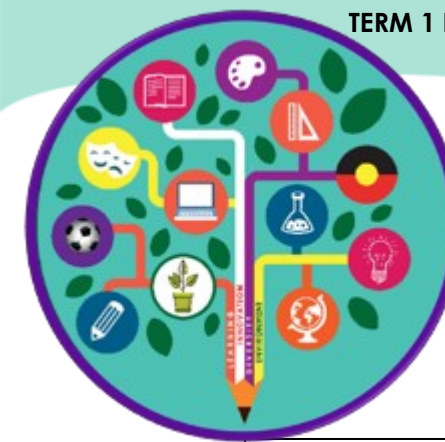


TERM 1 2024 DIARY DATES

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1	29/1 START TERM 1	30/1	31/1	1/2	2/2
WEEK 2	5/2	6/2	7/2	8/2	9/2
WEEK 3	12/2	13/2 Governing Council AGM	14/2	15/2	16/2 Lill Pilly 4 City Excursion
WEEK 4	19/2 Student Free Day	20/2 Parent Teacher Interviews	21/2 Odyssey Fishing	22/2	23/2
WEEK 5	26/2	27/2 NAPLAN Practise Test Yrs 3 & 5	28/2	29/2	1/3 NUNGA Morning Tea
WEEK 6	4/3 Odyssey Fishing	5/3	6/3	7/3	8/3
WEEK 7	11/3 Public Holiday Adelaide Cup	12/3 NAPLAN	13/3 NAPLAN	14/3 NAPLAN	15/3 NAPLAN
WEEK 8	18/3 NAPLAN	19/3 NAPLAN	20/3 NAPLAN	21/3 NAPLAN	22/3 NAPLAN
WEEK 9	25/3	26/3	27/3	28/3 SPORTS DAY	29/3 Public Holiday Good Friday
WEEK 10	1/4 Public Holiday Easter Monday	2/4	3/4	4/4	5/4
WEEK 11	8/4	9/4	10/4	11/4	12/4 Last Day Term 1 2pm Dismissal



CHRISTIE DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Principal Message

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1 2024

13/2

TUES WK 3 Governing Council AGM

19/2

MON WK 4 Student Free Day

20/2

TUES WK 4 Parent Teacher Interviews

27/2

TUES WK 5 NAPLAN Practice

11/3

MON WK 7 Public Holiday Adelaide Cup

12/3 - 22/3

WK 7 & 8 NAPLAN Years 3 & 5

Dream Believe Achieve

Welcome to 2024, especially our new families & students. I'm confident that you will enjoy being part of our vibrant and diverse school community. We also welcome our new staff: Michael Daly teaching JP in our small classes and Carmen Britton teaching JP in our large classes. Kaily Buchalka will be teaching PE on a Wednesday in Term 1 whilst Pat spends more time with his new family. Ruth Fauser will also be team teaching on Wednesday in Nicole's class and Thursday & Friday in Paula's class.

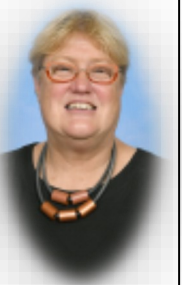
Moving into 2024 our focus for improvement is on developing resilient and effective learners. The following changes are also being made;

- ◆ We are excited to start our Breakfast Club which will run out of the Gym on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Fridays. TJ will also be offering coffee to parents to encourage you to join us from 8.15am till 8.40am starting Monday week 2
- ◆ The canteen will be open again in 2024 with TJ on Monday & Fridays as of week 2 to week 10. Canteen will not be open in the last week of each term to allow for clean up ready for the next term.
- ◆ It is also exciting to have Kitchen/Garden returning with TJ as our Kitchen specialist and JP as our Garden specialist. Kitchen Garden program will run on Tuesday & Thursdays.
- ◆ The Odyssey program was such a great success last year and will return again in 2024 with Pat Jolly leading.

We are optimistic and hopeful for the beginning of the new school year. Some staff have been back on site for a number of weeks, preparing, planning and setting up their classrooms ready for your child/ren to enjoy their new learning experiences. Teachers will have sent home information about their class structures and routines. All teachers now use Seesaw as their main communication tool and will be making contact in coming weeks. It's important to have a thorough read through all of the information provided so that you are up to speed with what's going on in your child's class.

Our Governing Council AGM is being held next Tuesday 13th of February in our staff room. Please join us for cheese & drinks. We are looking for more parents to join us to assist in moving our school forward with parent voices heard. I look forward to seeing you.

We will work together always in the best interest of our school community. I wish all of our community a wonderful year.
Gail



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

Elizabeth Road, Christie Downs, SA 5164

Tel: (08) 8382 3266

Fax: (08) 8382 2205

Inclusive Education

Inclusive Directions

Welcome to 2024. I am looking forward to supporting students, families and teachers along this year's learning journey.

