

FORSTER PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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Principal's Report - Mrs Alison Jenner

As we move towards the end of Week 7 in Term 1, we are excited to share a variety of happenings and achievements within our school community!

NAPLAN

Our Year 3 and Year 5 students are currently participating in NAPLAN assessments, which began this week. These assessments are designed to measure students' skills in reading, writing, and numeracy, and provide valuable insights into their learning progress. We encourage parents to support their children during this time by reminding them to stay calm and confident, as this is a wonderful opportunity for them to demonstrate their skills and knowledge acquired throughout the year.

Healthy Harold and Life Education Van

We are thrilled to announce the arrival of Healthy Harold and the Life Education Van to our school this week! The Life Education program plays a crucial role in promoting health, well-being, and safe choices among our students. Through interactive sessions and engaging activities, students will learn about topics such as nutrition, physical activity, resilience, and making safe decisions. We anticipate that these sessions will empower our students to make informed choices that contribute to their overall well-being.

Congratulations to Our Swimmers!

A big congratulations to our talented swimmers who represented Forster Public School at the Manning PSSA Swimming Carnival last week! Their hard work and commitment to training truly paid off, as many students achieved personal bests. It was inspiring to see their sportsmanship and teamwork throughout the event. We are proud of each and every one of them for their dedication and enthusiasm in representing our school. We are excited for Layla, Harrison, Jack & Toby who qualified for the next level of competition.

Clean Up Australia Day

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our students and staff who participated in Clean Up Australia Day last week. The commitment shown by our students was commendable, as they worked together to clean up our school community. Their enthusiasm and dedication to keeping our environment clean and safe are truly inspiring. It's wonderful to see our students taking an active role in caring for our community and planet.

Student Code of Conduct

As part of our commitment to fostering a positive and respectful school environment, we want to remind families about the importance of our Student Code of Conduct. This code outlines the expectations for student behaviour, including respect for others, responsibility for actions, and the importance of following school rules. We encourage families to discuss this code with their children and help them understand what it means to be a respectful and responsible member of our school community. Your support in reinforcing these values at home plays a vital role in helping our students thrive.

DATES TO REMEMBER

12 - 24 Mar
NAPLAN
Yr 3 & Yr 5

12 - 21 Mar
Healthy Harold
Life Education Van

17 Mar
School Photo
Make up Day

18 Mar
5pm - Yr Camp -
"Medication"
Info Night

21 Mar
Harmony Day
Wear Orange

26 Mar
School Cross Country
Carnival

30 Apr - 2 May
Aussie Bush Camp
Year 5

1 Apr
5pm - Yr 5 Camp
"General"
Info Night



Uniform orders at
<https://fpsspandc-uniformshop.square.site/>



Canteen orders at
www.quickcliq.com.au

Safety . Respect . Personal Best

P&C AGM Update

We recently held our Parent and Citizen (P&C) Annual General Meeting, and we are pleased to announce our new office bearers for the year. Genna Dorahy is our new President, Phil Ferguson is the Vice President, Trudi Wassell will serve as the Secretary and Hayley Emerson will fill the position as Treasurer. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the outgoing P&C office bearers for their dedication and hard work in supporting our school. Their efforts have made a significant impact on our community.

To increase accessibility, we are trialling our next P&C meeting face to face but also online. This will provide an opportunity for more families to engage with the P&C and contribute to discussions about the school. Additionally, we are seeking volunteers to help with planned events, such as wrapping gifts for the Mother's Day Stall or selling tickets at our upcoming events. If you are interested in lending a hand, please fill in the note coming home if you can lend a hand at any time. Your support makes a significant difference!

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school activities. We are proud of the achievements and initiatives that our students are engaging in this term. We look forward to an exciting week ahead filled with learning and growth!

Alison



HARMONY DAY



Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity.

At Forster Public School we celebrate inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for all Australians, from the traditional owners of the land to those who have come from many countries around the world.

Harmony Day is next Friday 21 March and the ongoing theme is "everyone belongs". We are inviting all children to wear orange on this day and we will celebrate in a sea of orange. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians equally belong to this nation and enrich it.

Wear orange on Friday 21 March 2025.



Celebrating Australia's Cultural Diversity



School Community Charter

Collaborative. Respectful. Communication.

The following School Community Charter outlines the responsibilities of parents, carers, educators and school staff in NSW public schools to ensure our learning environments are collaborative, supportive and cohesive.

What our schools provide

NSW public schools work to create positive environments for students, staff and the entire school community that support student learning. We strive to ensure that every student is known, valued and cared for.

The best education happens when parents and schools work together.

