

## Principal's Message

A huge welcome back to all of our students and their families. I hope everyone had an enjoyable and relaxing break and has settled back into the first week of Term 4.

Generally the last school term before the extended summer break is always very busy and this year at Newcastle Junior School will be no different. In the coming weeks we will have transition out for our graduating Year 4 students, transition in for our new 2021 enrolments, Presentation Day and Graduation Day. With COVID-19 restrictions in place these events will look different from previous years. The Department of Education updates its advice to schools daily so we are unsure at present how each event will eventually run. As you can see there will be a lot going on at school so make sure you follow us on the SkoolBag App and Facebook to keep up to date.

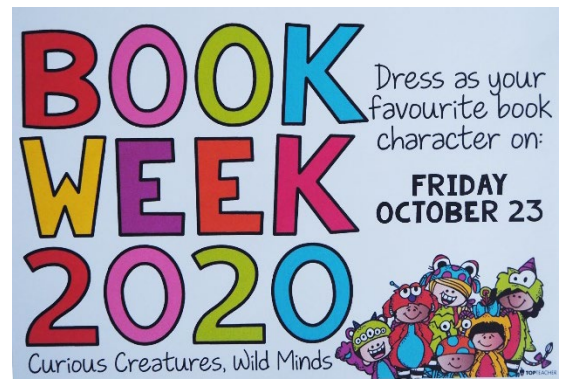
This term will also see end of year student reports being sent home. Every student will receive a report detailing their progress towards individual goals and how they are working in all key learning areas. Due to COVID-19 and its impact upon school, this year's end of year report will differ slightly from previous years.

We are currently starting to look at assigning teachers and students to classes for next year. If you are planning on your child not attending Junior School next year could you please let the school know as soon as possible.

This week the school has been asked to remind parents that it is their responsibility to advise Assisted School Travel of updated contact information (both phone numbers and email addresses).

Finally a further reminder to all parents that the best way to communicate with your child's teacher is through the communication book. Teachers are not always able to take phone calls during class time due to supervision and lesson constraints. If something is important please write it down in the communication book. Similarly asking your child's bus driver to pass on information is not always helpful as the start of the day is extremely busy and your child's teacher or SLSO may not be on bus duty.

Thanks  
*Graham Finch*  
PRINCIPAL



## REMINDERS

### Sunscreen

When necessary, please apply sunscreen on your child before attending school. NJS uses Ultra Protect 30+ Sunscreen with Vitamin E. The brand is Concept Labs Pty Ltd. It is used sparingly and only when necessary, such as extended periods outside and excursions. Please advise your class teacher if this Sunscreen is not to be used.

### Respite

It is necessary to complete a respite form and send it into school if your child is attending Respite. Without the necessary information, we will not be able to allow students to leave with unidentified carers. Students are to be signed out and collected at the office by the Respite Carer.

## **IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING MEDICATION**

Newcastle Junior School follows the Department of Education (DoE) policy on medication in schools. The DoE policy on medication is available on our website or through the link:-

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/student-support/studenthealth/individualstud/adminmedicine/>

If your child requires medication at school, a *Request for Support at School of a Student's Health* Condition must be completed by the parent/carer. Unless a medication is prescribed by a doctor, or is listed as part of an Action Plan (for example an Asthma, Epilepsy, Allergy, or Anaphylaxis plan) signed by your specialist or GP, the staff at Junior School are not allowed to give it to the students. This includes non-prescribed medications like those bought over the counter at the pharmacy.

All medications supplied to the school must be in a webster pack and have a pharmacy label which states the child's name and the dosage. It is important that all information regarding health care plans are kept up – to-date and paperwork regarding medication adjustments is completed and returned to school as soon as possible.

Junior School has examples of plans from doctors that cater for prescription medications. If you are unsure or would like to discuss the use of medications during school time please contact the office.

## **ALLERGIES**

NJS aims to minimise the risk of exposure to allergens, therefore we endeavour to be a nut, shellfish, egg and pineapple free zone.

## **Main Gates and Safety for our students**

For the safety of all students the main gates to the school at Hillsborough Rd are **locked between 9.15am and 2.30pm.**

**If you have to access the school between these times, please enter the gate via the roundabout and please shut the gates after you have opened them.**

**Our students' safety is everyone's responsibility.**

## **Damage to Vehicles in Car Park**

We ask parents to avoid entering our school car park in the afternoon **before 2.15pm.** Although every effort is made to minimise risk we have had an incident of objects being thrown from the playground into the car park during lunch break.

It is NSW Government Policy that -

**All persons who park their vehicles on school grounds do so at their own risk.**

This means that Newcastle Junior School is not liable to meet the cost of damage to vehicles.

## **School Health**

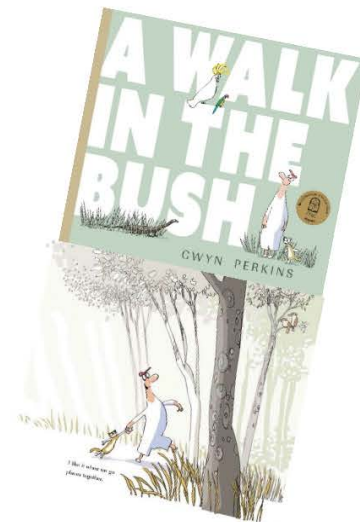
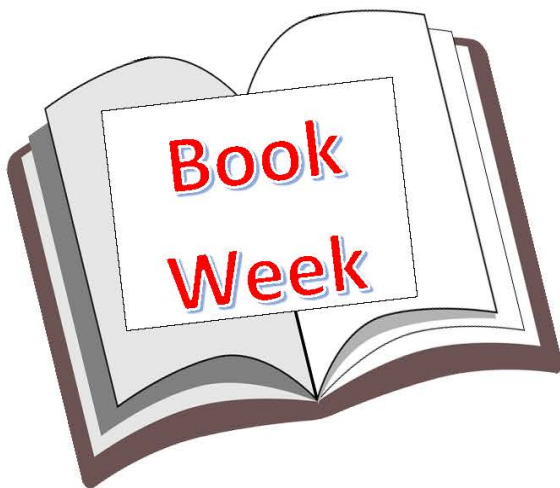
The school has a duty of care to its students and will provide the necessary care as required if a student falls ill at school, has a seizure or has an accident. This may include calling emergency services or calling parents/carers to come and collect the student.

