



The Round Up

Term 1 Week 3 Friday 14 February 2025

Welcome to 2025



Welcome back to 2025. We hope that you had a restful and enjoyable summer vacation, whether you stayed local or ventured afar! We have hit the ground running and are busy learning new routines, new faces and building positive relationships with our students, staff and community. We will continue to provide your children with high quality teaching that will engage and inspire them to excel and reach their full potential. We look forward to seeing them further progress in all areas this year. 2025 promises to be a very exciting year for Black Springs Public School as we continue our school improvement plan, engage in new ways of learning and building on 2024 successes. All of these things will work towards us striving for excellence and equity. As I welcome back our staff for 2025 we have a clear and deliberate focus of explicit teaching, high expectations and student wellbeing.

Reminders

As we start 2025 we would like to remind you of some School / DoE policies for this year.

*School hours: children are not to be dropped off before 8.45am due to staff not being available to supervise. Please ensure your children are dropped off after 8.45am as staff will be on duty at this time.

* Appointments: wherever possible, please make appointments for your child/ren after school hours or during school holidays. This is a DoE policy. We understand this is not always possible, however your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.



Attendance

It's always wonderful to have our students in classrooms, ready to engage and learn. Our teachers and school staff are committed to fostering growth and opportunity, and we are here to work with you to support your child to reach their full potential.

Consistently going to school has countless benefits – from learning, to creating social connections and improving wellbeing through access to support and quality education. Students are required to attend school every day, whether it's the first or last day of the term, Mondays, Fridays or days dedicated to sports carnivals, school excursions and incursions.

As we look ahead to the remainder of the school year, I'd like to remind our school community that we are here to work with you to support your child to thrive. We know that families experience a variety of challenging circumstances, and we are committed to working with you to address any barriers to regular attendance.

If your child is absent from school, please let us know why as soon as possible, even if it's just a few minutes at the start or end of the school day. Of course, there will be times when your child is unable to be at school, like when they are unwell. Medical appointments should take place outside school hours where possible, and family holidays should be taken in term breaks.

If your child is feeling anxious about coming to school and you need support, please reach out to your child's teacher or to me directly. There are also helpful resources for parents and carers on the [NSW Department of Education website](#).

Thank you for being a part of our school community and for partnering with us to ensure students access the endless benefits of regular school attendance.

Every Day Counts



Oberon Show

Congratulations to our students with their first prize award in the Junior Craft section of the Oberon Show.



School Contributions

Your annual voluntary school contribution of \$51 supports your child's education by providing stationery, and other supplies for classroom use. This voluntary contribution is now available for payment on your School Bytes portal and can be paid online or in cash to the office.

Welcome to Mrs Foster as the Acting School Administrative Manager

Mrs Foster joins us until the middle of March, acting as the SAM in the office. She has worked in NSW public schools for 18 years in both teaching and support staff roles and is looking forward to joining the team at Black Springs.

Personal Health and Development

All students will be learning about building and maintaining respectful relationships.

**Anti bullying**

Year 1 students will engage in activities that promote respect and appreciation of difference through increased understanding and empathy for others. Students learn about and practise behaviours that protect both themselves and others from bullying.

Year 5 and 6 students will engage in activities where critical thinking is developed as they evaluate and challenge perspectives including negative stereotypes and cultural and social bias. This learning emphasises shared values, belonging, acceptance and tolerance.

