



Willmot Public School Newsletter

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2024 – Term 1 – Weeks 7 - 11

A message from Principal Mrs Bugeja

It has been a busy and productive start to the year and as your principal, it brings me immense joy to share the highlights of our journey together so far this term through this newsletter.

We had our swimming carnival early in the term, and we were delighted to see the improvement in our students. You should be proud of yourselves for your achievements and congratulations to Lorenz Thaidy-Edwards for progressing to the Zone swimming carnival and representing WPS.

Our Kookaburras were amazing in hosting our first school assembly and we celebrated the achievements of many students, including our swimming superstars. Congratulations to all our Sports House Captains and Vice Captains who received their badges at this assembly.

Harmony Day shone brightly as we embraced our cultural diversity and celebrated the richness of our multicultural community. It was a joyous occasion filled with music, activities, friendship, and a culinary trip around the world, reminding us of the importance of unity and acceptance in our school family. To all our families celebrating Ramadan, we wish you Ramzan Mubarak.

It has been truly heartwarming to witness the remarkable learning achievements of our students, both big and small, as they continue to learn and grow at our school. Good luck to our Year 3 and year 5 students as they undertake NAPLAN testing from Wednesday 13th March.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting lineup of events to conclude the term with joy and enthusiasm. The much-anticipated Easter hat parade promises to be a delightful celebration of creativity and festivity, followed by a well-deserved Easter long weekend filled with joy and relaxation.

To finish of our term, we will be holding our school photos on Thursday 4th April. Please note that due to staff photos, the office will be closed in the morning for uniform purchases. If you require new uniform items for school photos, please ensure that these are purchased before the day.

Finally, we have our school cross country in which our families will be invited along to cheer on their children. The presentation assembly for the school cross country will be held on Friday 12th April, which is also the last day of Term 1. Families will be notified if their child is receiving a sporting award during this assembly.

As always, we appreciate your continued support and involvement in our school community. If you have any questions or would like more information about any of the upcoming events, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We believe that together, we can provide the best possible learning environment for our students.

Important Dates

WEEK 7

Monday, 11th March

Harmony Day

Wednesday, 13th March

NAPLAN starts

Thursday, 14th March

NAPLAN

Friday, 15th March

PULSE Dance & Choir Performance

NAPLAN

Blackfit

WEEK 8

NAPLAN all week

Friday, 22nd March

School Assembly – Host: Goannas

Blackfit

WEEK 9

Monday, 25th March

NAPLAN finishes today

Tuesday, 26th March

Clontarf – Yrs 5 & 6 HS Transition

Thursday, 28th March

Easter Hat Parade

Friday, 29th March

Good Friday – Public Holiday

WEEK 10

Monday, 1st April

Easter Monday – Public Holiday

Thursday, 4th April

School Photos

Friday, 5th April

School Cross Country

Blackfit

WEEK 11

Wednesday, 10th April

Yrs 1-6 Incursion – Clean Waterways

Thursday, 11th April

Yrs 1-6 Incursion – Clean Waterways

Friday, 12th April

School Cross Country – Back up date







Cross Country Assembly – Host: Leaders

Blackfit

Last Day of Term 1

2024 Sports House Captains & Vice Captains

Congratulations to our Sports House Captains and Vice Captains who were announced and received their badges at a recent school assembly. We know you will do a wonderful job leading your respective sports houses this year.

FREEMAN				PERKINS			
CAPTAINS		VICE CAPTAINS		CAPTAINS		VICE CAPTAINS	
							
James Saroukos & Paea Vi		Chirayu Chauhan & Tyreece Warn		Dylane Alsford & Chelsea Tester		Kheele Franklin & Leeroy O'Neill	
O'NEILL				TAYLOR			
CAPTAINS		VICE CAPTAINS		CAPTAINS		VICE CAPTAINS	
							
Sienna Swain & Laquaysha Saunders		Paulie Starr & Tevaihana Murare		Ryder Hutchen & Skyla-Rose Dawson		Caleb Roach & Rolland Agugo	

Attendance

Please remember that our school day starts at 8:55am and finishes at 2:55pm. If your child arrives late or is required to leave early, or is absent from school, you are required to provide a reason to the school. This can be provided on an absence slip available at the front office, by phoning the office on 9628 0222 or by email to willmot-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

BE ON TIME



AT 5 TO 9

If your child is required to leave school early, only parents/carers and emergency contacts listed on the enrolment form can pick up the student. Anyone who is not listed, will not be permitted to leave with a student during school hours. Please see the front office for an Update Contact Details Form, should you need to add additional emergency contacts to your child's details. We appreciate all families who assist us in keeping our students safe.

