

Willmot Public School Newsletter

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2025 - Term 2 - Weeks 1 - 5

A message from Principal Mrs Bugeja

Welcome back to Term 2! I hope you all had a safe and happy school holiday. It's lovely to see our students smiling and ready to learn again.

Term 1 ended in such a wonderful way with some amazing events at school. Harmony Day was a special celebration of our school's different cultures. Thank you to our staff and P&C for organising engaging activities and to our families, for sharing tasty cultural share plates.

We also had a visit from the Australian Ballet Education Outreach program. Our ballet, circus and hip hop students had the opportunity to improve their skills and learn new routines before performing them in front of family and friends. We were also treated to a performance from the Australian Ballet. Thank you to the Australian Ballet Education Outreach program for this incredible experience.

To finish the term, we held our Easter Hat Parade. The creativity on display was fantastic and we loved seeing our students and staff get into the groove during the parade! Thank you to everyone who supported the P&C Easter raffle. There were many amazing prizes on offer!

Now we are ready for Term 2. There are many exciting things happening. On the recent statewide Staff Development Day, our dedicated team at Willmot Public School engaged in professional learning focused on High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE), a key priority in NSW public schools. Staff deepened their understanding of the four domains of potential—intellectual, creative, physical, and social-emotional—and built their capacity to identify students with high potential across these areas. Through this learning, we are better equipped to design inclusive, challenging, and differentiated learning experiences that support students to grow their talents and achieve their personal best.

Parent and teacher meetings will take place next week. These meetings are a great time to talk about how your child is going and how we can work together to support their learning. Please ensure that you book your spot either via the form that has been sent home or your School Bytes Parent Portal.

We are also proud to be launching our new school logo this term. The logo launch will be held on Wednesday, 21 May from 9:15am to 10:45am. Parents and carers are welcome to join us for a morning of celebration as we reveal the new logo. We can't wait to share this day with you all. We will also be joined by dignitaries and special guests. Please note that it does take time for the new logo to be moved to all items within a school, including the school uniform. We hope to have new uniforms available for purchase at the start of Term 3, however there will be a two-year transition period in which the old logo will still be accepted, so there's plenty of time to transition and

Important Dates

WEEK 1

Monday, 28 April Staff Development Day

Tuesday, 29 April Staff Development Day

Wednesday, 29 April Students return for Term 2

Friday, 1 MayANZAC Day Service

WEEK 2

Tuesday, 6 MayZone Cross Country

Wednesday, 7 May Debating Workshop Parent Teacher Interviews

Thursday, 8 MayFirst Foot Forward Incursion
Mother's Day Stall

Friday, 9 March Mother's Day at The Hub

WEEK 3

Thursday, 15 May Water Safety / CPR Training

Friday, 16 MarchSchool Assembly – Host: Kookaburras

WEEK 4

Wednesday, 21 May New WPS Logo Launch National Simultaneous Storytime

Thursday, 22 MayTouch Football Sessions

Friday, 23 March Flags on Friday

WEEK 5

All week
Vision Screening

Wednesday, 28 May Aboriginal Dance Group Excursion

Thursday, 22 May Touch Football Session

School Gates & Kiss and Drop Procedure

Our front and back gates open at 8:30 am and close at 2:55 pm each day. Playground supervision starts at 8:30 am. Students who arrive before this time wait at the gate. Kiss and Drop routines are in place. Children say goodbye to parents and carers at the school gate and proceed to the playground.

If your child is upset or needing support in the morning, you are welcome to take them to the playground and hand them over to staff member. We will make sure they get the support they need to get ready for learning.

Parents and carers are invited to come on site in the mornings to access the canteen or front office as usual.

The Kiss and Drop procedure will not run on Wednesdays when The Salvos are here running the community breakfast. During this time, we invite parents and carers to join us for a tasty breakfast.

Attendance

Please remember that our school day starts at 8:55am and finishes at 2:55pm. If your child arrives late or is required to leave early, or is absent from school, you are required to provide a reason to the school. This can be provided on an absence slip available at the front office, by phoning the office on 9628 0222 or by email to willmot-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au.



