

PARA HILLS WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Respect Integrity Belonging Achievement

Term 1 Week 1

WESTIES WORLD

DATES to REMEMBER

WEEK 3

Tuesday 10th February
AGM & Governing Council
Meeting – 6PM Resource Centre

Acquaintance Night

WEEK 4

Friday 20th February
Pupil Free Day

WEEK 5

Wednesday 25th February
Year 6 Aquatics

WEEK 6

Monday 2nd March
SAPSASA Swimming

Wednesday 4th March
Choir Rehearsal

WEEK 7

Monday 9th March
Adelaide Cup
Public Holiday

WELCOME TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR, 2026

Welcome to our new school year. What a different start it has been compared to the last few, especially with the 44 degree day. Thank you to all our families for your support in making this year's start a smooth one for all our students. We welcome our new reception students as well as the new students starting with us this year in other year levels.

AGM – GOVERNING COUNCIL

Our Annual General Meeting for Governing Council will be held on Tuesday 10th February at 6pm in our school's Resource Centre. If you would be interested in being a part of our school's Governing Council for 2026, please send the nomination via email to dl.1045info@schools.sa.edu.au

TERM 1 PUPIL FREE DAY

There is a Pupil free day set for this term and has been approved by Governing Council as follows:

Friday 20th February

Staff will be engaged in Student Regulation professional learning on the day and will deepen their understanding of supporting students with self regulation.

ASSEMBLIES

Our school assemblies will be held on Friday mornings, 9:15am every two weeks this year starting next week. We welcome parents and families to attend.

ACQUAINTANCE NIGHT

This year's Acquaintance Night will be held on Tuesday 10th February. Further information regarding times and classes will be sent out in the coming week.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF

We would like to welcome new staff / new roles to our site for 2026



Corey Fawkes – Wellbeing Leader

We are pleased to introduce Corey Fawkes as our Wellbeing Leader at Para Hills West Primary School. Corey is dedicated to supporting the social, emotional, and mental health needs of our students, staff, and wider school community. With a passion for creating a safe and inclusive environment, Corey works closely with students, families, and staff to foster positive relationships and promote a culture of wellbeing across our school. Please join us in welcoming Corey to this important role.

Chloe Overall – Room 11 Year 3/4 Classroom Teacher

We are delighted to welcome Chloe Overall as our Year 3/4 Teacher at Para Hills West Primary School. Chloe brings energy, creativity, and a genuine commitment to developing a supportive learning environment where every student feels valued. With a focus on building strong relationships and fostering a love of learning, Chloe is excited to encourage curiosity and growth in her classroom. We look forward to the positive impact Chloe will have on our students and school community.



Anahi Carreno – Room 8 Year 2/3 Classroom Teacher Tuesdays / Thursdays

We are excited to introduce Anahi Carreno as one of our Year 2/3 Teachers at Para Hills West Primary School, sharing the classroom with Anna Smit. Anahi is passionate about creating a welcoming and encouraging classroom where students feel confident to explore, ask questions, and reach their potential. She is committed to providing engaging learning experiences tailored to each child's unique needs. We warmly welcome Anahi and look forward to the valuable contributions she will make to our students and school community.

Maxine Xiong – Room 15 Year Rec/1 Classroom Teacher – Fridays

We are delighted to welcome Maxine Xiong to Para Hills West Primary School, where she will be working one day per week in Room 15 with our Reception to Year 1 students. Maxine brings warmth and enthusiasm to our early years' team, and she is committed to supporting our youngest learners as they begin their educational journey. We look forward to the wonderful support Maxine will provide as she works alongside students and staff in Room 15.



Haylee Fisher – Autism Inclusion Teacher and Technology Teacher

We are pleased to welcome back Haylee Fisher to Para Hills West Primary School as our Autism Inclusion Teacher, as well as our new Technology Teacher. Haylee is dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment where every student feels supported and valued, especially those with autism and diverse learning needs. In her expanded role, Haylee will also be delivering engaging technology lessons that equip students with essential digital skills. We're delighted to have Haylee back and look forward to the successful impact she will continue to have across both areas of our school.

