

Term One Calendar 2021

Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	25 Student Free Day	26 Australia Day Public Holiday	27 First Day of Term 1	28	29
2	February 1	2	3 Open night - 3.30pm	4	5
3	8	9	10	11	12 Splash and Dash day at Cambrai Pool
4	15 Swimming Lessons	16 Swimming Lessons	17 Swimming Lessons	18 Swimming Lessons	19 Swimming Lessons
5	22	23	24	25	26
6	March 1 Book fair looking	2	3	4 Book fair purchasing	5
7	8 Adelaide Cup public holiday	9	10	11	12
8	15	16	17	18	19
9	22	23	24	25	26
10	29	30	31	April 1	2 Easter Good Friday Public Holiday
11	5 Easter Monday Public Holiday	6	7	8	9 Last Day Term 1 2:15pm finish 9am Assembly



Contact Details:

Principal: Lauren Poole

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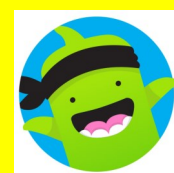
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Find us on:



Learning

Teams Tally:

Blue Bears

White Polars

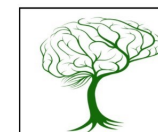
PALMER PRIMARY SCHOOL



Being
Responsible



Excellence



Always
Trying



Respect

Small School, Enormous Opportunities

Dear Families,

A huge welcome to all families to our 2021 school year. We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and New Year break. We welcome all our new students, including our Receptions just starting school, as well as a few older students joining the Palmer community, and their families. We look forward to getting to know you all over the year. This has been a big, exciting three day week, with many exciting learning opportunities to look forward to.

We are hitting the ground running this term, with **swimming** happening during week four at Woodside, plus we have a special '**Splash Dash**' day at Cambrai pool with Cambrai PS, on Friday of week three, **12th February**. This day will be of no cost to families, and Cambrai PS are generously offering to drive their school bus to take us to and from the Cambrai pool. Families are very welcome to join us, and if you are, please bring something to swim in because there will be a family splash dash race in the pool too! More information about this will be coming home soon, with permission forms etc.

This is also our Bi-annual **camp year**. We try to keep costs as low as possible, usually around the \$100 mark, but this can change depending on the location and activities offered. When we know more information of where and price we will inform everyone asap. If you think a payment plan will be required please feel free to come and speak to Kellie and start a small payment plan.

Foodbank Food Hampers (usually containing staple foods like long life milk, dry crackers, can food etc) - If you would like to receive a hamper each fortnight for **FREE** please come in and see Kellie to put your name on the list. A hamper went to families this week so you can see the items that are generally included each time.

Swimming Lessons 15th—19th February 2021

Our yearly swimming week is again during week four, and invoices/ permission forms have been sent home already. Please remember that lunch orders will not be available during swimming week.

The **Murray Bridge United Football (Soccer) Club** will be holding their 2021 Registration Information / Player Nomination Night on Friday 12th February, from 4.00pm to 6.30pm. (Week 2).

All Enquiries and/or Player Nominations to Grant please; klenkegc@internode.on.net or 0411 057 039



New learning for our teachers!

During the holidays we spent a great deal of time participating in professional learning, both at school and at home via webinars. We have had a very specific focus on deepening our understanding of the best ways in which to teach reading and spelling R-7, and the learning has uncovered some excellent research-based strategies that we are excited to start implementing this year.

The research, collectively known as '**The Science of Reading**' has enabled us to gain a deeper understanding of the specific elements needed to teach students to decode, rather than using cues from pictures etc. which is more 'guessing' than reading. Whilst we are all excited by this new learning, there will be some changes to the way in which we have traditionally done things at Palmer. As we all know, when we know better, we do better, so we look forward to putting the latest research into practice here.

One of the biggest changes our families of brand new reception students might notice is that a reader was not sent home on the first day of school. Traditionally this was the case, however as they had just started school they did not have enough understanding of phonics (sounds) to decode the text, instead they were relying on the pictures to tell the story. While this is a great way to embrace books at a young age, we want to encourage our students, from day one, that **reading is the physical act of decoding, not guessing**. Soon our new reception students will be bringing home 'decodable texts'. These follow the phonics sequence that we teach and will have words that they can try and 'decode' (read) themselves, without relying on the pictures to 'guess' the story. We hope you enjoy taking the time to read with your child/ren, no matter their age or reading ability.

You may also have noticed that spelling words have not come home yet. We are trialling a new spelling program, **Spelling Mastery (SM)**, from years one to seven. Again, this program reflects the latest research on the best ways to learn and understand words. The biggest change from this is that we will no longer do our traditional Friday spelling test. Instead, using **SM**, the words will be tested in context daily rather than in isolation at the end of the week. This is because we have learned that:

Mastery of the words was typically measured through an isolated weekly paper-and-pencil test in a contrived context with few or no opportunities to apply this understanding to authentic and meaningful writing and language activities (Hilden & Jones, 2012; Robinson, 2005). The success of this approach was mixed because children usually learned to spell the words correctly for the tests but failed to retain or generalize this knowledge to writing or other language activities (Abbott, 2001; Beckham-Hungler & Williams, 2003; Gill & Schrarer, 1996; Kernaghan & Woloshyn, 1995; Loeffler, 2005; Robinson, 2005; Templeton & Morris, 2000). This phenomenon is often referred to as Friday test, Monday miss. (Texas journal of literacy Eduaction, V5, i1, Summer 2017).

Because of this, your child/ren may come home with words to practice, however the words will be from the **SM** lists from previous weeks, to see if the spelling pattern has been retained or needs further exposure. We are all very excited to be moving forward with this and hope that the students enjoy the new challenge. If you would like to clarify what can be done for homework, please feel free to talk with your child/ren's teachers, they would be most happy to explore options with you.

Wishing everyone a very restful weekend with what I'm sure will be some very exhausted children!

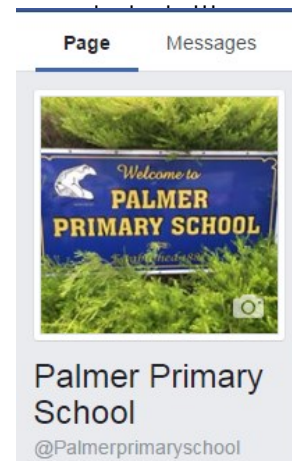
Kind regards, Lauren



Palmer Primary School is on Facebook!!!

Have you joined our public page... Palmer Primary School?

We also have our closed group—'Palmer Primary School Community Group' for much more information that is just for the closed group members—families and staff only. If you haven't joined yet and need help joining, please see a member of staff



Coffee and chat



Come and have a coffee and chat with Mission Australia

- Do you know what is available in your community – we can help
 - What would you like to see in your community?
 - How can you advocate for yourself in your community?

We also offer one on one individual appointments in the community if preferred.

	February	
Riverside Hotel Taillem Bend	17 February	10am – 12noon
	March	
Mannum Hub	3 March	10am – 12noon

Due to Covid restrictions - Please call first to book which catch up session you would like to attend.

Please ensure you are well and have not travelled to any current Covid hotspots or been in contact with anyone who is unwell or has travelled to known hotspots.

To book your spot

Phone Mission Australia NDIS LAC to book on 1800 931 543 option 6

OR contact Lianne on 0436 692 475 for bookings/cancellations.