



The Pearsall Post Newsletter

Term 1 Issue # 1

Thursday 6th February 2020

**** NEW ****
SCHOOL
PHONE No.
08 6207 3900

Important Dates to Remember

- Swimming lessons
Wed 5th Feb to
Friday Feb 14th

Wrapper Free
Wednesdays

Early Close
2.30pm on
Wednesdays

1st Assembly
Thursday 20th Feb
Room 6



From the Principal...

I would like to extend a really warm welcome back to the 2020 school year. I hope everyone enjoyed precious family time together. It was great to see that students have returned recharged and ready for another great year at our fantastic school.

Parent Teacher Meeting

Parent-Teacher meetings will take place over the first 4 weeks of the term. This is an important meeting so it will give you an opportunity to meet your child's 2020 teachers and hear first hand their expectations. Effective communication is the key to positive relationships and every teacher at Pearsall values your involvement. If ever there are any issues, the classroom teacher is the first point of contact. The vast majority of issues can be addressed at this point.

Parent-teacher meetings will take place on Tuesday the 7th April when the school will close at 12.00pm to accommodate these meetings.

On-Entry Assessments

Each year our Pre-Primary and Year 1 students participate in the Department of Education's State-wide On-Entry Assessments. The purpose of the program is to provide teachers with an opportunity, early in the year, to collect information on the essential literacy and numeracy skills and understandings of each child in their class. This will assist your child's teacher to develop informed teaching programs, designed to reflect individual needs and foster each child's learning.

Thank You to our Cleaners and Gardener

Many thanks to our cleaning staff who have made the school ready for the start of the year. They have all worked tirelessly to ensure that the school was in tip top shape for students.

Term Dates for 2020

Term 1:	Monday 3rd February	:	Thursday 9th April
Term 2:	Wednesday 29th April	:	Friday 3rd July
Term 3:	Tuesday 20th July	:	Friday 25th September
Term 4:	Tuesday 12th October	:	Thursday 17th Dec

8.25am	Classrooms Open
8.40am	Siren for start of day
10.40am	Recess
11.05am	End of Recess
12.45pm	Lunch
1.25pm	End of Lunch
3.00pm	School Day Ends

Please note:

**2.30pm finish on
Wednesdays**

**Assemblies held
every 2nd
Thursday at
8.45am**

Attendance - "Every Day Counts, Every Lesson Counts"

Schools are required to analyse their attendance data, set targets for improvement and evaluate the effectiveness of improvement strategies that have been put in place. A partnership with parents is essential in making any improvements to school attendance, whether that is for late arrivals, early departures or days absent.

When attendance reports indicate that absenteeism is above 10% of total school days, follow up is required. Research is very strong in this area and when a child misses more than 10% of their schooling, the impact has the potential to significantly impact on learning. For this reason, Department of Education Semester Reports indicate the total number of days absent. When this is seen as a total, the number can often be quite confronting, adding up before we realise attendance has become an issue. In fact, at 10% of the time each year absent, by Year 8 a child has missed the equivalent of one year of their schooling. This would obviously have a huge impact on learning and the child's ability to achieve their potential.

The late arrivals and early departures are something often unrelated to sickness and by addressing morning routines and re-scheduling after school activities, these can often be avoided, or at least, greatly reduced. This is an area that as a school we can target for improvement as our data indicates we are well above average for signing students in and out during the school day. With parents' assistance, we should be able to make a difference. Being present for the commencement of the day and the completion of the day is important for all students. At Pearsall Primary we need to make significant improvements in this area.

There are a variety of reasons why students are absent and records differentiate these with a code, as follows:

- C Cultural or religious significance to the family.
- E Approved Department of Education programs—eg: PEAC
- K Unapproved Vacation during school term.**
- L late by not more than 30 minutes.
- N The school has been notified that the student is unwell.
- R Acceptable reason for absence—eg: medical appointment, high school interviews.
- U No explanation has been given for the absence.
- X Unacceptable absence—eg: holidays, haircuts, basketball, dance rehearsals, birthday parties, sibling appointment.

Parents need to be aware that unauthorised absences will be recorded for holidays taken during term time. This means, the absence will not be approved. Whilst it is understood that holidays are cheaper during term time, this is not a legitimate reason to be absent from school and contravenes the Education Act. Teachers are not required to provide work packages for students taking holidays during term time.

