



# BERKELEY WEST PUBLIC SCHOOL

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

Thursday 2 February, 2023

## From The Principal's Desk Upcoming Events

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

- Wed 8 Feb-** School swimming carnival at Berkeley Pool- students 8 yrs and older who wish to compete and can swim at least 50m unassisted- separate info and permission note coming home
- Fri 10 Feb-** 2.15pm School captains and prefects induction assembly- all welcome
- Tues 21 Feb-** 9.15am School Parents & Friends (P&F) meeting in School Community Room- all welcome

### Welcome Back!

Welcome back for what's sure to be an exciting 2023! 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 an eleven week term (this is Week 2) with school breaking up on Thursday 6 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.

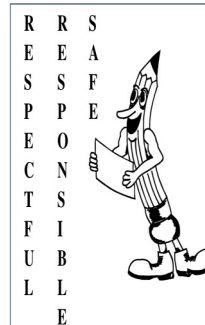
### Organisation of Classes and Staff

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 2023 Miss Jones. She will be the class teacher for 1/2J. We will also see Ms Farmer working in a new role as one of our School Learning and Support Officers throughout 2023. Mrs Haynes, Mrs Whyte, Mrs Best and Mr Alexander will support a number of classes with intensive small group tuition in literacy and numeracy as well teach some other subjects as part of each class teacher's release from face to face teaching time.

Mrs Norrie will be back later this term to work as our K-

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



6 Aboriginal programs coordinator whilst Mrs King will work every Monday and Wednesday supporting students with English as an additional language. Miss El Kordi will work on Mondays as our School Learning and Support Officer specifically supporting students as part of the New Arrivals Program. Mrs Doyle will soon take leave to welcome into the world her new addition to the family.

Our Assistant Principals, Mrs Moore (K-2) and Mrs David (3-6) will coordinate student wellbeing/learning and support initiatives across the school as well as leading their teaching teams in providing quality teaching practice in every classroom. Mrs Le Cerf and Mrs Jancetic continue working in their roles as Assistant Principals (Curriculum and Instruction) our K-6 literacy/numeracy program development. Mrs Mackey, Mrs Cassar, Mrs Morgan, Mrs King, Mrs Tait, Ms Farmer 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 David (Assistant Principal 3-6), Mrs Le Cerf (Assistant Principal- Curriculum and Instruction), Mrs Jancetic (Assistant Principal- Curriculum and Instruction) 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 2023 are-

### 2023 Classes

KJ– Miss James                      3/4L– Mrs Lloyd  
1/2J– Miss Jones                    4/5G– Mrs Gannon  
1/2R– Miss Rosandic                5/6Me– Mrs Mears  
3/4H– Miss Haworth                5/6Mi– Miss Midgley

### School Bell Times

8.55am	Morning bell to begin the day
9.00-11.00am	Morning class session
11.00-11.50am	Lunch Break
11.50am–1.40pm	Midday class session
1.40-2.00pm	Afternoon recess
2.00-3.00pm	Afternoon class session

### 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&F!

A huge thankyou to our P&F 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 '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 2023 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 skort.

Please approach our school uniform shop for your uniform needs. The uniform shop is open on Tuesday mornings from 8.30-9.15am.

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 safety 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/awedgqMs3x7gsitr8>

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.

### Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent teacher interviews, where you will get an opportunity to speak with your child's teacher will take place early next term. You will get the opportunity to

nominate your preferred dates/times for these interviews toward the end of this term.

### Staff Development

During the staff development "pupil-free" days on Friday 27 January and Monday 30 January, teaching staff undertook annual mandatory training in a number of the Department of Education's policies and procedures. Teachers also reviewed teaching and learning units of work in English, mathematics and Human Society and its Environment (HSIE). This also included in depth review of units of work in the implementation of the new K-2 English and mathematics syllabus.

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.

All teachers also completed mandatory training in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Anaphylaxis response.

### School Crossing

A reminder to all school community members that cross 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 due to staffing shortages, the Gallop Street crossing is not always a supervised crossing. If the crossing is not supervised in the morning or afternoon by an RMS guard, 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. Teachers do not have the authority to act as crossing guards and stop traffic.

Parents also need to park legally around schools so that they don't put themselves and others in danger. We had several parents and visitors fined last year and don't want a repeat of this in 2023.

### 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.

### 2023 Captains and Prefects

Our first whole school assembly for the year will take place on Friday 10 February from 2.15-3.00pm. This assembly will be our official 2023 captain and prefect induction ceremony. An invitation has been sent to parents/carers of our 2023 captains and prefects, but everyone is welcome to attend!

### 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 2023

Just a brief message that school photos will not be taken this year until next term, Tuesday 23 May, where all students will be required to wear full school winter uniform.

### School Gates and Parking

Once our schools automated gates on Nolan Street go online, for safety and security reasons all school gates will be locked for most of the school day. The pedestrian gate on Nolan Street will be open for students to enter the grounds from 8.15am, but anyone arriving after they have been closed will need to buzz the school office to be admitted. School staff will be able to see and hear you and remotely open the gate for authorized students, parents and visitors.

The pedestrian gate will be open from approximately 2.30pm (time to be confirmed later) and locked once all students have left the school grounds and the crossing guard has completed their duty.

More information regarding the new system will be provided once it becomes operational.

### 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, eyes, 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.

### Back to school asthma spike

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.

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## 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

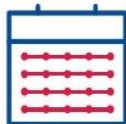
and years over their school life

**1** day per fortnight



=

**4** weeks



=

Over

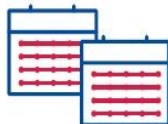
**1** year missed

**1** day per week



=

**8** weeks



=

Over

**2.5** years missed

## 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**