This year I am continuing in my role of Inclusive Education Leader across all classes. In this role I will:

- ◆ Support teachers in differentiating learning tasks to meet student needs
- ◆ Liaise with members of the Support Services team including the Special Educator, Speech Pathologist, Psychologist and Behaviour Coach in regards to:
 - *student learning needs
 - *Small Class Special Options High School Placement Process for year 6 students.
- ◆ Support teachers and families with the One Plan Process.
- ◆ Support teachers in the writing of applications for additional support funding.

To support your child's learning journey 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 psychologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech pathologists, developmental educators, paediatricians and any other outside professionals who provide support and strategies. Sharing these reports and information encourages consistency in strategies between home and school which support students learning. Updated reports can be given to your child's teacher, brought into the front office or emailed to me on leanne.jacobs929@schools.sa.edu.au.

One Plan meetings are beginning to be arranged. If you would like any members of your child's NDIS/ support team to be involved in these meetings please let your child's teacher or myself know. Meetings involving Non Education Service Providers can be held in person or via Teams.

Non Education Service Providers/ Therapy Sessions

As a site we do not provide for therapy sessions by Non Education Service Providers to be held on site. We are happy to engage in meetings to discuss goals and strategies with therapists and families as we value the team around the child approach to ensure there is consistency between home and school. We are flexible in understanding that parents may need to drop their child off late or pick them up early to enable sessions to be held at home or in therapy offices.

Small Class Curriculum

This year we are beginning an exciting journey to look at engaging students through providing music experiences in the classroom. Educators will be working with Kristy Fudge from the Department for Education Music Education Strategy Team to develop skills and plans for implementing music across the curriculum.

Educators will continue to use the ABLES Curriculum along with the Australian Curriculum documents to plan differentiated learning tasks to support students' growth and goal achievement. Communication will continue to be a focus with visuals and Proloquo2go consistently available in every classroom for students who communicate through the support of Augmentative and Alternative Communication Systems. A group of educators are also engaging in a beginning Auslan course to support communication.

Within the core areas of the Australian Curriculum, small class learners and educators will have a focus on life and functional skills both within their classroom learning programs and through Kitchen/ Garden lessons, swimming sessions and where possible community access excursions.

Please contact me at school if you have any further questions.

Thankyou

Leanne Jacobs - Senior Leader 1



Aboriginal Education Team

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)- We will be reviewing our vision, goals and deliverables for our Reconciliation Action Plan in our first meeting, which will take place on Thursday, 21st March in week 8. If you would like to join the RAP committee, please contact Clinton in the Nunga room. We would love to include more student and parental voice in our next steps for reconciliation at Christie Downs.

Reconciliation - May 27th - June 3rd Theme- Now More than ever!

NAIDOC- 7th -14th July Theme - Keep the fire burning - Blak Loud and Proud!

Kindy Reading

Kindy reading will resume in the Nunga room in week 3 and we can't wait to welcome our kindy kids back from Christie Downs kindergarten. We had a very successful year of shared reading and play in 2023 and we are looking forward to collaborating with the kindergarten again this year.

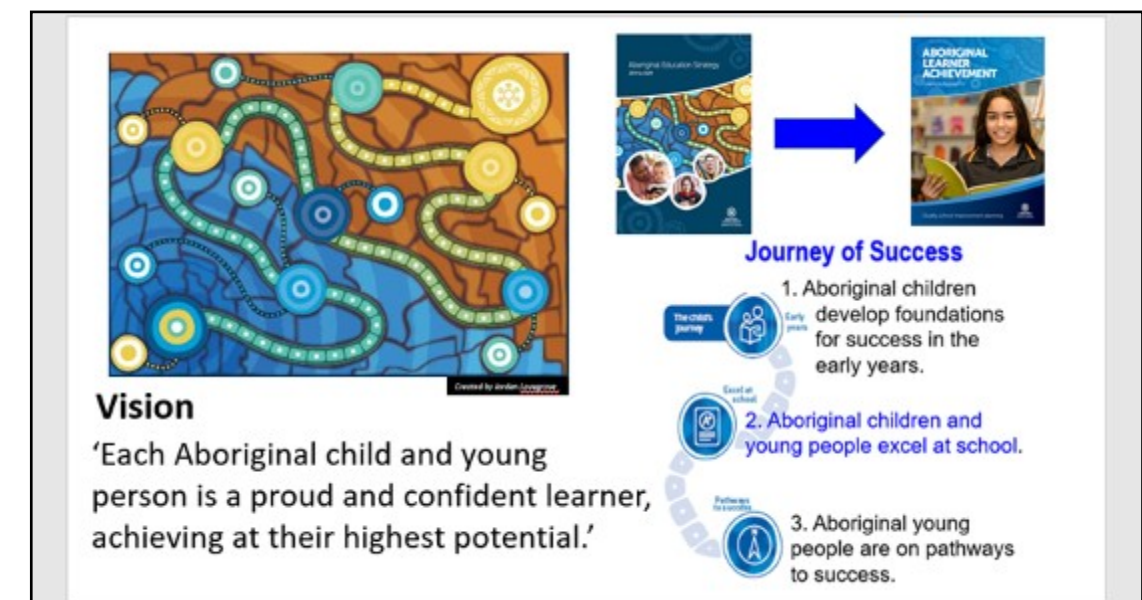
We have welcomed some of our former kindy reading kids to our reception classes and have noticed how settled they are, supported by the familiarity of the school spaces and staff from their many visits through the kindy reading program.