The School Community Charter aligns with Our Plan for NSW Public Education.



Positive environments

It is important that our NSW public schools are positive environments and that parents and carers are kept informed of students' progress and school announcements.

Parents and carers can expect:

- To be welcomed into our schools to work in partnership to promote student learning.
- Communication from school staff will be timely, polite and informative.
- Professional relationships with school staff are based on transparency, honesty and mutual respect.
- To be treated fairly. Tolerance and understanding are promoted as we respect diversity.

Ensuring respectful learning environments for all members of NSW Public Schools communities.

We prioritise the wellbeing of all students and staff

We treat each other with respect

Unsafe behaviour is not acceptable in our schools

We work together with the school



We create collaborative learning environments

We all play our part

We work in partnership to promote student learning

Communicating with our schools

Our staff will find a time to talk to you when they can give you their full attention. Please remember that while our staff are in class or dealing with other matters, they may not be available to answer your questions immediately.

Our schools and communities will make sure that written communication is appropriate, fair and easy to read. We encourage you to use email and social media appropriately to connect with your school and stay up-to-date with up-coming events in the school community.

Our guide for parents, carers and students provides useful information about the complaints process: education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/rights-and-accountability/complaints-compliments-and-suggestions/guide-for-parents-carers-and-students.

Respectful communication is a right

In all workplaces people have the right to feel respected. Unacceptable and offensive behaviour has no place in our school communities.

To ensure the wellbeing of students, staff and the community in our schools, steps will be taken to address unacceptable behaviour. This may include restricting contact with the school community or, in more serious cases, referral to NSW Police.

Unacceptable behaviour may include but is not limited to:

- Aggressive or intimidating actions, such as violence, threatening gestures or physical proximity.
- Aggressive or intimidating language, including the use of obscenities, making sexist, racist or derogatory comments or using a rude tone.
- Treating members of the school community differently due to aspects such as their religion or disability.
- Inappropriate and time wasting communication.



Collaborative. Respectful. Communication.

School Community Charter

education.nsw.gov.au

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From the library

Mrs Jodie Lednor
Teacher Librarian

Term 1 is flying past, and we are settling in to the new school year very nicely in the library. During library sessions, Kindergarten students are exploring pets and book care, Year 1 and 2 students are looking at characters in stories, Year 3 and 4 students are checking out how plot, characters and setting work together to create a narrative, while Year 5 and 6 students are investigating narratives and genre. We also include themes from National weeks such as National Sea Week, where several classes made fabulous paper jellyfish while we researched marine animals.

Second half lunch break times in the library continue to be a popular time to visit the library and read, borrow, play games, do craft, colour or watch an ABC Kids program or two. The library is also open for Relax and Read Recess on Mondays and Tuesday, where we simply sit and read in our calm, quiet library environment. Just right for those warm days! It is also a great time for our Year 3-6 students to work towards completing the Premier's Reading Challenge, which opened on Monday 24 February 2025, and will close on Friday 22 August 2025.

Our Student Library Assistant program continues to also be popular, with 16 new members already this year, and several more students in the pipeline working towards their initial membership. Student Library Assistants donate their own time in our library, ensuring our library space is fun and safe for everyone to enjoy while sharing their knowledge and skills with other students. Thank you, amazing Student Library Assistants!

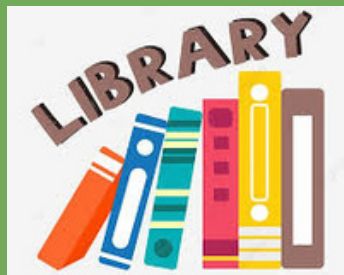
Issue 2 of Scholastic Book Club is out now, with orders due back by Wednesday 26 March 2025. Payments and orders can be made online via LOOP, while cash orders can be taken to the front office or delivered to the Book Club box in the library foyer, which is also where we display our new books, ready to be borrowed. Thank you for your continued support of Book Club, as all orders made through our school will earn rewards points which go towards new books for our library. It's a win for everyone!

