



Welcome to Stage One

2025

PARENT INFORMATION HANDBOOK
NARRABRI PUBLIC SCHOOL

Welcome to Stage One at Narrabri Public School for 2025



Mrs Vanessa Charlton is the Assistant Principal who supports Infants. Mrs Charlton has worked in and around Narrabri for the last 25 years and has been an Assistant Principal for 7 years and has a special soft spot for working on our Infants team, as this has been her favourite stage to teach during her career. Mrs Charlton loves big earrings, singing and seeing little people smile!



Miss Smith has been a member of NPS for 5 years, and this year makes the move from Primary to Year 1 bringing with her exciting digital wiz skills. She has a passion for wildlife and exploring nature with her family. Miss Smith can't wait to play soccer and handball or any game with the Infants' students during play breaks.



Mrs Foster has been a member of our school for two years and this is her first year in Infants. She can't wait to share the teaching of our 1/2 class with Mrs Wallis this year. Mrs Foster likes reading stories to her class, developing their sound and language skills, and has a love of all things English. She is the mum of three little boys, lives on a farm and loves riding horses and motorbikes!



Mrs Wallis has been at NPS for 13 years and is excited to be teaching our 1/2 class with Mrs Foster. She loves to see children learn and grow and enjoys spending time with her three little boys at home. She prides herself on providing students with an organised and collaborative learning environment. Mrs Wallis is a caring, nurturing presence who has a passion for mathematics!



Miss Kelaher joined the Stage One team in 2019, after a number of years in Primary. Her room is a dynamic learning space, with flexible seating and creative experiences that are highly engaging. Students are encouraged to self-reflect and improve their knowledge using feedback related to their learning goals. Miss Kelaher has a love of teaching art and students in her class create wonderful masterpieces!

Stage One Learning and Support



Miss Buck, Miss Robina, Mrs Brown and Mrs Wilson are also important members of our Stage One team. They work with our students to improve their speech and their learning and ensure that our students are supported and encouraged to strive and achieve their personal best during literacy and numeracy groups.

The Release From Face To Face (RFF) and Learning Support Teachers are:



Mrs Charlton and Mrs Clifford

Mrs Charlton and Mrs Clifford will be teaching RFF in the stage 1 classrooms.

Mrs Ross

Mrs Ross has been a familiar face on the Stage 1 team for many years and is working in Learning and Support this year, with students across the school.



Mrs Charles will be teaching K/6C again this year. She has been a part of our NPS team for many years and has previously been working as part of Learning and Support and the Stage 2 team. Mrs Charles brings a wealth of knowledge and skills to her teaching, developing tailored learning experiences to ensure her students become successful in their learning. Students in K6C are supported by **Mrs Croaker**, who has been an essential member of our team for many years. She is a carer of everyone including all sorts of animals, from those on her farm to injured wildlife, Mrs Croaker nurtures them all.



What Does a Week in Stage One Look Like?

Every morning Stage One focuses on literacy concepts. Scheduled reading groups occur between 9:30 and 10:30, Tuesday to Friday, and many students work with specialist teachers during this time to target their area of need. Learning alphabetic sounds using the InitialLit program remains a primary focus in Stage One, and students progress up to identifying blends and digraphs; using these to read more complex words and texts. Strengthening our hands through fine motor tasks helps students develop foundation handwriting skills and we spend a lot of time building our students' capacity to write in grammatically correct sentences, paragraphs and whole texts. Throughout the year, Stage One also studies a number of types of text (or books) to learn about literary concepts. These are exciting opportunities to explore how authors write and practice these skills, teaching our students to become authors themselves.

In our middle session, we participate in numeracy groups where activities are designed to explicitly teach and reinforce place value, counting processes and basic calculation skills. Mathematical concepts are taught in class groups, where students are able to improve their understanding through hands-on tasks and using teacher feedback.

During our afternoon session, we learn about a Key Learning Area (KLA). This might be science, history or geography, personal development and health, or a creative arts subject. We also do daily physical education where we learn about fundamental movement skills like skip, run and side gallop.

<i>Extra Weekly Activities:</i>	
Monday	Morning K-6 Assembly
Tuesday	Sport
Wednesday	Infants Assembly 2:10 – 2:50pm (see school media for which weeks these occur, and which class is hosting)
Thursday	Scripture
Friday	Return homework and home readers

When does my child borrow from the Library?

