

## Willmot Public School Newsletter

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2025 - Term 3 - Weeks 1 - 5

#### A message from Principal Mrs Bugeja

As we start a new term, I extend a warm welcome to students and families who have recently arrived at Willmot Public School and an enthusiastic welcome back to school to all Willmotians!

#### **Student Survey Results**

I am happy to share results from the recent NSW Public Schools Survey, where 75 of our students from Years 3 to 6 took part. This survey helps us understand how our students feel about their school experience and how we can improve.

I am proud to tell you that our school has done very well in several important areas:

- **Explicit Teaching**: 93% of our students said that their teachers use clear teaching methods. This helps them understand their lessons better and is part of our plan to support great teaching.
- High Expectations: Again, 93% of students feel that their teachers have high expectations for them. This encourages our students to do their best and reach their goals.
- Classroom Management: 91% of students reported that their classrooms are well-managed. This means our teachers set clear rules and create calm places for learning.
- Motivation and Engagement: We saw that 85% of students feel motivated and 88% feel engaged in their learning. This shows we are providing enjoyable and effective learning experiences.
- Sense of Belonging: A fantastic 93% of our students feel they belong at our school, which is a 7% increase from last year. This result validates the work we have been doing to lift our school identity, foster supportive relationships with students and prioritise student voice in our planning.

While these results are very positive, we know there is work to do. This year, 38% of students reported experiencing bullying behaviours. This is lower than the 48% in other similar schools and 40% across the state, which is a step in the right direction. We take bullying very seriously and are committed to improving our strategies to keep all students safe and supported. About 69% of students strongly agree that our school deals fairly with bullying reports. We will continue to work with our student leaders to gather more feedback and make our approaches even better.

These positive results connect to our focus on professional learning for teachers and the goals in our school improvement plan. We are dedicated to making sure our students succeed and feel valued in their learning environment.

#### **Important Dates**

#### WEEK 1

Monday, 22 July Staff Development Day

Tuesday, 23 July Students return for Term 3

#### WEEK 2

Wednesday, 30 July 101 Days of Kindy

Thursday, 31 July
Wizards Transition Program

#### Friday, 1 August

School Assembly & Athletics Presentation - Host: Butterflies and House Captains

#### **WEEK 3 – EDUCATION WEEK**

Tuesday, 5 August Westfield CAPA Performance

Thursday, 7 August
Wizards Transition Program

Friday, 8 August Flags on Friday

#### WEEK 4 – BULLYING NO WAY WEEK Swim School all week

**Thursday, 14 August**Wizards Transition Program
Deadly Science Incursion

Friday, 15 August Pyjama Day

#### **WEEK 5 – BOOK WEEK**

**Tuesday, 19 August**First Foot Forward On-Campus Excursion

Wednesday, 20 August
Book & Education Week Celebration

Thursday, 7 August
Wizards Transition Program
Food Waste Incursion Yrs 3-6

Enrolling Now for Kindy 2026!

#### Feedback on 'Kiss n Drop'

I want to thank parents and carers for sharing their thoughts about the new "Kiss n Drop" procedures we introduced this year. Your feedback is very important in helping us create a positive and easy school experience for everyone.

We received 12 responses to our survey, and I'm pleased to see that 66% said they liked the new routine. Many parents said their children have settled in well, enjoying the quicker drop-off and pick-up times. It's great to hear that "Kiss n Drop" has helped make our school calmer at the beginning and end of the day. Most families feel comfortable coming to the canteen and office in the mornings. 25% were unsure about this, and we would like to reassure you that you are welcome to access the canteen and office before school when you need to.

We also want to acknowledge some concerns that were raised. Some parents mentioned they miss the informal chats with teachers that used to happen during drop-off and pick-up. In response, teachers from each stage have been scheduled to be available to have a chat on Wednesday mornings at breakfast. We appreciate the feedback and will continue to work on ways to increase opportunities for communication. Your suggestions are always welcome.

#### Connecting you with learning

In the past, we trialled sending text messages to share information about your child's learning. You might remember receiving messages about new words, maths topics, or science lessons. Your feedback showed us that you would like to get these messages regularly.

This term, we will send you a text message every week. We will share information about our weekly PDHPE program, which teaches kids about important character strengths for learning. We encourage you to talk about these messages with your children. Character strengths like grit, perseverance, and curiosity are very important for learning and can help students do well in school and in life.

#### **NAIDOC Celebrations**

At the end of Term 2, students and staff enjoyed a day of cultural learning and celebration to acknowledge NAIDOC week. The children engaged in a range of cultural experiences, including dance, sand art, weaving and traditional games led by visiting artists and school staff. Our P&C provided a yummy sausage sizzle lunch, and we thank them for their time and generosity.

