



# BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

Wednesday 3 February, 2021

## From The Principal's Desk Upcoming Events

### Remember- School starts at 8.55am everyday!!!!

- Tues 9 Feb-** 8.50-12.30pm School swimming carnival (swimmers only 8yrs and up) – permission note required
- Fri 12 Feb-** 2.10pm 2021 Captain and prefect induction assembly– students and parents of inductees only– COVID safe planed event
- Tues 16 Feb-** 3.15pm P&C meeting in Community Room– COVID protocols apply

### Welcome Back!

Welcome back for what's sure to be an exciting 2021! We hope that you had a safe and happy summer holiday break and have started the school year ready to work hard. Term 1 is a ten week term (this is Week 2) with school breaking up on Thursday 1 April.

For those parents or carers new to our school, particularly kinder parents, welcome! School newsletters are sent home on Wednesdays of even school weeks with the eldest or only child in the family that attends school. These newsletters are the best way for our school to keep in touch with you and keep you informed of upcoming events in the school. Please read all newsletters carefully so that you and your children don't miss a thing. If your child is away on a newsletter distribution day, they should collect one from their teacher upon their return to school. Spare newsletters are kept outside the school's main office in the brochure rack.

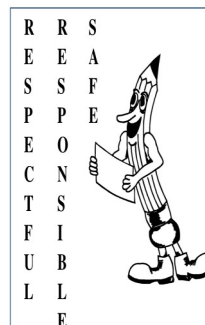
### Current School COVID protocols

On behalf of all the staff at Berkeley west Public School, can I thank all parents for respecting the current COVID protocols in place to keep our students and staff safe. Parents have been fantastic at dropping off and picking up their children at the front gate.

Any parents of K, Year 1 or Year 2 students, who absolutely have needed to come into the school (i.e. canteen order/uniform shop/class drop off) have complied with signing the visitor form and scanning the school's QR code before coming in. They have then left the school grounds promptly afterwards!

At the end of this week (Friday 5 February), we would hope to see all K, 1 and 2 students being dropped off at the gate. If any assistance is required to help your child at drop off time, we will assess what we can do on

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



a case by case basis to best support your child.

The back gate on Gallop Street will not be opened for pedestrian access in the mornings until further notice, as we cannot have parents walking through the school unless they have followed COVID protocols and signed a visitors form and scanned the school's COVID QR code located at the front of the school. Students can still be collected by parents at the Gallop St gate as normal in the afternoon as the teacher on duty will open it for students to exit only.

### Organisation of Classes and Staff

We have formed 8 classes this year! We are confident these classes will remain as they have been formed, but this is reliant on student numbers staying stable over the next week or so.

We welcome to the BWPS staff for 2021 Miss Rosandic. At this stage she will work three days per week teaching literacy and numeracy to student groups, release Miss Haworth and Miss James from face to face teaching (2 hours a week) and looking after our library. We will also see Mrs Sakun and Mr Gaudiosi join us as additional School Learning and Support Officers throughout 2021. We welcome back Mrs Bennie, Mrs Combe, Mrs Whyte and Mrs Haynes who will support a number of classes with their literacy

and numeracy needs.

Mrs Norrie who will work as our K-6 Aboriginal programs coordinator & attendance monitoring teacher whilst Mrs Turk will work every Friday supporting students with English as an additional language.

Mrs Doyle will work as our K-2 literacy/numeracy interventionist teacher this year whilst Mrs Robertson continues in her role as our Learning and Support Teacher 4 days a week assisting students with additional learning needs.

Our Assistant Principals, Mrs Moore and Ms Duncan will teach a variety of subjects as our release from face to face and support teachers. Mrs Moore and Ms Duncan will work across the school supporting teachers with their professional learning needs and classroom practice. They will also oversee student wellbeing and behaviour management across our school. Mrs Le Cerf continues in her role working as our Deputy Principal Instructional Leader coordinating our K-2 literacy/numeracy program development. Mrs Mackey, Mrs Cassar, Mrs Morgan, Mrs King, Mrs Tait and Mr Longden will work as our school's administrative support staff.

The school executive is made up of Mrs Moore (Assistant Principal K-2), Mrs Duncan (Assistant Principal 3-6) and Mrs Le Cerf (Deputy Principal-Instructional Leader K-2) and myself, Mr Attard (Principal).