Bike Cage

We have installed a new bike cage that allows student bikes and scooters to be locked away during the day. The bike cage is locked at 9am and opened again 2:50pm and is located next to our Garden.

Students who ride their bikes or scooters to school are encouraged to arrive before the 8:55am bell, so that they can be put away before school starts. Where a student arrives late or needs to leave early, please be aware that we will need to locate an available staff member, which may be difficult during class time, to open and close the bike cage so that the students' bike or scooter can be retrieved. For students leaving early, please ensure that some additional time to collect bikes is factored in.

Students are also reminded that riding bikes on school grounds is not permitted, unless they are riding a bike that is part of our newly formed bike program. Students must walk their bike or scooter to and from the bike cage and can ride their bike once they are outside of school.



Year 6 to 7 High School EOI

The Year 6 to 7 High School Expression of Interest forms have been sent home. These are required to be completed and returned to our front office no later than Thursday 28th March.

You are also able to complete the Year 6 to 7 High School Expression of Interest via the school's website via the link

<https://year7.enrol.education.nsw.gov.au/?schoolCde=4470>

If you complete this online, you do not need to complete the paper form, but either form needs to be completed no later than Thursday 28th March. Completing these before the above date is especially important if you are considering sending your child to an out of area high school. Unfortunately, some students have missed their preferred out of area high school because the form was returned late, and all the out of area placements had been filled by the time they received the Expression of Interest form. Should you have any questions when completing this form, please don't hesitate to contact the front office.



NSW Department of Education

Moving into Year 7 in a NSW Government school

It is time to start the transition of your child from Year 6 to Year 7.

Year 6 Shirts

Order forms have been sent home to our Year 6 students regarding their Year 6 school shirts. The shirts are \$30 each after being subsidised by the school. The shirt design has been selected by students. Shirts must be paid for in full before orders are placed.

If you anticipate having difficulty paying in full by the due date, please speak with our office staff. Orders will need to be placed no later than Friday 22nd March 2024.



2024 Before and After School Care

A Blacktown Council Before and After School Care Service (OOSH) is located and operating on school grounds Monday to Friday from 6:45am to 8:30am in the morning and then from 2:55pm to 6:00pm in the afternoons.

Please register for this service at

<https://kelwillmot.hubworks.com.au/registrations/register?waitlist=true>

Please let our school know (call, email or message our Office) that you have registered your child, so that we can help support the processing of your application. Please also contact our school if you have previously registered but have not yet received confirmation, so that we can follow up your application.



Covid Update

There are still cases of Covid-19 within our school community. This is a reminder that we are still operating with baseline covid safety measures in place to ensure student and staff safety at school. Students are required to be at school, unless they are unwell.

If a student is unwell and has even the mildest of any COVID-19 symptoms they should always test for COVID-19 by undertaking a rapid antigen test (RAT). If the test comes back negative for COVID-19, the student should still not return to school the student no longer has any symptoms.

Parents and carers who have children with persistent or ongoing symptoms of COVID-19 are encouraged to have these assessed by their local health care professional. These symptoms may be related to other illnesses (e.g. allergies or hay fever) that require treatment and management by a doctor. Students can return to school if this is confirmed with a medical certificate.

If there is a positive case in your child's class, year or other grouping, your child can continue to attend school in line with NSW Health advice.



GOOD START MORNING PROGRAM

Be Fit , Have Fun , Run by Mt Druitt Police

**TUESDAY MORNINGS 8:30AM AT
WILLMOT PUBLIC SCHOOL**



Wednesday Morning Breakfast at Willmot Public School

The Salvation Army are here every Wednesday morning providing breakfast to our students from 8:30am. Parents and carers are welcome to join us.



Are your details up to date?

Have your contact details changed? Got a new mobile number? Moved address?

Make sure you advise our school to ensure that we can contact you about your child or to provide you with information including upcoming events, permission notes etc. Changes of detail forms are available at the front office or changes can be emailed to the school at willmot-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au.



WILLMOT PUBLIC SCHOOL

ENROLLING NOW FOR 2024



Willmot Public School is a dynamic, responsive and student focused school. Visible teaching and learning is our central core. Our quality educational programs nurture and enhance student and teacher talents, interests, and abilities. Students and teachers are committed learners with the capacity and confidence to succeed in the twenty-first century. We are a safe, respectful, and responsible community.