The 2025 NAIDIC theme is The Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy. In a recent letter sent to the school praising students for their powerful poetry about The Stolen Generation, Uncle Dennis Dunn wrote:

"I am writing this to firstly praise the students in years 3 to 6 .... who put this book together... As I read through the book it reawakened many memories, but most of all it showed me their insight and compassion... I believe and see that the students who put this book together will be our futures, our next generations of leaders continuing to make us former Stolen Generation proud and knowing that what happened to us will not happen to our next generations that come".

Uncle Dennis' words capture the way our Listen, Learn and Lead motto is put into action, as we witness our next generation of leaders emerging with strength, vision, and a commitment to creating a better future for all.























#### **Regular School Attendance**

For all students to achieve their very best in learning, and stay on track with their progress, regular school attendance must be a priority. As a learning community, we all need to work together to improve our school's attendance rate, so that all students attend school at least 90% of the time. Please speak with your child's teacher if you are needing support for your child to attend school on time every day.

Please remember that our school day starts at 8:55am and finishes at 2:55pm. On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include being sick, unavoidable medical



appointments, attending recognised religious holidays or exceptional or urgent family circumstances (e.g. attending a funeral).

Following a partial or full day absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence.

#### Did you know that

- being 30 minutes late each day can lead to your child missing up to 20 school days each year?
- missing one day each fortnight is equivalent to missing a month of school each year
- missing one day per week is equivalent to missing 8 weeks (or almost a term) of school each year.

#### **Road Safety**

Welcome back for another term. Please remember school zones are now back in operation from 8am to 9:30am and from 2:30pm to 4pm. The 40km/h school zone slows traffic around schools and must be observed, even if school children cannot be seen.

Slow down and look out for our kids.



#### **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.

#### **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 3

Week 3 - Friday 8 August Week 7 - Friday 5 September

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





### Wednesday Morning Breakfast at Willmot Public School

The Salvation Army are here every Wednesday morning providing breakfast to our students from 8:30am. Parents and carers are welcome to join us.



#### **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 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		

#### 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. Only 16 weeks away!

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:

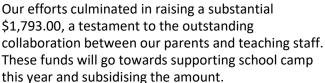
- Relationships developing skills in communication, problem solving, cooperation, negotiation, respect and care
- Outdoors nurturing an appreciation of the natural environment and sustainability
- Action reinforcing the importance of physical activity for wellbeing
- Resilience collaborating, negotiating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

We would like to remind families who have given permission for their child to attend camp, to please make regular payments to ensure the fees are paid by the due date.



#### **P&C Update**

Welcome back everyone to a new term at Willmot Public School. The P&C extend our sincere gratitude to all individuals who assisted with the Bunnings BBQ last term, which yielded an impressive turnout.



We also operating a Bric-A-Brac stall on the first Wednesday of each month, where you can join your child/children for a sausage while browsing our selection of clothing and shoes, all priced at \$5 or less

Father's Day is right around the corner and we are looking for a few good parents who can help man the stalls. Anyone interested please speak to Tessa or Dave.

Want to know how you can get involved to help support our school? We invite you to share your fundraising ideas and encourage you to participate in our monthly meetings, held on the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on 5th of August in the Community Room at 2pm. Whether you have a lot of time or a little time to contribute, there is an opportunity for everyone. Please speak to Petesa or Dave if you cannot make the meeting but would still like to be involved.

Kind regards Petesa Sharp

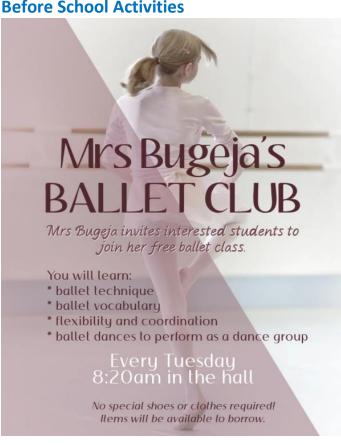
## FOR 2026

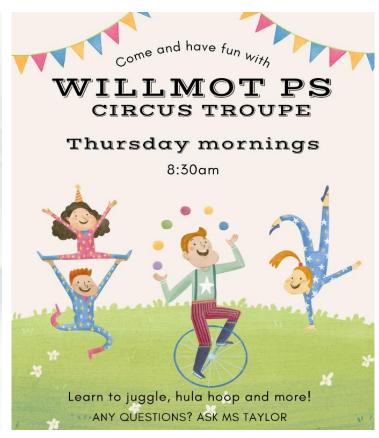
Willmot Public School is a dynamic, responsive and student focused school. Visible teaching and learning is our central core. Our quality educational programs nurture and enhance student and teacher talents, interests, and abilities. Students and teachers are committed learners with the capacity and confidence to succeed in the twenty-first century. Come and join our school! ENROL NOW!