- Stage One attend our school library with their class teachers. Please speak to your child's teacher to find out which day this occurs. The school library also offers the opportunity to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. Please contact the school on 6792 2246 if you would like to know more about this opportunity.

When will my child's class do assembly?

- Our Stage One classes will have a roster for Infants assemblies. This is a wonderful opportunity to see your children showcase their learning and their developing ability to present to a larger audience. Keep an eye on the newsletter and the app, as well as in your child's notes for when their turn is coming up.

What does my child do for news?

- At the beginning of each term, your child's teacher will send home an overview of the news topics for you to discuss with your child. They will also share which day is their class news day. It's a great chance to talk with your child and help them grow their confidence in presenting to other people.

When will my child do sport?

- Stage One does sport on a Tuesday during the afternoon session. To prepare for this they should wear our sports uniform of a polo top and shorts or a sports skirt. They should wear joggers and ensure they have their broad-brimmed hat with them to keep them sun-safe. It's also a great idea to pack their water bottle.

What is my child learning at school?

- In Stage One we focus a lot on blending and segmenting letter sounds and reinforcing concepts using our phonological awareness and phonemic knowledge using the InitialLit program.
 - Phonological awareness is where your child can rhyme words, clap syllables (chunks of words like 'ba-by' or 'hap-py'). They can recognise words with the same initial (starting) sound and will be able to identify how many words are in a sentence.
 - Phonemic knowledge is their ability to identify and use the phonemes (a, b, c...) in the English language to read and form words. There are 26 letters in our language, but there are actually 44 phonemes (or sounds). To be successful readers and spellers, it's important for children to learn all these sounds in a special sequence with lots of time and practice in blending them together to make words (th/i/n/k). Our students do daily work learning and reviewing their sounds and will have weekly homework that helps you share in their learning journey and celebrate their progress.
- We also focus on handwriting, writing sentences, enjoying texts (both imaginative, informative and persuasive) and learning as many words as we can, to build our students' vocabulary. Exploring words with your child and introducing new words and helping them understand how to use them is one of the most important parts of their learning journey.
- When learning in maths, Stage One is learning all about the place value of numbers and practising reading, counting, ordering and representing numbers that are 1-, 2- and eventually 3-digits. They will learn to use a number of strategies to perform addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Stage One learns to skip count by 2, 5 and 10, and represents halves, quarters and eighths, make patterns, share objects and explore problems using concrete materials that they can manipulate with their hands.
- They will also be learning about who they are, where they belong, what's in our community and how things in their world work in PDHPE, history, geography and science. A term overview will come home each term to help keep you up to date with what they are learning. This can also be found on our website.
- Creative Arts is visual arts, music, dance and drama. Music and art are taught each semester, with dance and drama being taught alternatively. Visual arts are used to help students explore and express their understanding of all other key learning areas, and it is always wonderful when students share their work with their families.

Will my child go on any excursions this year?

- We always hope to enrich our students' learning by looking for opportunities to learn in a different way. Our K-2 students usually enjoy a number of curriculum-based excursions and incursions throughout the year, exploring our local environment and the various businesses around town. We will send home information prior to each planned excursion or incursion.

How can I help my child at home?

- Celebrating our children's success is the best motivation you can give them to become a lifelong learner. When they get home ask, "What was the best thing you learnt today?"
- Reading texts will come home regularly and these should be a few levels lower than they are using in class. This is because this is just for practice and so they can gain confidence and pride in being able to show you how amazing a reader they are becoming. Reading an easy text at home is very beneficial to their reading development; we will tackle the tougher texts at their instructional level in class. Please remember to log these in their class home reading booklets.
- Always celebrate how hard they've worked, rather than how smart they are. This means they learn that hard work and persistence equal success and everyone can work hard to achieve their personal best.
- Share what you are reading with them; especially things like the newspaper. Ask them questions that make them think and encourage them to ask you questions too.
- Check their bag each day and help them complete any tasks that are sent home, as this helps them to secure their learning and make more progress in class.
- Get them to join in daily chores, helping you cook and clean as this helps them to feel a sense of responsibility and you will enjoy it too!