Namerta Lakra – Room 20 Year 4/5 IELC Classroom Teacher – Wednesdays

We are excited to welcome back Namerta Lakra to our Intensive English Language Centre (IELC) at Para Hills West Primary School. Namerta is committed to supporting students who are developing their English language skills, ensuring they feel confident and included in our school community. Her passion for helping students succeed and her dedication to creating an engaging and nurturing learning environment make her a valued part of our team. We are excited to have Namerta return and look forward to another fantastic year working together.



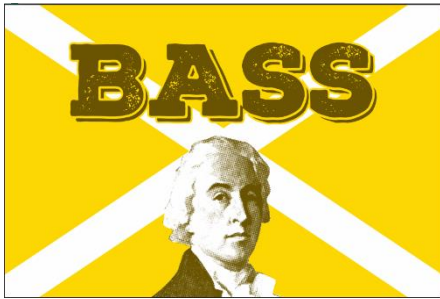
2026 SCHOOL CAPTAINS - ANNOUNCED

Late last year, Year 5 students nominated for a school captain position in 2026. This year we returned to our announcement assembly, Friday 30th January, where each captain was revealed, and their captain shirt was presented to them.

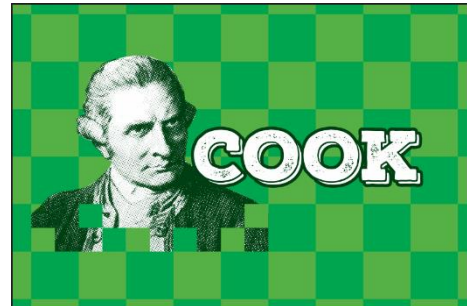
Successful students were chosen to be a school captain for 2026 through the process last year of their personal speech given to their peers, votes from their house team members and consideration by the panel consisting of Leadership staff members, Year 5 teacher and two 2025 school captain representatives. It was a very difficult decision in some instances.

As you can appreciate the role of school captain is very prestigious and the successful captains have and will continue to display our school values and act as a positive role model for all students.

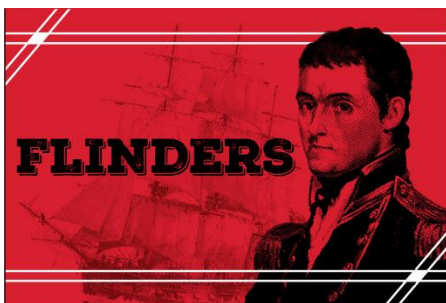
This year's School Captains are:



Aisha Shir, Briana Knight
Loyce Igiraneza, Skye Santos



Addison Millar, Ayesha Sekmani
Nelofar Nasiri, Latifa Sabiri *(on trial)*



Benafsha Amiri, Jade Douglass-Lee
Bashir Elnzali, Liam Jamore



Hong-An Nguyen, Arsh Khan
Elham Sultani, Luke Perkins

NAPLAN TESTING 2026

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

NAPLAN TESTING

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life.

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 may participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

The assessment provides parents/carers and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests.

This year, the NAPLAN Online test window is in Term 1, 11th to 23rd March. Most schools in South Australia will undertake testing online, however all Year 3 students will complete the writing test on paper.

Please make sure that, if your child is in year 3 or 5, they are at school on time each day.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

On its own, NAPLAN is not a test that can be studied for and students are not expected to do so. You can reassure your child that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program and remind them on the day to simply do their best.

It is not recommended that students use services by coaching providers or excessively prepare for NAPLAN testing.

Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and provide appropriate support and guidance.

NAPLAN REPORTING

NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards. There is a standard for each assessment area at each year level. Proficiency standards provide clear information on student achievement. They are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected for the child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly on what has been taught in previous years of schooling. Student achievement is shown against 4 levels of proficiency: Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

PARTICIPATION IN NAPLAN

Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 may participate in NAPLAN testing. If a child is absent on a testing day, the school may arrange for them to complete the missed test/s another time during the school's test schedule.

