

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 03

TERM 2, WEEK 2

7TH MAY, 2026

DIARY DATES

Friday 8th May

Mother's Day Event

Monday 22nd May

Governing Council 7pm

Thursday 14th May

School Tour 9:25am

Friday 22nd May

Colour Fun Run

Friday 29th May

Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 26th May

Wednesday 3rd June

Thursday 11th June

Reception Transition

27th May – 3rd June

National Reconciliation Week

Thursday 4th June

Autism info Morning Tea

Friday 5th June

Whole School Assembly
10:50am

Monday 8th June

King's Birthday
Public Holiday

Monday 15th June

Governing Council 7pm

Friday 3rd July

Whole School Assembly
10:50am

Friday 3rd July

Last Day Term 2
School Finishes 2:05pm



Dear Families,

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing school holiday break. It has been lovely to see students return refreshed, re-energised, and ready for the term ahead. There's a positive buzz around the school as routines settle back in and learning resumes.

We have certainly been greeted with some wet and chilly weather to start the term, mixed with some beautiful and warm sunny days. Please remember to send students to school with warm layers and appropriate wet weather gear so they can stay comfortable throughout the day.



Despite the rain, it's been great to see students embracing their learning with enthusiasm and resilience and embracing our improvement work on metacognition.



Mother's Day

A special highlight this week is our upcoming Mum's Day celebration, taking place this Friday. We are really looking forward to welcoming our mums and special mother figures into the school.

On the day:

- Mums are invited to spend some time in the classroom with their children.
- Those who RSVP'd by the due date will receive a small grazing box to enjoy.
- If you didn't RSVP in time, you are still very welcome to attend and be part of the experience—however, grazing boxes will only be available for those who registered.

Following classroom time, we will gather for a relaxed "Picnic in the Park", where families can enjoy time together and participate in some fun games with their children before attending a whole school assembly. It promises to be a wonderful opportunity to connect, celebrate, and create special memories.

We look forward to seeing many of you there and sharing this special occasion together.

A sincere thank you to our dedicated staff for their forward planning for the day. In particular, we acknowledge Amy Stone (Publicity and Marketing) for her coordination and organisation in bringing the event together. We also extend our appreciation to all staff who will be opening their classrooms, warmly welcoming guests, and going above and beyond to create a memorable experience.

Banksia Swimming

Our Banksia students have started their weekly swimming lessons at the Aquadome. We know that they are really enjoying their time in the pool.



Mother's Day Stall



Today, we also held our Mother's Day stall, giving students the opportunity to purchase a small gift for someone special in their lives. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who assisted on the day—your support ensured everything ran smoothly. A special acknowledgment to Ms Connelly for her organisation and coordination of this event.

As we approach Mother's Day this Sunday, we would like to wish all mums, grandmas, aunts, special people—and those who fulfil multiple roles—a very happy and relaxing day. We hope you feel celebrated, appreciated, and perhaps even a little spoiled with the thoughtful gifts chosen just for you.

Warm regards,

Jason, Matt, Christine, Rosie and Amber

AUTISM INCLUSION SPECIALIST



Grounding Techniques

Children with autism can sometimes experience sensory or emotional overload, which may lead to heightened distress and difficulty managing their reactions. During these moments, they may need support to feel safe, regulated, and in control again. While professional guidance is important for developing long-term regulation strategies, there are simple approaches that can help in the moment.

One effective way to support a child is through grounding activities. These strategies encourage them to reconnect with what is happening around them right now, helping to shift focus away from overwhelming thoughts or sensations.

Some calming strategies to try and include:

- Taking slow breaths while counting steadily
- Saying the alphabet or counting numbers at a relaxed pace
- Listening closely to soft music and identifying different sounds
- Using the senses to notice things in the environment, such as what they can see, hear, or touch
- Squeezing, holding, or manipulating a comforting object



Sensory tools can also be highly effective, as many autistic children respond well to tactile and sensory-based supports. Setting up a dedicated calming space or small "regulation toolkit" gives children immediate access to items that can help them reset when they are feeling overstimulated.

Having these supports readily available can help children work through overwhelming moments and build confidence in managing their emotions over time.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email, rosie.connelly131@schools.sa.edu.au.

