for all students
- Wed 27 Jan-** 'Pupil Free Day'#1– teachers only return to school
- Thurs 28 Jan-** 'Pupil Free Day'#2– teachers only return to school
- Fri 29 Jan-** All students in Years 1-6 return to school for the start of 2021
- Mon 1 Feb-** New Kindergarten students commence school for 2021

### School Presentation Day

Unfortunately, this year's annual presentation day assembly, to be held at 9.30am on Monday 14 December, cannot be held as usual in the hall with our typical huge audience present in person to congratulate student award winners. Instead, parents and community members will be able to watch the presentation of our 2020 awards via a livestream on our BWPS Community Zoom Room.

To join us online, first you will need to have the Zoom client software on your computer or Zoom app on the mobile device you will be watching from. You should be able to download it for free from the internet and then you will need to create or register for a free account.

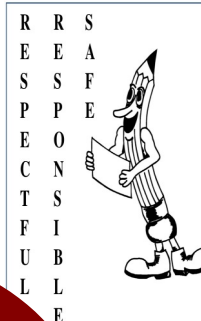
The Community Zoom room has been set up so that anyone outside the school will be able to watch only, for safety and security reasons, you will not be seen or heard by the students here at school.

We have already tested the Zoom Room twice with two school assemblies. Thanks to those parents who joined us!

To tune into our 2020 Presentation Day virtual assembly, download the software as described above then use the link below at 9.30am on Monday 14 December.

<https://nsweducation.zoom.us/j/69030107313?pwd=SEdUdGtXdTVKWVW3UkJPdEt5U3ZVdz09>

**PLEASE RESPECT THE  
HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF  
OUR STUDENTS BY NOT  
PACKING EGGS, PEANUTS  
or PRODUCTS CONTAINING  
PEANUTS IN YOUR CHILD'S  
LUNCHBOX!**



### Last newsletter for 2020 & Thanks!

This will be the last official newsletter for 2020. If there is any more important news to go home, it will be communicated through separate notes or Facebook/School app platforms.

Thankyou to the BWPS community for your support through what has been a testing year. Unfortunately, 2020 will be remembered by many for the hardships it has brought, but to come out the other side really does feel good. School next year begins with two pupil free days on Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 January with only teachers returning to school to take part in professional development activities. All students going into Year 1-6 return on Friday 29 January. New Kindergarten students then commence the following Monday 1 February.

We'll keep you posted about what restrictions are likely to be in place for the start of 2021 via social media, but lots may change between now and then.

Thankyou to the Berkeley West teaching and non-teaching staff for their work in 2020. Through all that's happened, our school remained open everyday and our staff committed to continuity of education and care for all students of our school.

The staff at Berkeley West wish you a happy and safe summer break and a much more prosperous 2021!

Thankyou volunteers and helpers!

Although we haven't been able to have parents or volunteers in the school for most of 2020, can we thank all those parents, carers and community members who have supported our staff and students in anyway at Berkeley West throughout the year, particularly before the pandemic impacted on us all. From scripture teachers, P&C helpers, Breakfast Club volunteers to swimming carnival timekeepers. we thank you so much again for your assistance in 2020! Of course, thanks to all of you who stepped in and supported your children at home during the remote learning period!

### Thankyou Ms Stehr!

Sadly, Ms Stehr won't be part of the full-time Berkeley West teaching staff next year. Ms Stehr has been successful in attaining a promotions position in another school for 2021.

On behalf of the Berkeley West school community, I would like to thank Ms Stehr for all she has contributed to our school and her students over the last three years. Good luck Ms Stehr. We'll miss you!

### \*Principal's Award

Congratulations to our Captains and Prefects for receiving the Principal's Award this week for being outstanding leaders in what has been a difficult year. Although they haven't had the same chance to shine in front of a school audience like other years, they have become our Zoom masters of ceremony in leading our online virtual school assemblies. Each will receive a \$4.00 food voucher to spend at the canteen. Thankyou for your work leaders and good luck in high school next year!



### Online Enrolment Project

We are excited to announce that the new Online Enrolment System has been available to parents since Monday, 14 September 2020

The Online Enrolment System is designed to provide flexibility for our parents to submit an enrolment application online and at the time that best suits you. The application can be accessed on all browsers and mobile devices including iOS and Android.

