

Wewak Street School

Term 2 Week 4

23rd May 2025

DATES TO REMEMBER

P&C meeting
Monday 26th May
5pm in the staffroom

Whole School Assembly
Friday 30th May
2.30pm in the hall

Senior Assembly
Friday 6th May
2.30pm in the hall

Newsletters can be viewed via school website:
www.wewakst-s.school.nsw.edu.au
or the school Facebook page



Class 1	Annie Gormly Louise Andie Sinag
Class 2	Seth Brown
Class 3	Benjamin Hall
Class 4	Tilly Witt
Class 5	Hamish Inglis Violet Glaw
Library	Tyson Payne



KEY WORD SIGN

Key Word Sign

Respect



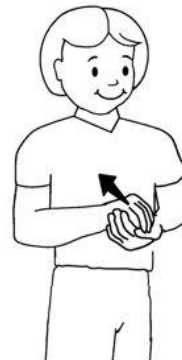
How to sign it: With one hand flat near cheek and other flat near mouth, palms tilted slightly down and towards you. Move hands downwards, towards the waist of the higher hand.

Care



How to sign it: Start with pointer finger extended from fist, palm towards face, and pointer hooked backwards and resting against cheek. Bring hand forward, sliding pointer against cheek, in two upwards arcs.

Safe



How to sign it: Cup hands together, like a ball, and draw towards your body.



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Uniforms

Please make sure that your child has a school uniform. Navy windcheater/jumper, school shirt and track pants. Students without the proper uniform cannot leave the school for excursions or events. If you are having trouble accessing the uniform, please contact the school for help. We have several second-hand items. Please remember that if your child has outgrown their uniform, please donate it to the school. We use second-hand uniforms when there is an emergency and for students and families that are struggling with the cost of living.

As the weather is cooler in the morning and warming up during the day. Students are taking off coats and jumpers. Please make sure that you label items of clothing so we can make sure that it comes back to you

Shoes

Often students at Wewak Street School do not like wearing school shoes due to sensory issues or other reasons. However, part of helping our students with social expectations is the expectation that they wear shoes at school. I encourage parents/carers to also encourage this expectation. Most places in society expect children and adults to be wearing shoes. Keeping this in mind, staff assist students to wear shoes especially when outside. Staff are vigilant at reminding or helping students always replace or keep their shoes on. Unfortunately, we have students that take their shoes off in the playground and they or others may throw them on the roof or over the fences. **When safe to do so**, staff will retrieve shoes and return them to students.

Pick Up and Drop offs.

Wewak Street School is a very busy time at morning drop off and afternoon pickups. Our students are extremely vulnerable and rely on parents/carers/bus drivers and school staff to ensure their safety.

In the morning and afternoon students arrive and depart in buses and cars, bikes, and walking. It is a very busy and hectic time. Please make sure that you drive into the secured area, wait for gates to close before students exit or enter vehicles. **Students are not** to enter or exit vehicles unescorted outside of the secured gate. Also, drivers please watch your speed and make sure you park legally.

Absenteeism

A big reminder- Please inform the school if your child is absent and ensure they are at school by 9 am.

BE ON TIME BY NINE

Arriving at school and class on time:

Ensure that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day

- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption
- Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

Wewak Street School is committed to caring for the students that attend, as such the school has an Attendance Committee that monitor the students that are absent. Students that are below 85% or are developing a pattern are monitored and may receive a letter home inviting parents/carers and students to attend a meeting. We are committed to working with parents/carers to ensure students attend school, at times this may even mean that outside support services (NDIS) may be needed. Attached to the newsletter today is information to parents/carers about compulsory attendance. Please read it and if there are any questions, please contact the school.