Come and join our school! ENROL NOW!

For general enrolment enquiries, please contact us on (02) 9628 0222.
63 Discovery Avenue, Willmot NSW 2770
willmot-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
<https://willmot-p.schools.nsw.gov.au>

Upcoming Events

NAPLAN

NAPLAN, for years 3 and 5, will be held between weeks 7-9 this term. The NAPLAN tests provide a moment in time snapshot of students' literacy and numeracy skills. We use this information to identify strengths and areas to improve in teaching programs and literacy and numeracy goal setting as well as identifying students who would benefit from additional challenges or greater support.



PULSE Alive 2024 – Performance

Our dance and choir groups will be performing in the Pulse Alive 2024 performance as part of the massed dance and choir groups. The Pulse Alive performance gives students the opportunity to learn an exciting dance routine and perform with students across NSW. We wish them all the very best of luck!

Easter Hat Parade

Our Easter Hat Parade is currently scheduled for Thursday 28th March. More information, including parade times etc, will be advised to parents and carers closer to the event.



Easter Long Weekend

The Easter Long weekend falls during the term. Good Friday 29th March and Easter Monday 1st April are public holidays and therefore school will be closed.

School Photos

School Photos will be held in Week 10 on Thursday, 4th April. We will send home the photo envelopes, with the prices and packages on them, as soon as we receive them.



School Cross Country

Our school will be running its annual school cross country on Friday 5th May. Parents and carers welcome to attend. More information will be provided closer to the event.

School Cross Country Assembly

A presentation assembly celebrating the success of students at our school cross country will be held on Friday 12th April at 9:15am. This assembly will be hosted by our School Leaders. Please note that this date is also our wet weather date for our school cross country in the event of inclement weather. This is also our last day of Term 1.

Important Future Events

Term 2 – Staff Development Day

Staff will return for Term 2 on Monday 29th April. Our staff never stop learning either! Please note that there is no school or supervision of students on this day.

Students Return

Students return on Tuesday 30th April for Term 2.



Mother's Day Stall

We will be holding our Mother's Day Stall on Thursday, 9th May 2024. Gifts will be on sale from 50c to \$10. Students will go through the stall during the day with their class. Additional purchases can be made at the Office during recess and lunch on Friday 10th May for any students who were away or forgot their money. Any Parents or Carers who would like to assist at the Mother's Day stall, please contact Jessica Martin (Community Liaison Officer) on 0461 425 193.



School Assemblies

School assemblies are held several times per term and are hosted by the school leaders or our classes. Parents and carers are welcome to come along and celebrate the achievements of students. Please note that parents and carer are only notified if their child is receiving a Bronze, Silver, or Gold award but not for the Safe, Respectful or Learner merit awards.

Assemblies start at 9:15am and are held on a Friday. The current school assembly schedule for Terms 1 and 2 is below. Please note that this is subject to change.

Term 1		
Week 5	1 Mar	Kookaburras
Week 8	22 Mar	Goannas
Week 11	12 Apr	Cross Country Assembly: Leaders

Term 2		
Week 3	17 May	Manta Rays
Week 6	7 June	Wallabies
Week 9	28 June	Athletics Assembly: Galahs

Student Showcase

Garden Classes

These sunflowers were planted last year and have brought so much excitement and smiles to all classes as students have watched these grow.



Past Events

Pulse Dance Rehearsal

Our amazing dance group had a very successful rehearsal on Tuesday, 20th February. They had lots of fun practising their moves and meeting new friends from other schools dancing alongside them. Our Dance group, along with our choir group will be performing on Friday 15th March at the Ken Rosewall Arena at Sydney Olympic Park.



Welcome Back BBQ

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Welcome Back BBQ! It was great to see you all and enjoy a sausage sizzle together!



Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all our students who participated in our swimming carnival. You all did amazing! Congratulations to Lorenz Thaidy-Edwards who was eligible for the Zone Swimming carnival representing WPS.

Keep Australia Beautiful Incursion

Students in Kangaroos, Frogs, Wallabies and Butterflies participated in a workshop on Friday 8th March where they learnt how litter travels and the serious impact it has on our environment. Linked to our science curriculum and the sustainability priority, students role-played the harmful activities carried out by characters in a catchment story. After observing the effects these actions can have on water quality and biodiversity, students brainstormed environmentally friendly practices to protect our fragile waterways.