The online application process is currently restricted to:

- Enrolments into **local** schools only
- Children who are Australian citizens, New Zealand citizens or permanent residents
- Children who live in NSW.

We offer our support and encourage you to complete your application to enrol online. If, however, you do not feel comfortable completing an application online, a paper copy will be available for collection from the front office or can be downloaded from the Department's [going to a public school site](#).

Further information about online enrolment can be found at our school website.

### Pocket Money

Teaching children about the value and the responsibility of money is an important life experience. Teaching money management skills to children will lead to a much better chance of them being financially wise as adults. One of the best ways to teach children about money is through pocket money. Pocket money helps children learn a range of financial and personal skills. Children will learn that in order to achieve the things they want, they will have to set goals, have a budget and then stick to it.

Deciding on how much pocket money is appropriate and whether it will be given with or without conditions should be discussed well before the introduction of pocket money. Will the money be given for the completion of chores? Will there be an opportunity to earn more for extra chores? Will all children receive the same amount? Obviously, the amount will be based on family values, finances and what you expect them to buy (e.g. school lunches?).

One great way to teach your child the importance of money management might be to use the 'one third' rule. For example, if you gave your child \$6 a week, they would save \$2 for investment, \$2 would be set aside for a goal (e.g. toy) and \$2 would be available for spending now. As an added incentive for saving towards an investment, you could supplement their savings when they reach specific targets. An example might be that for every \$20 they save, you will add a bonus of \$5. An important aspect of saving for investment is to set up a bank account for your child, so that they come to understand how banking works and get a sense of the concept of interest.

It is also important that children understand the importance of giving to others. They need to learn that one of the benefits of money is that it enables you to support and share with other people, whether it is in times of need or for pleasure, such as presents.

For parents, giving pocket money can be made into a wonderful 'teaching opportunity' for the whole family.

### Attendance Cup!

Well done to 2S and 3/4DW for taking out the Attendance Cup over the last two school weeks! Both classes have had outstanding attendance lately and will be trying their hardest to keep the cup! Who can rise up and challenge them?



### Berkeley West Public School Situational Analysis

During Terms 2, 3 and 4, we have been offering teachers, students and parents opportunities to provide feedback in regard to a wide variety educational and management practice areas to help continually improve our school and inform our 2021-24

## School Improvement Plan.

We have reflected and analysed a large amount of data not only from online surveys, but from other sources such as external and internal student performance and attendance data, the current school plan and last year's External Validation process. The collation and analysis of this data has been put together into our draft situational analysis. Findings of this analysis will help inform future directions of our 2021-24 School Improvement Plan.

You are able to view and download our draft situational analysis and findings at-

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vteQUmqHNwVWpO7vZ2-oh4gi7jvy1XwA?usp=sharing>

At the end of the situational analysis is another link inviting you to leave any questions, comments or feedback regarding the findings.

Can your class win the cup next week? Do your bit, be at school every day!

## School Holidays

Now that the holidays are approaching, it's time to think about keeping the kids entertained on those long, hot, summer days. There are many activities you can do with your children which are inexpensive and good fun. You don't need to entertain them every moment of every day, but if you plan a couple of special family activities with them, it helps to break the monotony as well as building relationships with them.

Have you taken the kids fishing lately or tried rollerblading or bike riding with them? What about yabbing or a picnic by the river, lake or beach? Had a barbecue in the bush recently? Take a picnic lunch to the local gardens and relax under the shady trees. Throw in the frisbee for some fun and games with them. Have you been out on a boat with them? Try canoeing or kayaking or a cruise on a paddle steamer. Or just lie on the banks of a river and watch the boats float by.

You can do some very simple activities with them on those rainy days when you are stuck inside. Consider these ideas: write or email a friend to come over and play; write a shopping list together; draw a map of the neighbourhood, your house or the way to Grandma's; plant some seedlings; look at photo albums and tell stories about when you were a child; design, make and fly a kite; estimate, compare and count collections of things; visit the local library and borrow a book, or buy a new one to share; teach them to play hopscotch or a board game; ride a bike, throw a ball, kick the footy; cook some biscuits together or make a yummy fruit salad.

