

Stratford Public School

Bucketts Way STRATFORD NSW 2422

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Term 1 Week 6 Wednesday 7th March 2018

Thank you to Mrs Sansom who so ably stepped into my shoes and filled the Relieving Principal position whilst I was on leave. It was great to know that the school was left in the capable hands of Mrs Sansom with Mrs Beard and Mrs Ryll filling the teaching gaps.

Professional Learning

Over the course of this year both Mrs Sansom and I will be doing a large amount of Professional Learning. This will all align with the new school plan and our PDP's. Recently I have just commenced my L3 literacy training, this program is a researched based intervention program for K-2 students, targeting reading and writing. As part of this professional learning I will be required to travel to Taree one day a fortnight for a half day of training.

New School Plan 2018-2020

Our new 3 year school plan is currently in the final planning phase. The aim of these plans is to improve the quality of teaching in our school and student outcomes. The School Plan is a highly strategic plan focussing on key areas for improvement determined by the school in consultation with the community. Our 2018-2020 Plan will be published by the end of term 1.

Oz Opera

Please see the attached permission note for the whole school to attend Oz Opera at Gloucester PS. This is a fantastic show for the children to experience. This year it is Mozart's The Magic Flute. We are travelling by bus and the cost for the show and bus is \$15 per student.

Sun Smart

In accordance with departmental guidelines our school operates a 'No Hat, No Play' policy.

This means if your child does not have a hat to wear at play time they will not be allowed to play outside of the covered area. Balls, skipping ropes, colouring in and other activities will be provided for those children who are required to play in the covered area.

Please make sure your child has a hat each day.

Infants sound of the week - 'i' week 6 and 'p' week 7

Please send in any items that we can display that start with the letters i and p.

School Uniform

Please ensure that you are sending your children to school in the correct school uniform as per the policy attached.

Sky blue shirt with school emblem.

Dark navy shorts, long pants, skorts etc. (not black or royal blue please).

Dark navy jumper with emblem.

White socks and wide brim hat.

The uniform policy is reviewed with the input of the P & C and it is expected that all children present to school in the correct uniform. Thank you for your support in this matter. Items of uniform available from the P & C are;

Shirts - \$15

Jumpers - \$20

Hats - \$10

Please write your children's names on clothing and hats to ensure they go home to the correct families.

*Amy Hughes
Principal*

A proud member of the Bucketts Way Community of Schools

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Awards

Birthday Awards

Brady who turned 11.

Class Awards

Hunter - For writing and sounding out words!

Brady - For great writing!

Core Value Awards

Malia - Caring for Others - Week 4

Savannah - Acting Responsibly - Week 4

Henry - Acting Responsibly - Week 5

Well done everyone and keep trying your best!



P & C News

P & C EASTER RAFFLE

P&C are asking for donations of Easter goods for our raffle this term. Tickets are attached to this weeks newsletter and are \$1 each. Please sell to family, friends and neighbours to ensure this is a successful fundraiser for the P & C. Spare tickets are available in the school office for the people who may want to pop round their village and sell to the local community. Please return all tickets sold or unsold.

If all families could contribute some chocolate goodies it would be greatly appreciated. The raffle will be drawn on the same day as the Easter hat parade at school. Thank you to the families who have already donated items.

Our next P & C Meeting is next Tuesday, 13th March starting at 1pm. Please mark this in your diary as we would like to see all of our new families attend.

Dates to Remember

9th March: **Fun Food Friday**

20th March: **Oz Opera at Gloucester PS**

23rd March: **Harmony Day activities**

27th March: **Easter Hat Parade**

28th March: **Soccer Gala Day in Gloucester (TBC)**

30th March and 2nd April: **Easter Public Holidays**

5th April: **Term Assembly and Afternoon Tea**

6th April: **Troppo Bob @SPS with Stroud Road PS and Fun Food Friday BBQ.**

Zone Swimming Carnival

Well done to our Zone Swimming Team who represented our school last week in Taree. It was a great opportunity for our students to experience a much bigger swimming carnival that they have ever been used to and see how the carnivals run and the ability of other swimmers and schools. Well done for all of your efforts and for your behaviour on the day. A big thank you to Mrs Beard who volunteered to be the teacher acting for the 5 schools in our region. A long day on the stop watch for her!



A proud member of the Bucketts Way Community of Schools

Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning* website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities



Uniform Policy

Rationale

Our school uniform policy takes into account the diverse nature of the student population in the school and should not disadvantage any student. Economic, personal, social and cultural factors affecting students and their families must be considered when deciding on uniform. The school's uniform policy should be reviewed at least every five years and amended where necessary.

Students are encouraged to be in full school uniform to reflect their respect for the school and membership of the school community.

Dress Code

	Summer	Winter
Girls	Short sleeved sky blue polo shirt with emblem Navy tailored shorts, culottes, skirts Fleecy dark navy sweat shirt with crew neck and emblem White socks	Short sleeved sky blue polo shirt with emblem Navy track pants or trousers Fleecy dark navy sweat shirt with crew neck and emblem White socks
Boys	Short sleeved sky blue polo shirt with emblem Navy shorts Fleecy dark navy sweat shirt with crew neck and emblem White socks	Short sleeved sky blue polo shirt with emblem Long, navy trousers or navy track pants Fleecy dark navy sweat shirt with crew neck and emblem White socks
All Students	Black shoes or joggers Wide brim hats	

To ensure student safety, the following practices apply:

- jewellery is not permitted at school apart from watches, medical alert information, sleepers or stud earrings and items of religious significance which should be protected under clothing
- the "No Hat-No Play" rule is enforced in the playground. Students without hats are to play in the designated shade area and
- all students are expected to attend in full school uniform.