

School Newsletter

~ safe and sensible, respectful, excellent learners ~



Issue 2

Term 1, Week 3

Thursday, 20 February 2025

<http://www.ropescross-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/>

Dates to Remember – Term 1

Friday, 21 February	RCPS Swimming Carnival
Friday, 7 March	SISA – This is a 3 x Weekly Cycle - Please check calendar for dates
Wednesday, 12 March to Monday, 24 March	Year 3 and Year 5 NAPLAN
Wednesday, 9 April to Thursday, 11 April	Year 6 Camp
Friday, 11 April	Students Last Day of Term 1

Principal's Message

On Monday we formed a sixth kindergarten class due to increased kindergarten enrolments. Thank you to parents for your understanding and support with this restructure.

In this newsletter we have provided you with our staff structure for 2025. On Friday a teacher profile and flyer will be distributed to students.

NAPLAN will take place for students in Year 3 and Year 5 this term. The testing window is between Wednesday, 12 to Monday, 24 March. A flyer with information for parents is included in this newsletter.

Once again, this year we will be offering Sports in Schools Australia to all students. A permission note will be issued next week. The school will cover the cost of this program.

Could I ask that when dropping off and picking up children in the morning and afternoon that you observe the road rules. I would also like to remind parents and carers to observe bus zone signage as our before and after school care providers are finding it difficult to safely drop off students in the morning due to cars being parked in the bus zone. Council rangers regularly patrol the school and fines apply.

B Davies
Principal

Morning Drop Off Times

I would like to remind parents and carers that our teachers are not on duty to supervise students until 8:30am. For the safety of your children, we are asking that parents do not drop off children prior to 8:30am.

If your children are booked into Camp Australia, you are required to walk them into the OOSH Hub and sign them in.

Thank you for assisting us keep your children safe.

Reminder

If you need to speak with your child's teacher please make contact through the front office on 02 9833 7615 or through the school email: ropescross-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

We understand there are important things that may need to be communicated to the classroom teacher, however in the mornings getting all classes off to their classrooms to start learning as promptly as possible means we are able to get the most out of each and every day for all students. Contacting the office to arrange a suitable time to speak with the classroom teacher allows them to be able to take the time needed to speak with you. Thank you for your understanding and support.



ROPES CROSSING PUBLIC SCHOOL

2025 School Executive Staff

Principal:
Miss Belinda Davies



Deputy Principal:
Ms Nerida Rylewski
(Supervising Year 5)



**Deputy Principal
(Relieving):**
Ms Kaylene Roney
(Supervising year 6)



Assistant Principal:
Miss Courtney Endean
Supervising Kindergarten



Assistant Principal:
Ms Deb Still
Supervising Year 1



Assistant Principal:
Miss Vanessa Tanti
Supervising Year 2



Assistant Principal:
Mrs Michelle Boughton
Supervising Year 3



Assistant Principal:
Mrs Bettina Lisson
Supervising Year 4



Assistant Principal:
Miss Chiara Porter
Curriculum & Instruction



Assistant Principal:
Mrs Leanne Dunn
Curriculum & Instruction



**School Administration
Manager:**
Mrs Deb Tipler



2025 Staff List

Principal

Miss Belinda Davies

Deputy Principal

Ms Nerida Rylewski (Year 5 Supervisor)

Ms Kaylene Roney (Year 6 Supervisor)

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

KC – Nikki Currey

KE – Courtney Endean (Kindergarten Supervisor)

KG – Vicki Garnon

KM – Carly Manuel (M,T,F)
Jess Pender (W,Th)

KN – Jasmine Novak

KO – Christine O'keefe

Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)

1A – Alissa Willmott

1L – Lucy Wildman (T,W)
Emma Anderson (M,Th,F)

1M – Amanda Mati

1S – Deb Still (Year 1 Supervisor)

1W – Belinda Wombey

2B – Carissa Baulman

2F – Nat Fornari

2R – Bailey Ryan

2T – Vanessa Tanti (Year 2 Supervisor)

Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)

3B – Michelle Boughton (Year 3 Supervisor)

