

NEWSLETTER TERM 1 WEEK 2 2026

Relieving Principal: Helen King

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Welcome to 2026!

Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome to another year of great learning and great friendships at Griffith Public School. Your child's teacher will be reaching out to you in the coming weeks to introduce themselves. This is an opportunity to share any information they might need to better support your child. As always, you are welcome to make an appointment if a longer discussion is needed. Please contact the office or send in a note if you would like to book a time with your child's teacher.

We were very excited to welcome students back yesterday. We have a number of new families joining the GPS community this year – welcome! Our youngest students in kindergarten are settling into their new routines and building new friendships. Our Year 6 team have stepped up and are taking their responsibility as school leaders seriously, supporting younger students in the playground. We are certainly off to a great start!

I am delighted to continue relieving as Principal for Term1 whilst Mr Noffke remains in the Director role in the Deniliquin Network. I will be on leave for three weeks (Weeks 2-4) for a long-planned overseas family wedding. Mrs Kristy Lemon will be relieving during this time.

Helen King, Principal (Rel)

Best Start

The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment is a state-wide assessment that helps show teachers the literacy and numeracy skills of each student at the beginning of kindergarten. This helps teachers to plan lessons to best support the learning needs of every child.

It provides teachers with the opportunity to sit with a child one on one, focusing on what that child can do. The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment will take place at our school in Term 1 in weeks 4, 5 and 6. Additional information will be provided to all Kindergarten families in the coming weeks.

Time of school day

We have implemented our new start time of 9.05am to bring us into line with other schools. School will still finish at 3.05pm and break times will remain the same. Our Breakfast Club will continue to run before school. Supervision in the morning is available from 8.35am when teachers are on duty.

Uniform

Wearing school uniform every day is important. Wearing a school uniform helps students feel like they belong and are part of the school. It makes everyone equal because no one has to worry about what clothes to wear. Our summer uniform is as follows:

- Navy shorts or skirt
- Navy polo shirt
- Navy blue socks and black school shoes
- Broad brimmed navy-blue hat
- Brand-name clothing, leggings, baggy shorts etc. are not acceptable as school uniform.

Uniforms can be purchased at the school canteen during operating hours or online through the Quickcliq website.

We are a Cancer Council 'Sun Safe' school; therefore, broad brimmed school hats MUST be worn by children in Terms 1 and 4 in the playground.

Swimming Carnival

We have our annual School Swimming Carnival coming up! This will be held on Monday 23 February and is for all students in Years 3-6. This week, a permission note will be sent home via School Bytes for parents to give permission and pay the \$4 entry fee.

Parents/carers are welcome to come and support their children; the entry fee is \$1.50 per person. As this is a school event, students must stay with their house team during the event and will not be able to sit with family members in the spectator stands. This is a child protection measure.

The canteen at the swimming pool will be open for students and families to purchase treats. A pricelist will be published in next week's newsletter.

Griffith Public School - Term 1 2026						
Term 1	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
Week 2	2 Feb	3 Feb	4 Feb	5 Feb	6 Feb	7/8 Feb
Week 3	9 Feb	10 Feb P&C Meeting 5pm	11 Feb	12 Feb Stage 2 Tennis	13 Feb	14/15 Feb
Week 4	16 Feb	17 Feb	18 Feb	19 Feb	20 Feb	21/22 Feb
Week 5	23 Feb Swimming Carnival	24 Feb Student leaders to GCC	25 Feb	26 Feb	27 Feb	28/1 March

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 and carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards.

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

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by reassuring them 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 and 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.

NAPLAN Assessments will take place at school between 11th – 23rd March.

Translated documents are available at <https://nap.edu.au/naplan/for-parents-carers>

You can also get these documents from Mr Date, Mrs King or your child's teacher.