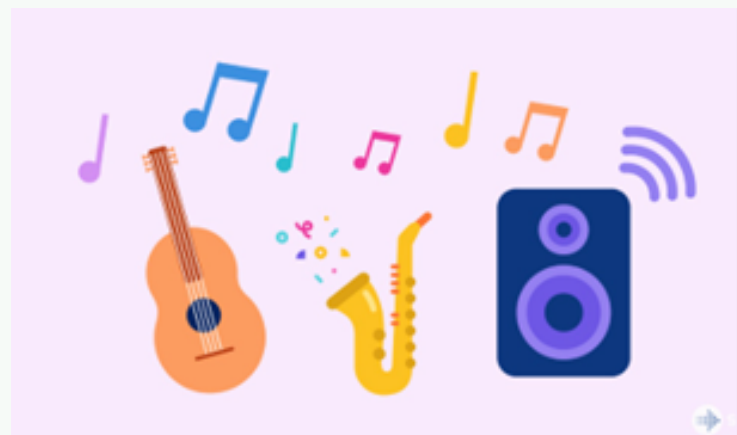
Music

Year 1 students will broaden their foundational knowledge of music concepts including beat, tempo, rhythm, pitch and dynamics through a range of activities involving movement, body percussion, percussion instruments and singing. They will be introduced to the musical concepts of structure and graphic notation and continue to develop appropriate practises for singing and playing instruments. Students work individually, in groups and as a class to compose and perform pieces of work, as well as begin to reflect and respond to the music they experience.

Music

Year 5 students will continue to deepen their knowledge around musical concepts including beat, tempo, pitch and timbre. They will be introduced to the musical concept of texture and look at how instruments, sound and melodies can be layered to create different feelings, moods and emotions. Additionally, they will begin to explore the use and importance of tension and release and be introduced to placing notes on a musical staff.. Students will deepen their knowledge of timbre through looking at musical genres and associated instrumentation, recreating well-known repertoire in different styles. As well as continuing to refine their instrumentation and singing skills, students will work on compositions and performances individually, in groups and as a class.

Year 6 students will continue to deepen their knowledge of musical concepts including beat, pitch, structure and rhythm. They will be introduced to syncopation and compound time signatures, as well as the importance of groove in rhythm. Additionally, they will explore micro-structures of songs including hooks and riffs, and learn the importance of creative expression through improvisation. They will draw inspiration from images, events, texts and observations for their own compositions and performing including lyrical and mood motifs. Whilst listening to a broad repertoire in many activities, there is additional emphasis placed on composition individually, in groups and as a class.



No Hat No Play

Just a reminder that students need to bring a hat to wear when playing outside. The Department has a 'No Hat No Play' policy and any student without a hat is unable to play outside of the covered areas. New school hats are available in all sizes. They are yellow with the school emblem.



Oberon High School Meet and Greet

Our year 5 and 6 students are invited to visit Oberon High School and meet the new principal. Please see below for further details!

Oberon Community MEET and GREET at OHS



We warmly invite all incoming Year 5 and Year 6 families and students, as well as our current students and families, to a special Meet & Greet at Oberon High School.

TUES 18TH FEB 4.30PM

Come along to meet our new Principal, connect with our wonderful staff, and engage with the wider Oberon school community. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our school, ask questions, and build strong connections in a welcoming and friendly environment. We look forward to seeing you there!

all welcome!

SCHOOL TOUR & FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Oberon High School. Ross St, Oberon. Ph: 6336 1606

Term 1 with Mrs Schenk



History

Year 1 will be learning about how has family life changed or remained the same over time, how can we show that the present is different from or similar to the past and how we describe the sequence of time?

Year 5 and 6 will be learning about why and how Australia become a nation and how society has changed throughout the twentieth century.



Science

Year 1 will be learning about how materials can be changed by bending, twisting and stretching and how different materials can be combined. Year 5 and 6 will be learning about the properties of solids, liquids and gases, when materials are combined the result is either a mixture or a new substance and mixtures can be separated using different techniques.

Bullying

Bullying can happen at school, at home or online. It is never okay and it is not a normal part of growing up.

There is a nationally agreed definition of bullying which all Australian schools now use: Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening.

Bullying can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records).

Bullying of any form or for any reason can have immediate, medium and long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.



What is not bullying?

There are also some behaviours, which, although they might be unpleasant or distressing, are not bullying:

- mutual conflict that involves a disagreement, but not an imbalance of power. Unresolved mutual conflict can develop into bullying if one of the parties targets the other repeatedly in retaliation.
- single-episode acts of nastiness or physical aggression, or aggression directed towards many different people, is not bullying.
- social rejection or dislike is not bullying unless it involves deliberate and repeated attempts to cause distress, exclude or create dislike by others.

Library



Library borrowing will take place on Fridays beginning today. Please remember to bring your library books on Fridays so you can choose new ones!

Watch for some exciting changes in our library this year as the space is refreshed!

