



CHRISTIE DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



TERM 1 2026 DIARY DATES

LP2's Brilliant Start To The Year

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1 2026

9/3
Mon Week 7 Public Holiday Adelaide Cup

10/3
STUDENT FREE DAY

11/3
NAPLAN STARTS

20/3
HARMONY DAY

3/4 & 6/4
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS EASTER

10/4
SPORTS DAY Last Day Term 1 2.00pm Finish

Dream Believe Achieve

What a wonderful start we have had to the school year! Our LP2 students have settled in beautifully and are becoming more confident each day. They have enjoyed meeting new classmates, SSO's and Teachers. They have successfully built friendships and developed learning the routines of our classroom.

We have enjoyed visiting different areas of the school, including the library, gym, kitchen/garden, and courtyard. These experiences have helped students become familiar with their surroundings while practising safe and responsible movement around the school. Over the first five weeks, our focus has been on getting to know one another, establishing classroom expectations, and practising our daily routines.

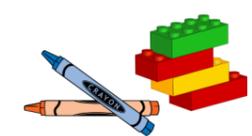
Our theme this term is Our Wonderful World. Students have been engaging in a variety of sensory, art and craft, and hands-on learning experiences to explore and learn about the world around them. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity and creativity shine through these activities.



We are very proud of how well everyone has adjusted to school life and look forward to a fantastic term of learning and discovery ahead!



Nicole Guy-Reece and Leanne Jacobs

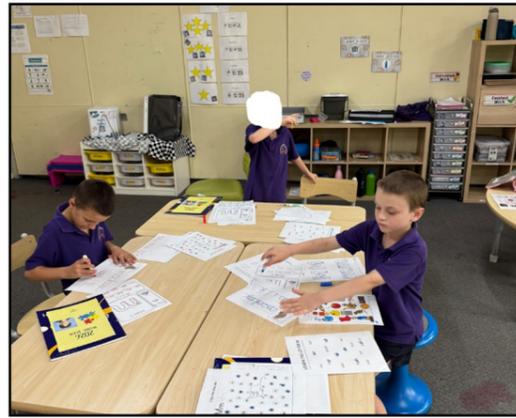


LEADERSHIP TEAM :
Principal: Gail Evans
Senior Leader 1 Engagement for Learning and Well Being: Todd McGrath
Senior Leader 1 Disability Unit: Leanne Jacobs
Student Wellbeing Leader: Jo Swift

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	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1	26/1 Public Holiday Australia Day	27/1 START TERM 1	28/1	29/1	30/1
WEEK 2	2/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	3/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	4/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	5/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	6/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club
WEEK 3	9/2 ODYSSEY (BA1) TEAMWORK (BA2) Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	10/2 AGM 3.30 - 4.00pm Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	11/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	12/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	13/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club
WEEK 4	16/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	17/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	18/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	19/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	20/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club
WEEK 5	23/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	24/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	25/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	26/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	27/2 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club
WEEK 6	2/3 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	3/3 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	4/3 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	5/3 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	6/3 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club
WEEK 7	9/3 Adelaide Cup Public Holiday	10/3 Student Free Day	11/3 NAPLAN Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	12/3 NAPLAN Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	13/3 NAPLAN Wheelie Club Breakfast Club
WEEK 8	16/3 NAPLAN Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	17/3 NAPLAN Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	18/3 NAPLAN Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	19/3 NAPLAN Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	20/3 NAPLAN HARMONY DAY Wheelie Club Breakfast Club
WEEK 9	23/3 NAPLAN Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	24/3 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	25/3 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	26/3 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	27/3 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club
WEEK 10	30/3 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	School Dental Visit			3/4 Public Holiday Good Friday
		31/3 GRV4 ZOO EXCURSION	1/4 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	2/4 Wheelie Club Breakfast Club	
WEEK 11	6/4 Public Holiday Easter Monday	7/4	8/4	9/4 Banksia Excursion Migration Museum	10/4 Sports Day 2pm Finish

BA6's Fantastic Start



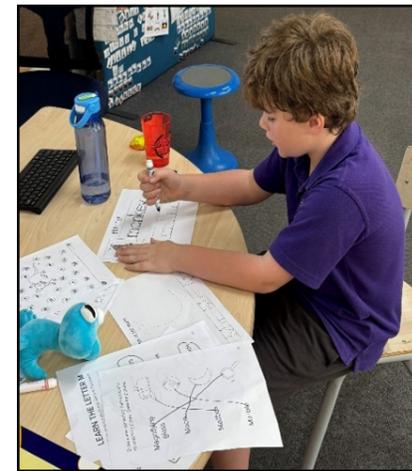
In BA6 we have made a fantastic start to our Read Write Inc. phonics learning this term! The children have been introduced to our first sounds, "m" and "a", and have shown great engagement during these sessions.

Each week, we explore these sounds in a variety of engaging ways. We complete, creative art activities allowed children to form and decorate the letters, helping them to recognise shapes and link them to sounds. Sensory play, including messy and hands-on experiences, supported children in hearing, saying, and remembering each sound in a fun and meaningful way.