Information sessions with your child's class teacher will be organized soon so that you can meet your child's teacher who will discuss classroom routines and requirements. Classes for 2021 are-

#### 2021 Classes

KJ- Miss James	3MS- Miss Midgley
K/1F- Ms Farmer	4/5T- Miss Thompson
1/2O- Mrs O'Callaghan	5/6H- Miss Haworth
2/3F- Mrs Friend	5/6LW- Mrs Lloyd (Mon-Thurs) & Mrs Whyte (Fri)

#### It's Not OK to be Away!

It is important for parents to understand that every day a student is away without reason, the absence is

costing that child a learning experience. Where a pattern of habitual non-attendance is noted, school staff, the principal, a Departmental home school liaison officer or personnel from Community Services may contact parents.

Students persistently arriving at school late also should report to the school's front office upon arrival with a note from their parents acknowledging their late arrival. Parents can also call the school on 4271 1478 if they know their child is going to arrive late. Students cannot arrive late without a reason received from their parents. These late arrivals will be marked as unexplained and may be followed up by the home school liaison officer. Remember, school starts at 8.55am everyday.

Both the School Attendance Cup and Great Attendance at School (GAS) awards will be in use again this year to reward students with great attendance.

#### Change of Personal Details

If your family details have changed over the holiday period, in particular, address, phone number or emergency contact numbers, please inform the school immediately in writing or come in and let the ladies know in the front office. Accurate information means we can contact you quickly particularly if the matter is urgent.

#### Thankyou P&C!

A huge thankyou to our P&C for their assistance kicking off our school year! In particular those who have operated the school's uniform shop so that parents and carers have had the opportunity most mornings to get their children decked out in our full school uniform right from the start. Your hard work is most appreciated!

#### Starting the School Year

Schools are dynamic 'people organisations' and as a school community we all have a vested interest in the well-being of the school. The working relationship between the home and the school is a vital link, ensuring a positive and productive education for every child.

As Principal, my number one priority is the happiness and safety of every child. Children who are feeling happy and safe are receptive learners. If you have concerns about your child, please contact us, as

## 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

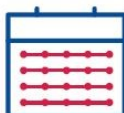
and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight



=

4 weeks



=

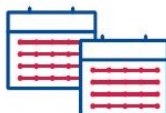
Over 1 year missed

1 day per week



=

8 weeks



=

Over 2.5 years missed

'problems' are far more easily attended to now than in the last week of school!

We are only too aware that at times parents tend to think their concerns are trivial and you debate with yourself whether you should contact the school. Our response is that nothing is too trivial when it comes to the education of your child. So if you have concerns or want clarification, please contact us. I will ask you, however, to consider the following points:

- The number one priority of our teachers is teaching the children, therefore if you arrive unannounced, it may not be convenient or possible to release them from teaching duties to speak to you. It is always best to arrange a meeting time by phoning the office or writing your child's teacher a note requesting a meeting.
- If you want to meet with me (the principal), it is also generally best to make an appointment as I can have a number of commitments and other appointments throughout the day and cannot be always readily available.

### School Uniform

What a great sight to see all students returning for the beginning of 2021 in their school uniform! Special thanks to all the students and families who have made an effort to purchase black shoes/mainly black shoes.

If your child is unable to come in uniform, please send in a quick note with them for your child's teacher explaining why. Uniform Awards will be distributed to students on a regular/random basis right throughout the year so don't be caught out. If you are having difficulty with uniforms, or your child is reluctant to wear their uniform, contact Mr Attard either by phone or in person for support.

**Boys summer uniform**– grey shorts, light blue polo shirt with school emblem, white socks, black shoes.

**Girls summer uniform**– school dress, white tie, white socks, black shoes or, light blue polo shirt, grey shorts, white socks, black shoes.

**Sports uniform (Years 3-6 only, Fridays only)** - Maroon polo shirt with school emblem, maroon shorts /maroon skirt.

Please approach our school uniform shop for your uniform needs. The uniform shop is open on Thursday mornings from 8.30-10.00am. You will need to come in and sign a COVID declaration form at the front office and scan the schools COVID QR code before you walk around to the uniform shop.

As mentioned, students out of uniform will need to provide a note from their parents. Let's face it, you wouldn't run out onto the sporting field in a different uniform to your team mates! Generally, we also tend to find that students in uniform are much more settled and willing to conform and follow school rules. For any school excursion, it is a compulsory requirement for students to be in school uniform for them to attend.

### Hats

A reminder that students are required to wear a hat during recess and lunch all year. Students without a hat will be asked to stay in the shaded areas during playtime.