If your child is required to leave school early, only parents/carers and emergency contacts listed on the enrolment form can pick up the student. Anyone who is not listed, will not be permitted to leave with a student during school hours. Please see the front office for an Update Contact Details Form, should you need to add additional emergency contacts to your child's details. We appreciate all families who assist us in keeping our students safe.

DOE Mobile Phone Policy

In primary schools, the Department of Education has banned students from using mobile phones during school hours. Whilst we understand that some students may need to have a mobile phone on them on the way to and



from school, any mobile phone brought to school by a student MUST be handed to the office on their arrival and collected again when they leave. Failure of students to comply with this is a clear breach of Department of Education Policy.

P&C Update

Welcome back for Term 2!!

We are delighted to commence Term 2 following an exceptional Term 1 for the P&C. We are enthusiastic about our upcoming events and activities.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all families and businesses that supported our Harmony Day celebrations here at Willmot Public School. It was truly remarkable to witness our community unite to celebrate our diverse cultures. We would like to express our special appreciation to Palms Pacific for generously providing the cooked pig, which we shared with the community.

We look forward to hosting a fundraising event for the upcoming Federal elections, where the P&C will be organizing a BBQ fundraiser. If you are able to volunteer for this event, please contact our friendly P&C members to register your interest. We will also be running the Mother's Day stall this year, as well as a Mother's Day raffle, which promises to offer some outstanding prizes. We will also be holding a Bric-A-Brac this term. More information on this to come.

Please note that our next P&C meeting will be held on May 6th at 2pm in the Community Room. We were impressed by the excellent turnout at our previous meeting, and we encourage you to join us again to share your thoughts and ideas. We are really looking forward to another fantastic term. Please contact the P&C Board or rock up to a meeting to find out how you can get involved to help make our school better place for our students and community.

- Petesa Sharp, President

Are your details ? up to date?

Have your contact details changed?
Got a new mobile number? Moved address?
Make sure you advise our school to ensure that we can contact you about your child or to provide you with information including upcoming events, permission notes etc. Changes of detail forms are available at the front office or changes can be emailed to the school at willmot-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au.



Learn to juggle, hula hoop and more!

ANY QUESTIONS? ASK MS TAYLOR

Road Safety

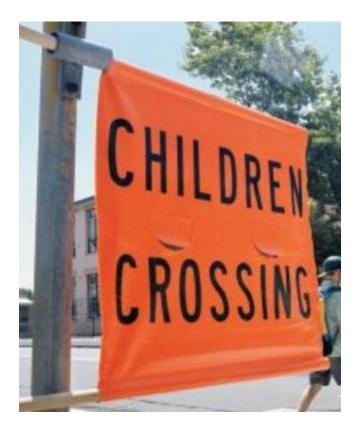
40km/h School Zones

40km/h school zones slow traffic on the roads around schools. This is to help protect children on their way to and from schools at the times and places where they are often in high numbers. Our 40km/h school zone operates between 8.00am and 9.30am in the morning and from 2.30pm until 4.00pm in the afternoon.



Children's Crossings

The beginning and end of the school day are busy times for pedestrians and drivers outside schools. Children's crossings are part-time crossings used before and after school. You must slow down and stop before the line when a pedestrian is on the crossing or waiting to cross. You must remain stopped until all pedestrians leave the crossing.



Upcoming Events

Staff Development Days

There will be two staff development days to start Term 2 – Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 April. There will be no supervision for students on these days.

Students return for Term 2

Students will return for Term 2 on Wednesday 30 April.

ANZAC Day Service

Willmot PS will be commemorating ANZAC Day on Friday, 2 May. Parents, carers and veteran kin are welcome to join us. Our Service will have special guests from RAAF Base Glenbrook, RAAF Base Richmond and the Army Band Sydney.



Zone Cross Country

Eligible students will be representing WPS at the Zone Cross Country at Whalan Reserve on Tuesday, 6 May. Permission notes have been sent home.

Debating Workshop

Several students from Years 5 and 6 will be heading to William Dean Public School on Wednesday 7 May for a workshop that covers debating skills. Through interactive activities and games, students will learn about rebuttals, argument development, definitions, and speakers' roles.

