



## NEWSLETTER TERM 4 WEEK 2 2025

Relieving Principal: Helen King

Coolah Street, Griffith NSW 2680 T 6962 3199 F 6962 3451 E [griffith-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:griffith-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

### Welcome to Week 2!

Happy Diwali to the many in our community who celebrated the festival of Diwali over the weekend! Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is a vibrant and joyous celebration observed by millions around the world. It signifies the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. Diwali includes lighting oil lamps, decorating homes, sharing delicious sweets, and spending time with family and friends. To those who observe this event, we hope you were able to enjoy some special time together.

You may have noticed a lot more bee activity at present, as the flowers are blooming across our region. Around mid-October, this period typically aligns with the season known as "Gudian" or "Gadjang," for some of the Wiradjuri nation, which corresponds with the warmer spring to early summer period. This season is characterised by increasing temperatures, blooming plants, and a time when food sources start to become more abundant. The children have been very responsible staying away from areas sectioned off due to increased bee activity.

We welcomed our newest GPS students on Monday as they visited for orientation in the Stay and Play sessions. It is always exciting to see the anticipation and feel the energy our incoming students bring into the school.

Yesterday, we welcomed Mrs Courtney Williams who has joined us as an Assistant Principal. I know she will be embraced by our warm and welcoming community.

Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns or need assistance. Appointments can be made through the office.

Have a great week, everyone.

Helen King  
Principal (Rel)

### New shelter

During the holidays, our long-awaited shelter was put up. Students now have a shady, cool spot to sit and wait for collection in the afternoon. Students have been noticeably calmer and more settled, sitting in this area.



### Hats

All students are required to wear hats out in the playground this term. Last week, we gave students a crossover week, with lots of reminders. From this week, no hat means students stay in the shady areas of the school during play time. Thank you for working with us to keep your children safe. New hats are available for sale from the canteen for \$15.



### Morning supervision

Staff are on duty from 8.50am to supervise students in the playground. If students need to be at school earlier than this, they must sit down under the junior COLA or on the silver seats at the top COLA.

### Whole School Assembly

Our next assembly will be on **Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October (next week)**. We have these scheduled every fortnight until the end of the year. We welcome all families to join us at these assemblies to celebrate the achievements of our students. Please remember that if you are taking your child early, they must first return to the classroom with their teacher while their adult signs them out at the office.

### Dirty Dozen

Our gardening team have been hard at work this week harvesting broad beans. Team members were able to take home a bag or two of these delicious beans to share with their families. The harvest of spinach and carrots will not be far away. Shawn and Ms Croce have worked hard with this team to produce lots of fruit and vegetables. During the holidays, this garden area got a big tidy up and it is looking great!



### Interpreter Services

If you would like an interpreter to assist you in conversations with your child's teacher, please let us know. We can access interpreters at no cost to families or the school. This can be by telephone or on-line. Better communication will help us to work together more closely and will benefit your child's education and wellbeing.

### Attendance

We have many unexplained absences on the rolls. Responding to the SMS sent at 10.30am each day is greatly appreciated. We are required to record a reason for the absence within 7 days. If you miss the SMS, please send in a note or call through to the office.

### Kindergarten 2026

We welcomed our newest GPS students on Monday as they visited for orientation in the Stay and Play sessions. It is always exciting to see the wide-eyed wonder and feel the energy our incoming students bring into the school. We have four sessions remaining. Each week, children should bring a bag containing a hat, packed lunch, and water bottle, and must be accompanied to the Stepping Stones room by a responsible adult. Families and children can enter the school through the main Coolah Street entrance. At 12:00 pm, children can be collected at the car park exit on Murrumbidgee Avenue. We look forward to warmly welcoming our littlest students next Monday!

*Save the Date:* The Kindergarten Information Evening for parents and carers is on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 5pm. Please come along.

### Staff Profile – Mrs Courtney Williams

My name is Courtney Williams, and I am excited to join the team as part of this wonderful school community. I have been an Assistant Principal for the past three years, and a classroom teacher for 7 years. Throughout my career, I have been passionate about supporting both students and staff to create a positive and engaging learning environment.

Outside of school, I love spending quality time with my family, especially by the beach, where we enjoy the fresh air and beautiful surroundings. I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you and contributing to the continued growth and success of our school. Thank you for the warm welcome!