### Money and Permission Notes coming to School??????

#### PUT IT IN THE DROP BOX!

Our school has a secure drop box built into the front office wall in which you can now place all notes, money etc coming to school. Obviously, make sure any envelopes containing notes or money have your child's name and class written on it, along with what the payment is for.

So no more money to the class teacher please, simply stop in at the office as you get to school in the morning and "CHUCK IT IN THE DROP BOX!"



#### Any Suggestions?

If you have any suggestions that will make our school and even better place to work and learn then feel free to email your suggestions to me at- [andrew.attard@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:andrew.attard@det.nsw.edu.au).

#### School Email List

If you are not currently on the school's email list, and would like to be, please go to-

<https://forms.gle/Lcka8E4omzNPHyKJ7>

and add your name and email address. Your details will not be shared with anyone else and will only be used by the school for school business.

If you are already on the email list, **you do not have to** rejoin!

You will receive emails from time to time with additional reminders, upcoming events and the school newsletter sent home each fortnight in electronic form. Very handy!

#### Parent/Teacher Information Sessions

A chance to meet your child's teacher will take place soon. These meetings are not individual interviews, but a chance for you to meet the teacher and for them to give you some information about general class requirements and routines. A note outlining specific details from your child's teacher will be sent home with your child soon.

Please note, that due to current COVID restrictions for schools, meetings will have numbers restricted (one parent/carer per student and will need to take place outside of school hours).

#### Parent/Teacher Interviews

As has always been the process, if you need to discuss

any part of your child's education with his/her teacher, please call the school office on 4271 1478 to make an appointment and the teacher or a member of staff will get back to you to confirm a mutually agreeable time. Due to COVID restrictions in place for schools at the moment, any communication required will attempt to be made over the phone. Do not approach your child's teacher unannounced or without a mutual time having been arranged first, as he/she may not be able to accommodate you. If you have any questions or issues regarding your child's education, we encourage you to openly communicate with us. Please don't let important issues slip by, deal with them immediately and in isolation for prompt resolution!

COVID restrictions or not, if you wish to visit the school during school hours to drop something off to your child or maybe pick them up early you must **report to the school office first**. This procedure has been established in the interests of student safety and is not negotiable.

If restrictions allow, formal individual teacher/parent interviews regarding your child's progress will take place later in the term. Once again, keep your eyes peeled for information sent home later in the term.

### **Staff Development**

During the staff development "pupil-free" days on Wednesday 27 January and Thursday 28 January, teaching staff undertook annual mandatory training in the Department of Education's Child Protection procedures and staff Code of Conduct. We also reviewed our revised attendance monitoring procedures outlining the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in promoting and monitoring excellent student attendance as well as processes for resolving attendance that is causing concern.

Our school's instructional leader also facilitated learning and discussion regarding our plans to address reading and numeracy development in all our students and how progress data is collated and monitored to inform future teaching in the classroom. A session was also conducted on revising and clarifying school processes and responsibilities in regard to our school behaviour/discipline procedures.

### **School Crossing**

A reminder to all school community members that when crossing both Nolan St and Gallop St to use the crossing facilities available. Our wonderful crossing staff do a great job and would appreciate the cooperation of all students and parents in crossing these busy roads safely. Approach crossings sensibly and await instructions from the crossing supervisor as to when to cross. Ensure you walk across the road when asked to do so. Parents are asked to wait on the school side of the crossing so that students won't be tempted to dash across an unsupervised part of the road.

Parents should also note that the Nolan Street crossing does not become supervised or active until 2.30pm in the afternoon. The crossing guards will not put out the flags before then, so if you are crossing Nolan Street outside school zone hours, you will need to do so carefully yourself. Please note that the Gallop Street crossing is not currently a supervised crossing. We were informed late last year that at some stage

(hopefully soon!) we will receive a crossing guard to assist students and their family members cross Gallop Street. Until then, parents and children are expected to cross the road safely **when cars have stopped**. If you are concerned about your child using the Gallop Street crossing, you should arrange for an adult to meet them at the Gallop Street pedestrian gate at 3pm when the duty teacher opens it for students to exit.

Parents also need to park legally around schools so that they don't put lives in danger. We had several parents and visitors fined last year and don't want a repeat of this in 2021.

### **Maths Tip!**

You can help your child at home by involving them in mathematical activities and talking to them about maths and its everyday use.

### **Cooking at Home**

Children can help you prepare shopping lists, work out the quantities of ingredients needed, weigh the ingredients and check on the cooking time. Involve the children in selecting new recipes.