Aboriginal Education Strategy

The Aboriginal Education Strategy underpins our work and the direction we take each year. We aim to support our Aboriginal students to build on their cultural identities and develop the skills and resilience they need to achieve their goals. We are focusing on pedagogy being culturally responsive and developed through a student-centred approach to teaching based on high expectations and quality relationships.

Trish Hendrick - AET



Aboriginal Education Team



Hello all and welcome back to 2024.

To our new families, my name is Trish Hendrick and I am the Aboriginal Education teacher (AET) here at Christie Downs Primary school. This year I will

be working Monday to Friday, across all year levels, with over 60 Aboriginal students. I am really looking forward to working with our students and continuing the partnership with our families.

I am delighted to welcome Clinton Calyun to the Aboriginal Education team, in the role of Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO). Clinton is replacing his brother Ross, who has moved to another site and we wish him all the best. Clinton and I will be working as a team to ensure that the needs of all our Aboriginal students are met. I will be focusing on Literacy and Numeracy and Clinton will be focusing on aligning cultural goals with our student's one plans.



Niina marni, Ngai nari (my name is) Clinton Calyun, I am excited to be in the role of ACEO at Christie Downs Primary. This was my primary school and I have been working here as an SSO for the last four years. I wanted to step up out of my comfort zone and accept the role of ACEO, so that I can better the outcomes for local Aboriginal students and deepen my own exposure to my culture. This is the area I grew up and I am a proud Kurna man. I am based in the Nunga room, drop in for a yarn and cuppa!

Nunga Room

Our Nunga room is in Eucalyptus 2/3, this is a culturally safe space and resource centre for all teachers and students to use. Parents are welcome too!

This year all classes will be invited to experience various dreaming stories, through drama, art, dance and visuals in the dreaming corner of the Nunga room.

We will be having a morning tea in the Nunga room on the Friday March 1st in week 5, to meet our Aboriginal families, an invite will go home shortly! Please R.S.V.P for catering purposes.



Small Class Swimming

To compliment the Health and PE program offered on site, The Department for Education provide opportunities for learners with a disability in our small classes to access swimming lessons. If your child is eligible for these additional swimming lessons you will receive information and consent forms from your child's class teacher. For term 1 and 2 swimming lessons will remain at \$5 per student, per session. This cost is currently being reviewed and the cost per session will increase from term 3. We acknowledge that these swimming sessions provide a valuable safety and life skill program for children and where possible these sessions are arranged to occur weekly. Whilst weekly is the aim, it is important for families to understand that at times swimming sessions will be cancelled. Sometimes cancellations will be decided by Christie Downs Primary School Leadership in circumstances such as:

- Department for Education Excursion staffing ratios cannot be met
- A high number of staff are absent
- Suitable transport is not available.

At other times cancellations will be decided by pool staff in line with their policies and procedures. All attempts will be made to inform parents of cancellations if possible.

Leanne Jacobs - Senior Leader 1

Engagement for Learning

I want to start with welcoming everyone to a new exciting year at Christie Downs Primary. For those that don't know me my name Todd McGrath and I am thrilled to be the Curriculum Leader for the upcoming school year. I come with a passion for fostering a love of learning, I am committed to ensuring an enriching and engaging educational experience for your child. As we embark on this exciting journey together, I look forward to collaborating with students, parents, and educators to create a nurturing environment that encourages curiosity, growth, and academic success. One pedagogy we use to support our learners experience in our Junior Primary literacy sessions is 'Read, Write Inc' which runs 4 days a week (Monday-Thursday) from 9.10-10.10. Below is a brief description of the program.



Read Write Inc. is a highly acclaimed literacy program designed to teach young learners the essential skills of reading and writing. Developed by Ruth Miskin, this systematic and structured approach is widely used in schools worldwide to ensure children develop strong foundational literacy skills from an early age.