Rosie Connelly – Autism Inclusion Teacher



GETTING TO KNOW US

<i>Class Teacher</i>	<i>What was your favourite toy as a child?</i>	<i>What was your favourite holiday as a child?</i>	<i>Do you have a pet? If so, what is it?</i>	<i>What is your favourite colour?</i>	<i>Did you do any sport/activities when you were young?</i>
 Larina McInerney	Mickey Mouse Teddy	Camping at Cape Jaffa	Dog called Elsie, Chicken called Henrietta and budgie called Cookie	Green	Netball, basketball, sailing, windsurfing and athletics
 Nikki Schutz	Strawberry Shortcake Doll	Camping at Flinders Rangers	Black cat called Ninja	Pink!	Yes and still involved in local, state and national Basketball
 Bianca Drew	I had a teddy dog called patches	We went and visited my Nanna in the Northern Territory	No pet	Burnt orange	Netball, little athletics, calisthenics, martial arts
 Mike Webb	My BMX bike	Going on a driving holiday along the Great Ocean Road	I don't have a pet	Blue	Basketball, tennis, tee-ball & swimming
 Helena Tilly	My Barbies	America	I have two black cats - Bobby and Debbie and a pet goose named Gorky	Purple	I did girl guides
 Stacey Leech	Humphrey B. Bear	Trip to England	Bullmastiff dog Riggs and British shorthair cat Storm	Purple	Played netball



FUNDRAISING



Don't miss out – fundraise with Monty the Monstar and grab some epic prizes!

Our Fun Run is happening on **22nd May at 2.10pm**, so make sure you're ready!

- **Grand Master Badge:** Collect all of Monty's online virtual badges.
- **Champions Medallion:** Awarded to the top fundraiser in our school.
- **Online Golden Coins:** Complete fun online tasks to add up to \$75 extra to your prize credit!

Hurry—fundraising closes soon! Make sure any cash you've collected is processed through your profile page before time runs out.

Jump online at myprofilepage.com.au and start fundraising today!

ATTENDANCE



Notifying of absences for your child:

- Ring the school Office
- Ring and leave a message with your child's name, class and reason for absences (eg. Unwell, family etc.)
- Reply to the attendance message (please note you can not reply through an old message thread as we will not receive it)



SCHOOL TIMES

We wish to remind all families of the daily structure for 2026 School gates (both front and back) are open at 8:30am

8.50 am - First bell / Classes open

8:55 am - School day begins

11:30 am - LUNCH EATING

11:40 am - LUNCH PLAY

12:05 pm - Lessons Resume

1:45 pm - RECESS

2:10 pm - End of Recess Break

3:05 pm - Dismissal

School gates (both front and back) are closed at 3:20pm.
Students who have not been picked up will be brought to the front office and or taken to OSHC

GOVERNING COUNCIL



We would like to say a big thank you to our amazing Governing Council for the time and commitment they provide to our school.

An extra big thank you to Lee-Anne, Cathy, Alicia and Robyn for all their assistance with the fundraising. Seeking donations, manning stalls and generally offering their time to support where they can.

We really appreciate all your efforts.

A01 SHOWCASE

Our Learning Journey Begins

This term, A01 students have been excited to begin their learning in Digital Technologies. Through hands-on experiences, students have explored how digital systems can be used for a purpose, while building confidence, curiosity and problem-solving skills. It has been wonderful to see students engaging with new learning and developing their understanding through play and exploration.

Exploring and Using Technology

Students were introduced to Talebot, a programmable robot that helped us learn the basics of coding. We collected data about our favourite colours and represented this using coloured cards, then programmed Talebot to move to each colour. This helped students understand how information can be organised and represented using objects and symbols.



Coding, Sequencing & Problem Solving

As our confidence grew, students began programming Talebot to move in different directions and follow a sequence of steps. Through activities like collecting objects and sequencing life cycles, students learned the importance of giving clear instructions.

They showed persistence and independence by adjusting their programs when things didn't work the first time.



Thinking Like Digital Learners

Students explored how technology can be used to complete tasks automatically, such as programming Talebot to eat carrots on the Easter mat. Throughout these experiences, students have demonstrated teamwork, creativity and resilience. We are very proud of their enthusiasm and look forward to continuing to build these skills throughout the term.



A02 SHOWCASE - STEM



As we wrapped up Term 1 and move to an exciting start to Term 2, our class has been actively exploring the world of STEM/STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). Students have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm as they engaged in hands-on learning experiences that combine creativity with problem-solving.



Throughout the term, we have been experimenting with a range of technologies, giving students opportunities to think critically about how things work and how technology shapes our everyday lives. One of the highlights has been working with Tale-Bots, where students were introduced to the basics of programming. They loved creating simple sequences and seeing their instructions come to life, building both confidence and foundational coding skills.

We have also been exploring current technologies and discussing how they are used in the world today. These conversations have encouraged students to think about innovation, real-world applications, and how technology continues to evolve around us.



