



## 5M Class Newsletter Term 1 2024

Hello everyone and welcome back. We are excited to get started on another busy and exciting school year.

As a new member of the Wyrallah Road PS team, I am looking forward to teaching Year 5 this year and becoming part of the whole school community. I draw from over 12 years of teaching experience to create a positive and engaging learning environment where every child can thrive academically and personally.

Before stepping into the classroom, I worked as an environmental scientist, managing threatened species in remnant bushland around Sydney. This knowledge and experience has fuelled my passion for teaching science and mathematics. I enjoy fostering a love for discovery and exploration through real-world applications and a hands-on approach to learning.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my partner and kids, relaxing at our bush property in Drake, bushwalking, birdwatching, swimming in our local creek, and riding my e-bike around the Byron Shire where I live.

**Please find attached a comprehensive list of information to provide you with all you will need to know about the routines and organisation of Stage 3.**

<p>We will be holding a 'Meet and Greet' afternoon on Tuesday, 20 February from 4:30pm to 5:15pm in the school hall shelter area where you will have the opportunity to pop in and meet your child's teacher and ask any questions you may have. If this time doesn't suit you, please don't hesitate to make an appointment. I look forward to meeting you over the next few weeks!</p>	
<p><b>Our Stage 3 Team:</b>                  4/5/6S- Scott Shaw                  5M- Christine Melkie                  6E- Karen Eakin                  6M- Glenn Maxwell                  Stage teacher- Emma Kelly and Brianna Munroe</p>	
<p><b>Important Dates</b></p>	<p><b>Term 1 will be an 11-week term, concluding on Friday, 12 April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wednesday, 14 February</b> - Swimming Carnival</li> <li>• <b>Tuesday, 20 February</b> - Meet and Greet afternoon 4:30-5:15pm</li> <li>• <b>Tuesday 20 February</b>- 3-6 Parent Workshop- Curriculum reform presentation.</li> <li>• <b>Wednesday, 13 March</b> - NAPLAN Window Opens – Year 5</li> <li>• <b>Thursday, 21 March</b> – School Photos TBC</li> <li>• <b>Friday, 29 March</b> – Good Friday</li> <li>• <b>Monday, 1 April</b> – Easter Monday</li> <li>• <b>Wednesday, 10 April</b> - WRPS Cross Country TBC</li> </ul>
<p><b>Equipment Requirements</b></p>	<p>This is a list of the items needed by your child to begin the new school year. The list has been carefully prepared by teachers with specific items listed to best support the educational needs of your child. Specific brands have been suggested; however, an alternative brand is fine. You can find the list on our school website: <a href="https://wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/doe/sws/schools/w/wyrallahrd-p/permission-notes/2024/school-information-and-other-events/Stationery_Requirements_2024.pdf">https://wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/doe/sws/schools/w/wyrallahrd-p/permission-notes/2024/school-information-and-other-events/Stationery_Requirements_2024.pdf</a></p>
<p><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>

- **Respectful**
- **Responsible**
- **Safe**

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.

**Win Bins** 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. Draws are made from accumulated Win Bins four times per term at our morning assembly, beginning Week 3 each term. If your child is successful in having their name drawn, they receive a canteen voucher to the sum of \$2. There are 5 draws made for each stage.

**Merit Certificates** are given by classroom teachers to recognise special and positive behaviour/effort/achievement. These awards are presented at Friday assemblies.

**Owlie Points** contribute toward an individual award and a class reward. At the end of each week, all students are given the opportunity to self-reflect on their behaviours over the past week and record individually if they believe they have earned their Owlie points for that week. Students have been made aware of the behaviour expectations to earn their classroom and playground behaviour points. They need to indicate if they have earned one point for consistently following expectations to be respectful, responsible and safe in the classroom and another point for following the expectations to be respectful, responsible and safe in the playground. Students may earn a total of 2 points weekly.

Teachers will give individual feedback to students whose self-assessment is not a true reflection of their behaviour choices over the week. Feedback to students follows the restorative conversation process and refers to the WRPS whole school expectations overview.

When students earn 20 points, they become an eligible candidate for the PBL badge. Each teacher will ascertain the number of PBL badges awarded each week from the eligible candidates and relative to their class size. Teachers will contact parents if their child is receiving a PBL badge at the next whole school assembly. The student is not aware if they are to receive a PBL badge prior to the whole school assembly.

If a class receives 90% or more of their total class points for the week, they may choose a class reward for that week.

**PBL Owl Badge** is a PBL award, presented during Friday assemblies. This award is presented to students who *consistently* demonstrate positive behaviour and follow school expectations. It is received in the form of a Wyrallah Road Owl Badge.

**Wellbeing days** occur once a term. The purpose of Wellbeing days is toward:

- whole school, inclusive practice which is attended by all students
- building positive and respectful relationships between student-student and student-class teacher
- supporting the wellbeing of all students focusing on social skills, team building and making connections across class, stage, whole school.

