

CHRISTIE DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Principal Message

Dear Christie Downs Primary School Community,
Welcome to Term 4! It's hard to believe we are already in the final stretch of the school year. Term 4 is always an exciting and vibrant time as we celebrate the achievements of the year, reflect on our growth, and look forward to what's ahead.

Reflecting on the Year

As we prepare to close another successful school year, I would like to thank our students, parents, caregivers, and staff for their incredible commitment and contributions to the Christie Downs Primary School community. Students have displayed impressive growth both academically and socially, and our teachers have worked tirelessly to provide a rich and supportive learning environment. I especially want to acknowledge our wonderful year 6 students they have had an amazing year of growth and we will celebrate your final year at primary school this term.

Upcoming Events and Activities

This term is filled with special events and activities. Please make a note of these significant dates:

School Camp year 5 & 6 students - 29th till 31st October 2025

Rumble in the Jungle – Always a highlight, this event will showcase the many talents of our students and staff.

This year it is back at the new Hopgood Theatre on Wednesday 3rd December

Santa cave – 4th December -9am till 12pm – Thank you Governing Council

Variety Christmas Party - 26th November - all day event

Graduation Ceremony: Tuesday 9th December – We will celebrate and farewell our Year 6 students as they prepare to move on to high school. This is a milestone we are all proud of.

Final Assembly – 12th December at 12pm

Portfolio Afternoon – Tuesday 9th December

School Reports: Reports will be sent home in the final week to provide an overview of your child's achievements and progress this year.

Student free Day – Friday 28th November

School Closure - Friday 5th December

Preparing for 2026

In Term 4, we will also begin our planning for the 2026 school year. If you are aware of any families new to the area who may be considering enrolling their children at Christie Downs Primary, please encourage them to contact the office as soon as possible. Families leaving the school at the end of the year are also asked to notify us to assist in our planning. Parents will receive a letter of their child's next year class with their reports which are emailed on Tuesday of week 9. Please be aware that things may change for many reasons over the Christmas period. I will email you a 2026 letter in late January to inform you of any changes.

Staying Connected

Communication is key to a thriving school community. Remember to check See Saw or our school website regularly for updates, news, and reminders. And make sure the Front Office has correct and up to date email addresses. If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher or our friendly school office staff.

Acknowledging Our Partnership

Our school thrives because of the strong partnerships we share with families. Your ongoing involvement in your child's education - whether through attending events, supporting learning at home, or volunteering at the school - makes a significant difference. Thank you for all that you do. Let's make this final term a memorable one for our children, filled with moments of joy, discovery, and learning.

Warm regards,
Gail Evans

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 4 2025

3rd Nov

Monday
Week 4
Día de los
Muertos

28th Nov

Friday Week 7
Student Free
Day

3rd Dec

Wednesday
Week 8
Rumble in the
Jungle

4th Dec

Thursday
Week 8
Santa Cave

5th Dec

Friday Week 8
School
Closure Day

9th Dec

Tuesday
Week 9
Portfolio
Presentations
& Yr 6
Graduation



LEADERSHIP TEAM :

Principal: Gail Evans

Senior Leader 1 Curriculum: Ellen Barr

Senior Leader 1 Inclusive Education: Leanne Jacobs

Student Wellbeing Leader: Jo Swift

Elizabeth Road, Christie Downs, SA 5164

Tel: (08) 8382 3266

Fax: (08) 8382 2205

We hope everyone enjoys what is set to be busy
last term as we begin to wrap up 2025!
Christie Downs School Staff