3M - Milica Pomeroy

3N – Nico Banting

3P – Beth Poole

3/4H – Kat Hulm

4B – Krystyna Brett (M,T,W,Th)
Junior Isaia (F)

4L – Bettina Lisson (Year 4 Supervisor)

4S – Sandra Galea (M,T,W)
Shivana Singh (Th,F)

Stage 3 (Years 5 & 6)

5C – Tom Cettolin

5E – Hailey Errey

5H – Erin Hampton

5P – Ally Piec (M,T,W)
Emma Sadler (Th,F)

4/5A – Mahmooda Ahmad

6D – Ashley Diamante

6M – Jack McGill

6P – Dave Piec

6S – Madi Samuel

Library / RFF

Richard Adams (Library)

Brooke Vassallo (RFF 2 days)

Ruth John (RFF 3 days)

Shivana Singh (RFF 1 day)

Junior Isaia (RFF 1 day)

Emily Roddy (RFF 2 days)

Vimita Vikash (RFF 3 days)

Leeanne Croxen (RFF 2 days)

Kate Witherspoon (RFF 2 days)

Nicole Douglas (SISA 1 day)

Learning and Support Teachers

Marilyn St John (Learning & Support 4 days)

Jess Pender (Learning and Support 1 day)

Belinda Marques Wombey (EALD 3 days)

Judy Navidi (EALD 3 days)

Bree Castle (Learning & Support 2 days)

Kate Shakespeare (EALD 2 days)

Junior Isaia (EALD 3 days)

Sevim White (SGT 2 days)

Small Group Tuition

Sevim White (2 days)

Carly Manuel (1 day)

School Administration Manager (SAM)

Deb Tipler

School Administration Officers (SAO)

Shahn Aualiitia

Mel Jenkins

Jodie Smith

Jasmine Lealaiauloto (1 day)

Lauren Raffin (1 day)

Janine Lucas (1 day)

School Learning and Support Officers

Liz Jansen

Angela Cummins

Manju Roka

Charlie Anderson

Sam Kenny

Tania Endean

Jae Patu

Emma Felise

Counsellor

Hamish James

Aimee Tang

Corrine Wesche

General Assistant

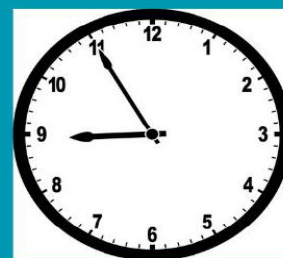
Peter Edwards

Spotless Site Manager

Garry Eversen



**Please be on
time**



**School starts at
8:55am**

***We're here to support
positive attendance habits.***



Attendance

Arriving on time to school everyday is important. We'd like to remind all our parents and families that **our school day begins at 9:00am**. We have a bell that rings at 8:55am to line up in their class lines and then our students make their way to classrooms at 9:00am ready to begin their day of learning. We know sometimes mornings can be busy and occasionally being late is unavoidable. However, where possible we'd love to see as many students as possible arriving by 8:55am everyday so they are able to start their day of learning on time with their class and peers. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

education.nsw.gov.au



Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss days per year

5 mins
per day



=

3 days

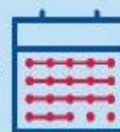


30 mins
per day



=

18 days



Patterns of lateness
can have a serious
impact on your child's
education.

education.nsw.gov.au

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](#).

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

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](#)