Parent / Teacher Meeting

We will be holding Parent / Teacher Interviews on Wednesday 7 May. This is a great opportunity to discuss your child's strengths and areas of development with their teacher. A booking form

will be sent home during Week 1 of Term 2. Bookings can also be made through the School Bytes Parent Portal.



Mother's Day Stall

Mother's Day Stall gifts will be on sale on Thursday 8 May. Students will go through the stall during the day with their class. The P&C will also be selling tickets for a Mother's Day raffle.





First Foot Forward Incursion

The First Foot Forward team from Western Sydney University will be out on site on Thursday 8 May to encourage students in Years 5 and 6 to see higher education and university studies in their future.

In these popular workshops, students are taught how to set learning goals and achieve them and engage in hands-on experiences that aligns to current teachings and the University.

An on-campus excursion to follow on from this experience is scheduled for later in the year. Information for this incursion has been sent home. Students need to be registered to participate in the excursion later in the year.

Mother's Day at The Hub

Our student leaders will be helping, and our choir will be performing at the Willmot Hub in celebration of Mother's Day. Permission notes have been sent home and are due back on Monday, 5 May.

Water Safety / CPR Training Workshop

All students will be participating in water safety / CPR training workshop on Thursday 15 May.

School Assemblies

School assemblies are held several times per term and are hosted by the school leaders or our classes. Parents and carers are welcome to come along and celebrate the achievements of students. Please note that parents and carer are only notified if their child is receiving a Bronze, Silver or Gold award but not for the Listen, Learn and Lead merit awards.

Assemblies start at 9:15am and are held on a Friday. The current school assembly schedule for the year is as follows. Please note that this is subject to change.

Term 2		
Week 3	16 May	Kookaburras
Week 6	6 June	Galahs
Week 9	27 June	Goannas
Term 3		
Week 2	1 Aug	Athletics Assembly: Butterflies & H/Captains
Week 6	29 Aug	Frogs
Week 9	19 Sept	Dingoes
Term 4		
Week 2	24 Oct	Wallabies
Week 5	14 Nov	Kangaroos

National Simultaneous Storytime

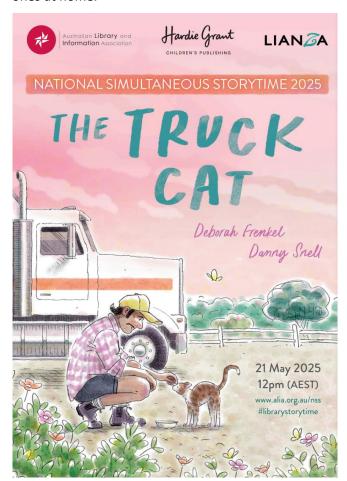
National Simultaneous Storytime is an important annual campaign that aims to encourage young children to read and enjoy books as well as teach them the value of literacy. Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously in libraries, preschools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around Australia, New Zealand and the world.

The book selected for 2025 is *The Truck Cat* written by Deborah Frenkel, illustrated by Danny Snell and published by Hardie Grant Children's Publishing.

The Truck Cat is a story about cats and humans, immigration and identity, and homes lost and found. Along with his human, Yacoub, Tinka travels roads wide and narrow, near and distant. But no matter how much they travel, home feels very far away – for both of them. When Tinka and Yacoub are unexpectedly separated, they are determined to find their way back to each other – and, in doing so, might find more than they expected ...

At 12pm on Wednesday, 21 May our students will join in with students across the country to listen in on a reading of The Truck Cat and will then participate in class activities to further celebrate the book.

A link to the live event will be posted on our Facebook page for families who wish to participate with young ones at home.



WPS New Logo Launch

On Wednesday, 21 May from 9:15am to 10:45am, we will be launching our new logo. Parents and carers are invited to join us for a morning of celebration.



Sporting Schools

Our students will be taking part in Touch Football this term, starting in Week 4. In this program students will develop fundamental skills like passing, receiving, and making touches along with understanding game rules, strategies, and teamwork. All lessons will involve a warm up, skill development and games sense activity which are modified to encourage maximum involvement and enjoyment for all participants. We know our students will have a ball learning this sport!