	TERM 4 2025 DIARY DATES				
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1	13/10 Start Term 4	14/10	15/10	16/10	17/10
WEEK 2	20/10 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	21/10 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	22/10 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	23/10 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	24/10 Breakfast Club/Wheelie Club
WEEK 3	27/10 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	28/10 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	29/10 BA3 Adelaide Zoo Excursion Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	30/10 BA1 & BA 2 Odyssey Camp Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	31/10 Breakfast Club/Wheelie Club
WEEK 4	3/11 Día de Los Muertos Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	4/11 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	5/11 Lilly Pilly 1,2,4 Excursion Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	6/11 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	7/11 Breakfast Club/Wheelie Club
WEEK 5	10/11 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	11/11 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	12/11 Year 6 City School Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	13/11 2026 Reception Transition Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	14/11 Breakfast Club/Wheelie Club
WEEK 6	17/11 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	18/11 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	19/11 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	20/11 2026 Reception Transition Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	21/11 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club
WEEK 7	24/11 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	25/11 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	26/11 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	27/11 2026 Reception Transition Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	28/11 Student Free Day Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club
WEEK 8	1/12 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	2/12 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	3/12 Rumble in the Jungle @ Hopgood Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	4/12 Santa Cave Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	5/12 School Closure Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club
WEEK 9	8/12	9/12 Portfolio Presentations Yr 6 Graduation	10/12	11/12	12/12 Last Day of Term 4 - 2pm Finish

Inclusive Education

Small Class Curriculum

Throughout the second half of the year, small class educators have been collaborating to connect the ABLES curriculum, South Australian Curriculum and Early Years Learning Framework. This important work is ensuring educators have a comprehensive document to use when planning to meet individual learner needs across all curriculum areas. This planning spans not only the core curriculum subjects, but also social/ emotional and communication skills.

To support the transference of skill development into settings outside of the school environment, many of our middle and upper primary small classes will be engaging in community excursions this term. Our junior primary small classes will continue to visit a range of different learning environments across the school to practise their skills in a variety of known learning environments to further develop transition and communication skills.

High School Transition – Small Classes

The sharing of information is an important part of the transition process to support learners in their journey to high school. Teachers of our graduating students are engaging in conversations with High School educators to arrange transition times and high school educators are beginning to visit learners here at Christie Downs. Transition visits will be organised with parents and High School educators to occur across this term. Please keep an eye out for meeting and transition times in the coming weeks. Feel free to contact me at school if you have any further questions about the High School Transition Process.

Sharing of Information

Sharing information and collaboratively planning encourages consistency in strategies between home and school which support children's learning.

It is important that school staff have the most up to date assessment reports, therapy reports and health care plans. These include reports and plans from any professional who provide support and strategies for your child outside the school environment. Updated reports can be given to your child's teacher, brought into the front office or emailed to me – leanne.jacobs929@schools.sa.edu.au

Leanne Jacobs
Senior Leader

Autism Inclusion Teacher

Building Resilience, Wellbeing, and Inclusive Communities

Last term, our staff and parent community had the valuable opportunity to attend a series of engaging workshops focused on Resilience, Wellbeing, and the Power of Inclusive Communities, led by renowned educator and author, Madhavi Nawana Parker.

These sessions were designed to equip both educators and families with practical, evidence-based strategies to support the mental health and wellbeing of children - both at school and at home.

For parents and carers, Madhavi shared tools to help develop confidence and resilience in children, while also offering supportive, everyday approaches to promote emotional wellbeing in the home environment.

Our educators explored practical ways to support students' mental health within the school setting. Madhavi introduced proven strategies for building resilience and confidence and emphasised how understanding neurodivergence and fostering inclusive practices can strengthen not just individual outcomes, but the overall wellbeing and happiness of our entire school community.

We are grateful for the opportunity to learn from Madhavi and look forward to continuing our journey in building a more supportive, inclusive, and resilient environment for all.

Nicole Guy-Rees
(AIT- Autism Inclusion Teacher)

Autism online
workshop
sessions for
parents & carers



For more information and to register, scan the QR code or click [here](#).