What are the Core Values and how are they reinforced at NPS?

- At NPS we have a positive, preventative approach to learning and value teaching students the tools to be 'Ready to Learn'. We have 5 Core Values that were decided by our school community. Our Core Values focus on Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Achievement and Inclusion.
- Expected behaviours are on display in all classrooms and high-traffic areas. These behaviours are taught, modelled and practised. They are also shared with our school community on our website and Facebook page where we celebrate our students' success. Expected behaviours are reinforced and rewarded (in class through management systems, and across the school with raffle tickets). School achievement is celebrated (with whole school rewards and celebrations).

NPS Merit System



What is the Merit System and how does it work?

- The Narrabri Public School community encourages and celebrates student participation and effort. Merit awards have been implemented to acknowledge such achievements both within and outside the classroom.
- Students earn NPS Merit Award Cards that contribute towards White Cards, Bronze and Silver Awards.
 - 5 NPS Merit Cards = 1st White Card
 - 10 NPS Merit Cards = 2nd White Card
 - 10 NPS Merit Cards = 3rd White Card
 - 10 NPS Merit Cards = Bronze Award and Celebration
 - 10 NPS Merit Cards = Silver Award and Badge

Our School Motto is “Savoir C’est Pouvoir” – “KNOWLEDGE IS POWER”

School Creed

This is our school
Let peace dwell here
Let our rooms be full of contentment
Let love abide here
Love of one another
Love of mankind
Love of life itself
Let us remember
That as many hands make a house
So many hearts make a school.

School Song

Narrabri North Western City
Jewel in the fertile plain;
Namoi ridges brown and willowy,
Waving fields of golden grain.
From the Nandewar’s, mighty Kaputar,
Calls aloud to children here,
We are lis’ning to the message
“Savoir C’est Pouvoir”, be it said loud and clear.
Reach the summit by our motto,
“Knowledge is power” be it said loud and clear.

BELL TIMES

Supervised morning play:	8:45am
School commences:	9.15am
Lunch	11.20 – 11.30am (Eating supervised by teacher)
Play 1	11:30-12pm
Play 2	1:30pm-2pm
School concludes:	3:15pm

Where do I drop my child off and pick them up each day?

- Stage One enter and exit the school using the main front gate, the Kindergarten gate or the back gate. When students arrive in the morning, you can walk them into the school, they sit under the Infants COLA until 8:45am, this is when the teacher is on supervision duty and playtime begins. You can meet them at 3:15pm at the COLA or at your chosen school gate.

What if they catch the bus?

- Stage One are monitored by staff members to walk to the school's bus stop. They sit in a designated place with infants students and Executive staff support them to catch the correct bus.

If things change during the day or I need to get a message to my child, how can I do this?

- It is always best to call the school and talk with our office staff. You can call on 6792 2246 and office staff will pass on your message immediately.
- You can also email the school email: narrabri-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

What if I would like to talk to my child's teacher?

- You can call or email the office staff and they will pass on the message. Your child's teacher will do their best to get back to you within the school day, but as they often have playground duties and meetings, your call may be returned the following day or by an Executive member. If the call is urgent, please indicate this to the office staff and they will ensure you receive a 'same day' call back.
- Parents are welcome to attend pre-arranged, booked meetings at our school.

What do I do if I need to order my child's lunch at the canteen?

- You can send their lunch order in their bag with them, or you can drop the order at the canteen.
- You can also order using the school canteen app. It is called "My School Connect" and can be downloaded from the App Store.
- Call the canteen directly to discuss any orders on 0497854676.

Communication with the school

We keep our families up to date with all current events via our School Bytes app, Facebook page and email. Newsletters and school permission notes will be emailed home unless paper notes have been requested at the front office.

Other Familiar Faces that can support you and your child



Mrs Allen – Principal



***Mrs Lindsay – Assistant
Principal Curriculum
Instruction (APCI)***



***Mrs Lettice –
Aboriginal Education
Officer***



***Mrs Wheeler – School
Administration Manager***



***Mrs Hall – School
Administration Officer***



Ms Marple – APCI and HPGE



***Mr Heffernan-
Assistant Principal
Stage 3***



***Mrs Allison –
Assistant Principal Stage 2***