Griffith Public School - Term 4 2025						
2025 Term 4	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
Week 2	20 Oct Stay and Play Kinder 2026 9.30-12pm	21 Oct	22 Oct	23 Oct	24 Oct	25/26 Oct
Week 3	27 Oct Stay and Play Kinder 2026 9.30-12pm	28 Oct P&C meeting 5pm	29 Oct	30 Oct	31 Oct Whole school assembly 2pm Book Club due	1/2 Nov
Week 4	3 Nov Stay and Play Kinder 2026 9.30-12pm	4 Nov	5 Nov	6 Nov AECG meeting 2pm	7 Nov	8/9 Nov
Week 5	10 Nov Stay and Play Kinder 2026 9.30-12pm	11 Nov	12 Nov Kindergarten 2026 Information Night 5pm	13 Nov	14 Nov Whole school assembly 2pm	15/16 Nov

# Kindergarten



## 2026

### Stay and Play

9:30am-12pm

Monday 20th October  
Monday 27th October  
Monday 3rd November  
Monday 10th November  
Monday 17th November

Please ensure children arrive at the Stepping Stones room at 9:30 am with a responsible adult. Families can enter through the main Coolah St entrance. Children will be ready for pick-up at the Murrumbidgee Ave car park at 12 pm.

Children will need to bring a bag with a hat, packed lunch and a water bottle.

69623199  
griffith-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au




**GRIFFITH PUBLIC SCHOOL  
P&C MEETING**

**Tuesday 28th October at  
5pm**

**At Griffith Public School  
In the teachers staff lounge  
(enter via front office)**

**All new parents/carers  
encouraged to attend!**

# Cyber Safety Tips

October is Cyber Safety Month. Students K-6 will be learning about cyber safety and watching webinars in class based on online bullying, gaming, social media and finding a digital balance. Over the next 3 weeks, parent information will be provided to help you keep informed on cyber safety and how to help your child navigate the online world.

For more information and to join parent/carer based webinars please go to the following website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/education-and-training/cybermarvel/parents>

Stay safe online!



## Better conversations about gaming for families

When it comes to online gaming, there can be a disconnect between what children experience and what they hear adults saying. Bridging this gap will help children to have safer and more positive online experiences.

### Key points

Children are more likely to seek help when a parent or carer:

- encourages them to talk with them if they have issues
- gets involved by playing games with them or shows an interest by asking open questions about the game they're playing
- learns about their gaming interests and how it benefits them.

### How to have better conversations with children about gaming

#### See the benefits of gaming

**What kids hear you say:** 'I really don't like that game. Why don't you go find something better to do with your time?'

**What we know:** Children learn and grow through play. As a form of play, gaming offers a range of benefits. When children see their gaming is valued, they are more likely to share their experiences – both positive and negative.

**Better conversations sound like:** 'I can see you really enjoy that game. What do you like about it?'

1. Talk to them about the benefits they experience.
2. Get to know the games they are playing and help them find new games that match their motivations and skills.



### Research\* shows:

52%  
of children

27%  
of teens



want their parents or carers to play with them.



#### Connect through game play

**What kids hear you say:** 'Why don't you spend time with your family or friends instead of being glued to that computer game?'

**What we know:** Most online games provide opportunities to play with friends, find community and build social skills. Gaming can also be an opportunity for families to connect. Many children want to game with their parents or carers or would like them to game with them more. If you're not confident about gaming, or young people refuse to co-play, you can still connect by getting involved with the game they're playing.

**Better conversations sound like:** 'Who do you like to play with? Is there a game that we could play together? What character is your favourite?'

1. Get involved by watching or playing with them or show an interest by asking questions about the action or storyline in the game.
2. During gameplay, talk about the skills they are building and celebrate their achievements.

#### Choose the right amount of game play for your family

**What children hear:** 'All you ever do is play that game!'

**What we know:** Many parents worry about time online. The right amount will look different for every child and family. Focus on the quality of their play, as well as getting the right balance. What are they getting out of it? Are they getting enough time to sleep, be physically active or connect with friends offline?

**Better conversations sound like:** 'I found a game I think you would enjoy, but before we start, let's work out a plan together to make sure you fit everything in.'