SCHOLASTIC
Book Club LOOP
for Parents

Here are eight easy steps for ordering via LOOP:

- 1 Log in, or create a new account
- 2 Follow the Wizard to set up the child's profile
- 3 Click the ORDER tab, select the child's school & class
- 4 Add the child's first name and last initial
- 5 Enter the product item number from the Book Club catalogue
- 6 Apply any promotional codes that have been earned
- 7 Make a payment via credit card
- 8 Await order arrival at the child's school

SCHOLASTIC **BookClub**



Every
Book Club
LOOP order
earns a

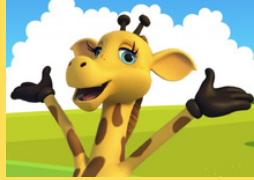
\$5 **PROMO CODE**
Included with order confirmation

**to spend on our
next Issue.**

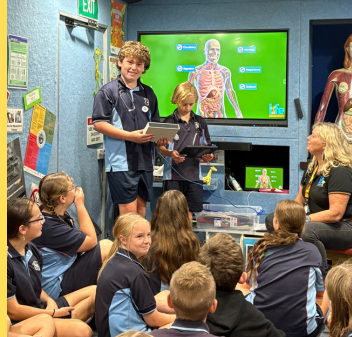
Conditions apply. LOOP orders only. Redeemable once per issue when you spend \$19.50.



Healthy Harold Life Ed Van



Students in **6/29** investigated the issues and impacts around vaping and smoking. Learning outcomes included the effects of nicotine on the body and brain.



K22 were so excited in the lead up to meeting the one and only Healthy Harold! We learnt all about the skills and importance of making friends and what makes a good friend. Before heading into the Healthy Harold van, we engaged in some pre learning where the students brainstormed how to be a good friend, ways we can make new friends and also why it's so important to have good friends surrounding us! Everyone was so enthusiastic towards participating and is already so keen for another visit.

As much as we all loved the activities with Healthy Harold, I think everyone's favourite moment was a cuddle with the giraffe himself!



Weeks 8 & 9 Positive Behaviour for Learning focus...

PAX Leaders are in the right place
at the right time

Hunter Swimming Carnival



We are so proud of our students who swam at the Hunter Swimming Championships in Newcastle on Monday. There were many fabulous results. Congratulations to Layla, Harrison, Jack and Toby who will compete at State level in Sydney in April.



CALLING ALL GREENTHUMBS

We love Parent/Grandparent
VOLUNTEERS

Our Food Garden needs your HELP
We are creating a Garden Club and
would love VOLUNTEERS to
help with the maintenance of our FOOD
GARDENS.

If you have a spare hour to help out once
a weekly/fortnight or even Monthly and
you have a GREENTHUMB we
Would love to hear from you.
Please contact our Garden Co-ordinator
Stefanie via the Office for more
information.



Yr 5 Aussie Bush Camp Parent Information Nights

1. Medication Information Night

- Date: Tuesday, 18 March
- Time: 5PM
- Location: School Library
- This session is specifically for students who require medication during the camp. We encourage all parents and carers of these students to attend.

2. General Camp Information Night

- Date: Tuesday, 1 April
- Time: 5PM
- Location: School Library
- This session will cover all other aspects of the camp experience, including activities, packing lists and logistics.



Kitchen/Garden News



We are excited once again to take our students from years 3 – 6 on a hands-on learning experience in our School Garden program.

Years 3 and 4 have started their gardening lessons, helping with getting the garden back in shape after the long summer break.

They practised safe skills with using the wheelbarrows and other garden tools and helped with weeding, pruning and raking to help tidy our food gardens.

We welcome parent/family members to VOLUNTEER in our Kitchen/Garden Program on a fortnightly basis with your child's class or to help in our Garden Club with regular visits to assist with garden maintenance.

For more information on volunteering in our wonderful Kitchen/Garden program please email our Kitchen/Garden co-ordinator Stefanie via the school office or forster-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au





Congratulations to our
PBL Award winners for
weeks 7 & 8.

Thank you for
upholding our school
values of
SAFETY
RESPECT
PERSONAL BEST

Fortnightly Focus:

**PAX Leaders
are in the right place
at the right time.**

PAX Leader

We are so excited to be
implementing PAX GBG at
our school. Our next Strategy
is PAX Leader. This is a
strategy your child's teacher
is using to guide children in
making positive choices and
avoiding problematic
behaviors..



PBL Awards

Term 1 - Weeks 7 & 8

Kindergarten (ESI)



Eddie K22



Archie K24



Holly K25



Gracie K23

Stage 1



Poppi 2/18



Indi 1/19



Brady 1/19



Hugo 1/19

Stage 2



Tahlia 3-4/4



Hazel 3-4/5



Vaida 3-4/5



Jonathan 3-4/5

Stage 3



Aiva 6/31



Ethan 6/31



Dusty 4-5/2



Cooper 5/1

Rural and regional school travel

Apply online for free school travel in rural and regional NSW. You only need to complete one form, even for journeys using more than one operator.

Who can apply?

To be eligible for free school travel, students may need to live a minimum distance from their school:

Years K-2 (Infants)

There is no minimum distance.

Years 3-6 (Primary)

More than 1.6km straight line distance or at least 2.3km walking.

