



1B Class Newsletter  
Term 1 2021



*My name is Kim Ballard and I am excited to be teaching Year 1 and beginning this learning journey with your children. I grew up in the local area on a farm just outside of Coraki and have a large family of seven siblings. I enjoy playing touch football, oztag, netball and indoor soccer.*

*I studied at Southern Cross University in Lismore and after completing my degree I was placed in a small school in Nyngan, which is close to Dubbo. I started working at Nyngan Public School half way through 2011 where I had the opportunity to teach in the library, on a 4/5 class for two years and a Year 1 class. I began at WRPS in 2015 and loved working with my colleagues and the wider school community. At WRPS I coordinate the girls' soccer team and the Stage 1 dance group.*

*Throughout my experience as a teacher I believe that the student's personality and prior knowledge enrich the classrooms that they are in, and their school environment. I believe it is essential to hold high expectations, set learning goals with students and most importantly teach in a professional, caring and nurturing manner. This year I am looking forward to working with you and your child, and building open and effective lines of communication.*

<b>Stage One Team</b>	<b>Class Teachers:</b>		<b>Support Staff:</b>
	<b>2B</b> <b>2E</b> <b>1/2M</b> <b>1B</b> <b>1A</b> <b>K/1G</b>	<b>Mrs Jessica Brewer-Charles (Relieving Assistant Principal)</b> <b>Mr Jason Earley</b> <b>Mrs Leah Wood (Mon-Wed) and Mrs Monique Graham (Thurs-Fri)</b> <b>Miss Kim Ballard</b> <b>Miss Madeline Beaumont (Mon-Wed)</b> <b>Mrs Rebecca Alexander (Thurs-Fri)</b> <b>Mrs Golding</b>	<b>Tech Time – Mrs Meg Pickford/ Mr John Wilton</b> <b>Music – Mrs Suzanne Roberts</b>  <b>Year 1 School Learning Support Officers:</b> <b>Mr Jamie Cottee</b> <b>Mrs Silvana Barlow</b> <b>Kath Molloy</b>
<b>Weekly Organisation</b>	<b>Library borrowing:</b> Tuesday (Odd weeks) <b>Computers:</b> Wednesday with Mrs Pickford <b>Music:</b> Wednesday with Mrs. Roberts. <b>Sport:</b> Tuesday This term, sport comprises a variety of cooperative and team games that build teamwork and further develop fundamental movement skills. Please ensure that your child has their hat, water bottle and appropriate shoes on this day. Year 2 may wear sports uniform on this day. <b>PE:</b> Daily- Please ensure your child has a school hat every day. <b>Homework:</b> Homework occurs weekly and will begin in Week 4. <b>Whole school assembly:</b> Due to COVID restrictions we are unable to hold whole school assemblies. As the situation changes we will update you further.		