Healthy Lunches

As we start 2025, we encourage all families to pack a healthy lunch box. The Swap It website has lots of great ideas to get you started! www.swapit.net.au/resources/parent-resources/



Student of the Fortnight

Student of the fortnight: Maci for demonstrating improved mathematical thinking.



Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

PBL for this fortnight will be: Caring for our classroom environment.

Buzzy Bee Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL): Kobi



Amazing Animal Facts!

1. A giraffe's tongue is long enough to lick its ears.
2. Dragonflies can't walk.
3. Sharks have no bones in their body.
4. Crocodiles can't stick their tongues out.
5. The milk of the hippopotamus is pink.
6. Some fish can cough. They cough to clear out their gills from dirt particles and bacteria.
7. Snails have 14,000 teeth.
8. Cows and horses can sleep while standing.
9. The only mammal that cannot jump is an elephant.
10. Hummingbirds beat their wings up to 200 times per second.
11. It's impossible for a pig to look up into the sky.
12. Snakes smell with their tongues.
13. Bees can recognise human faces.
14. Flamingos hatch with grey feathers that turn pink from the food they eat.
15. Under their white fur, a polar bear's skin is black.



School Calendar

28 February	Sporting Schools excursion
12-24 March	NAPLAN testing
10 April	Easter Fun day
11 April	Sporting Schools excursion
11 April	Last day term 1

School Pledge

I honour my God
I serve Australia
I am loyal to my school, family & friends
I salute the flag

School Song

We're proud of the fact that to Black Springs we go
to add something more to whatever we know

Lasting friendships will follow and help us to grow,

As people of courage with something to show

Chorus

Black Springs Public School is the best 'tis true
Let's always remember truth, honour, beauty and
may our motto guide us whatever we do.



NAPLAN 2025

Information for parents and carers



Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake. As students progress through their school years, it is important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with more information about students' educational progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working, and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Online NAPLAN tests are designed to provide precise results and are engaging for students. The tests are tailored (or adaptive), which means that each test presents questions that may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses. This helps students remain engaged with the assessment.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute to the development of NAPLAN test materials. To find out more about NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au.

Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. ACARA supports inclusive testing, so all students have the opportunity to participate in the National Assessment Program. Information on adjustments available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs is provided in the National protocols for test administration. Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN. To help inform these decisions, you may consult the National protocols for test administration (linked above), NAPLAN public demonstration site, the Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN, and our series of videos where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experiences in using NAPLAN adjustments. In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption. Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN test days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by letting them know that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests; however, it is not necessary for parents/carers to do this. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance. ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers. See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at NAP – Public demonstration site.

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.

How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents/carers use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review the effectiveness of programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at myschool.edu.au.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at nap.edu.au/TAA
- visit nap.edu.au

To learn how ACARA manages personal information for NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy.

How is my child's performance reported?

From 2023, 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 of the child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly

NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may not have the capacity to complete the tests in a shorter time frame. The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 12 March 2025 and finishes on Monday 24 March 2025. Schools will schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	Year 3 students do the writing test on paper on day 1 only. Years 5, 7 and 9 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing on day 1, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations).	Year 3: 40 min Year 5: 42 min Year 7: 42 min Year 9: 42 min	Students are provided with an idea or topic called a writing stimulus (or prompt) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing).
Reading	To be completed after the writing test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts, and then answer related questions.
Conventions of language	To be completed after the reading test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 45 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min	Students are assessed on spelling, grammar and punctuation.
Numeracy	To be completed after the conventions of language test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students are assessed on number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability.

Supporting all learners

We develop syllabuses that are inclusive of the learning needs of all students, to ensure opportunities to access and progress through the NSW curriculum.



Teachers should make decisions about learning goals and curriculum options for your child together with you, their caregiver. Find out more by scanning the QR code or visiting curriculum.nsw.edu.au/teaching-and-learning/diversity-of-learners

Aboriginal students

Teachers can support the success of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students by providing opportunities for them to develop their Cultural identities. This includes aligning with students' Cultural aspirations within Community contexts and consistently showing respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Knowledges. Parents and carers, families and Aboriginal Communities are important partners in teaching and learning about Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Cultures, Histories and Languages.