Most importantly.....TALK, TALK, TALK with your children.

Have a great holiday and enjoy spending time with your children; they're very special young people!

## Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

Whooping cough (sometimes called pertussis) is a serious respiratory infection that causes a long coughing illness. In babies, the infection can sometimes lead to pneumonia and occasionally brain damage and can be even life threatening. Older

children and adults can get whooping cough and can spread it to others, including babies.

### IDENTIFY symptoms

- Whooping cough starts like a cold with a blocked or runny nose, sneezing, a mild fever and an occasional cough.
- The cough gets worse and severe bouts of uncontrollable coughing develop. Coughing bouts can be followed by vomiting, choking or taking a big gasping breath which causes a "whooping" sound. The cough can last for many weeks and can be worse at night.
- Some newborns may not cough at all but stop breathing completely and turn blue. Other babies have difficulties feeding or they can choke and gag.
- Older children and adults may just have a mild cough that doesn't go away. In adults the cough commonly lasts 5-7 weeks, sometimes longer. In China, whooping cough is known as the 100-day cough!

### Why is whooping cough so serious?

Whooping cough can just be an annoying cough for adults and older children but for babies it can sometimes be life threatening. Severity is closely related to a baby's age. Newborns and premature infants are at greatest risk. Whooping cough in babies can lead to:

- Apnoea (pauses in normal breathing)
- Pneumonia
- Frequent vomiting
- Feeding problems leading to weight loss
- Seizures or brain damage when breathing problems, heart failure or pneumonia interfere with oxygen getting to the brain.
- Very low blood pressure which can lead to failure of other organs.

Children with symptoms should see a GP.

If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough, please let the school know and keep your child at home until they have taken five days of antibiotics. Keep coughing children away from babies.

Whooping cough vaccines give good protection against infection but immunity fades. If your school-aged child has younger siblings, it's a good idea to check that they are up to date with their vaccines.

More information at

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/pertussis.aspx>

## Encouraging your child to read at home

- Be yourself and involve your child in everyday conversations from an early age.
- Read aloud to your child. It will help your child to learn the language of books and encourage the enjoyment of books and reading.
- Talk about books together - make reading a shared, enjoyable activity.



- See that there is a range of reading material for your child at home, both fiction and non-fiction.
- Read to your child in your first language - research shows that using your first language will help your child when he or she learns to read English.
- Try not to let television intrude on reading time - set aside some uninterrupted time to read with your child.
- Listen to your child read every day, even if only for a short time.
- Give books as treats and presents.
- Discuss the meanings of stories and words.
- Join your local library. Borrow books for yourself as well as your child.

### Creative Kids Program

Families across NSW are able to access a **\$100 Creative Kids voucher** unlocking the creative abilities of a new generation across the State.

NSW Government is helping your cost of living with more than 70 rebates and savings including Creative Kids, which is all about making it easier for school-aged kids (4.5 to 18 years old) to get involved in creative and cultural activities.

Parents, guardians and carers can claim a \$100 voucher per year to put towards the cost of lessons and fees with registered providers.

It's a great opportunity to let kids find their passion and learn new skills.

Vouchers can be used to contribute to registration, participation and tuition costs for performing arts, visual arts, coding, languages, literature, music and other creative and cultural activities with our approved list of activity providers.

Further information including guidelines for providers is available at

[www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/creative-kids](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/creative-kids).

I encourage parents to speak to the providers of their children's creative activities and ensure that they register.

### Speech Pathology Services in the Illawarra

To make a referral or for more information contact Port Kembla Hospital on 4223 8044 or Kids Cottage Warilla on 4297 1022.

### Sun protection and skin cancer myths

Answer true or false:

1. You don't get sunburnt on cloudy days.
2. I don't need to use sunscreen because my foundation/ moisturiser has some sunscreen in it.
3. People with olive skin are not at risk of skin cancer.
4. Sunbeds (solariums) are not a safe way to tan.
5. You need to spend lots of time in the sun to get your daily dose of vitamin D.
6. Fake tan protects your skin from the sun.

7. It takes less than half an hour to get sunburnt.
8. You don't have to be concerned about skin cancer because, if it happens, it's easy to see and easy to treat.
9. Only people who sunbake get skin cancer.
10. You can get burnt through a car window.