Years 7-12 (Secondary)

More than 2.0km straight line distance or at least 2.9km walking.

Who needs to apply

You only need to apply if the student has never been approved for free school travel before. Students in a shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody) should submit a separate application for both addresses.

How to update your details

You need to update student details online if the student is changing their name, address, school or campus, or their Transport operator. You can update them at transportnsw.info/ssts-update

Frequently asked questions

Does the approved free travel include travel outside school hours?

Approved free school travel is only for travel to and from school. So for travel after hours, on weekends or during school holidays, students will need to buy a ticket.

What if there's no public transport in my area?

In areas where there is no public transport, you may be able to get a subsidy for driving the student to school. For details, visit transportnsw.info/school-students

How do I apply if the student needs to travel from two addresses because the parents live separately?

Each parent (or the student if aged 16 or over) needs to apply separately for each address. The same minimum distances apply.

How to apply for free travel for the first time

You can apply for free school travel for next year from the start of Term 4 this year.

Step 1

Once you have enrolled your child at the new school, apply online by giving your home address and telling us which bus company the student needs to travel with between home and school. You can apply online at transportnsw.info/school-students

Step 2

The school then confirms to us that your details are correct.

Step 3

We will then work on your application. You will get an email confirming if the student is approved for free travel. If so, we will tell your local bus company who may send a school travel pass (if needed) to your school or, in some cases, the bus company will contact you directly about travel arrangements.

A parent or guardian must apply for students aged 15 years and under. Students who are 16 years and over must apply for themselves.

What my card will look like



Want to know more?

For more information, visit transportnsw.info/school-students

For help in your language, call the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450.

Privacy

For information on how we handle personal information please refer to the Opal Privacy Policy at transportnsw.info/tickets-opal/opal-privacy-policy and the School Pass Terms transportnsw.info/school-pass-terms



Music Notes



Children from Year 3 to Year 6 were issued with their instrument from Week 4 and lessons on flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, recorder and keyboard have been happening for a month now. We have some enthusiastic new players that are doing well with learning how to produce their first notes and play their first tunes. They are all doing their best to practise at home too which is why they are all now able to play at least five notes. Blowing any wind instrument and being able to create a note is hard work so, like sports players, musicians need to build up their strength. Parents please help your child find a time and place where they can practise often at home. Even if they are short sessions before dinner or school, several times a week will make all the difference and make sure they are confident when they start to play as a band.

Zara, George, Xavier, Oliver and Ollie who were in the school band last year have begun rehearsals before school on Wednesdays at 8.00am. They are working on four new pieces for this term.

Parents; You are welcome to call or email me at school if you need to ask questions about band. I look forward to meeting some of you at beginner band practices which will start next term.

Yours in Music, Mrs Berry

Do you need Uniforms?
The P & C Uniform Shop is
open Tuesdays & Thursdays
from 8.30am - 9.30am
(Or order online via
our school website)



Bus safety for school students

How families can help



Safety information

Safety information



Getting to and from the bus stop

- Families are responsible for getting their child to and from the bus stop safely.
- Always supervise your child until they are at least 10 and hold their hand when walking to and from the bus stop or interchange and when crossing the road.
- When waiting for the bus, hold hands and wait as far back from the passing traffic as possible.

Getting off the bus

When travelling by bus, your child is most at risk in the minutes after they get off the bus.

Meet your child AT the bus stop or interchange after school. NEVER wait on the opposite side of the road and call them across. If you cannot meet your child, organise for a trusted adult to take your place.

Always wait until the bus has gone, then use a safe place to cross.

Talk with your child about what to do:

- if you are delayed and cannot meet them as usual
- if they catch the wrong bus
- if they get off the bus at the wrong bus stop.

Crossing the road

Together, choose the safest place to cross the road and talk about:

STOP! one step back from the kerb
LOOK! continuously both ways
LISTEN! for the sounds of approaching traffic
THINK! whether it is safe to cross

Keep checking as you cross the road.

40km/h when passing
bus flashing lights



Driving near buses

Bus lights flash on the front and back of a bus when the bus is picking up or setting down school children. A 40km/h speed limit applies when bus lights flash. The speed limit is for all traffic travelling in the same direction as the bus, whether the bus is stationary or moving.

