

CHRISTIE DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Principal Message

Dear Parents and Caregivers,
As we embark on Term 2, I am excited to share some wonderful updates and initiatives happening at Christie Downs Primary School.

Special Person Breakfast

Thank you to our Governing Council who hosted our Special Persons Breakfast. This event took place on the 9th of May, from 8am till 9am. The fundraising committee also held a stall for those who wished to buy a gift. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to invite someone special in their lives to join them at school and share in some yummy breakfast to start the day. We were pleased to see so many of you there!

Empowering Children through Professional Development

Our dedicated teachers and leaders will be attending a professional development session with Guy Claxton, focusing on empowering children. This training will equip our staff with innovative strategies to enhance student learning and engagement. As a staff, we engaged with Guy's work last year and have continued on this year. It is a wonderful opportunity.

Student Parliament Initiatives

Our Student Parliament has been hard at work, and their efforts are making a significant impact. Thanks to their planning and dedication, we are excited to introduce new outdoor learning groups this term. Students will have the opportunity to participate in activities such as games, yoga, dance, and Lego. These groups aim to foster creativity, teamwork and physical well-being. They will also be starting their monthly podcasts to students, congratulations! A big well done to our Student Parliament for their commitment and leadership in bringing these initiatives to life.

It was wonderful over the holidays to see our following parliament members nominated for Onkaparinga Youth Awards: Marlie, Mya, Bailey, Charlie & Binayak. We are all very proud of your nomination. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. We look forward to a productive and enjoyable term ahead.

Warm regards,
Gail Evans
Principal, Christie Downs Primary School

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 2 2025

26/5

Sorry Day
Week 5

26/5 - 30/5

Reconciliation
Week 5

6/6

Student Free
Day
Week 6

9/6

King's Birthday
Public Holiday
Week 7

10/6 - 13/6

Reception to
year 5
Swimming
Week 7

4/7

Last Day Term
2.2pm
Dismissal
Week 10

*Dream
Believe*

LEADERSHIP TEAM :

Principal: Gail Evans

Senior Leader 1 Curriculum: Ellen Barr


Senior Leader 1 Inclusive Education: Leanne Jacobs

Student Wellbeing Leader: Jo Swift

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	TERM 2 2025 DIARY DATES				
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1	28/4 Start Term 1	29/4	30/4	1/5	2/5
WEEK 2	5/5	6/5 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	7/5 Lilly Pilly Unit Excursion 'Dream Big' Breakfast Club/Wheelie Club	8/5 BA2 Urrbrae Ag High school Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	9/5 Special Persons Breakfast/Stall
WEEK 3	12/5 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	13/5 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	14/5 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	15/5 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	16/5 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club
WEEK 4	19/5 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	20/5 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	21/5 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	22/5 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	23/5 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club
WEEK 5	26/5 Sorry Day  Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	27/5 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	28/5 Reconciliation Week Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	29/5 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	30/5 LP1 & LP2 Odyssey Animal Encounters Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club
WEEK 6	2/6 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	3/6 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	4/6 Small Classes Odyssey Animal Anonymous Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	5/6 Odyssey Glenthorne Park LP1 LP2 Primary small classes-Space Unit Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	6/6 Student Free Day
WEEK 7	9/6 Kings Birthday Public Holiday	10/6 Rock the Spectrum Small Classes JP Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	11/6 Reception - Yr 5 large classes Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	12/6 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	13/6 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club
WEEK 8	16/6 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	17/6 Rock the Spectrum Small Classes UP Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	18/6 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	19/6 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	20/6 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club
WEEK 9	23/6 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	24/6 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	25/6 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	26/6 BA1 Space Discovery Excursion Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club	27/6 Breakfast Club/ Wheelie Club
WEEK 10	30/6	1/7	2/7	3/7	4/7 End Term 2 2pm Dismissal

Teaching Reading at Christie Downs

Learning to read is an expected outcome of primary schooling; however, the process itself is actually quite complex. Skilled reading involves both learning to decode (sound out words) and learning to make meaning (comprehend).