If a student has a disability, they may qualify for adjustments to their tests. Students with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate, or students who have recently arrived in Australia with a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

There are provisions for parents/carers to withdraw their child from NAPLAN testing. Schools are familiar with this process and a decision should be made with your child's school. Speak to your principal in the first instance.

If you ***do not wish*** to have your child complete the NAPLAN Online test this year, please contact the school to ***complete and sign an exemption form*** for your child.

MORE INFORMATION

For queries about NAPLAN, speak to your child's school. You can also find information about NAPLAN testing at www.nap.edu.au.

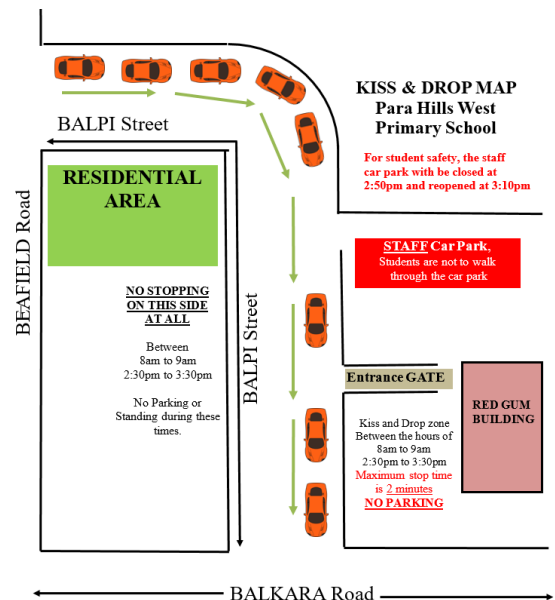
TRAFFIC SAFETY AROUND OUR SCHOOL

With the new school year just started we thought it would be a timely reminder about traffic safety around our school both in the morning drop offs and afternoon pick-ups.

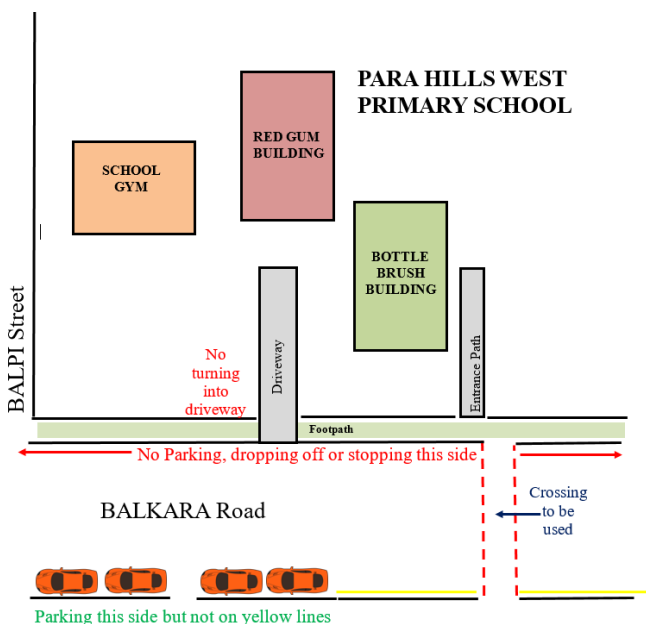


Firstly, the designated speed around school zones when students are present is 25kmh. This must be observed to ensure the safety of all children and their parents as they walk to school.

Secondly, we have only one street as a designated drop off and pick up area. This is along Balpi Street (only the school side of this road). You must remain with your car and are not permitted to stop and park your car and leave it unattended during these times 8:00am – 9:00am and 2:30pm – 3:30pm. If you wish to stop and park and walk into school with your child, you must then park your car along Balkara Road and park on the opposite side to the school. *The entire length of Balkara Road (school side) is a no stopping and no dropping off area – school buses exempted.*



Thirdly, making U-turns along Balkara Road, especially during afternoon pick up time can be quite dangerous and can cause traffic flow issues. We request that you *do not conduct U-Turns* at this time as it causes many issues for the flow of traffic. We would ask that you continue to drive in the same direction and find another street to turn around on.