EAL/D students*

Communicating, reading and writing in their home language or dialect can help EAL/D students to develop proficiency in Standard Australian English and to learn subject content.

Gifted and talented students

Gifted students and students with high ability or talent in a subject can be challenged by diving deeper into content within and across subjects.

Students with disability

Schools are obligated to provide reasonable adjustments for students with disability. If your child has a disability, speak to your school about the different options for accessing the curriculum, including drawing from outcomes from previous stages of schooling or accessing Life Skills outcomes and content.

*Students learning English as an additional language or dialect

NSW Education Standards Authority

A parent and carer guide
to supporting your child in

Creative Arts K-2



Creative Arts K-2

You have an important role in supporting your child at home in their learning.

Scan the QR code to find out more about the Creative Arts K-6 syllabus or visit curriculum.nsw.edu.au/learning-areas/creative-arts/creative-arts-k-6-2024/overview



What will my child learn?

Through learning about Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts, your child will have opportunities to develop their imagination and creativity.

They will learn to explore the world with their senses, express themselves, collaborate and develop understandings about the creative arts practices.

Your child will learn how creative works communicate ideas and meaning about cultures across time and places.

They will learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' Cultural Practices.

How will my child benefit?

Learning in Creative Arts K-2 provides opportunities for your child to:

- develop vocabulary that supports them to discuss ideas, feelings and opinions about their own and others' creative works
- make body shapes and dance movements in response to music or other stimuli
- explore feelings, roles, characters and situations through dramatic play
- sing, chant, use body percussion, and tuned and untuned instruments to make music
- experiment with a variety of materials, tools and techniques to make artworks.

What can I do to help?

You can support your child at home by:

- observing and describing the movement, patterns and behaviours of things in nature and discuss how they relate to dance, drama, music and artworks
- playing various styles of music for them to explore ways to move and dance
- providing puppets, simple props and dress-up clothes to encourage dramatic play
- listening to lyrics in songs and having fun changing words and creating sound effects
- discussing ideas, feelings or opinions about artworks
- encouraging them to create their own chants, rhymes, songs and stories
- supporting them to play a musical instrument
- providing natural, upcycled and manufactured materials to make artworks
- providing tools to support the development of fine motor skills, such as scissors, brushes and pencils to make artworks
- encouraging them to present, display and perform their creative works
- attending or accessing performances, concerts, exhibitions and other arts events.

Communicating with our school

Black Springs Public School

All contact with our school is to be consistent with the School Community Charter respecting that our staff are primarily engaged with the teaching and caring of our students.

By phone



Urgent matters

Urgent matters require an action or response from staff on the same day, like:

- your student's attendance
- changes to arrangements that need to be communicated to your student
- your student's health and wellbeing.

Non-urgent matters

Including:

- requesting a meeting with our school staff
- requesting information about an upcoming school event
- providing brief information to the school
- raising a concern.

What you can expect

If necessary, you will need to leave a message with our office staff who will identify the best person to respond to your call, if needed. The response will happen by the end of the next school day.

Our school phone number is:

6335 8155

You are welcome to phone our school during school hours 8:40 am - 3:30 pm

By email



Our school email address is:

BlackSprin-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

You can email us about non-urgent matters that do not require a same day response, like:

- requesting a meeting with our school staff
- requesting information about an upcoming school event
- providing information to the school such as specialist reports
- raising a concern.

For matters that require an action or response from staff on the same day, please phone the school.

What you can expect

Emails will be:

- read within 3 school days of receipt
- acknowledged, if required
- assessed to decide what action is needed, including if a response is required
- monitored between Monday to Friday

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

- , during school terms only
- responded to by relevant staff only.

In person



How to contact our school

Parents are welcome to meet with our school staff.

- We prefer you phone or email a request, briefly explaining the issues you wish to discuss,
- or if the staff member is available at the end of the school day, have a very brief meeting. Please understand they may have other duties to attend to.

You are welcome to bring a support person or advocate, with prior notice, to be present at any meeting.

What you can expect

Our staff will:

- respond to your request within 3 school days
- discuss with you a mutually agreeable time to meet and agree on what will be discussed
- decide who is best to meet with you.