### **Student Assistance**

If you require assistance meeting expenses related to your child's education you are welcome to call the school and ask to speak with the Principal Mr Attard.

### **Special Religious Education/ Scripture**

A feature of the public education system in NSW is the opportunity to provide time in class for education in ethics, faith and morality from a religious or non-religious perspective at the choice of parents.

The school website- <https://berkeleyw-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>, provides information on these options to support parent/carer choice.

A parent/carer may at any time notify the school in writing that they wish to change their decision. Students will continue the same arrangement as the previous year, unless a parent/carer has requested a change in writing.

For more information about Special Religious Education (SRE) and Special Education in Ethics (SEE), including the list of approved providers, please visit: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/learning-across-the-curriculum/religion-and-ethics>

If your preferred SRE option is not available please contact the approved provider. Students not attending SRE are given supervised alternative meaningful activities.

The following options are available at Berkeley West Public School-

### **SRE Options**

Option 1: Catholic

Option 2: Protestant

Students continue in the same arrangement each year, unless a parent/caregiver has requested a change in writing. At any time, you have the right to change your SRE nomination or to withdraw your child from the nominated lessons. A note to the Principal will affect this change.

## Head Lice

Checking your child's hair for any signs of head lice is a parent's responsibility. Please be vigilant during the year in checking your child's hair regularly for any signs of head lice or eggs. By doing so you will help alleviate the frustration that head lice cause for all of us!

Information on identifying and treating head lice is available upon request at any time of the year from school. If you do discover head lice in your child's hair, please inform the school and a note can be sent home to all families of the children in your child's class asking them to check their hair. Of course no information will be disclosed about your child.

## 2021 Captains and Prefects

Our first whole school assembly for the year will take place on Friday 12 February from 2.10-3.00pm. That's right, because of timetabling where we have prioritized student learning first, we have moved assembly time to every second Friday. This assembly will be our official 2021 captain and prefect induction ceremony. Due to COVID safety measures, only a restricted number of family members of newly elected captain and prefects will be admitted to attend this special assembly. A COVID safety plan will be developed so that they can attend which will include, but is not limited to physical distancing, hygiene and contact tracing requirements through visitor forms and scanning the school's COVID QR Code. An invitation will be sent to parents/carers of our 2021 captains and prefects.

## Newsletter Improvement

If you have any ideas or suggestions on how this newsletter could be improved even further please send Mr Attard an email [andrew.attard@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:andrew.attard@det.nsw.edu.au)

## Birth and Immunisation Certificates

We have a number of parents of kindergarten students yet to present an immunisation or birth certificate. Student enrolment can only be finalised when parents provide the school with documentation such as a birth certificate or passport to verify their child's age.

The Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992 requires parents to provide documented evidence of a child's immunisation status on enrolment in schools, pre-schools and child care centres.

Parents have the right of not having their children immunised. However, under the Public Health (Amendment) Act 1992, in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, unimmunised children will be required to remain at home for the duration of the outbreak.

## School Photos 2021

Just a brief message that school photos will not be taken this year until next term, Tuesday 18 May, where all students will be required to wear full school winter uniform.

## School Gates and Parking

For safety and security reasons all gates except the single pedestrian gate on Nolan Street are locked for most of the day. If from time to time you find this single gate closed over, please note that it is NOT LOCKED. Sometimes it is just closed over and can be opened by lifting the bottom latch. On past occasions we have had stray dogs come in and out of the grounds causing unnecessary risk and distraction.

## Absence notes

School attendance rolls are legal documents, and under Australian law schools must account for student absences. If your child is absent or late for whatever reason, the school requires a written note or a phone call from you indicating the date and reason for the absence. We appreciate your support in allowing us to fulfil our legal requirements.

This year we will reward the class with the best attendance each week with the BWPS Attendance Cup. Don't let yourself, your class or the school down!

## Tips for packing their lunch boxes

- Pack food that is easy to open, easy to eat and not messy.
- Write their name on their lunch box, water bottle and any other containers.
- Include a frozen drink bottle to keep food cold. Wrap it in a tea towel in case it leaks.
- Use insulated lunch boxes or cooler bags.
- Avoid using plastic wrap because children find it hard to pull apart, paper bags are better for the environment too.
- Pack tissues or paper around fruit so it won't bruise.
- Remind your child to wash their hands before eating and use the toilet at recess and lunch.
- Pack a water bottle for your child each day and remind them that they can also get water from the taps or bubblers throughout the day.