STUDENT SHOWCASE – A06

TECHNOLOGY

A06 are making puppets this term, students are developing the dispositions of being empathetic, curious, creative and resilient. Students are applying science learning by looking at how we can create movement, making design decisions, planning and evaluating by the end of the term and using materials and equipment safely. Each week we will make a different puppet starting with peg puppets this week.



Congratulations to our student Mackenzie, who has been cast in 'Alice in Wonderland' at the Shedley Theatre.

She will be playing the role of the Caterpillar in two of the performances and a member of the Spades ensemble in two other performances.

If you would like to support Mackenzie and see one of the shows, the details for booking are in the attached flyer.

Well done Mackenzie! Have a great show!



STUDENT SHOWCASE – E05

E05 has had a great start to Term 2. Part of our first day back was learning more about Anzac Day and its importance to Australia and New Zealand. We listened to the last post and had a minute silence to think about people who have served in wars for Australia and those who have lost their lives serving.

Students created some art work showing a glorious sunrise with a silhouette of a soldier playing the last post.

E05 students have also enjoyed our STEM lessons with Mr Luke Hartley. Students have been learning more about coding and programming and in Week 1 of Term 2 they used the Spheros. Spheros are a small sphere that are controlled remotely using an iPad and allow students to learn more about robotics. The challenge was to knock down bowling ball pins with their sphero. It was harder than it looked but was lots of fun!



STUDENT SHOWCASE – E06



E06 has begun learning about length. We started by reading the book 'Actual Size' and decided to see how long a gorilla's hand was. We used Unifix cubes to measure how long the hand was and discovered that a gorilla's hand was 15 cubes long. We then investigated what the length of our hands were.



RESOURCE CENTRE



National Simultaneous Story Time (NSS) is a nationwide event that takes place annually on the fourth Wednesday of May. This year, it will be held on May 27th, 2026 at 12pm. The event is organised by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) and its purpose is to promote the value of reading and literacy.

During NSS, people of all ages come together to read the same story at the same time. This creates a powerful sense of community and encourages young people to develop a lifelong love of reading.

History of National Simultaneous Story Time

NSS was first launched in Australia in 1997. It was created in response to a decline in library usage and the need to promote literacy among young people. Since then, the event has grown in popularity and is now celebrated in over 5,000 libraries and more than 4,000 schools across Australia.

This year's NSS book will be Luna Roo the Kangaroo baller by Adam Jackson Playford Civic Centre Library will also be participating if you have young children who would like to get involved.



TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

STARTING
SECONDARY
SCHOOL



Year 6 families will have received the Starting Secondary School information booklet and will have been sent an email with a link to complete the application for secondary school online. If you have not received the link, please ensure your email address and residential address is accurate and correct with our school.

Families will need to complete their child's application online before the due date **22nd May 2026** to ensure their nominated secondary school is considered. While families are able to nominate to attend any secondary school out of zone, the increase in enrolment demand from in-zone students may mean there is limited space available. It is recommended that families consider alternative secondary schools if applying for an out of zone secondary school.

We encourage families to read the "[register your child's interest for starting high school](#)" page on the department's website.

We also encourage families to visit their local (zoned) secondary school before deciding on their final nominated secondary school/s. Information on open days, principal tours and/or information evenings is available on the secondary school's websites. Alternatively, families can contact the secondary school/s directly. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact our Front Office.

FINANCE



M & S Fees are now overdue – please finalise payments or school card applications.

Payments can be made at the Payment Office, Monday - Thursday from 8.30am-9.15am or over the phone during office hours using your credit card. If you would like to pay your fees in instalments please contact the Payment Office to complete a Direct Debit instalment plan. If you would like to pay your fees by direct bank deposit please ensure you include your child's Student ID and if known, your Debtor code, when making the payment.

Don't forget if you are eligible for School Card please lodge your school card form for 2026 as soon as possible. School card applications need to be completed at the beginning of each year. Applications can be completed online at:

<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/education-and-learning/financial-help-scholarships-and-grants/school-card-scheme>

If you have any queries, or would like to discuss your fees, please don't hesitate to contact our Finance Manager.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Build lifelong, life-changing savings habits AND find out how ANZ will double your savings, up to \$500

Saver Plus supports people to develop life-long savings habits. It's delivered by Brotherhood of St. Laurence, The Smith Family and Berry Street Yooralla. It's funded by ANZ and Department of Social Services, learn more at saverplus.org.au

saverplus.org.au
1300 610 355

Saver Plus Information Sessions

Would you like to know more about the Saver Plus program?

Join us for an information session to hear more about joining or ask any questions you may have.

Eligibility criteria apply, to find out more visit <https://saverplus.org.au/>

Register via Link Register Here or via QR Code



6 Helpful Tips for School Zones

As parents and caregivers, we have a great responsibility to ensure children stay safe in school zones. We also play a key role in educating children about road safety.