1. Access game reviews on [Common Sense Media](#) to understand and select games with learning opportunities and values that best suit your child and family.
2. Work with them to find time for gaming. You might find [eSafety's Family Tech Agreements](#) helpful to create shared expectations.

\*Levelling up to stay safe: Young people's experiences navigating the joys and risks of online gaming. February 2024.

eSafetyCommissioner

eSafety.gov.au

### Manage risks and ensure safety

**What children hear:** "Don't talk to strangers in-game!"

**What we know:** Instead of focusing on strangers, it's important that children know the red flags of unsafe contact, including someone trying to be friendly too quickly, asking them to go on a different platform or private space, or doing something inappropriate or sexual.

For young children, put in place safeguards that restrict risky features (like communicating with people they don't know). As they grow, build their skills so they can play with others and not miss out on the social benefits. Most gaming experiences are positive and children are often helping others.

**Better conversations sound like:** 'I'm glad you're having fun with friends online. Let's talk about safe and unsafe behaviours in games. And remember, I'm always here to help, even if you feel like you've made a mistake.'

1. Encourage your child to talk to you if they experience an issue while they are gaming. Let them know you are there to support them.
2. Read [The eSafety Guide](#) to get a better understanding of risky features in games. These can be managed via parental or user controls.

### When to get help from counselling and support services

Even though games are often fun and beneficial, some kids may struggle with managing their gaming or may have an experience while gaming that negatively impacts them.

If you are worried about your child's mental health or wellbeing, there are services and professionals who can help. They can help you make changes in a safe way. You can read more about when to get help in the headspace resource titled, '[Understanding gaming – a guide for family and friends](#)'.

**Services that can provide support include:**

**Kids Helpline**

1800 55 1800

[Connect online](#)

5 to 25-year-olds. All issues. Confidential phone counselling available all day, every day. Online chat available 24/7, 365 days a year.

**headspace**

1800 650 890

[Connect online](#)

12 to 25-year-olds. All issues. Phone counselling and online chat available 9am to 1am AEST, every day.



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## Surrealist Art by 3/4F

3/4F have been inspired by the work of Salvador Dali, master of Surrealism, to create unusual, dream-like images of melting clocks.

**Good for kids**  
good for life



### Seasonal Fruit and Veg

Choosing seasonal fruit and veg for your kids lunchbox can help keep costs low. Look out for regular specials on in season produce.

Spring is here and summer is just around the corner! Why not try some of our favourite seasonal fruit and veg options below.

#### Spring

##### Vegetables:

Asparagus, avocados, beetroot, broccoli, brussel sprouts, carrots, cauliflower, cucumbers, eggplant, mushrooms, peas, pumpkins, spinach, squash.

##### Fruit:

Bananas, cherries, lychees, mangoes, mulberries, oranges, papaya, pineapple, watermelon, rockmelon.

#### Summer

##### Vegetables:

Asparagus, avocados, beans, beetroot, capsicums, carrots, celery, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, snow peas, squash, tomatoes, zucchinis, broccoli, cauliflower, spinach.

##### Fruit:

Apricots, bananas, berries, grapes, melon, watermelon, lychees, mangoes, passionfruit, cherries, nectarines, oranges, plums, peaches



Source: <https://www.swapit.net.au>



Hunter New England  
Local Health District

@HNELHD-GoodForKids@health.nsw.gov.au  
<https://goodforkids.nsw.gov.au>

Good for Kids acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land that we live and work on as the first people of this country, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

**Good for kids**  
good for life



### Summertime Snacks

Healthy, refreshing, and easy snacks are perfect for keeping kids energised during summer play.

Why not try these tasty summertime snack ideas:

- Make fruit skewers from slices of watermelon, berries, grapes, and pineapple
- Freeze grapes or mango for an easy grab-and-go snack
- Blend yogurt with fresh fruit and freeze in moulds to make smoothie popsicles
- Freeze plain milk poppers or reduced fat yoghurt pouches
- Add frozen berries to reduced fat yoghurt
- Veggie sticks with hummus
- Water with fresh frozen berries or lemon
- Frozen fresh juice ice blocks or cups
- Smoothies made from frozen fruit and milk



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**RIVERINA**  
DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY



**AFL**

The Riverina Development Academy is a program providing selected highly talented Junior Australian Rules players from all over the Riverina the opportunity to develop their football skills, training ethics and increasing their football knowledge through game sense training and improving their match day capability.