Harmony Day

Harmony Day was again an incredible celebration of the diverse cultures that make up Willmot public School. Thank you to everyone who came in cultural wear or orange clothes. Thank you to staff, families, and the Currawong Kitchen for bringing share plates of delicious food. The culinary trip around the world was a tasty way to finish off the student and family celebrations. In the afternoon, students were treated to WALA The Spirit of Ghana, an amazing performance celebrating Ghanaian culture.



School Assembly - Kookaburras

Thank you to our Kookaburras for hosting the first assembly for 2024. Congratulations to all our award winners!





Parent App

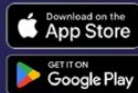
Available now!

Download on the App Store or Google Play



Key Features

- Get real time push notifications from your school
- Stay signed in and save your card for secure payments for fees and excursions
- Give consent, sign forms and respond to attendance alerts
- View the school calendar and news



School Bytes Parent Portal and App

Willmot Public School uses School Bytes to assist with parent communication. School Bytes provides our school, and our families, with many benefits including:

- Instant messages to the Parent Portal (including push notifications) or via SMS message to your mobile
- Permission notes can be completed online, meaning no lost notes in school bags
- Payments for excursions and uniforms can be made online. You are also able to review past payments and Statements of Account. For some events, multiple part payments can be made allowing you to make payments when it best suits you.
- Student Absences can be explained via the Portal
- Changes to student details can done via the Portal
- View the school calendar to assist with planning for upcoming events
- Multiple email addresses per family can be setup to ensure no one misses out on important communications
- From 2024, student reports will be contained in the Portal. Printed copies will still be sent home, but parents can also access their child's report in School Bytes.
- From 2024, digital forms will be added to the Parent Portal so parents can access uniform order forms, canteen menus, change of detail forms along with many other forms.

School Bytes Parent Portal Set Up

To register for the School Bytes Parent Portal, the email you use to sign up will need to match the email address that we have on the system for you. If you are using a different email address, an SMS verification code will be sent to the mobile number that we have on record for you.

Set Up Process

1. Use the link or the QR code to register for the parent portal.

<https://portal.schoolbytes.education>



2. Click on 'Create a new account'.
3. Enter your details into the required fields and then select 'create account'.

An email will be sent to the email address nominated so that you can verify your access to the email address. Once you have created your account, log in to the School Bytes parent portal.

You can now link your account to all students in schools that use the School Bytes platform. When linking a student, the system automatically matches the data you provide with details stored on the student's school profile.

4. Select 'Link other student' and search for Willmot public School in the 'School name' field. Continue entering the students details and select 'Search'.

If all student information matches with parent information according to the student's official enrolment stored at the school, the system will add the student to the parent account automatically.

5. Continue adding any additional children that you have enrolled at Willmot Public School.

School Bytes Parent App

The School Bytes Parent App can be downloaded on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

Apple App Store

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/school-bytes/id6463097826>

Google Play

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=education.schoolbytes>

The School Bytes Parent App can also be accessed through the Department of Education Parent App which we also recommend parents download and use.

Further assistance

If you are unable to link a student to your account or if you have any questions about the Parent Portal, please contact our school on (02) 9628 0222.

COME ALONG TO OUR FOOD PANTRY!

Food Pantry was set up to help reduce food waste. Perfectly good fruit, vegetables and other produce and groceries are collected and are then distributed to our families and community for free via our Food Pantry. It has been great to see so many families and members of the Willmot community coming along.

Reminders about Food Pantry are placed on our Facebook page weekly, however if you need more information about Food Pantry please contact Jess Martin, Community Liaison Officer, on 0461 425 193. Additionally, Jess is looking for parent volunteers to assist with the distribution of food at Food Pantry.



Willmot Public School's
FRUIT FUND
Save yourself the hassle

We know getting fresh fruit for crunch and sip can be hard at times, so here at Willmot Public School we have set up a Fruit Fund. Donations to our Fruit Fund can be made to the Office and will be used to buy fruit for classroom crunch and sip. This will help students to have access to fresh, healthy fruit at school, saving you the hassle of buying the fruit and it means one less item to pack into lunchboxes!

Want to keep up to date with Willmot PS?



Our school website proudly showcases student achievements and serves as an important information source for parents and the wider community. It can be visited at <https://willmot-p.schools.nsw.gov.au>.

Find and Like us on Facebook



Willmot Public School has its own Facebook page where we celebrate student's achievements. The page is designed to keep the community up to date regarding all the wonderful things that are happening at Willmot Public School.

NSW Department of Education



NSW Education Parent App

Never miss an important school update or event.