Charmaine Borchert
Principal



Compulsory school attendance

| Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my Legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The Importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

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- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

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What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

education.nsw.gov.au



Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

My child won't go to school what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- **Compulsory Schooling Conferences**

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- **Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order**

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- **Prosecution in the Local Court**

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

education.nsw.gov.au

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just... they miss weeks per year and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight
 = **4** weeks  = Over **1** year missed

1 day per week
 = **8** weeks  = Over **2.5** years missed

More information

Further Information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's Policy Library AND The Department's Attendance Matters Website

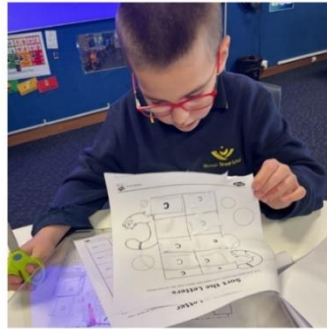
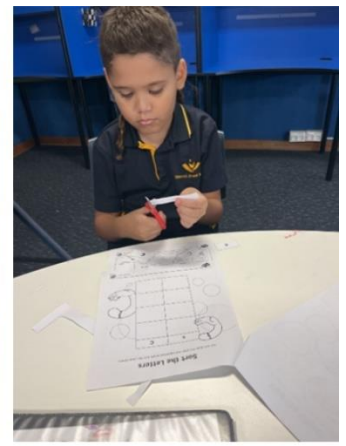
The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's Wellbeing and Learning website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **131 450**. You will not be charged for this service.

education.nsw.gov.au



Class 4 2025

This year in Class 4 we have been working hard on our fine and gross motor skills. We do lots of painting, colouring, cutting and handwriting, playdough, threading and puzzles. Our classes focus on developing our literacy and numeracy skills and we learn lots about our world in Science and Geography. We are learning about our local environment and each week we go out on the school bus to go for a walk on our local walking tracks. On Wednesdays, Wayne from Murray Conservatorium of Music comes into our class and plays music with us. We love music lessons and listening to songs during morning circle. Our sport focuses on fundamental movement skills and we have been improving our catching, hitting and kicking skills. Some of us are learning to ride a three wheel bike. We are developing strategies to help us stay focused and participate in brain break activities like Go Noodle Floor is Lava, Would you Rather and Just Dance. We also visit the trampoline and spend time in our sensory garden to relax and transition back to class. We really enjoy our swimming at school which gives us time to learn some water safety and looking after ourselves in the water. This activity also helps to improve our independence with undressing and dressing and keeping our things all in one spot.

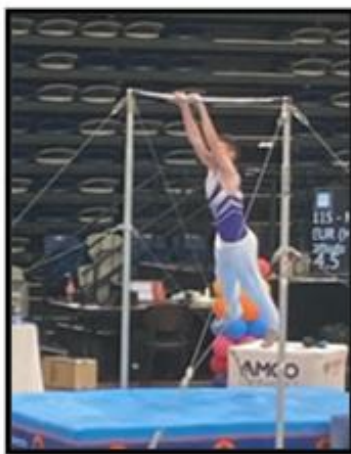
It is very busy in our classroom and we are working on our social skills to help us play and learn together.



Special Olympics Competition – Flyaway Gymnastics

On the weekend, Clifford Hankin from Class 7, attended the 2025 Victorian Gymnastics Championship, with the Special Olympics team from the Flyaway Gymnastics.

It was a great event with many amazing athletes performing. Clifford met Special Olympians and other athletes from all over Victoria and competed well, Clifford coming 2nd in his division on the High Bar.



Congratulations and well-done Clifford!

PBL news

The Positive Behaviour for Learning team have been meeting regularly to ensure students grow to have positive behaviours for learning and exhibit those behaviours inside and outside the classroom. Recently, we launched the theme at the first whole school assembly of Term 2.

"I make good choices" is an easy theme to learn and sign (thumbs up). Across the school, we have already witnessed the positive impact this theme has made with staff and students using the phrase to encourage making good choices and to support regulation.



I make good choices.

The PBL team encourage families, friends and the wider Wewak community to use the phrase too. You will see how a simple and catchy phrase can help benefit those around you.

Leticia O'Brien on behalf of the PBL team.