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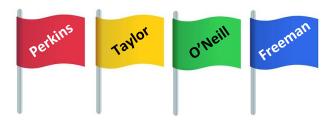
Flags on Fridays

Flags on Fridays will happen throughout the year which involves students meeting on certain weeks in their sports houses to do activities together. The aim of the initiative is to foster peer relationships outside of class groups, support staff in getting to know all our students and elevate the role of our House Captains. Over time, it is expected that these house groups will grow into wellbeing groups, aligning with Strategic Direction 2 in our Strategic Improvement Plan: Connect, Succeed, Thrive (a planned approach to wellbeing).

Flags on Friday dates for Term 2

Week 4 - Friday 23 May Week 7 - Friday 13 June Week 10 - Friday 4 July

Students can wear their house-coloured shirts to school on Flags on Friday days.



Vision Screening

Straight Sight will be back out to our school in Week 5 to offer free comprehensive visions assessments to our students. The Optometrist will be checking vision, health of the eye, and any need for glasses and the Orthoptists will check each student's eye posture, eye teaming, near and far focusing ability, 3D vision and colour vision. Evert student assessed who requires glasses will be given the option of choosing glasses from Straight Sight's free range. Results of testing will be emailed to parents. Consent forms will be sent out in Week 1 and need to be returned no later than Friday, 16 May 2025.

Aboriginal Dance Group Excursion

The Aboriginal Dance Group will be performing at Glenbrook RAAF Base on Wednesday, 28 May as part of their Reconciliation Week activities. Permission notes will be distributed closer to the event.

Important Future Events

National Sorry Day

National Sorry Day is a day to acknowledge the strength of Stolen Generations Survivors and reflect on how we can all play a part in the healing process for our people and nation. Our school will be commemorating this day with in-class activities with students.

National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) – 27 May to 3 June – is a time for all Australians to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. The National Reconciliation Week (NRW) 2025 theme, Bridging Now to Next, reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future. Bridging Now to Next calls on all Australians to step forward together, to look ahead and continue the push forward as past lessons guide us. Students will be participating in activities with their class to recognise National Reconciliation Week.



NSW Public Schools Survey

The NSW Public Schools Surveys will replace the Tell Them From Me Survey from 2025. This providing students in Years 3 to 6 with the opportunity to share what matters to them, whether it's feeling supported, engaged in learning or safe at school. The survey will take students 10 to 15 minutes to complete. By hearing directly from students, schools will gain an

understanding of what's working well and where there are opportunities for improvement. More information will be provided to families.

Kings Birthday Public Holiday

There is a public holiday on Monday, 9 June for the Kings Birthday. There will be no school for students on this day.

Synergy Rehearsal and Performance

Congratulations to our Ballet and Hip Hop dance groups who successfully auditioned for the Synergy Public Schools Dance Festival 2025. Ballet and Hip Hop students will have their rehearsal and Performance on Wednesday, 18 June with the performance starting at 5:30pm. More information, including permission notes will be released shortly.



School Athletics Carnival

The school athletics carnival will be held on Thursday, 19 June. We welcome parents and carers along to cheer on their child. More information will be provided closer to the event.

NAIDOC School Event

We will be celebrating NAIDOC Week on Thursday, 3 July. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. This year's National NAIDOC Week marks 50 years of the week-long celebrations, and the theme, The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy, celebrates achievements of the past and the bright future ahead. More information on how we will be celebrating NAIDOC Week will be provided closer to the event.



Last Day of Term 2

The last day of Term 2 is Friday, 4 July.

Year 5 & 6 Broken Bay Camp

Year 5 & 6 students will be heading to Broken Bay Sport and Recreation Centre from Wednesday 24 to Friday 26 September 2025.

Our school camp will deliver outstanding and dynamic learning that stimulates and motivates students while complementing the curriculum. Students take part in fun group challenges and activities that promote key learning through ROAR:

- Relationships developing skills in communication, problem solving, cooperation, negotiation, respect and care
- Outdoors nurturing an appreciation of the natural environment and sustainability
- Action reinforcing the importance of physical activity for wellbeing
- Resilience collaborating, negotiating and reflecting on difficult challenges to build courage and strength.