Early reading

In the early years of school, students begin to read by **decoding**. In this beginning phase of reading, students will use their knowledge of phonics to sound out words. Reading this way is extremely taxing and tiring. Some students will spend longer in this phase while others may zip through to reading fluency with seemingly little effort. When students begin to read more effortlessly and without the need to 'sound out' then they are ready to focus on developing **fluency**.



Fluent reading

Fluency is the ability to read with *accuracy, speed* and *expression*. Fluent readers recognise words automatically and when reading aloud, they sound natural, as if they are speaking. Fluency is the bridge between reading words quickly and effortlessly, and understanding and comprehending text. Fluent readers are able to make connections to background knowledge which in turn leads to effective comprehension of the text.

Fluency is a combination of three main things;

Accuracy – how many words you read correctly

Rate – how fast you can read

Expression

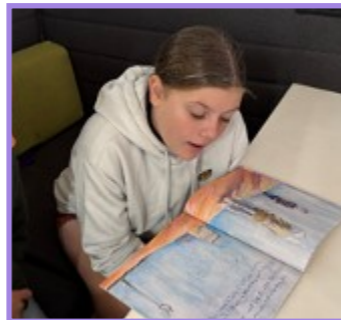
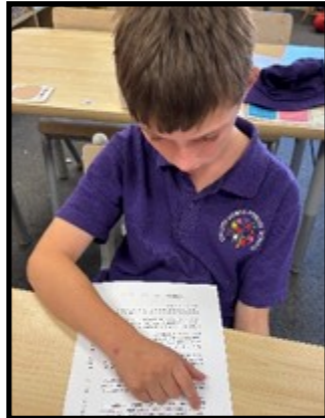
Some students are able to 'read' but lack fluency. At Christie Downs we track and assess reading fluency by calculating reading rate per minute and accuracy rate. Students must read at a rate of 90 -100 words per minute for basic comprehension to occur. If they read slower than this then they're not able to fully comprehend the meaning of the text.

Practices that promote reading fluency

Explicit teaching and instruction are needed to support students to become fluent readers. Types of instruction include modelled fluent reading by the teacher or another fluent reader, repeated reading of texts, paired reading, choral reading and echo reading.

Ask your child what they are doing in their class to improve their reading fluency.

Ellen Barr – Curriculum Leader



AIT (Autism Inclusive Teacher)

Celebrating Success: Neurodiversity Week

Last term, our school community came together to celebrate Neurodiversity Week with enthusiasm and creativity. The event was a resounding success, highlighting the unique strengths and talents of our students and fostering an inclusive environment for all. Throughout the week, students engaged in a variety of activities designed to celebrate and understand neurodiversity. Lunchtime play areas were transformed with bubbles, playdough, chalk art, sensory tables, and cloud dough, providing sensory-rich experiences that were both fun and educational. The joy and excitement were evident as students explored and expressed themselves in new and creative ways.

In addition to the lunchtime activities, staff and students participated in a range of educational initiatives. A book display in the staff room offered valuable resources, while a specially prepared PowerPoint presentation provided teachers with videos and information to share with their classes. These resources sparked meaningful discussions about individual strengths and the beauty of diversity.

The week culminated in a vibrant "Sparkle and Shine" dress-up day, where students and staff donned their most dazzling outfits. This celebration of individuality and community spirit was a fitting conclusion to a week filled with learning and joy.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all the students, staff, and families who contributed to making Neurodiversity Week a memorable and impactful event. Your support and participation were key to its success.

As we reflect on the achievements of last term, we look forward to continuing our commitment to inclusivity and understanding. Together, we can create a school environment where every student is celebrated for who they are.

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful journey!

Nicole Guy-Rees

(AIT- Autism Inclusion Teacher)



Academic Reporting

Report update

We are pleased to announce some exciting changes to our reporting process at Christie Downs Primary School. Our aim is to make it more streamlined and accessible for you, while continuing to support our students' learning and development.

Simplified Report Templates

Starting this term, we have simplified our report templates to provide clearer and more concise information about your child's progress. These reports will focus on key learning areas and achievements, making it easier for you to understand your child's strengths and areas for improvement.