	<p><b>Super Speakers:</b> In Stage 1, rather than just 'News', students receive topics on which they will make a short presentation each fortnight. These will include a variety of specific topics and some 'free choice'. Preparation for this forms part of our weekly homework. An outline of this term's topics and your child's <i>Super Speakers</i> day is attached.</p> <p><b>Scripture:</b> Wednesday afternoons.</p>
<p><b>Scripture</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scripture lessons are on Wednesday afternoons for half an hour. These lessons are conducted by volunteers and are supervised by your child's classroom teacher.</li> <li>• Students who do not participate in religious education will be engaged in independent revision activities supervised by a classroom teacher.</li> </ul>
<p><b>General School Information – Routines</b></p>	<p><b>Bell times-</b> Supervision for students begins at <b>8:30</b>.</p> <p>Parents requiring earlier drop off may wish to contact 'Helping Hands' after school care. Contact number: 0448125995 Email: <a href="mailto:wyrallahroad@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au">wyrallahroad@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au</a></p> <p><b>8:55am</b> - First bell for morning assembly then class begins  <b>11:00am - 11:25am</b> - Recess  <b>12:55pm - 1:45pm</b> - Lunch  <b>2:55pm</b> – School departure procedure  <b>3:00pm</b> – Final bell</p> <p><b>Late to School</b> Parents will need to accompany children to the office for a late note to be taken to their teacher.</p> <p><b>Early Pick Up</b> Parents will need to obtain a sign out note from the front office before collecting your child.</p> <p><b>Change in Pick Up</b> Please notify your child's teacher if there is a change in routine.</p> <p><b>Afternoon Procedure:</b> Students assemble in their afternoon pick up areas and are supervised by staff for their departure from school. The designated afternoon pick up locations are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shelter- Buses, Wyrallah Road Walkers and parent pick up</li> <li>• Stage 2 COLA- Neilson Street walkers and bike riders</li> <li>• Stage 3 COLA (Outside hall)- Helping Hands After School Care, car park pick up</li> </ul> <p>Staff will assist in transitioning students from these assembly areas to their designated pick up location.</p>
<p><b>Communication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your child is away from school for any reason (being family commitments or illness) could you please send a note with your child the day they return explaining their absences or use our Skoolbag app. It is a legal requirement to report absences.</li> <li>• If you need to get a message to me during the day, please ring the office. My day can become very busy and I don't always check my emails until after the school day. If you have a non-urgent message, I can be contacted via the office or email. I will only be corresponding during business hours which are 8:30 to 4:30 weekdays.</li> <li>• If you would like to organise a time to have a chat, please ring or email to make an appointment.</li> <li>• Our school has an excellent website and Facebook page, which highlights many exciting things that happen at our school. Our website contains information about individual classes and notes for upcoming events and excursions.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Curriculum Overview Term 1</b></p>	<p><b>English:</b> Reading groups occur daily and operate on a rotating basis. Students are organised into small groups and work directly with the teacher on specific reading skills and strategies specific to that group. Groups not working directly with the teacher, engage independently in literacy tasks that support their spelling, phonics, handwriting, reading, comprehension and writing development until it is their turn to read. Students are also engaged in modelled reading sessions where specifically chosen texts are read by the teacher and discussed as a class over several sessions. Many of our writing tasks stem from these books. Students create texts such as recounts of events, narratives and descriptions that inform and entertain their audience.</p> <p><b>Maths:</b> We will be covering syllabus strands of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, Statistics and Probability, underpinned by the processes and skills of Working Mathematically. A typical maths lesson will begin with a warm up activity or game to engage students and revise skills. The body of the session will include explicit teaching of skills and opportunities for students to consolidate their understanding, practise those skills and discuss their findings. This may happen in a whole class setting, small group or individual basis, depending on the topic. Tasks are matched to the ability and specific learning needs of the student. Supporting our daily Mathematics lessons is the TEN program (Targeted Early Numeracy) which consists of short, focussed, ten minute sessions that build students' number sense and early arithmetic strategies through games and simple activities. Students are tracked as they move through developmental stages of their mathematical learning and activities tailored to suit.</p> <p><b>Integrated Unit:</b> In our Term 1 unit, '<i>Footprints from the Past</i>', students will explore significant people, events, places and sites in the local community and discuss what aspects of the past can be seen today. Students will develop knowledge, understanding and skills drawn from the History, Geography, Science and Technology, Creative Arts and English syllabuses.</p>
<p><b>Crunch and Sip</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each day, students are encouraged to eat a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable and drink water during the morning session. This gives students an extra boost to get through the long morning session. If required, fruit is available at the canteen and needs to be purchased before school.</li> <li>• Only unpackaged/ unprocessed fruit, vegetables and water is consumed at this time and lessons continue as students eat.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Equipment Requirements</b></p>	<p>In Stage One, all necessary stationary and equipment is provided. For Year One students, Items such as pencil cases etc. become an unnecessary distraction and we would prefer that they be left at home as all equipment is shared.</p> <p>Year two students are able to bring in a small pencil case to hold additional stationary items if they wish.</p> <p>We encourage and greatly appreciate if you could purchase the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art shirt / old t-shirt (please label with your child's name)</li> <li>• Pump soap</li> <li>• A box of tissues</li> </ul> <p>This just ensures that we have plenty of tissues and soap on hand, particularly over the winter months.</p>
<p><b>Important Dates</b></p>	<p><b>Meet the Teacher:</b> Tuesday 9 February 3:30-4:15pm</p> <p><b>Swimming Carnival:</b> Thursday, 11 February (only for those students turning 8 and over this year who <b>can confidently swim 50 metres unassisted</b>)</p> <p><b>Harmony Day:</b> Friday 19 March</p> <p><b>School Photos:</b> Thursday 25 March</p> <p><b>Parent-Teacher interviews:</b> To be confirmed pending further COVID-19 guideline updates.</p>