In Term Swimming

Students from Pre-Primary through to Year 6 will start the year off with in term swimming for the first two weeks of the term. Lessons will commence on Wednesday 5th February right through to Friday 14th February.



Payments

Please note that all payments to the school can be made by **EFTPOS** in the front office or **Direct Deposit**:

Acc: Pearsall Primary School
BSB: 066040

Acc: 19904146

Put your child's initial, surname and reason e.g. J.Smith swimming.

You can combine the amount if you have more than one child.

Please note, Eftpos and Direct Deposit are for school related payment and not for P&C payments.

Student Requirements for Swimming Lessons

Students should be encouraged to be dressed in their bathers, under their school uniform prior to coming to school, where possible and practical. Students will change back into their uniforms at the aquatic centre except for the last group who will return in their bathers.

Students need to bring:

- Towel
- Environmentally friendly shopping bag in which to put wet clothes (plastic bags are not preferred)
- Goggles are recommended
- No jewellery
- Long hair should be tied back
- Underwear/Pearsall uniform to change back into

Each year the Department of Education meets the cost of the two weeks of interm swimming lessons for all primary students in public schools to ensure children develop critical swimming of water skills. Our lessons this year will be at Wanneroo Aquamation.

Kindergarten Speech Screening

As a service to our kindergarten families and as a fabulous diagnostic tool for focussed teaching, Pearsall engages a speech pathologist to assess all of our kindergarten students' language skills. We have found the information gained from this screening invaluable, particularly in the identification of children who may require early intervention in this area. Kindergarten speech screening will be undertaken over the term. Information will be sent to each Kindergarten family.

Thank You to Staff

Many thanks to our staff who have been participating in school development over the holidays. They have also spent many hours preparing classrooms and planning programs for the term to ensue a calm and smooth start to the year.

Punctuality—A Critical Part of Attendance

Punctuality is particularly critical for students. It allows them to begin their day in a calm and organised way. They listen to the outline of what will happen for the day and participate in routines that set everything in motion for the class, including reminders and special instructions. Arriving after this has occurred is very unsettling and requires the teacher and often other children to update and remind those who have missed this vital part of the day. We all know how our day goes much better when we are organised, know what's going on and have a routine to follow. This begins at 8.25am when students enter classes and independently go about organising their belongings and space. By the time the siren sounds, they are ready to gather together as a class and begin the day. If we follow this routine, we have set our students up for a great start and a successful day. They feel secure in the knowledge that they are ready and know what's going to happen.

Students from Pre-Primary to Year 6 who arrive before 8.30am know the routine of going back to the office where a member of the Admin team is on duty. These students are released to go to their classes at 8.25am and get ready for the day.



Kindergarten Classes

We will have four Kindergarten classes beginning their school years and **570** students in total from Kindergarten to Year 6. We hope our existing students from last years Year 6 classes are adjusting positively to high school and enjoy their exciting new phase of their education.

New Staff Members

We welcome four new teachers to our team this year. In the Year 4 class, Mrs Alexandra Hodgson has joined our middle primary teaching team. Mrs Elaine Brown is joining our Year 1 team, Mrs Leanne Aravidis is teaching Pre-Primary and Science for two days, and Mrs Helena Sillence is our new Year 6 teacher from Demountable 5.

New Families

Each year we welcome new students to Pearsall Primary. This year we have approximately 86 new students joining our school. As a school, we welcome you and look forward to you being active members of our school community.

First Assembly

The first assembly will take place on Thursday 20th February at 8.30am. All our welcome to attend.

Term Planner

A term planner detailing whole school events for the term has been loaded onto Connect.

No Dogs on School Grounds

Please do not bring dogs onto school grounds, even if they are on a lead.



School Parking

School parking is an issue at every school. It is not practical for schools to provide enough parking for everyone, **it is the driver's responsibility to park their car legally** and to help ease parking issues and keep the school's students safe. The rules are:

DO NOT

- Block driveways
- Park/stop or drive on footpaths
- Obstruct children's crossings
- Park/stop on median strips
- Park/stop on verges without permission
- Park/stop within 10m of an intersection
- Park facing against the flow of traffic
- Double park



Please be aware that the council ranger has been notified and will be patrolling outside the school during drop off and pick up time. Penalties may apply for any of the above.