



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear all,

A Taste of Tomerong

A huge thank you to our P&C for organising another fantastic *Taste of Tomerong* evening on Saturday. Thank you to our amazing chefs who provided us with a delicious meal and to *The Vice Squad* who kept us musically entertained throughout the night. A special thank you to Kathy and Mala who co-ordinated the event and to everyone who assisted on the night or during the lead up.

Finally, thank you to everyone who turned up and supported our wonderful little school. Community spirit is alive and well at Tomerong.

Tell Them From Me Survey

A reminder that we are asking parents and caregivers to log onto the link below and complete the Tell Them From Me Survey so we can use the data not only for our External Validation process, but also as we start writing our 2018-2020 school plan. To ensure the data is valid we need a high percentage of families to respond. Your involvement is anonymous and there is no way of identifying individuals from their responses. Thank you.

The link to the survey is <https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/tomerong3226>.

School Attendance

Attached to this 'Bulletin' is information about compulsory school attendance. We know that school attendance has a direct correlation to student achievement so it is imperative that students attend every day unless they are sick or legally excused. Please be aware that it is a requirement for explanations to be given within 5 days of a child's absence. The teacher will then make a determination about what sort of absence it will be recorded as, in line with the codes outlined in the DoE student attendance policy. This process is overseen by the principal. It is important to note that the Department of Education's new attendance software automatically records student absences as an unjustified absence if no explanation is provided within 5 days of the first absence.

There are a number of ways parents and caregivers can notify the school of the reason for their child's absence, the most common being a note upon the return to school (please note that it must be received within 5 days of the first absence if they have more than one day off, not 5 days from their return to school.) Parents can also email the school at tomerong-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au. An increasing number of parents are using a function on our Skoolbag App to notify the school as this proves to be a fast and effective way of providing a reason for absence. Retrieving the messages from the app at the school level is also an easy process, so I encourage you to consider using this app if you are not already. I have attached a flier on how to download the Skoolbag App for those who do not currently have it. The final option of notifying the school is to give a verbal reason over the phone, and while this meets requirements, we appreciate it when parents also provide a note being written upon the child's return to school.

P&C Meeting

There will be a P&C meeting at 6pm in the administration building next Monday, 11 September. This will follow an OOSHC committee meeting at 530pm in the OOSHC room.

Have a great week,

Rod White
Principal



This week's value is

Be Resilient

Congratulations to last week's winners

Glen and Nathan W

FOUND

Ladies bag with money inside

Please see office staff if this is yours



EARN and LEARN

Collecting Stickers Now

Kindergarten Corner

Carey

"Hi! My name is Carey and I am six years old. I have a twin sister called Milley.

At school I like to play with balls, I love bouncing balls. I also like Lego and reading groups. I like to play with Jayden, Deegan, Milley and Melia.

At home I like to play schools. I have a pet bird called Steven. When I grow up I would like to be a dad."



Class Awards

Congratulations to the following students who will receive a Class Award at this week's assembly:

KD	- Jayden and Bradley
1F	- Lexy and Ashton
2M	- Jack and Blayne
2-3K	- Kate and Hunter E
4-5M	- Ella and Caleb
5-6N	- Rhys and Bree
Library	- Sarah, Zara, Lahna, Anna and Kate

SRC RSPCA Cupcake Fundraiser

The SRC is holding a special cupcake fundraiser to help raise money for the RSPCA on Tuesday 19 September (Week 10). Students are asked to donate a maximum of 1 dozen cupcakes (which will be sold to students on the day for \$1).

Due to the huge success in creativity last year, the SRC have decided that it would be fun to have an 'animal theme' cupcake decoration again. If possible, please get creative and decorate your cupcakes with an animal theme. Please see the website

<http://www.rspcacupcakeday.com.au/> for some ideas!

All money raised during cupcake day will go to the RSPCA and the animals in their care.

Our fundraising efforts through cupcake day will give mistreated animals a second chance at a better life.

Every cupcake you bake has the power to change lives.

Happy Baking!

Mrs Darby



2017 CANTEEN ROSTER - TERM 3

DATE	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	BAKING
Fri 8 Sep	Patty	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED
Wed 13 Sep	Kanlaya	HELP NEEDED	HELP NEEDED

COMING EVENTS - Term 3

WEEK 9

Fri 8 Sep	-School Assembly - 2.40pm
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WEEK 9

Mon 11 Sep	-Swim Scheme Commences -Library Borrowing - 2-3K -P&C Meeting 6pm
Tue 12 Sep	-Library Borrowing - 1F, 2M and 5-6B
Wed 13 Sep	-Library Borrowing - KD and 4-5M -Uniform Pool - 8.50 - 9.10am
Fri 15 Sep	-Junior Gala Day

WEEK 10

Tue 19 Sep	-SRC Cupcake Day
Fri 22 Sep	-Swim Scheme Concludes -Last Day Term 3

SHOALHAVEN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Last Thursday night, our choir, alongside five other school choirs from Berry, Huskisson, Illaroo Road, Nowra Hill and Terara, sang nine songs beautifully as part of the massed choir. They also did a fantastic job using props and doing actions with some of the songs. Each school also performed an individual item with our school ending the night with the song "Strong". Mr White and I were very proud of your behaviour and singing on the night. Thank you to all the parents, families and friends that came and supported Tomerong Public School on the night as well. Well done, Tomerong Choir!

Mrs Raymer



LIBRARY NEWS

Shoalhaven Libraries Roadshow

Last Wednesday, Tomerong Public School was lucky enough to have a visit from the very entertaining staff from the 'Shoalhaven Library Roadshow.'

Each year, they visit our school and perform two short plays, based on two of the CBCA shortlisted books.

This year, they had all students captivated and laughing whilst they performed readers' theatre based on the books 'Chip' and 'Go Home Cheeky Animals'.



It was a wonderful way to finish off a fantastic book week.

These books (as well as the other shortlisted books for 2017) are now available for loan in our library.

Mrs Darby

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. 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 Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

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:

- Ensures 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.

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)

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.





If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

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 and Communities 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 Department of Education and Communities 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.

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

Policy, information and brochures:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/goto/school/a-z/attendance.php>

The school leaving age:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leaving-school/index.php>

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.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5129

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities



How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

For iPhone and iPad users:

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.



For Android users:

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.



Please Note: Some brands of Android phones need the setting in "Notification Manager" changed to "Allow" instead of "Notify" in order for the push notifications to work. The phone must also be running at least version 4 system software to run the app.

For Windows 8.1 Phone and Windows 8.1 or 10 device users:

1. Go to the Windows Store on your 8.1 Windows Phone or Windows 8.1/10 Device
2. Search for "Skoolbag" in the keyword app search
3. Install the Skoolbag app
4. Find your school either by using the keyword search or location service.
5. Click the "Pin" icon to pin the school tile to your Windows Phone home screen.
6. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup"
7. Toggle the Push Categories that are applicable to you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: The Skoolbag Windows App is for 8.1 version Windows Phones, or Windows 8.1 and 10 devices.