2025 Graduates



Aiden



Aiden



Aleena



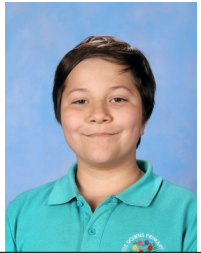
Alessa



Alex



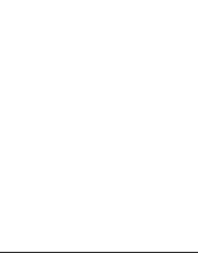
Alia



Aria



Arly



Asayah



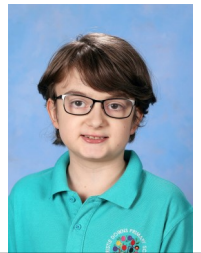
Avah



Bailey



Binayak



Castiel



Charlii



Georgina



Hunter



Jackson



JJ



Jyden



Kalell



Lilly



Marlie



Mya



Raymond



Sonny

Absent for photo

Tyler

Absent for photo

Noah

Absent for photo

Andrew

As you take this exciting step into the next chapter of your journey, may 2026 and the years ahead be filled with success, joy, and endless opportunities to learn and grow.

We are so proud of everything you have achieved and can't wait to see all the wonderful things you'll accomplish in the future. Keep dreaming big, believing in yourselves, and reaching for the stars!

Christie Downs School

BOOK WEEK 2025



What a spectacular Book Week Parade!
Our students looked absolutely amazing in their creative and colourful costumes — it was a true celebration of imagination and reading!
Even our staff got into the spirit, dressing up and joining the fun alongside our students. We loved every moment of it!

Aboriginal Education Team - Term 4 2025



Niina marni, Ngai nari (my name is) Clinton Calyun, I am the Aboriginal Community Education Officer, here at Christie Downs Primary school, welcome back to Term 4.
We have another busy term with high school transitions and Nunga tag. It will be deadly to catch up with you mob at our end of year celebration details to follow and remember the door is always open for a yarn and a cuppa!

Hello, to our new families, my name is Trish Hendrick, and I am the Aboriginal Education Teacher (AET) at Christie Downs P.S. Term 4, is my favourite term, we get to celebrate all the progress our students have made in their literacy and numeracy. I have been working with our aboriginal students on their letter sounds, reading, writing and team teaching the aboriginal 8 ways of learning in numeracy.

Reconciliation Garden Finalists!!!!

We are delighted to be finalists in the Onkaparinga Mayor's Garden Competition. Thank you to our gardener JP for all his hard work maintaining the garden and for collaborating with Clinton, to construct the bridge, with our building mob as part of our Reconciliation week theme "Bridging Now to Next". Thank you to all who have contributed to our garden space, our students who planted, weeded and watered their plants and bushtucker, Thanks to Howie for designing and making the fire pit, which facilitates our campfire sessions. Our classes and the kindergarten are very grateful for this outdoor learning space.
We were delighted to welcome the mayor and judges to our garden. Students spoke of how we use and care for our garden. The judges were also treated to an impromptu reconciliation song by one of our students.

Reconciliation Action Plan

Thank you to all who came to our last Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) meeting. We were very grateful to welcome some new families to our RAP working group.
We are analysing the feedback we received about relationships, opportunities and respect and what is working well and what our community would like to see more of. This will support our new direction for 2026. Our next RAP meeting will be early 2026, but we will be having an end of term celebration of our RAP success. Details to follow!!!



Trish Hendrick - AET

Book Week 2025

This year marked a special milestone for the Children's Book Council of Australia as they celebrated **80 years of Children's Book Week!** A huge thank you to everyone who helped make our **Book Week Parade** such a memorable event. It was wonderful to see so many students proudly dressed as their favourite book characters. We also want to extend our thanks to families for your support — whether it was helping your child choose a character, put together a costume, or cheering them on as they paraded through the gym.

Book Week is all about celebrating the **joy of reading**, and this year's event was a wonderful reminder of how stories can inspire creativity, confidence, and connection.

**The Importance of Reading**

As we enter the final term of the school year, it's a great time to reflect on the importance of reading and its impact on your child's learning across all curriculum areas. Reading is much more than a school subject — it's a **foundation for success** in every area of education.

When children struggle with reading, especially in the later years of primary school, it can affect their ability to access and understand key learning content. Confident readers, on the other hand, can move beyond decoding words and begin to **read for meaning**. This allows them to comprehend complex texts, explore abstract concepts, and make connections across subjects.