Each day, students sing and engage with interactive songs relating to the sound, they then practice completing worksheets relating to identifying, forming, and manipulating their sound of the week. These activities helped develop early blending skills and strengthen fine motor control.

It has been wonderful to see the children so motivated and proud of their learning. We are excited to continue learning about new sounds each week! **Michael Daly**



Spanish

Our Spanish classes have had an energetic start to the year, with students exploring the language through a variety of engaging topics. We continue to include literacy genres in our Spanish lessons, helping to build on skills learned during students' literacy sessions. We will also continue to use LanguageNut to help consolidate their learning later in the year.

This term, students in our large classes are immersing themselves in the theme of *Los Deportes de Olimpicos de invierno* (Sports of the Winter Olympics). In our Junior Primary large classes, students are currently focusing on fundamental learning, such as numbers, colours, and basic vocabulary, before moving on to a themed unit later in the term. Meanwhile, students in small classes are actively engaged in highly structured activities designed to challenge and support their language development. It has been wonderful to see students confidently introducing themselves and recognising shapes, colours, and counting numbers up to thirty. We are extremely proud of their progress and enthusiasm!

This year brings two extraordinary events for our Spanish learners. Firstly, at the beginning of Term 2, an excursion to the Central Market will give students a chance to experience authentic Spanish cuisine. We will select eighteen students from Years 3 to 6, across both large and small classes for this exciting opportunity.

In addition, we look forward to welcoming El Camino, thanks to Musica Viva Australia, for an incursion on the 10th of June. This will be a fantastic chance for students to immerse themselves in Spanish language and culture through music. We will provide more information about this event soon.

We are excited about the continued growth and enthusiasm within our Spanish program and look forward to sharing these special experiences with our students.

Carlo Macaland



Jacaranda 3 with Mrs B

Welcome to 2026, a beautiful new year full of possibilities and adventures. I have moved into a new classroom and we are busy making it into the most wonderful space for all learners. We will spend lots of our time together in this room so we want to make it the most inviting and comfortable space for all.



Gemma Burnley

We read "The Colour Monster." We discussed times that we feel different ways and how we can help each other to walk through them. Here are some photos of us demonstrating feelings.



Most of the learners in Ja3 are new to school. This means that they have lots of learning to do and this can be very overwhelming. To support my little learners to navigate school we have been working on the Berry Street Education Model. We explored the signals our bodies give us to help us figure out how to respond, then we came up with some strategies to help us regulate when we get big feelings. Here are some tips that might help you too!

Puffer Fish Breathing:

Take a deep breath and hold it, puff our your cheeks like a puffer fish and then slowly press them in and let thw sir out. (It makes a raspberry noise and helps to make you feel better with laughter too!)

Rip and Run

When you are feeling full of wiggles, firey lava or big feelings then get some scrap paper, stand in one spot and run as fast as you can whilst ripping the paper. It is like putting a hose on your fire!



WE DREW AROUND OUR BODIES TO HIGHLIGHT PLACES THAT CHANGE WHEN OUR FEELINGS CHANGE

Finger breathing:

Open up your hand and use a finger from your other hand to trace up and down each finger, breathe in as you move up and out as you move down.

Banksia 1

Bound for South Australia!

This term we are learning about immigration to Australia in the 1800, with a focus on the settlement of the free colony of South Australia. We have been exploring the economic, social and political reasons for the expansion of the British empire, along with the devastating impact this had on Australia's Indigenous peoples.

Learners are currently writing diary entries from the point of view of Mr McGrath's relatives who actually travelled on the first fleet to South Australia. In art we have been working on still life paintings of a clock which they brought on their journey on the HMS Buffalo in 1836! This project has also had many links with mathematical concepts including measurement and timelines.

A big thank you to all who contributed to the Banksia ice block fundraiser! Funds raised will be used to help pay for our excursion to the Maritime Museum, later this term. There we will gain a greater understanding of what the journey was like for emigrants to Australia in the 1800s.

Alex McGrath



Ice block fundraising

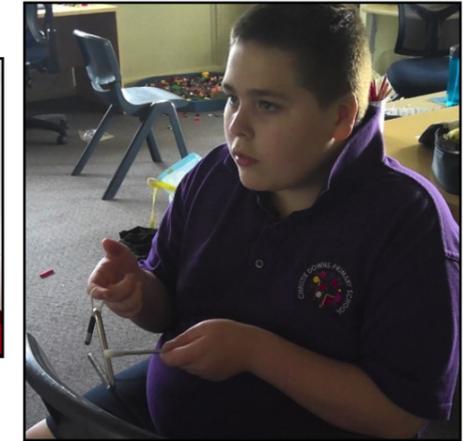
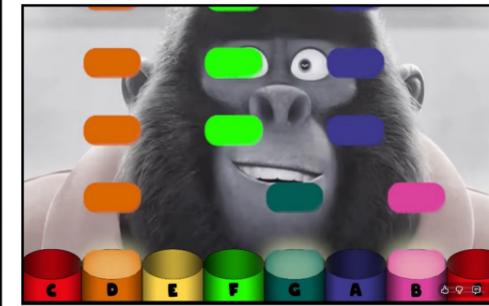