Here are 6 helpful tips for safety in school zones.

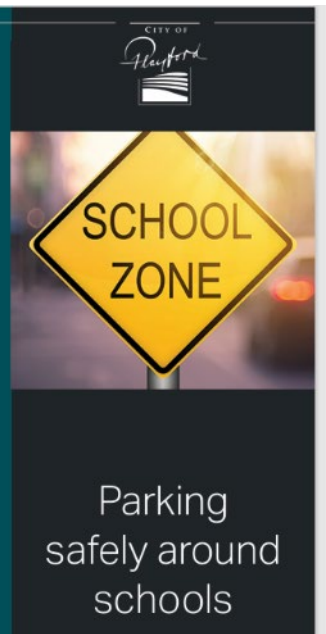
- 1 Consider alternative transport modes to reduce the number of vehicles in school zones.
- 2 Allow enough time to take your child to the school gate safely and without rushing.
- 3 Always observe parking signs and speed limits in and around school zones. They are designed to keep your child safe.
- 4 Talk about traffic safety with your child. Identify and discuss places where it is safe to get out of the car and to cross the road.
- 5 Teach your child how to cross the road using the 'stop, look, listen and think' process – stop at the kerb, look and listen for traffic and then decide whether it is safe to cross.
- 6 Park a few streets away and walk your child to school to reduce congestion and improve safety. This is also good exercise and helps teach your child road safety rules.

For further information please contact City of Playford

8256 0333 playford@playford.sa.gov.au

playford.sa.gov.au

playford.sa.gov.au/stayconnected



Could \$500 help pay for school camp fees or upcoming excursions?

Join Saver Plus, Australia's longest running financial education and matched savings program. Saver Plus is a free program that has supported over 68,000 people to develop lifelong savings habits and receive up to \$500 to assist with education costs.

is delivering Saver Plus To support families at

ENQUIRE NOW



Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St. Laurence and is delivered in partnership with The Smith Family and Berry Street. It is funded by ANZ and the Department of Social Services.

What is Saver Plus?

A free 10-month program that helps you save for your own or your children's education.

- Build lasting savings habits
- Be better prepared for unexpected expenses
- Stay in control
- Improve personal wellbeing

Who can join?

To be eligible for Saver Plus, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- Have a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
- Receive an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment*
- Be studying yourself or have a child in school (can be starting school next year)
- Have regular income from work (you or your partner)
- Be 18+ years old

*Many income types and Centrelink payments may qualify. Not sure if you qualify? Just fill out the enquiry form and a Savings Coach will reach out to you.

To confidentially find out more, call Saver Plus or fill out the enquiry form in the link.

1300 610 355 saverplus.org.au



Parking safely around schools

We all know parking and traffic around school can be frustrating but going against the road rules places not only your child's life at risk, but those of others. Tragedies can occur if care is not taken to abide by these rules.

Common Parking Restrictions

No Parking Signs
You may use this area for drop off and pick up only, for a maximum of 2 minutes. You must not queue or wait here. The driver must remain with the vehicle.

Kiss and Drop Zones
are generally near the school gates and are designated by 'No Parking' signs.

Here are some key reminders when entering a Kiss and Drop Zone:

- Follow the rules of 'No Parking' signs
- Be mindful of others who are also dropping off their children
- Keep an eye out for children crossing the road when exiting the Kiss and Drop Zone
- Be mindful that queuing for the Kiss and Drop zone may result in other breaches to the road rules
- If your child is unable to enter/exist the vehicle and enter the school independently, consider parking and walking your child in

No Stopping Signs/ Yellow Lines
Both No Stopping Signs and Yellow Lines mean the same thing. There might be one or the other or both. Drivers must not stop on a length of road to which this restriction applies, even if you are stopping for a short period to pick up a child. Stopping here may cause a traffic hazard as well as congestion. You cannot stop near a school crossing, always follow the signs and yellow lines.

Bus Zone Signs
You must not stop within a bus zone at any time. This zone is only available to public buses. If there are no signs, you are not allowed to stop within 20 metres of the approach to a bus stop or within 10 metres of the departure side.

Double Parking
Drivers must not stop next to a vehicle already stopped or parked at the kerb at any time. This practice is illegal and creates dangerous situations for traffic flow and for pedestrians crossing a road.



Example of cars double parked in a school zone.

Empowering one another to thrive in learning and life

Our School acknowledges the Kurna People as the traditional custodians of the Adelaide Plains. We acknowledge their connection to the land our school is built on. The land on which we congregate to learn, play and work. We pay our respects to their Cultures and to the Elders past, present and emerging.