### Answers

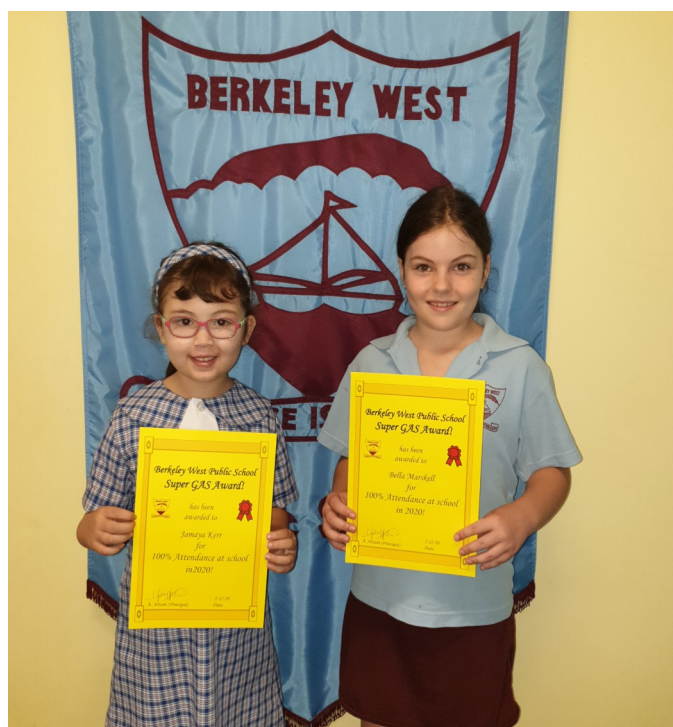
1. False 2. False 3. False 4. True 5. False  
6. False 7. True 8. False 9. False 10. True



**Protect yourself in five ways from skin cancer**

### Our 2020 'Super Great Attendance at School' students!

These two students have almost achieved the impossible in 2020. Both Jamaya K and Bella M have not missed a single day of school this year! That's right, even though the pandemic tried its best to stop it from happening, both girls are very deserving recipients of the 2020 Super Great Attendance at School Awards!

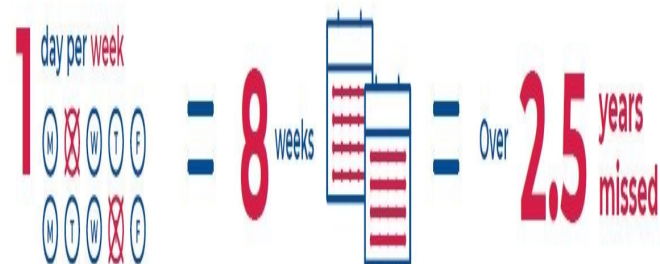
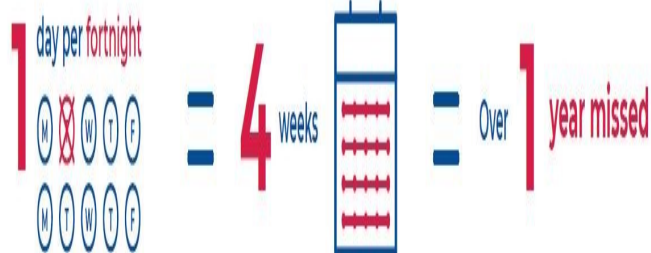


Class	Student of the Fortnight	Reason
KJ	Aiden Lucas	Being a cheerful and positive member of KJ.
K/1S	Rhys Mahoney	Showing great engagement in all areas of his learning.
1/2C	Charlie Mahoney	Always completing her learning tasks to the best of her ability.
2S	Eleni Girdo	For always demonstrating a positive attitude towards her learning.
2/3F	Bob Marshall	Becoming more consistent when completing independent activities.
3/4DW	Jakob Turner	Excellent application in all areas.
4/5B	Zara Williams	For her creative acrostic poem writing and for working hard in mathematics.
5/6LN	Isabella Rosam	Being a hardworking and respectful member of the class.
5/6H	Sophie Bailey	Always having insightful class contributions across all key learning areas

# Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just... they miss weeks per year and years over their school life



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