**Parents/carers have the primary responsibility for the health needs of their children.** If a child is too ill to engage in classroom learning and requires monitoring and support throughout the day the parent/carer should make the decision to keep them home.

## **Contact Details**

Could all parents and carers ensure that the school has their current contact details and updated emergency contact details.

Thank you



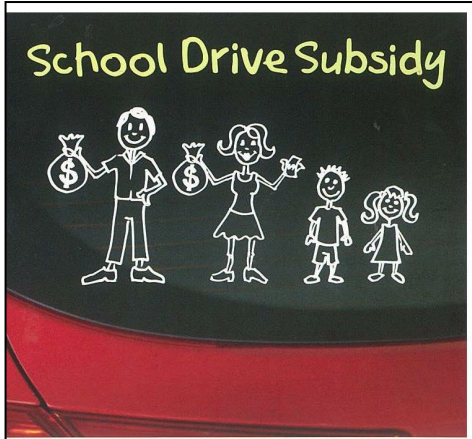
It's Book Week at Newcastle Junior School !

On **Friday 23/10/20** we invite students to come dressed as their favourite character from a book. The theme this year is 'Curious Creatures, Wild Minds'. Awards will be presented for the most creative and fun costumes.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, whole school events have been limited this year. In place of our school concert, Classes have produced artworks celebrating Book Week 2020. 'A Walk in the Bush' by Gwyn Perkins was the inspiration for the students' artworks. The story is about the wonders of nature, the funny side of life and spending time with the ones we love.

**Artworks will be available to purchase for \$20 and a catalogue of the works and order form will sent home this week.** Families will have first option to purchase their child's art before offering it to the school community from week 6. Students and staff have enjoyed working on the artworks and we hope you like what has been created.





# School Drive Subsidy

If you live a long way from public transport and need to drive a student to a public transport pick up point or to school, you may be able to get financial assistance.

The School Drive Subsidy provides eligible parents and guardians twice-yearly payments to help cover some of the expenses of getting children to school.

To find out if you're eligible, and to apply online, visit [transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive](http://transport.nsw.gov.au/schooldrive)

**Can't get online?**

Ask about the School Drive Subsidy at your school, or call **131 500**.

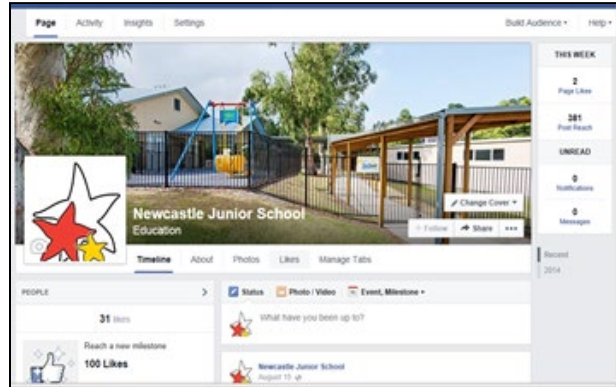


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## Assisted School Travel

If you need to contact Assisted School Travel, please use the following email address

[parent.astp@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:parent.astp@det.nsw.edu.au)



**DON'T FORGET TO LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!!**

## Stay informed with the SkoolBag App



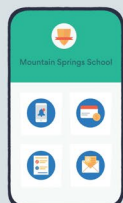
The SkoolBag app is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minutes notices, newsletters and all school communications.



**1 Download the app**  
Search for the free SkoolBag app in the Apple App or Google Play Store

**2 Create an account**  
Sign up in seconds with your email address

**3 Add your school**  
Search for your school and add your subscription groups



### How to apply for a card

1. Visit [www.companioncard.nsw.gov.au](http://www.companioncard.nsw.gov.au) to print an application form or request a printed copy by phone, email or post.
2. Return the application form by post to:  
Companion Card  
Locked Bag 4028  
Ashfield NSW 1500

### What is the Companion Card?

people with significant and have a lifelong need for attendant care support to attend venues and participate in community events and recreational activities.

The card can be presented when booking or purchasing a ticket at participating events and venues and provides the cardholder with a ticket for their companion.

### Who is eligible for a card?

- You may be eligible for a Companion Card if:
1. you are an Australian citizen or resident, and live in NSW; and
  2. you are a person with a significant and permanent disability; and
  3. you are unable to participate at most community venues or activities without attendant care support; and
  4. aids and other technologies do not meet your attendant care needs; and
  5. your need for this level of attendant care will be life-long.

### What information do I need to provide with my application?

The Companion Card Application form asks for:

- » information about your disability
- » information about your need for lifelong attendant care
- » verification by your health professional or service provider confirming that you meet all of the Companion Card eligibility criteria
- » two high quality, colour passport photos signed by the person who verified your application.

### How do I use a Companion Card?

The Companion Card can be used at participating businesses, venues and facilities across NSW and around Australia.

You or your companion show your Companion Card when booking or buying tickets from an affiliate. The affiliate will provide a FREE ticket for your companion.