The NSW Education Parent App makes it easier than ever to stay up-to-date with the latest information from your child's school. Get instant access to school communication from your mobile phone, with the ability to tailor content to your needs.



Download the NSW Education Parent App

Features

- School newsletters, latest news and upcoming events
- Personalise your school feed by year group e.g. Year 1 and Year 6
- Push notifications and instant alerts - know immediately if there's a change to the school's operational status
- Advanced security and privacy

FOOD & SUPPORT SERVICES



LET US KNOW HOW WE
CAN HELP YOU

If you need assistance in accessing food, other support services, or just want to chat, please call our Community Liaison Officer, Jessica Martin, on 0461 425 193.

WILLMOT PUBLIC SCHOOL
IS HERE FOR YOU

A photograph of several children sitting on a dark rug with orange and white patterns. They are wearing white long-sleeved shirts and dark pants. The scene is indoors, likely a community hub or school setting.

COMMUNITY JUNCTION INC

Learn Play Grow

FREE Aboriginal Play Sessions for families with children prior to school (0 - 5 years)

Mondays during school term
9:00am - 11:00am
Willmot Community Hub

Thursdays during school term
9:00am - 11:00am
Lethbridge Park Public School

For more information please contact Linda on 0419 098 034 or email lindah@communityjunction.org.au

1-2-3 MAGIC AND EMOTION COACHING PARENTING COURSE

Learn to manage difficult behaviours, set clear expectations and help children develop resilience.

Time: 1pm-3pm

Date: Tuesdays 12th-26th March

Location: Willmot Public School

RSVP: Jessica 0461 425 193

Donna 0475 802 216





Crunch&Sip®

Info for parents

6 tips

to increase fruit and vegetables at home

- 1. Be a role model**
Let your kids see you enjoying fruit, vegetables and water.
- 2. Get the kids involved**
Grow, shop and cook with your kids.
- 3. Make it accessible**
Keep fruit and vegetables in easy to reach places i.e. a fruit bowl on the counter, chopped veg sticks at eye-level in the fridge.
- 4. Try Crunch&Sip® at home**
Make time on weekends or during school holidays for a quick snack of fruit or veg.



- 5. Keep trying!**
It may take up to ten times before kids try a new food so keep offering it.
- 6. Include it in every meal**
Add vegetables to all your meals i.e. add grated vegetables such as carrot and zucchini to shepherd's pie, pasta sauce and burger patties.



What is Crunch&Sip® ?

Crunch&Sip® is a time during the school day for children to crunch on fruit and/or vegetables and sip water in the classroom.

Why it matters:

Crunch&Sip® encourages children to choose fruit and vegetables as a snack and water as a drink.

- Fruit and vegetables are essential for good health. Crunch&Sip® is the perfect time to contribute to daily serves.
- Drinking water regularly:
 - helps children concentrate
 - prevents dehydration and headaches.



What you need to do:

Send your child to school with a water bottle and some ready-to-eat fruit or vegetables for Crunch&Sip®. See overleaf for ideas.



Crunch&Sip®



What to pack

for Crunch&Sip®

Some examples:

A bottle of plain water

When it comes to thirst, choose water first!

A whole piece of fruit or veg

Easy to eat i.e. a carrot, apple, mandarin or banana.

Several whole, smaller fruit or veg

Container or bag with snow peas, corn, mushrooms, strawberries or grapes.

Chopped fruit or veg

Pack a container of bite sized pieces of fruit or veg i.e. watermelon, mango, broccoli or cauliflower.

Veggie Sticks

Cucumber, capsicum, celery and carrot are great options.



Helpful tips for Crunch&Sip®

- Only fruit and vegetables are suitable for Crunch&Sip®
These are NOT suitable: fruit juice; fruit products such as roll-ups, leathers or straps; potato or veggie chips; olives; fruit in syrup; popcorn.
- Crunch&Sip® is a good opportunity to increase variety of fruit and vegetables. Introduce new fruit and vegetables alongside more familiar ones.
- Pack a suitable, ready-to-eat amount
No chopping or preparing can be done at school. Include a fork or spoon when needed.
- Prepare Crunch&Sip® snacks in advance. Chop the week's Crunch&Sip® snacks at one time or when preparing dinner the night before.
- Crunch&Sip® is an excellent opportunity to encourage vegetables. Research shows that most kids need to increase daily vegetable intake. Raw veggies make a great snack for Crunch&Sip®.
- Dried fruit only occasionally. Maximum of once a week as it increases the risk of tooth decay.

Note: Your child's school may request some food items not be brought to school where there are students with severe allergies.