For example, in mathematics, solving word problems requires strong reading comprehension to understand what is being asked. In science, students need to interpret charts, diagrams, and reports to conduct experiments and grasp key ideas. Even in subjects like Health and P.E., reading skills are essential for following rules, understanding health information, and learning about wellbeing.

Reading also develops **critical thinking**, a vital skill for lifelong learning. Through reading, children learn to question, analyse, and interpret information — helping them become independent, thoughtful, and informed learners and citizens.

How families can support reading at home

Families play a vital role in supporting reading at home by helping children develop a love of books and confidence as readers. Here are some effective ways families can help:

- **Read together regularly:**
Set aside time each day to read with or to your child. Shared reading builds fluency, comprehension, and enjoyment.
- **Talk about books:**
Discuss the story, characters, and what might happen next. Asking open-ended questions helps children think deeply about what they read.
- **Create a reading routine:**
Make reading part of daily life — before bed, after dinner, or during quiet time. Consistency helps build a strong habit.
- **Provide access to books:**
Visit libraries, swap books with friends, or use eBooks. Having a range of texts at home encourages more reading.
- **Be a reading role model:**
Let children see adults reading for pleasure, whether it's books, magazines, or recipes — it shows that reading is valuable and enjoyable.
- **Celebrate progress:**
Praise effort and celebrate milestones to build confidence and motivation.
- **Connect reading to real life:**
Encourage reading signs, menus, or instructions — showing that reading is useful in everyday situations.



Families and schools can work together to support and develop a lifelong love of reading. A shared approach helps reinforce the same strategies and messages at home and at school, giving children consistent support. Collaboration also builds understanding of each child's needs, celebrates progress, and creates a positive environment where reading is valued and enjoyed.

Ellen Barr - Senior Leader



Welcome to an action-packed term 4!

This term students will begin to prepare for our whole school performance, '**Rumble in the Jungle**'. Our performance will be at the newly renovated **Hopgood Theatre on December 3rd!** Event details are currently being worked on and will be shared with families very soon. Watch this space!

We are so excited!

**Butterfly Garden**

Our amazing groundsman have been working tirelessly to have our Butterfly Garden up and running. A huge thanks to JP, Scott and Nathan for your incredible work. Watch our garden take shape with plants and a splash of colour on the fence. It will look fantastic! Watch this space transform over this term. We please request that all members of our community respect this space and take care of the cushions and the plants that will be placed around the garden.

The Butterfly Garden will compliment classroom learning by fostering interoceptive awareness, emotional literacy, and independence in managing wellbeing.

'Imaginarium'

Have you noticed the shipping container in our yard? It's quite a sight!

We are excited to present the **Imaginarium**, an innovative project born from the collaboration between students and Educators.

Our mission is to rekindle imagination and unstructured play in a safe, inclusive environment that promotes kindness and reduces bullying. The Imaginarium will offer an exciting opportunity for students to explore, create, and connect through imaginative play.

Through the use of loose parts play, children will have the freedom to invent, collaborate, and problem-solve together. This creative approach not only fosters teamwork but also encourages self-expression, building empathy and trust among peers. By providing a space where every child can actively participate, the Imaginarium aims to promote a culture of inclusivity and mutual respect.

We believe that when imagination is nurtured, students are empowered to forge deeper connections and form a community based on kindness and creativity. The Imaginarium will be a place where every child feels valued, and bullying is replaced by collaborative, joyful play.

We are currently building shelves inside the Imaginarium and we also have a gorgeous mural that will be painted on the side of the container. Thanks to JP, Scott and Pat for your enthusiasm and commitment for making this a reality for our students. Thank you to Julian for creating an awesome mural design and for painting it!!!!

An added bonus, next year our Imaginarium will feature on the TV program, South Aussie with Cosi! More details early next year!

Thanks everyone!

Jo Swift - Student Wellbeing Leader