Permission notes and the \$50 deposit were due on Friday 11 April (last day of Term 1).



COME ALONG TO OUR FOOD PANTRY

- WEDNESDAYS 2:00PM - 2:55PM

Food Pantry was set up to help reduce food waste. Perfectly good fruit, vegetables and other produce and groceries are collected and are then distributed to our families and community for free via our Food Pantry. It has been great to see so many families and members of the Willmot community coming along. Reminders about Food Pantry are placed on our Facebook page weekly, however if you need more information about Food Pantry please contact Jess Martin, Community Liaison Officer, on 0461 425 193.





Before and After School Care at Willmot PS

A Blacktown Council Before and After School Care Service (OOSH) is located and operating on school grounds Monday to Friday from 6:45am to 8:30am in the morning and then from 2:55pm to 6:00pm in the afternoons.

This service is available to students enrolled at Willmot Public School and is located inside the school grounds.

Service provided:

- Kindergarten children are picked-up and dropped-off to their classroom in the before and after school care.
- Academic support is offered through 'homework help'
- Well balanced afternoon tea, including fruit, healthy snacks and yoghurts
- Sustainability is emphasised at the service, with children learning about responsibility through tending to the on-site vegetable and fruit garden.
- Children have the ability to extend their knowledge through fun and creative activities and experiences.

To enrol your child in before and after school care, go to https://www.kidsearlylearning.com.au/Our-centres/Kids-Early-Learning-Willmot-OSHC





Vacation Care at Willmot PS

The Kids' Early Learning Vacation Care program, run by Blacktown City Council, is available from 7am - 6pm on school grounds during school holidays. The fully approved, supervised vacation care runs indoor and outdoor programs with a focus on arts and crafts, literacy, numeracy, construction, science, nature, drama and team games.

You are encouraged to book as soon as possible to secure your preferred sessions. All online bookings close 48 hours before the requested day.

Find more information on how to enrol or book your vacation care session go to

https://www.kidsearlylearning.com.au/What-we-offer/Vacation-care



Past Events

Cross Country

Congratulations to all students who participated in our cross country. Your determination and perseverance was demonstrated and for those watching on, the support and chanting from the house groups was incredible! What spirit we have at WPS! A big congratulations to those students who have progressed to the Zone Cross Country.



Harmony Day

A big thank you to staff and our P&C for organising a wonderful and engaging Harmony Day. The dance groups from Chifley College Dunheved were amazing, our students loved all of the different activities and it was certainly a delicious trip around the world sampling foods from the many cultures that make up our school.



Easter Hat Parade

Our Easter Hat Parade is always such a great event! There was so much effort in this years' Easter Hats! Absolutely incredible! And thanks to the Easter Bunny for stopping by for some high fives and leaving behind some yummy chocolate easter eggs in our classrooms!



Australian Ballet Incursion

The Australian Ballet
Education and Outreach
Program worked with our
ballet, circus and hip hop
students to improve and
learn new skills. Our
students then performed
the dance routine they
learnt and were treated to
a performance from the
Australian Ballet.





Student Showcase

A Wonderful Term in the Kitchen Garden!

Last term, our students had a fantastic time in the Kitchen Garden! They loved exploring all parts of the garden, discovering the different plants that live there. Students worked hard helping our plants grow by watering, weeding, and caring for the garden beds. It was wonderful to see how much pride they took in looking after the garden. Through these hands-on lessons, students also learned how to maintain a healthy vegetable garden — an important skill they can use for life. It was a term full of growth, learning, and fun in our beautiful garden space!









World Frog Day
Did you know that March 20 is World Frog Day?

World Frog Day helps raise awareness about frogs and is a worldwide celebration of these amazing little creatures!

Our amazing little frogs had a ribbiting good day learning about frogs, reading about frogs, writing frog poems, doing frog maths, doing frog craft and eating some frog snacks! What an un-frog-getable day our frogs had!!