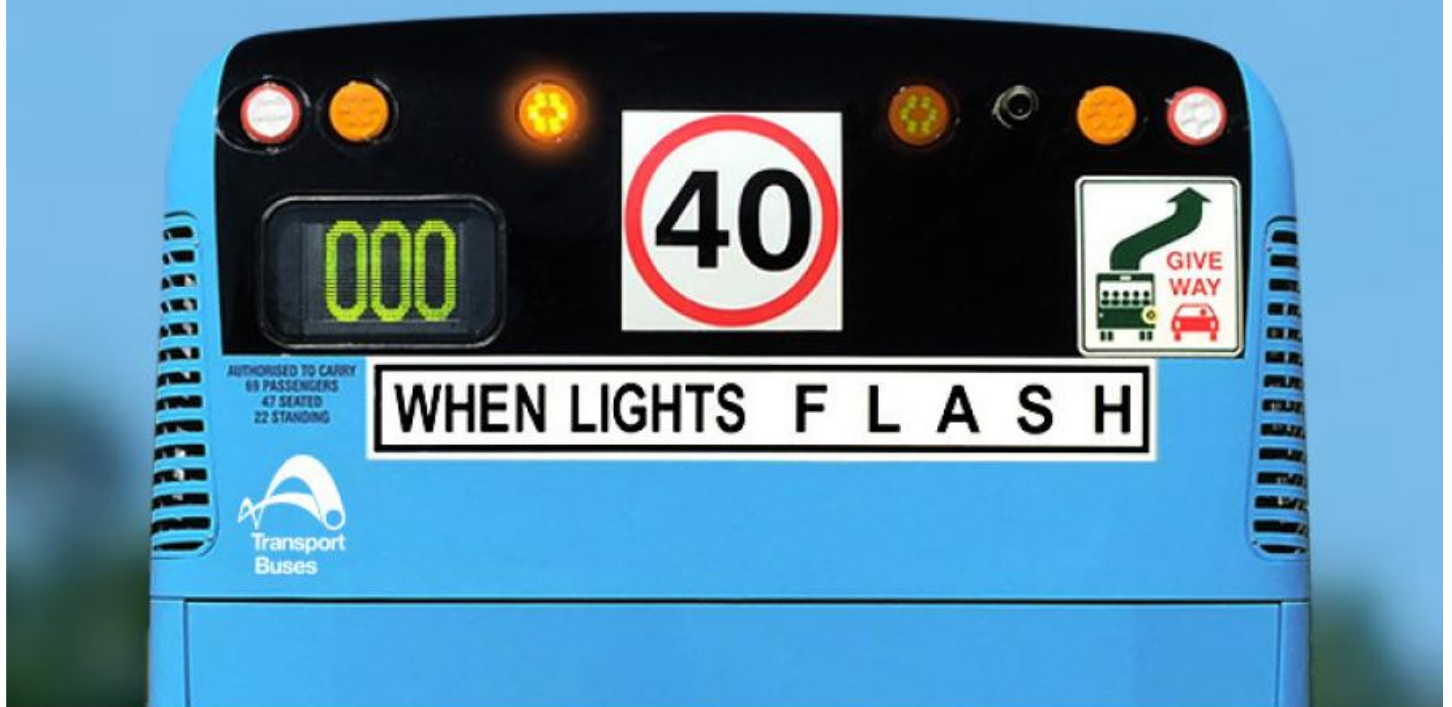
To learn how ACARA manages personal information for NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy](#)

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.

Road safety



Driving safely near school buses

There is a 40km/h speed limit for traffic passing a school bus that is setting down or picking up school children. This speed limit is for all traffic travelling in the same direction as the bus, whether the bus is stationary or moving.

Lights will flash on the front and back of the bus reminding drivers that there may be children crossing or about to cross the road.

Buses can't stop quickly because they are large and heavy vehicles. So, remember:

- Reduce speed to 40km/h when bus lights are flashing
- Give way to buses
- Watch out for children crossing
- Never park in or near a bus stop or bus zone.

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, which may make children difficult to see.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the families section on [safetytown.com.au](https://www.safetytown.com.au)

Road safety



Your guide to driving and parking safely near schools

The beginning and end of the school day are busy times for pedestrians and vehicles outside the school. That's why you need to take extra care in 40km/h school zones.

- Park safely and legally, even if it means walking further to the school gate. Parking signs are planned with children's safety in mind.
- Slow down to 40km/h in the school zone and stay aware of crossings.
- Always park and turn legally around the school.
- Never double park as it puts children at risk.
- Manoeuvres such as U-turns and three-point turns are dangerous.
- Never park in a bus zone or in the school bus bay.
- Make sure your children use the Safety Door (rear footpath side door) to get in and out of the car.
- At a supervised crossing, observe the directions of the school crossing supervisor.
- Model safe and considerate behaviour for your child – they will learn from you.