Under 15s (born 2010 + 2011)  
Under 17s (born 2008 + 2009)

BARELLAN SPORTSGROUND  
SATURDAY 9.15am-11am  
OCTOBER 25th  
NOVEMBER 1st, 8th

Cost \$75 and must be AFL registered

For more information contact  
Peter Green 0488 738 767

\*You will be contacted if you are a successful applicant\*

**RIVERINA**  
DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY



**NETBALL**

Welcoming girls from all areas and abilities, turning 9, 10 or 11 this year. The Riverina Development Academy is a program providing highly qualified coaching, for Junior Netballers from all over the Riverina the opportunity to develop basic skills and match play strategies.

BARELLAN SPORTSGROUND  
SATURDAY 9.30am-10.45am  
OCTOBER 25th  
NOVEMBER 1st, 8th

Cost \$75 if registered with Netball NSW

For more information contact  
Jodie Landy 0429 639 116  
or Carolyn Burgess 0466 555 820

\*limited spots, first in to guarantee a spot\*





Griffith City Council  
is working to make  
school zones safer  
for our children.

## NO APOLOGIES, NO EXCUSES

When it comes to child safety, Griffith City Council makes no apologies for fining drivers who break the law around schools and school zones. Right now, Council is closely monitoring parking around schools throughout the Griffith area.

If you are caught endangering a child in a school zone or parking illegally, you will be fined. Illegal parking in school zones puts child safety at risk.

**STOP!** one step back from the kerb.

**LOOK!** for traffic to your right left and right again.

**LISTEN!** for the sounds of approaching traffic.

**THINK!** whether it is safe to cross.

Young children can learn these safe pedestrian habits from you and continue them later on when they are old enough to travel alone.



## TAKE CARE

Children are small, hard to see, behave unpredictably and their little bodies are extremely fragile. You need to take extra care when driving and parking in and around school zones, even when you think there are no children around.

### NO PARKING

Drivers may stop in this zone to drop off or pick up passengers or goods for a **maximum** of two minutes.

The driver **MUST** remain in or within **three metres** of the vehicle at all times. The vehicle must not be left unattended. If times of operation are shown on the sign, the restriction only applies during the times shown. No Parking zones can also be used to drop off and pick up children.

**Penalty: \$235 Demerit Points: YES (2)**



### NO STOPPING

Stopping is **not** permitted at any time. If times of operation are shown on the sign, the restriction only applies during the times shown.

**Penalty: \$423 Demerit Points: YES (2)**



### BUS ZONES

Drivers **must not** stop within a bus zone at any time. If times of operation are shown on the sign, the restriction only applies during the times shown.

**Penalty: \$423 Demerit Points: YES (2)**



### STOPPING ON OR NEAR A CHILDREN'S CROSSING

A driver **must not** stop on a children's crossing or on the road within 20 metres before the crossing, and 10 metres after the crossing.

**Penalty: \$562 Demerit Points: YES (2)**



## ROAD SAFETY AROUND YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

- Drop off and pick up by car
- Make sure your children are in an appropriate child car seat that is fitted and used correctly
- Stick to the 40km/h speed limit as children are about
- Look for buses pulling out - watch for flashing lights
- Always park and turn legally around schools
- Avoid dangerous manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns
- Always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways
- Drop your children off and pick them up on the school side of the road
- Calling out to them from across the road is dangerous - they may run to you without checking traffic
- It's safest for children to get out of the car on the kerb side of the road to be away from passing traffic.
- Walking together to and from school
- Plan your trip to school so you use pedestrian crossings where possible.
- Always hold your child's hand. Children need your help to spot dangers such as vehicles coming out of driveways. They can also be easily distracted and wander into traffic.
- Drop off and pick up your child near the school gate and avoid calling them from across the road.
- Talk with your children about Stop, Look, Listen and Think every time they cross the road.



[www.griffith.nsw.gov.au](http://www.griffith.nsw.gov.au)



## PARKING AT GRIFFITH SCHOOLS