Resilience Project

We are excited and proud to announce that we are going to be implementing The Resilience Project's (TRP's) evidence-based whole school wellbeing program. Students will engage in weekly lessons to understand and strengthen their practice of Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness and Emotional Literacy. Staff will be participating in regular professional learning to allow them to implement this wellbeing program. Families will be invited to join in as well with snippets and links just for families to come.





A stronger wellbeing culture across a school community has positive benefits for learning, academic performance, engagement, relationships and behaviour. The Resilience Program is based on the evidence-based principles of Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness (GEM) and Emotional Literacy, and endeavours to equip students with lifelong wellbeing habits, educator resilience and empower families to support wellbeing at home.

NAPLAN

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy

Information for parents and carers

- All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in Australia do NAPLAN tests in March each year.
- NAPLAN checks students' skills in reading, writing and maths.
- The test questions are presented in Standard Australian English dialect.
- Students read some of the questions and listen to others with headphones.
- The tests will get easier or harder, depending on how students are going in the test.

			
Writing	Reading	Conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation)	Numeracy

- Students in Year 3 will do the Writing test using pencil and paper. Year 3 students will answer the other test questions on the computer.
- Students in Years 5, 7 and 9 will answer all their test questions on computers.
- Teachers will help students get ready for NAPLAN tests.
- Schools will get their students' results. The school will then give parents/carers a report showing their own child's results.
- Parents/carers can talk to the teacher about these results.
- NAPLAN shows how students are going all over Australia. People who work in schools, education authorities and governments use NAPLAN results. The results let them see which education programs are helping students to learn and where schools might need help.

Talk to your teacher if you have any questions about your child doing the tests.

For more information on NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au.

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT™

We're working with The Resilience Project

We're proud to be implementing TRP's evidence-based whole school wellbeing program. Students will engage in weekly lessons to understand and strengthen their practice of **Gratitude**, **Empathy**, **Mindfulness** and **Emotional Literacy**.

Gratitude



Gratitude involves recognising and expressing appreciation for the people, places and things in our lives. Practising gratitude allows us to pay attention to what we have, increasing feelings of happiness and leading to a more positive outlook on life.

Empathy



Empathy involves understanding others' feelings and perspectives and is practised through kindness, compassion and curiosity. Developing empathy fosters deeper connections, increases our likelihood of acting kindly, and helps us experience positive emotions.

Mindfulness



The practice of mindfulness is about an awareness of life as we are living it.

It allows us to be responsive to our experiences rather than being reactive, and to live with greater balance, presence and connection.

Emotional Literacy



Emotional Literacy involves learning to identify and label our emotions, as well as developing emotional regulation skills. When we can accurately name our feelings and emotions, it reduces the impact of uncomfortable emotions and enhances the effect of positive ones.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESILIENCE PROJECT, HEAD TO:



@theresilienceproject_



The Resilience Project



The Resilience Project



theresilienceproject.com.au

GPS 2026

EXECUTIVE TEAM



Mrs Helen King
Principal (Rel.)



Mrs Helen Lander
Early Stage 1 AP



Miss Sophie O'Keeffe
Stage 1 AP



Miss Lisa Sergi
Stage 2 AP



Miss Lauren Brain
Stage 3 AP



Mrs Jenny Workman
Support Class AP



Mrs Kristy Lemon
Learning & Support AP



Mrs Giulia Parisotto
Curriculum & Instruction AP



Mrs Natasha Long
Curriculum & Instruction AP Terms 2-4



Mrs Courtney Williams
AP

GPS 2026

ADMINISTRATION & SUPPORT TEAM



Mrs Michelle Lane
Administrative Manager



Mrs Ines Taprell
Administrative Officer



Mrs Monique Budd
Administrative Officer



Mrs Maria Mitchell
Administrative Officer



Miss Brooke Hardie
Administrative Officer



Mr Ray Schaefer
General Assistant



Mr Alan Draper
Senior Psychologist



Mrs Julia Hopp
School Counsellor



Mrs Nicole Myers
Aboriginal Education Officer



Mr Matenga Matenga
Pacific Island Education Officer