Digital Delivery

In an effort to embrace technology and improve communication, all reports will now be emailed directly to parents. This change not only ensures timely delivery but also reduces our environmental footprint. Please ensure that your contact details are up-to-date with the school office to receive your child's report without delay.

Student-Led Conferences

We are excited to continue our tradition of student-led conferences in Week 10. These conferences provide a wonderful opportunity for students to take ownership of their learning by presenting their achievements and goals to you. It is a valuable time for students to reflect on their progress and for you to engage in their educational journey.

Portfolios Going Home

In Term 4, students' portfolios will be sent home. These portfolios are a comprehensive collection of your child's work and accomplishments throughout the year. They offer a deeper insight into their learning experiences and growth.

We believe these changes will enhance your understanding of your child's education and foster a stronger partnership between home and school. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community.

Warm regards,
Gail Evans

School Reports



Inclusive Education

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with a Disability (NCCD)

Every year, all schools in Australia are required to participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD process requires schools to identify information already available in the school about supports provided to students with a disability. These relate to legislative requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005. Information provided about students to the Australian Government for the NCCD includes:

- *Year of schooling
- *Broad Type of Disability
- *Level of adjustment received

The NCCD supports students in the following way:

- *Formally recognises the supports and adjustments provided to students with disability in schools to inform state and federal funding
- *Supports schools to facilitate a collaborative and coordinated approach to review learning programs in order to improve educational outcomes for students with disability

The NCCD provides state and federal governments with the information they need to plan more broadly for the support of students with disability.

The NCCD will have no direct impact on your child and your child will not be involved in any testing process.

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all students is an essential part of the NCCD. Personal details, such as student names or student identifiers, are not provided to federal education authorities.

Further information about the Collection can be found on the NCCD Portal (<https://nccd.edu.au>)

If you have any questions about the data collection, please contact me on 8382 3266 or leanne.jacobs929@schools.sa.edu.au

One Plans

One Plans are being completed by teacher's and will be sent home with your child in the coming weeks. When you receive your child's One Plan please read through it, sign and return to school. If you have any questions please contact your child's teacher or myself.

Leanne Jacobs - Senior Leader 1

EALD

Hoan ngôn

Asalaamu alaikum

Welcomee

Selamat datang



أهلا وسهلا

Karibu

Benvenuto

Bem vinda

آمدی

स्वागत छ

Maligayang pagdating

स्वागत

Fáilte

Witamy

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Marni naa pudni

Welcome to 2025! I would like to introduce myself to the new parents, carers and children at Christie Downs Primary School. My name is Jo McGill and I am the EALD (English as an additional language or dialect) Teacher.

We are very fortunate to have an increasing number of overseas students join our school and I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you all to Christie Downs Primary School. We greatly value the opportunity to learn about and embrace different cultures and religions here at Christie Downs.

I will be working with many students with English as an additional language or dialect this year. In addition to this, there will be Assemblies and Multicultural weeks celebrating the many cultures and religions we have here at Christie Downs Primary School. We are always looking for parent and carer support and ideas for these events so please come and find me if you can support us in our celebration of culture.

I look forward to supporting your child in their learning and helping them to share their experiences and ideas with their classes. We wish you and your child a very happy and successful year.

Jo McGill - EALD Teacher

Aboriginal Education Team - Term 2



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

Bridging Now to Next

27 MAY - 3 JUNE

#NRW2025 | RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU



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 2, our busiest term with Reconciliation week coming up and we have lots planned! It was deadly to catch up with you mob at our morning tea and welcome new faces. 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. We had a great first term of learning with our Aboriginal students. In literacy we built on our cultural diversity knowledge and in Numeracy we have been trialling the Aboriginal 8 ways of learning. It was great to meet some of our families on acquaintance night and at our end of term morning tea.

Reconciliation theme for 2025 - Bridging Now to Next:

- *May 26th Sorry Day flower procession.
- *May 27th A performance at Neporendi Aboriginal Community centre.
- *May 30th Whole school Reconciliation Assembly- Welcome under the COLA @ 9.
- *June 3rd Whole staff Dreaming workshop @ Botanic Gardens with Trent Hill.