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Homework and Home Reading</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written homework will be handed out each week. Homework is a revision of the work covered in class during the previous weeks, Home Reading and preparing for their 'Super Speaker' task. Homework gives students the opportunity to practise what they have learned and gives parents an insight into the content being taught in class.</li> <li>• Homework will be handed out each Monday and needs to be returned each Friday.</li> <li>• Students are encouraged to read for at least 15 minutes each evening and log this time in their Home Reading Journal.</li> <li>• Students will receive an award for every 25 nights of home reading they complete.</li> </ul> <p>• Home Reading is vitally important to your child's reading development. <b>Reading aloud to an adult</b> each night allows them to practise the reading skills learnt at school and improve their confidence and reading ability. Students are provided with a reading log to record each session of home reading they undertake. Please remember to sign your child's home reading log each time they read to you and send it to school to be marked off. If your child misplaces their log please let me know and I will organise a replacement. A plastic file/ folder with a snap clip is a great way to keep both the book and your child's reading log protected when coming to and from school.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)</b></p>	<p>Wyrallah Road Public School is a 'Positive Behaviour for Learning' (PBL) school, taking a school wide, systematic and proactive approach to explicitly teaching expected behaviours.</p> <p>At Wyrallah Road we are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Respectful</b></li> <li>• <b>Responsible</b></li> <li>• <b>Safe</b></li> </ul> <p>As a PBL school, teachers at WRPS explicitly teach expected behaviours covering the many different school settings. This is reinforced by both our formal and informal recognition system.</p> <p><b>Win Bins</b> are used in both the classroom and across the wider school context. Win Bin tickets are issued by all staff. They are issued to students who have demonstrated positive behaviour/effort/achievement. The purpose of a Win Bin is to reinforce positive behaviour immediately. Four times per term (Friday non-assembly weeks beginning Week 3 each term) draws are made from accumulated Win Bins for canteen vouchers (4 x \$1 per stage).</p> <p><b>Merit Certificates</b> are given by classroom teachers to recognise special and positive behaviour/effort/achievement. Two awards are given for each class at each whole school assembly.</p> <p><b>PBL Owl Badge</b> is a PBL award. This award is presented to students who <i>consistently</i> demonstrate positive behaviour and follow school rules. It is received in the form of a Wyrallah Road Owl Badge ('Wyrowllah') and accompanied by a photo display in the school foyer for the fortnight following the presentation assembly. One PBL badge <i>may</i> be awarded for each class at whole school assemblies.</p> <p><b>Gold Day</b> is our way of recognising students that consistently follow all school expectations both in the classroom and on the playground. All students begin each term as a Gold level student and will stay on Gold level if they maintain their good behaviour. Gold level indicates that the student is a cooperative, tolerant student who works with others and participates in the opportunities provided by the school. Students who have remained on Gold for a whole term will be entitled to attend Gold Day activities at the end of each term to celebrate their positive behaviour.</p>



<p><b>Opportunities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Throughout the year, Stage 1 students have a number of extra-curricular opportunities, some of these include: Chess Club, Choir, Dance Group and Public Speaking. Students 8 years and older also have the opportunity to go on to representative level in sporting events such as swimming, cross country and athletics.</li> <li>We also undertake excursions and incursions where possible that supports learning relevant to our integrated units. Details of these will come to you as they arise.</li> </ul>
<p><b>School Fees</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is easier than ever to pay school fees with parent online payment (POP). This is a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Log onto our school site at:- <a href="http://www.wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.edu.au">www.wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.edu.au</a></li> <li>If paying online does not suit, you can also pay in person at the front office (EFTPOS or cash) or write a cheque made out to Wyrallah Road Public School. \$55 per student, \$100 for two children or \$130 for a family of 3 or more children.</li> <li>Although voluntary, school fees are a vital part of our budget each year and pay for essential items in classrooms such as pencils, books and art supplies.</li> </ul> <p><i>Thank you in advance for your prompt payment.</i></p>
<p><b>COVID Update</b></p>	<p>In accordance with advice from NSW Health, parents and carers are reminded NOT to send children to school if they are unwell, even if they have the mildest flu-like symptoms. Students with flu-like symptoms will need to be tested and provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 test result and be symptom-free before being permitted to return to school. Those who do not undertake a COVID-19 test will not be permitted to return to school for a 10-day period. Additionally, they must be symptom-free for at least 3 days prior to returning to school. Parents are reminded that they can only enter the school site for: Meetings with a pre-arranged appointment, Kindergarten drop off, attendance at 'Meet the teacher' sessions, parents collecting sick children, canteen and uniform shop volunteers and volunteers supporting educational programs.</p> <p>All visitors entering school grounds will be required to sign in using the Service NSW QR code provided and complete the manual sign in declaration form.</p> <p>For all of our schools latest COVID information please visit our school website: <a href="https://wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/principal-s-weekly-update.html">https://wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/principal-s-weekly-update.html</a></p>

*At WRPS we understand and value the importance of effective communication and building relationships with our parents. Communication is one of the most important parts of the relationship between school and home as it helps us to better understand your child. We recognise that every child is a unique individual with varying social, emotional and learning needs.*

*So please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or information you need to share.*

Warm regards,  
Kim Ballard

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