Assemblies

Congratulations to all our students who have been recognised at our school assemblies during Term 1! Keep up the good work!







School Bytes

Over 70% of our families have now registered with School Bytes! With more features being added, there's no better time to register for School Bytes, than now!

Benefits of the School Bytes Parent Portal



FINANCE

Make payments online (including part payments / payment plans) at a time that suits you.



PAYMENT HISTORY

All past payments can be viewed, and receipts can be downloaded.



School Bytes

ACTIVITIES

Provide consent for activities online and never needing to worry about notes not being received!



ATTENDANCE

Respond to attendance alerts, review your child's attendance percentage, and advise of planned leave.



View the school calendar. access event details and flyers allowing you to plan ahead with ease.



INTERVIEWS

Book a session for an upcoming parent / teacher meeting night, see what is available and book your spot in real time.



DOCUMENTS

All past Year 1 to Year 6 reports are accessible in Documents, along with our latest newsletters.



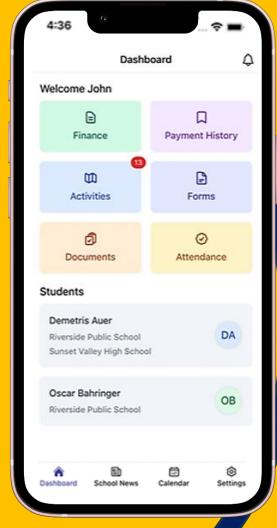
FORMS

Over the next few months, many of our forms will be digitised. making them more accessible to families.



ACADEMIC REPORTS

Whilst we will continue to print Academic Reports, all reports from 2024 onwards are available and downloadable in the **School Bytes Parent Portal.**





School Bytes Parent Portal and App

Willmot Public School uses School Bytes to assist with parent communication. School Bytes provides our school, and our families, with many benefits including:

- Instant messages to the Parent Portal (including push notifications) or via SMS message to your mobile
- Permission notes can be completed online, meaning no lost notes in school bags
- Payments for excursions and uniforms can be made online. You are also able to review past payments and Statements of Account. For some events, multiple part payments can be made allowing you to make payments when it best suits you.
- Student Absences can be explained via the Portal
- Changes to student details can done via the Portal
- View the school calendar to assist with planning for upcoming events
- Multiple email addresses per family can be setup to ensure no one misses out on important communications
- From 2024, student reports will be contained in the Portal. Printed copies will still be sent home, but parents can also access their child's report in School Bytes.
- From 2024, digital forms will be added to the Parent Portal so parents can access uniform order forms, canteen menus, change of detail forms along with many other forms.

School Bytes Parent Portal Set Up

To register for the School Bytes Parent Portal, the email you use to sign up will need to match the email address that we have on the system for you. If you are using a different email address, an SMS verification code will be sent to the mobile number that we have on record for you.

Set Up Process

1. Use the link or the QR code to register for the parent portal.

https://portal.schoolbytes.education



- 2. Click on 'Create a new account'.
- 3. Enter your details into the required fields and then select 'create account'

An email will be sent to the email address nominated so that you can verify your access to the email address. Once you have created your account, log in to the School Bytes parent portal.

You can now link your account to all students in schools that use the School Bytes platform. When linking a student, the system automatically matches the data you provide with details stored on the student's school profile.

4. Select 'Link other student' and search for Willmot public School in the 'School name' field. Continue entering the students details and select 'Search'.

If all student information matches with parent information according to the student's official enrolment stored at the school, the system will add the student to the parent account automatically.

Contine adding any additional children that you have enrolled at Willmot Public School.

School Bytes Parent App

The School Bytes Parent App can be downloaded on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

Apple App Store

https://apps.apple.com/us/app/school-bytes/id6463097826

Google Play

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=education.schoolbytes

The School Bytes Parent App can also be accessed through the Department of Education Parent App which we walso recommend parents download and use.

Further assistance

If you are unable to link a student to your account or if you have any questions about the Parent Portal, please contact our school on (02) 9628 0222.

READ EVERY DAY! READ MORE IN MAY! Take the 31-Day Challenge



National Simultaneous Storytime Colouring In