## Communication

- 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 and begins school with varying social, emotional and learning needs.
- 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you would like to organise a time to have a chat with any of the teachers, please ring or email to make an appointment.</li> <li>• There will be times that we may contact you via phone or email. We like to contact parents to share wonderful learning moments, if we have any concerns or need to clarify any confusions regarding your child. We also may contact parents to discuss areas that may need some extra attention and a collaborative approach.</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>Weekly Organisation</b></p>	<p><b>Sport:</b> Friday morning  <b>Scripture:</b> Wednesday afternoon  <b>Music:</b> Monday  <b>Technology:</b> Monday  <b>Library:</b> Tuesday even weeks  <b>Whole school assembly:</b> Friday afternoons on even weeks in school hall from 2:10pm - 2:50pm. Beginning Week 4. All are welcome to attend.</p>
<p><b>Curriculum Overview Term 1</b></p>	<p><b>English</b>  Students will engage in a sequence of units throughout the year, which have been developed by the Department of Education, integrating, and covering all outcomes and content for: oral language and communication, vocabulary, reading (fluency and comprehension), writing, spelling, handwriting and digital transcription and understanding and responding to literature. The units support cumulative, explicit, and systematic teaching of foundational literacy skills as well as conceptual understanding of English.</p> <p>Below is a list of the Term 1 units and a brief overview of their focus topic.</p> <p><b><u>Narrative</u></b>  Students will learn how an author creates engaging characters through a narrative. They will identify common narrative conventions and patterns and recognise when these patterns are subverted. Students will make connections to a text through their own personal and common lived experiences.</p> <p><b><u>Genre</u></b>  Students will examine and experiment with texts that cross genres. For example, informative texts that entertain, persuade and inform. Students will have the opportunity to create their own texts for different purposes that do not follow the form and function of a single genre. They will use the mentor text, <i>Bright New World</i>, and the supporting text, <i>Dry to Dry</i>, as a stimulus for writing informative and entertaining texts. Students will enhance their written texts by selecting appropriate multimodal features, including illustrations, maps, graphs and audio.</p> <p><b><u>Mathematics-</u></b>  Students will engage in a sequence of units throughout the year, which have been developed by the Department of Education, integrating, and covering all outcomes and content for number and algebra, measurement and space and statistics and probability. The units connect the learning of a range of mathematical concepts and skills under ‘big ideas’. They provide opportunities for students to use mathematical reasoning skills through rich tasks and cater for student needs with activities for varying skill levels.</p> <p>Below is a list of the ‘big ideas’ for Term 1 units and the mathematical concepts they cover.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The number system extends infinitely to very large and very small numbers:</b> representing numbers, multiplicative relations.</li> <li>• <b>Addition and subtraction problems can be solved using a variety of strategies:</b> representing numbers, additive relations.</li> <li>• <b>What needs to be measured determines the unit of measurement:</b> geometric measure, two-dimensional spatial structure, non-spatial measure.</li> <li>• <b>Fractions represent multiple ideas and can be represented in different ways:</b> representing quantity fractions, additive relations.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Questions can be asked and answered by collecting and interpreting data:</b> represents numbers, data.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Integrated Unit- Wonder, Change and Adaptation in Nature</u></b> This unit develops students' understanding of the growth and survival of living things and how their adaptations over time suit their environment. Students will explore how human involvement can have a positive and negative effect on the environment. They will study some of the living things found within the Great Barrier Reef and on "Pem Island" and explore the structural features that allow them to survive in their natural environment.</p>
<b>Crunch and Sip</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each day, students are encouraged to eat a serve of fresh fruit or vegetables and drink water during the morning session. This gives students an extra boost to get through the long morning session while they are working in class.</li> <li>• Fruit is available at the canteen, if necessary, but needs to be purchased before school.</li> </ul>
<b>Attendance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supervision for students begins at <b>8:30am</b>. Please do not drop your child off before this time.</li> <li>• Parents requiring earlier drop off may wish to contact 'Helping Hands' before and after school care. Contact number: 0448125995 Email address: <a href="mailto:wyrallahroad@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au">wyrallahroad@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au</a></li> <li>• Parents are reminded that children must come to school every day unless they are ill, have medical appointments or there are exceptional family circumstances.</li> <li>• If children are absent from school, parents are required to provide the school with an acceptable explanation within seven days of the absence.</li> <li>• Explanations can be submitted via a written note, email to the teacher or through the Audiri Mobile App (search Wyrallah Road Public School in the App Store).</li> </ul>
<b>Homework and Home Reading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework will be sent home once throughout the term as a homework project linked to the Integrated Unit being studied. Students will work on this project throughout the term. More information will be sent home in the coming weeks.</li> <li>• Reading at home is very important as it allows children to practise their reading skills and improve their general reading ability and comprehension. All students are encouraged to read at least 15 minutes each day. Students may use their own books from home or borrow from the library.</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.mathletics.com/au/tasks">Mathletics.com/au/ tasks</a> will be set each week to complement in class learning.</li> </ul>
<b>Excursions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The major Year 5 overnight excursion is planned for the latter part of this year. Information regarding the camp and payment details will be sent home shortly. Other excursions and /or incursions may be planned to support learning in specific curriculum areas. More information will be coming home closer to the excursion dates regarding equipment and itinerary once numbers have been confirmed.</li> <li>• If finances are a concern, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.</li> </ul>
<b>Scripture and Ethics</b>	<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 a classroom teacher.</li> <li>• <b>Students' participation in the Scripture and Ethics programs will be based on their preference from 2023. If you would like to change the program your child attends, please contact your class teacher in writing.</b></li> <li>• Students who do not participate in religious education will be engaged in independent revision activities supervised by a classroom teacher.</li> </ul>

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

*Kind regards,  
Christine Melkie*

**Contact details**

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School office hours: 8:30 – 3:30pm

Phone: 02 6621 3363