For general enquiries, please contact us on (02) 9628 0222.



#### **Before School Activities**





#### **Upcoming Events**

#### 101 Days of Kindy

On Wednesday 30 July, our Kindy students will be celebrating 101 days of Kindy! This will involve in class activities and celebrating with their classmates.



#### **Public Education Week**

Public Education Week, previously known as Education Week, is a state-wide annual event, held by the NSW Department of Education from 4-8 August 2025 (Term 3, Week 3), to celebrate NSW public education. Public Education Week celebrates the achievements of local schools, their students, teachers, and the value of public education to communities across NSW. This year's theme is: Ignite your potential. This is a time to come together and celebrate the strength, diversity and achievements of NSW public education — where every student is supported to learn, grow and thrive.

We will be celebrating Public Education week via our Westfield Performance and Book Week events. It's a great chance to see firsthand how we are igniting potential in every child — through creative



classrooms, dedicated staff and inclusive school cultures. See more information about these events below.

#### **Education Week – Westfield CAPA Performance**

Willmot Public School students will be performing at Westfield Mount Druitt to celebrate Education Week and will be showcasing their hard work and creativity with the wider community. Permission notes for this event have been sent home. Parents are welcome to watch the performance, currently scheduled to start at 1:40pm, at the centre stage at Westfield Mount Druitt.

#### Pyjama Day – Be Comfy, Be You

During week 4, students will be participating in a range of classroom activities that have been designed by our student leaders, alongside our teachers, to acknowledge Bullying No Way Week. We will be finishing the week with a Pyjama Day on Friday 15 August as a reminder for everyone to be comfy and be you. More information about our Bullying No Way activities will be sent home to families.





#### Office Closure - Week 4

Due to our Admin team participating in a 2-day conference in Week 4, our front office will be closed from Monday 11 to Tuesday 12 August.

This means that several services, including uniform purchasing and making other payments via the front office etc, will not be available. We will have other school staff covering essential front office duties only like administering medication, sick bay and first aid, answering phones, opening gates etc.

We fully support our amazing front office team accessing professional development opportunities and apologise for any inconvenience that their absence may cause.

#### Swim School Program

Arrangements have been made to include a learn to swim program in our school curriculum during week 4 of Term 3. The Department of Education and Training School Swimming Scheme is an intensive learn to swim program, which develops water confidence and provides students with basic skills in water safety and survival.



Students who have not reached a satisfactory standard of water safety and survival skills and are unable to swim 25m confidently unaided in deep water, are eligible to participate in the School Swimming Scheme.

The Scheme focuses on non-swimmers in Year 2 and 3 but provides for weak swimmers in Years 3-6.

This event is now full.

We would like to remind families who have given permission for their child to attend swim school, to please make regular payments to ensure the fees are paid by the due date

#### **Deadly Science Incursion**

In recognition of Science Week, students in Years 5 and 6 will be participating in the Deadly Science incursion – Decoding the Universe. Students will delve into the mysteries of the Universe by exploring the fundamental languages of nature, including mathematics and the groundbreaking field of quantum science.

#### First Foot Forward On-Campus Excursion

Year 5 and 6 students are invited to attend the First Foot Forward program at Western Sydney University on Tuesday, 19 August. The day provides insight into the world of higher education and how tertiary education may be an option for their future. The students will be involved in three interactive workshops exploring various programs throughout the day. The event is completely free for students and compliments the incursion day from earlier this year. Permission notes for this event will be sent home shortly.



#### **Book Week & Education Week Celebrations**

We will be celebrating Book Week and Education Week on Wednesday 20 August. Come and join us in the hall, before heading off and enjoying craft time in classrooms followed by our book character parade. Stay for a picnic recess and join in on our outdoor activities. Picnic packs from the canteen will be available to pre-purchase. Order forms will be sent home to all families closer to the event. Parents can then take their children through our book fair. All students will then have the opportunity to go through the book stall with their class during the remainder of the day.



#### **Lunches Unwrapped Incursion**



Students in Years 3-6 will be participating in a free incursion, run by Environmentors part of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, that aims to raise awareness of waste management actions and the implications of waste &

littering on the environment and communities. Students will develop an understanding of how waste is sorted and where it ends up, and identify the best practices in packing lunches, how to avoid waste and which bin is best to use when it cannot be avoided.

#### **Important Future Events**

#### **Zone Athletics Carnival**

Eligible students will be representing Willmot Public School at the Zone Athletics Carnival to be held on Tuesday 27 August at Blacktown International Sports Park. Permission notes will be released shortly.