## What is anaphylaxis?

Allergic reactions are common. They happen when the immune system reacts to something in the environment that is normally harmless: e.g. food proteins, pollens or dust mites. It can be triggered by an allergen coming into contact with the skin, eyes, nose, ears, lungs or the stomach/bowel.

Many allergic reactions are mild, but some can be severe and even life threatening.

The most common causes of allergy in children are eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, eggs, cow's milk, soy, wheat, fish and shellfish. Other causes are bee or other insect bites (wasp, jumper jack ant), some medications (antibiotics, anaesthetics) and latex (rubber).

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of an allergic reaction and is life threatening. Rates of anaphylaxis are not well documented, but are estimated at approximately 10 in every 1000 school children.

A reaction can develop within minutes of exposure to the allergen, but with planning and training, a reaction can be treated effectively by using an adrenaline injection. An important aspect of anaphylaxis management is prevention and avoidance of the cause.

At Berkeley West Public School we have several students with severe allergies to peanuts, other nuts, eggs and bees. Any of these food items brought to school put these students at risk.

**We ask all parents to keep peanuts, peanut products and eggs out of their children's**

**lunchboxes.** In an attempt to minimise the risks to our students, our canteen managers have removed peanut based products and eggs from our menu.

If you would like more information regarding anaphylaxis and the significant consequences a reaction brings, please contact Mr Attard.

### School Swimming Carnival

Our school will hold its annual swimming carnival at Berkeley Pool on the morning of Tuesday 9 February. This event is for students aged 8 years and up who can swim the length of the pool. There will not be any student spectators at this carnival. Information and a permission note has already been sent home regarding our carnival. Thanks Mrs Haworth in advance for your coordination of the carnival!



### Thankyou 'Skool Loop' App Business Sponsors

Did you know our school app, Skool Loop, does not cost us any money to use? That's because several

\$500 to help with education costs for you or your children  
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Winnima Way, Berkeley

THE  
BERKELEY  
HOTEL

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Johnny's  
MEAT & SEAFOOD

Big Fat Smile  
FUN CLUB  
@ Koonawarra  
Before & After School Care  
School Holiday Care

local businesses have kindly sponsored/supported it's use in our school community.

Businesses currently supporting our app are-

If you would like to advertise on the Berkeley West Skool Loop App please email [Content@skoolloop.com](mailto:Content@skoolloop.com)

**To download our app:** In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose Berkeley West School once installed.

### Back to school asthma spike

Welcome back! With everyone returning back to schools and preschools across NSW, it's important to

be on top of asthma management now more so than ever. That's because over the next two weeks, the "back to school spike" is likely to occur. This is a well-documented increase in hospital admissions in both school and preschool aged children with asthma which occurs around two weeks after children go back, with the spike generally peaking in mid to late February.

This spike in asthma is strongly associated with an increased exposure to viruses, a common trigger for asthma, and may also be due to children's asthma management routine lapsing over the holidays.

**Its recommend that parents provide their school with an updated asthma care plan**, or a written asthma action plan completed in consultation with the child's doctor. This is important so that staff know what to do during an asthma emergency. Our staff receive regular asthma training and immediate access to asthma emergency equipment as required.

## Parent Line



*CatholicCare's Parent Line is a free counselling service for Parents and Carers of children 0 – 18 across NSW 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our professional counsellors are available now to talk to parents about a wide range of issues.*

### **Website for Parents**

At Parent Line, we know that the joys and rewards of parenting are many. We also know that sometimes issues can crop up that can challenge families. Some of these include challenges with adjusting to going to school, transitions from primary school to high school, issues around family breakdown, helping a child who is being bullied at school, the stress of supporting children through the HSC to name a few. At times parenting can be tough!

It's during times like these, that we all need someone to listen to our story, help us remember and acknowledge our successes and strengths and help us find new ways of sorting through these challenges. Parent Line NSW provides exactly that.

Go to- [www.parentline.org.au](http://www.parentline.org.au). This website is a great resource for parents and carers that is easy to read and access and gives parents and carers the facility to email us with enquiries.

Of course the best way to get the best help from Parent Line is to talk to one of our professional counsellors. They can listen to your issues and tailor some strategies that could assist your family.

Last year Parent Line Counsellors helped over 8,000 parents and carers across NSW with a wide range of parenting issues. We are lucky enough to have 5 male counsellors on our team, if there are Dad's who prefer to speak to another male.

**Concerned about any parenting issue? Ring Parent Line NOW.**

**1300 1300 52**