Informal school bus stops

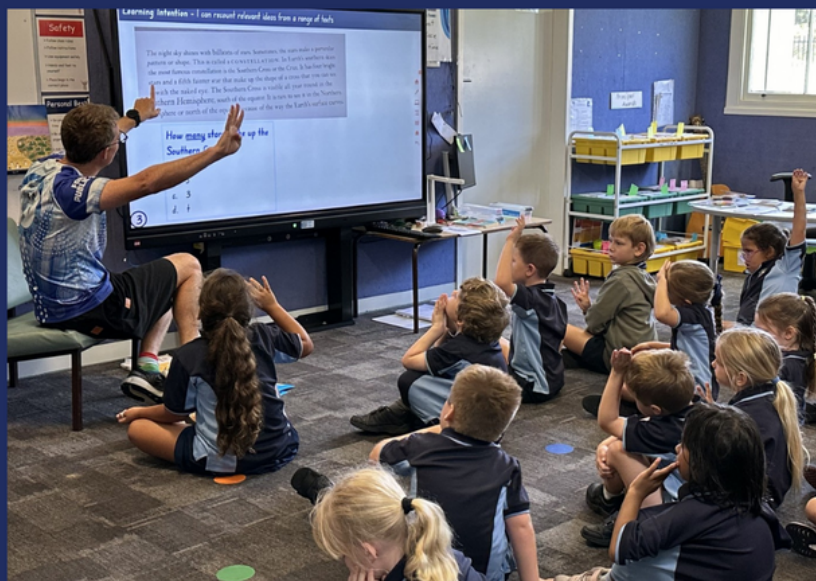
Informal bus stops are not sign posted and are usually found in rural areas. They may be at the front of a property or on the side of the road.

Drivers may find it difficult to see children at informal bus stops. Families should take special care when using these stops. Staying on the bus a bit longer to travel to another bus stop may reduce the need for your child to have to cross the road.

Refer to the Safety Information in this brochure and for more information on selecting or reviewing informal bus stops visit: <http://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/schools/informal-school-bus-stops.html>

Lives lost on NSW roads.

Our goal is zero.



We're here to support positive attendance habits.



Do you follow us on Facebook?

Get all the latest updates at
"Forster Public School"

Behaviour code for students

Information for students and parents or carers

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive, and responsive learning environments for everyone across a range of settings. We teach and model the inclusive and safe behaviours we value in our students.

In NSW public schools students are expected, to the best of their ability, to:

- show respect to other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
- follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- strive for the highest standards in learning
- act in a courteous and respectful way that makes all members of the school community feel valued, included and supported
- resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- meet the school's agreed uniform policy or dress code
- attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- respect all property
- be safe and not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, vapes, e-cigarettes or tobacco into our schools
- not bully, harass, intimidate, or discriminate against anyone in our schools.

Schools take action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high-quality teaching and learning.

All students have a right to:

- safety at school
- access and fully participate in their learning
- be treated with respect by other students, teachers and school staff
- express their views, set goals and self-advocate.

The principal and school staff, using their professional judgment, are best placed to maintain discipline and provide safe, supportive and responsive learning environments and apply an appropriate action when students are not meeting these expectations.

The department is responsible for the provision of a policy framework and resources such as legal issues bulletins, access to specialist advice, and professional learning to guide principals and their staff in exercising their professional judgment.

In this context, the NSW Government and the Department of Education will back the authority and judgment of principals and school staff at the local level.

Behaviour code for students: Student actions

Promoting the inclusion, learning, wellbeing, and safety of all students in NSW public schools is a high priority for the Department of Education.

We implement teaching and learning approaches across a range of settings to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour.

To meet the expectations set out above, students in NSW public schools, to the best of their ability, should adhere to the following principles.

Respect

- Treat one another with dignity.
- Communicate and behave courteously.
- Act and work cooperatively with other students, teachers, and school staff.
- Develop positive and respectful relationships.
- Value the interests, ability and culture of others.
- Respect the learning needs of other students.
- Dress appropriately by wearing the agreed school uniform or dress code.
- Take care with school property and the property of staff and other students.



education.nsw.gov.au

English 1

Safety

- Model and follow school and class rules and expectations around behaviour and conduct.
- Negotiate and resolve conflict.
- Be aware of and take responsibility for how their behaviour and actions impact others.
- Care for self and others.
- Be safe and help others to make safe choices that do not hurt themselves or others.

Engagement

- Arrive at school and class on time.
- Be prepared for every lesson.
- Actively participate in learning.
- Aspire and strive to achieve the highest standards of learning.

Telephone interpreter service

If you would like more information please call the school principal. If you need an interpreter to assist with your enquiry, please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language.

Tell the operator the phone number you want to call and the operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with the conversation. You will not be charged for this service.



Make up day
for
school
photos
is on
Monday
17 March.
There
are
photo
envelopes
available
at the
office
if
required.

JUST SAY
Cheese