#### Sporting Schools - Hockey

Our students will be taking part in Hockey this term, starting in Week 6. In this program students will develop fundamental skills like passing, receiving, improve balance, agility, and co-ordination 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!

#### Father's Day Stall

Our Father's Day stall will be held on Thursday 4 September and will be run by our wonderful P&C.

#### **Talent Show**

Willmot PS will once again be showcasing the talent of our students in our Willmot's Got Talent show.



#### **Dental Visit**

The Western Sydney Local Health District Primary School Mobile Dental program will be out with their dental van in Week 10 to provide dental checks for our students. Consent forms for this will be issued later in the term.



#### 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 <a href="https://www.kidsearlylearning.com.au/Our-centres/Kids-Early-Learning-Willmot-OSHC">https://www.kidsearlylearning.com.au/Our-centres/Kids-Early-Learning-Willmot-OSHC</a>





#### **Vacation Care**

The Kids' Early Learning Vacation Care program, run by Blacktown City Council, is available from 7am - 6pm on during school holidays at various locations.

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-weoffer/Vacation-care



## Willmot Wizards Transition to School Program

Do you have a child starting school in 2026?

**All Welcome!** 

Every Thursday in Term 3 and 4, starting 31 July from 9am to 11am at the Willmot Community Hub!

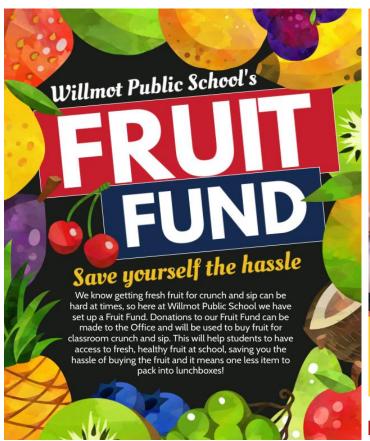














#### COME ALONG TO OUR FOOD PANTRY!

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. Additionally, Jess is looking for parent volunteers to assist with the distribution of food at Food Pantry.



www.communityjunction.org.au

# FOOD & SUPPORT SERVICES



If you need assistance in accessing food, other support services, or just want to chat, please call our Community Liaison Officer, Jessica Martin, on O461 425 193.

WILLMOT PUBLIC SCHOOL
IS HERE FOR YOU



## **School Bytes**

Over 75% 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**



4:36

#### 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.





#### Welcome John

1 Finance Payment History m P Activities Forms





#### Students

Demetris Auer DA Riverside Public School Sunset Valley High School

Oscar Bahringer Riverside Public School





8

OB



#### CALENDAR

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



School Bytes

#### **ATTENDANCE**

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



#### 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.

## CIRCLE OF SECURITY PARENTING

**CAN HELP YOU WITH...** 

MANAGING TOUGH BEHAVIOURS

UNDERSTANDING OUR KIDS BIG FEELINGS

GROWING CONFIDENCE IN OUR KIDS AND HELPING THEM FEEL LIKE THEY BELONG

KEEPING YOUR FAMILY STRONG AND CONNECTED

WHERE: WILLMOT HUB (8 CARTERET AVE, WILLMOT 2770)

**WHEN:** 9.30AM - 11AM FRIDAYS FROM 8TH AUGUST TO 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER



THIS COURSE IS A RECOGNISED

ACTIVITY FOR CENTRELINK

CONTACT VICKI MCPHEE 0466 570 099 vmcphee@baptistcare.org.au





#### **Story** FACTORY

# FREE TERM 3 AFTER-SCHOOL WORKSHOPS

We have a rip-roaring range of online and in-person after school workshops happening in Term 3.



#### **How to Sign Up**

- 1. Scan the OR code
- 2. Click on 'Enrol Now'
- Follow the prompts to enter your/your child's details.

#### PRIMARY SCHOOL

Willmot 2770

#### **Origin Stories**

ONLINE 4pm-5.30pm

#### **HIGH SCHOOL**

#### Who Killed Edgar Allan Poe?

Story Factory Parramatta 4pm-5.30pm

#### **Origin Stories**

WEDNESDAYS

**THURSDAYS** 

Story Factory Parramatta 4pm-5.30pm

#### **Snapshots**

ONLINE 4pm-5.30pm

#### Year of the Novella

Story Factory Parramatta 4.30pm-6pm (full)

#### **Origin Stories**

ONLINE 4pm-5.30pm

#### **Year of Poetry**

Story Factory Parramatta 4.30pm-6pm (full)

**BONUS:** We have an additional primary school workshop running this term at Mt Druitt Learning Ground, Bidwill Square on Thursdays: Origin Stories 4pm-5.30pm.