Fourthly, if you do park on Balkara Road we ask that you walk with your child/ren and cross at the designated crossing area to also help ensure that safety of pedestrians is met and prevents unexpected incidents / accidents involving pedestrians crossing anywhere along Balkara Road.

If we could all obey these rules then the safety of our children will be maintained.

*Do not
forget*

HATS REQUIRED TERM 1,3 & 4

Para Hills West Primary School is a SUNSMART school which means NO HATS, NO PLAY in terms 1, 3 & 4 and when the UV rating is 3 and above. Students are required to wear their hats whenever they are outside.

Our SUNSMART hats are available to purchase online from Spartan School World.

<https://www.spartanschoolworld.com.au/collections/para-hills-west-primary>





Premier's Reading Challenge

The challenge is on again!

When you bring in your 1st completed Premier's Reading Challenge sheet to the library and hand it to me, you can choose a prize.

Happy reading everyone!

Please remember to supply a plastic/waterproof bag for your child's library bag. This will help to keep the library books safe from any liquid/food spills.

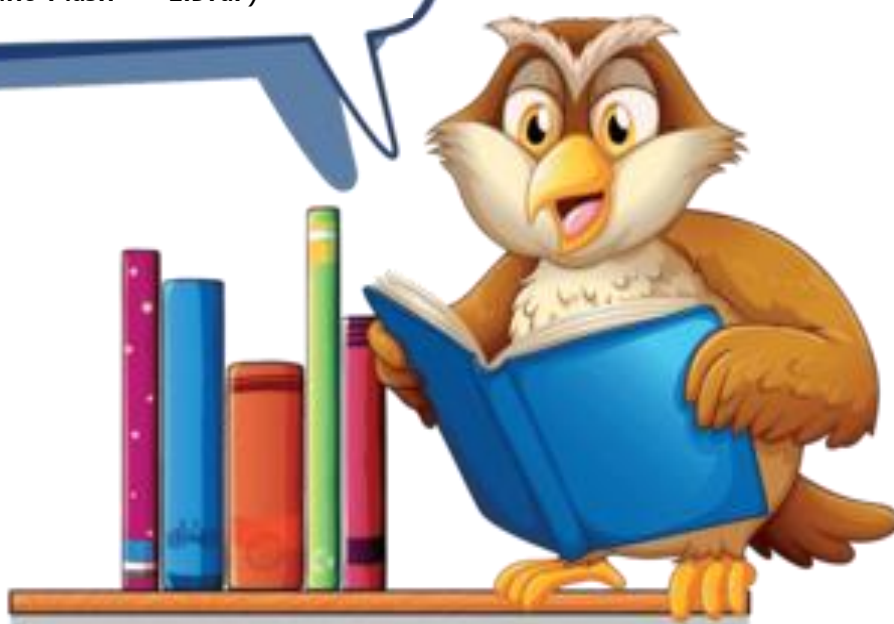
Ask your child's teacher what day they will be borrowing from the library and ensure the bag is in their school bag for that day.

If books come back damaged you may be asked to contribute to the cost of a replacement book.

Thank you June Nash - Library

Library

Bags





TERM 1, 2026 KEY DATES

Week 1

Tues 27/1 – First day of term 1

Week 3

Tues 10/2 – Open Night

Week 4

Frid 20/2 – Student Free Day

Week 5

Wed 25/2 – Year 6 Aquatics

Week 6

Mon 02/3 – SAPSASA Swimming

Wed 04/3 – Choir combined rehearsal

Week 7

Mon 09/3 – Adelaide Cup Day Public Holiday

Wed 11/3 – Frid 13/3 Inclusive – Naplan

Week 8

Mon 16/3 – Naplan (Continued)

Mon 16/3 – Frid 20/3 Inclusive – Harmony week

Frid 20/3 – Sports Day

Week 9

Tues 24/3 – Late Night Interviews

Frid 27/3 – SAPSASA Girls Netball/Boys Football

Week 10

Frid 03/4 – Easter (Good Friday)

Week 11

Mon 06/4 – Easter Monday

Frid 10/4 – End of term dismissal

2pm student pick up