Learners working on their still life artworks



Creating a timeline of significant events up to Federation

Grevillea 3

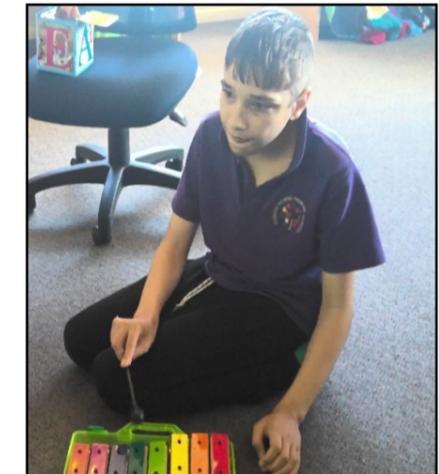


Music in Grevillea 3 – Boomwhacker Playalongs

In term 1, the students in Grevillea 3 have been engaging in musical exploration in the classroom, creatively using instruments such as xylophones, triangles, drumsticks and various shakers. They have used their instruments to play along with music that they have chosen, as well as learning percussion rhythms as a group.

The students in Grevillea 3 have used music to demonstrate their creativity, resilience and courage, as well as independence in choosing, learning and experiencing familiar and unfamiliar pieces of music. We are looking forwards to expanding our understanding and curiosity in music and performing arts throughout the year.

Howie Collins



NAPLAN

Next week, Year 3 & 5 students will participate in the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN), which is a tool for assessing the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australia. NAPLAN provides insights into student progress and helps schools identify areas for improvement. It is important for parents and guardians to please return the exemption forms that were sent home for those who meet the criteria for exemption. If you believe your child may qualify, please visit the front office to discuss the process and obtain the necessary documentation.

You can find more information at <https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/for-parents-carers>.



2026 MID YEAR ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN

For more information or to book a school tour please contact us on

8382 3266





Dream Believe Achieve Parliament 2026

PRIME MINISTER



Hello, my name is Lily and I am super proud to be elected Prime Minister for Christie Downs Primary School.

Let me tell you a bit about myself. My favourite subject at school is PE. I really enjoy playing basketball and footy.

As Prime Minister, I would like to introduce some new things this year. I would like to change our assemblies and add new ideas such as a Cultural segment, new awards, brain breaks and have a bit more fun.

I look forward to representing all the kids at CDPS and working with the other Ministers of Parliament. Together, I think we can make a difference. I want to make sure that all the kids have their voices heard- I will do the best job I can.

We are going to celebrate Harmony Day on March 20th and we are going to ask the kids to come dressed in their favourite culture or just wear a bit of orange to celebrate inclusivity and acceptance for everybody. We all belong!

More information coming next newsletter. We will add photos of different things we do.

Thanks, Prime Minister Lily

PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister is the voice of their peers, advocating for students and sharing ideas, worries, and dreams with Educators, Leaders and the school community. The Prime Minister makes sure everyone is heard, not just the loudest voices, but also the quiet ones, stands up for fairness and kindness, makes sure all students feel included, safe, and valued. leading not with power, but with kindness, courage, and care for others.

MINISTERS FOR INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

The Ministers for Inclusion and Diversity are Lylah and Japjeet. They are the guardians of kindness, the speakers for fairness, and the cheerleaders for every student helping to build a school where everyone belongs and differences make us stronger.



WELLBEING AMBASSADOR



Our Wellbeing Ambassador is Declan.

The Wellbeing Ambassador is the school's heart of kindness helping to build a school where everyone feels safe, valued, and ready to learn.



MINISTERS FOR DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY



The Ministers for the **Digital Leaders Ministry** are Daniel and Rory.



The Ministers for Digital Technology are the school's digital voice and tech guide- with podcasts, interviews, and creative media to showcase our school, share student stories, and bring learning to life through technology.



MINISTER FOR OUTDOOR LEARNING



The Minister for the **Outdoor Learning** is Hayden and.

The Minister for Outdoor Learning is the school's curiosity leader helping students learn through nature, creativity, and imagination, and making the Imaginarium and outdoor spaces places where curiosity grows and ideas come alive.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS

Elizabeth and Theo are our **Deputy Prime Ministers**. They are the support team of the leadership team helping the Prime Minister shine, keeping student voices strong, and making sure our school is a place where everyone matters and everyone belongs.



Congratulations to our Dream Believe Achieve Parliament Members!

A huge round of applause to all the students who worked so hard and showcased their passion, determination and creativity to earn their positions. Your commitment and enthusiasm has truly paid off, and I am very proud of each and every one of you! It's the beginning of a journey where your ideas can turn into reality. Through your hard work, imagination, and dedication, you'll have the chance to make a real difference in our School Community. Your voices matter, and this is your opportunity to shine and inspire others. I am excited to see what amazing ideas you will bring to life. Keep believing in yourselves and continue to dream big-the sky is the limit!

Congratulations once again. I look forward to seeing your leadership in action!

Jo Swift

Student Wellbeing Leader.