At its core, Read Write Inc. places a significant emphasis on phonics, focusing on the relationship between sounds and the letters that represent them. The program employs a carefully sequenced series of lessons, incorporating engaging activities and interactive methods to enhance learning. Through this approach, students not only learn to decode words but also develop a deep understanding of language structure.

One of the program's strengths lies in its adaptability, catering to the diverse needs of individual learners. Whether a child is just starting to read or requires additional support, Read Write Inc. provides a personalized learning experience.

Teachers play a pivotal role in the success of Read Write Inc., and the program ensures they are equipped with the necessary training and resources to deliver effective instruction. The ultimate goal of Read Write Inc. is to empower students with the foundational literacy skills that will serve as a springboard for their academic success and a lifelong love of reading and writing.

If you are wanting to experience the learning with your child you can contact me to receive some flash cards with the sounds your child will be learning.



Regards
Todd McGrath - Senior Leader 1

Wellbeing for Learning

Welcome to 2024 and the new school year!

I look forward to getting to know our new families for 2024, and re-establishing connections with our ongoing students and families. This year we are focusing on resilience. We will be learning more about character strengths, reflection and gratitude, bouncing back from setbacks, positive mind sets and positive vibes. It's going to be an exciting year ahead!

Attendance

EVERY DAY COUNTS! Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school, every day.

Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Further information

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:
The Australian Parenting Website: raisingchildren.net.au
Department for Education; Helping children and young people learn. Website: education.sa.gov.au
Kids Helpline Phone and Web Counselling
Phone 1800 55 1800 Website: kidshelpline.com.au
Please feel free to contact Jo Swift on 83823266 or pop in for a chat.



BUILDING ATTENDANCE HABITS How to help your child build a habit of going to preschool or school every day.			BENEFITS OF GOING TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY		
 regular evening and bedtime routine and enough sleep	 limit the use of electronic devices in the evenings	 help your child be organised in the morning to get them to school on time	 more likely to stay on track and progress academically	 opportunities to take part in social and learning activities organised by the school	 more likely to have stronger social and peer connections
 arrange alternative transport in case something unexpected happens	 take family vacations during school holidays	 make appointments outside of school hours or in school holidays	 learning positive life skills	 safe in the care of school staff with access to support and services when needed	 will reach their full potential and have a range of opportunities in life
 talk positively about school	 show interest in what your child is learning, their progress and their friends	 regularly communicate with your child's teacher			

Wellbeing for Learning

Foodbank vouchers

Vouchers are available for parents/carers, at any time. Please ask to see me for a voucher for Foodbank on Beach Road.

Berry Street Education Model

The Berry Street Education Model is embedded into our teaching practice. We have adapted Berry Street strategies to address student needs for healing, growth and achievement. All teachers and SSO's have been trained in the Berry Street Education Model. New staff to our school will be trained in Berry Street strategies to support our students. Here are some strategies that we have put into place:

Morning Greeting

Each class has their **morning greeting** on the classroom door. This might include a fist bump, a high 5, a hand shake, a dance, or a 'hello', just to name a few.



Circle Time

Students are welcomed into the classroom every morning by their teacher or student leader. Classes start the day with Circle Time. Circle Time is a positive and fun start to every day. Students stand in a circle in their classroom and work through the list below.

Greeting (high 5, handshake, smile, fist pump)

Positive Primer (quick game, funny YouTube video/song/dance)

Values/Expectations (talk about school values, attendance and behaviour)

Announcements (including birthdays, special events, school news)

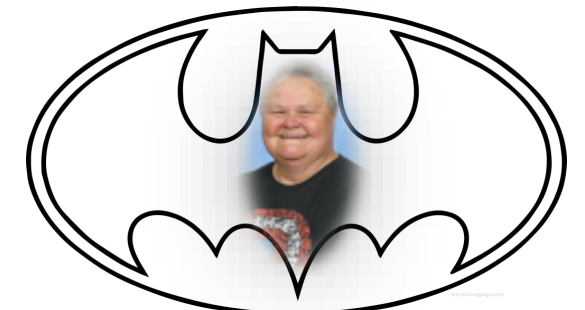
WWW (What Went Well- during break times and during learning times)

Staff also take part in Circle Time at the beginning of staff meetings and training and development days.

Brain Breaks

Classes will also be having **Brain Breaks** throughout the day.

Brain breaks are short, energised bursts of activity that boost blood flow, send oxygen to the brain, and help students better retain information. Brain breaks can also be relaxing, quiet activities that can have similar benefits. Brain breaks also reduce stress and anxiety, making it easier to focus on important tasks. Ask your child about what brain breaks they did throughout the day!



Jo Swift
Student Wellbeing Leader