Reconciliation Action Plan

Our Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) has been updated and sent off for publishing. We were very pleased with the turn out to our morning tea, where we showcased our RAP to parents and were able to include community voice in our goals and deliverables. Families also mapped where their mob was from on our AIATSIS map. Thank you also to Amy, Shane, Matt and Gary for supporting our morning tea. Our next RAP meeting is on **Thursday May 14th @ 3.15.**



First Nations Art Expo 2025 We had another busy term of painting in the Nunga room, for our current collaboration with the City of Onkaparinga Council. Students chose a dreaming story of their choice and painted a visual response. The exhibition will run from May 2nd to June 16th at Port Noarlunga Arts Centre. Do pop in to view the array of masterpieces produced by our students.

We look forward to another great term!

Clinton & Trish

Student Wellbeing



A huge Congratulations to our Unity in Diversity Ministry for leading the way in embracing **Harmony Day** and our very special **Let's Sparkle and Shine for Neurodiversity Week**. The events were full of colour, creativity, and kindness, with fantastic activities that included and celebrated every member of our school community. Congratulations to Charlii, our Minister for Unity in Diversity, a strong and courageous leader and to our Advisor, Nicole, for her energy, passion and organisational skills in helping put the adventure together! What a team! Dream Believe Achieve!

Our final assembly of the term was a true highlight. It marked the end of **Let's Sparkle and Shine for Neurodiversity Week** with a heart-warming and inspiring celebration. We were treated to a beautiful video showcasing the strengths and talents of our students and educators, reminding us all of the importance of acceptance, understanding and celebrating our differences. A breathtaking speech from our Prime Minister, Marlie, about acceptance and inclusion left a powerful message in everyone's hearts-what a proud moment for our school! Thanks to everyone's generosity, we also raised \$65 for the dress up day! The money raised will be put to good use, supporting our students through Wellbeing Stations which will be thoughtfully organised through our Dream Believe Achieve Parliament. These stations will help build connection and delight in our school community. Thank you to the Dream Believe Achieve Parliament for organising our Easter Egg Hunt on the last day! A great way to finish the school term with some Easter Eggs from the Easter Bunny!

Congratulations to Team Brodie for winning our Sports Day for 2025. We had a few VIP's visiting our school on the day and Amanda Rishworth was super excited and honoured to meet our Prime Minister, Marlie.



Congratulations to our new Ministers to the Dream Believe Achieve Parliament. Alia in our Minister for Kindness and Asayah is our Minister for Digital Leaders. We are very proud of you both for stepping up!



Attendance

It's important that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school. Remember, Every Day Counts! If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom Educator know, or pop in and see me so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

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 me on 83823266 or pop in for a chat.

Jo Swift
Student Wellbeing Leader

Youth Recognition Awards



Each year, the Onkaparinga Youth Committee proudly host the **Youth Recognition Awards** as part of **SA Youth Week**, celebrating the skills, talents, and contributions of young people.

The 2025 Awards Ceremony was held on **Monday, 14 April** at the **Arts Centre, Port Noarlunga**. We nominated Bailey, Marlie, Mya, Binayak and Charlii to acknowledge the outstanding work they have put into our Dream Believe Achieve Parliament.

The nominations were under the **Contribution to Community Category**. Each student had their photo taken with **Moira Were AM Mayor for the city of Onkaparinga**.

Congratulations
Bailey, Marlie, Mya,
Binayak and Charlii,
we are very proud of you!



Kiss and Drop

Please be advised that the Kiss and Drop area at the back of the school is for cars to drive through and pick up or drop off students ONLY, not as a place to park your vehicle.

DRIVERS MUST STAY IN THEIR VEICHLE

We ask that drivers be aware of their surroundings, to watch out for students walking around the vehicles and help keep our students safe in the Kiss and Drop area and street parking.

We thankyou for your co-operation with this matter as student safety is our upmost priority. If disrespect continues to be shown, we can bring in The council to issue fines.

Thankyou,
Leadership