Remember to always give way to pedestrians particularly when entering and leaving driveways. Don't park across the school driveway or the entrance to the school car park. It's always a good idea to use the drop off and pick up area suggested by your school. This will help keep all children as safe as possible during the busiest times of the school day.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the families section on [safetytown.com.au](https://www.safetytown.com.au)

Road safety



Keeping safe around school crossings

For your child's safety, it's very important to ensure they use the school crossing.

At all crossings you must wait on the footpath, at least one step back from the edge of the road.

If there's a School Crossing Supervisor, wait until they have stopped the traffic and called you to cross.



If you are driving, you must not proceed until the School Crossing Supervisor's hand-held sign is no longer displayed, or until the crossing supervisor indicates that you may proceed through the crossing.

Children's crossings

Children's crossings are usually part-time crossings that operate before and after school hours. They can also operate at other times when children use the crossing for excursions or during break times. When 'Children Crossing' flags are displayed, you must stop at the white line if pedestrians are waiting to cross. Drivers must remain stationary until the crossing is clear of pedestrians.

For more information on keeping our kids safe around schools visit the families section on safetytown.com.au

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – TERM 1, 2025

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 January	27	28	29	30	31 Staff Development Day
2 February	3 Staff Development Day	4 Staff Development Day	5 Staff Development Day	6 All Students Return for Term 1	7
3	10	11	12	13	14
4	17	18	19	20	21 Swimming Carnival PSSA Trial Day
5	24	25	26	27	28
6 March	3	4	5	6	7 SISA – Stage 2 District Swimming
7	10	11	12 NAPLAN begins	13 NAPLAN	14 NAPLAN SISA – Kindy / Stage 3
8	17 NAPLAN	18 NAPLAN	19 NAPLAN	20 NAPLAN	21 NAPLAN SISA – Stage 1
9	24 NAPLAN Ends	25	26	27 Sydney West Swimming	28 SISA – Stage 2
10 April	31	1	2	3	4 SISA – Kindy / Stage 3
11	7	8	9 Year 6 Students Leave for Camp	10	11 SISA – Stage 1 Year 6 Students Return from Camp Last Day of Term

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – TERM 2, 2025

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 April	28 Staff Development Day	29 Staff Development Day	30 Students return for Term 2	1	2
2 May	5	6	7	8	9
3	12	13	14	15	16
4	19	20	21	22	23
5	26	27	28	29	30
6 June	2	3	4	5	6 District Cross Country
7	9	10	11	12	13
8	16	17	18	19	20
9	23	24	25	26 Sydney West Cross Country	27
10 July	30	1	2	3	4 Last Day of Term

Friday, 4 July 2025 – Last day for Term 2
Tuesday, 22 July 2025 – Students resume for Term 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – TERM 3, 2025

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 July	21 Staff Development Day	22 Students Return for Term 3	23	24	25
2 August	28	29	30 Athletics Carnival	31	1
3	4	5	6	7	8
4	11	12	13	14	15
5	18	19	20	21	22
6	25	26	27	28	29
7 September	1	2	3	4 District Athletics	5 District Athletics
8	8	9	10	11	12
9	15	16	17	18	19
10	22	23 Sydney West Athletics	24	25	26 Last Day of Term
Friday, 26 September 2025 – Last day for Term 3 Tuesday, 14 October 2025 – Students resume for Term 4					

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – TERM 4, 2025

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
October 1	13 Staff Development Day	14 Students Return for Term 4	15	16	17
2	20	21	22	23	24
3	27	28	29	30	31
4	3	4	5	6	7
5	10	11	12	13	14
6	17	18	19	20	21
7	24	25	26	27	28
8 December	1	2	3	4	5
9	8	9	10	11	12
10	15	16	17	18	19 Last Day of School for Students

Friday, 19 December 2025 – Last day for Term 4
Monday, 2 February 2026 – Students resume for Term 1