

John Hartley School Newsletter



John Hartley
School

Week 2, Term 1, 2024

It's all happening at John Hartley School for the start of 2024!

The students are settling in, getting to know each other and their teachers. The staff spend the first two weeks of the year focused on building strong relationships and in collaboration with the students, developing the expectations of their new classroom and reviewing our expectations of students at John Hartley School.

A reminder from me about one of expectations is that all students need to wear a hat when out in the yard. As we are all aware, the UV Index even on days that are overcast is often still 10+.

It is all of our responsibilities to ensure we are all – staff and students are being sun safe.

The uniform shop have assured me they will have a new supply of school bucket hats next week – with sizes ranging from Small to XL.

Years 4 & 5 have attended swimming this week and by all accounts have thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Our Years 1-3 will be participating in their swimming lessons next week. It always amazes us how much progress students make in the pool over such a short time – confidence and growth is wonderful to see!

I would like to highlight 2 important events taking place in next two weeks;

Acquaintance Night – A great opportunity to meet the staff and see the school!

Tuesday 13th of February – 3.30-5.15pm

We are really looking forward to seeing our families being onsite, meeting and connecting with their child/ren's teachers as well as the Specialist teachers in the classrooms from **4:30-5:30pm**. There will be a free sausage sizzle and drink for those who have met with the teachers and collected the raffle tickets. The BBQ will stop serving at **5:45pm**.

I look forward to meeting with all of you, I will be the one in the Batman apron behind the BBQ!

Governing Council

Thursday 22nd Feb – 4.30-5:30pm is our first Governing Council meeting for the year

Being a member of the Governing Council is a great way to hear about what's happening at the school and participate in decisions relating to financial and resources governance. New members are always welcome. Meetings are twice per term and a crèche is available.

Our AGM will be held on Thursday 21st March at 4:30pm. It will then be followed by our Governing Council meeting at 5pm.



Important Dates

Term 1

Week 2

Swimming: Year 4 & 5

Week 3

Swimming: Year 1, 2 & 3.

Week 6

Year 6. Aquatics

Week 7

Pupil Free Day:
Tuesday 12th
March



Governing Council

Week 3 Thursday
4:30pm

Uniform Shop
Every Tuesday
8:30am-9:30am

We are respectful

We are responsible

We are resilient

199 Peachey Road, Smithfield Plains SA 5114
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dl.1901_info@schools.sa.edu.au

Principal: Mr. Aaron McPherson
Deputy Principal: Ms. Dinah Huddy

John Hartley Primary School worked really hard during 2023 to prepare for the implementation of our school-wide Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) framework.

What is Positive Behaviour for Learning?

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is an evidence-based framework that supports equity and improved learning outcomes for students.

The PBL framework has been implemented in schools across Australia and the United States for more than 20 years.

The PBL framework brings together the whole-school community to contribute to developing a positive, safe and supportive learning culture. Our school will:

- develop school-wide behaviour expectations.
- explicitly teach these expectations and establish clear and consistent boundaries.
- acknowledge positive student behaviour.
- consistently address behaviour of concern.
- monitor student outcomes and use data to inform decision making.

The PBL framework helps schools teach behaviour skills proactively, and address behaviours of concern without immediately resorting to exclusionary discipline, such as office referrals, take home and suspension.

There is nothing you need to do but, you will hear updates from us about how we are implementing the PBL framework at our school and the outcomes and benefits for your child/children. We will let you know in advance, the weekly focus based around developing our school values: **We are respectful**, **We are responsible**, and **We are resilient**, and we would love for you to have conversations with your children on these topics we are covering schoolwide each week.

For more information about the Behaviour for Learning (PBL) framework, visit

www.education.sa.gov.au/PBLframework

Weeks 1-3 are having a major focus on establishing co-constructed expectations that link directly to our school values: **We are Respectful**, **We are Responsible** and **We are Resilient** in the classroom.



example:

Chat with your child/ren about our school values and build a small list of ways they can		
Develop these values in your family home. For example:		
We are Respectful	We are Responsible	We are Resilient
Always be honest	Keep their room tidy	Win and lose games in style

Attendance Support Officer for 2024

Our school has been selected to participate in the Primary School Attendance Action Research project this year.

This is a trial project run by the Department for Education, where 10 selected primary schools have employed a School Attendance Support Officer (ASO) to focus on increasing attendance and connection with families.

Our ASO is Ebony McLean. Ebony started at the beginning of our 2024 school year and will be part of our team for the entire school year.

Ebony will provide a range of supports, including:


- connecting with families around attendance
- connecting the school to community programs and organisations
- understanding barriers and issues that affect attendance
- providing advice and checking in with families and students about attendance
- supporting students to attend school
- developing a greater understanding of attendance in the school community.

This project will help the Department for Education understand how they can better support families, carers, students and schools with attendance.

If you have any questions about our involvement in this project, please feel free to contact me. You can also visit the [Attendance at school or preschool pages](#) on the department's webpage for a range of information and resources about attendance generally.

Our school has also been fortunate to appoint Ebony McLean as our pastoral care worker (PCW). In this space, Ebony will work with our staff to:

- support student attendance, engagement and mental health
- support students in difficult or challenging situations such as during times of grief
- provide students with referrals to specialist services when required
- provide pastoral care and guidance to students
- support physical, emotional, social development and wellbeing of all students
- support an environment of cooperation and respecting a diversity of cultures and traditions
- coordinate volunteering activities and support
- coordinate and support breakfast programs
- provide lunch time activities
- support excursions and incursions
- provide and support parent and carer workshops.



I'm really looking forward to the opportunity to support students and families at John Hartley B-6. My office is located in building 11 and whilst I have an open-door policy, at times I may need to make a time to meet for discussions. Please introduce yourself and say hello whenever comfortable!

We welcome Ebony to John Hartley, and look forward to seeing the connections developed at a whole school and community level.



Welcome to Building 7!



Waiting for the pancakes was hard!



Eating pancakes with chocolate sauce was delicious!



Getting to know you activities!!



Marni naa pud ni

Welcome back to school.

If you haven't had a chance to meet our Aboriginal Education team, please seek us out if you have any queries, concerns or just to say hello.

Our team consists of:

Aboriginal Education Teachers (AET)

- Teresa Butler-Bowdon supporting junior primary students in reception to year 2, based in the Village.
- Rosa Esposito supporting primary students in years 3 to 6. Based in building 10.

Aboriginal Community Education Officers (ACEO)

- Mandy Kennett in the Nunga Room, building 9.
- Phillip Appleton in the Nunga Room, building 9.
- Kira Buckskin in the Nunga Room, building 9.



So many exciting things have been happening in our school. If you haven't already, come and have a look at our two amazing new areas: -

1. The flourishing **bush food garden** and **totem poles** (outside the Children's Centre).
2. The **yarning circle** (outside the Nunga room).

We are hoping to do an official launch of these spaces in the first half of the year. We'll keep you posted.

Your voice matters

This year we are looking to establish an Aboriginal/ Torres Strait Islander parent voice group as well as meet and greets every term to catch up and yarn.

Kurna language

Exciting news. From term 2, students in year 2 will again have the wonderful opportunity to take part in a Kurna language and culture program taught by our ACEOs Aunty Mandy and Uncle Phil.

Children's Artspace Artists in Schools – Art and Native Plants

We are fortunate to have been selected to take part in an art program that looks at native plants in our school environment. The artist Louise Flaherty will run workshops with all year 2 classes in week 5 and 6 of this term. The artworks from these workshops will be exhibited in Children's Artspace at Adelaide Festival Centre as part of a professional exhibition called, Young Plant Carers.

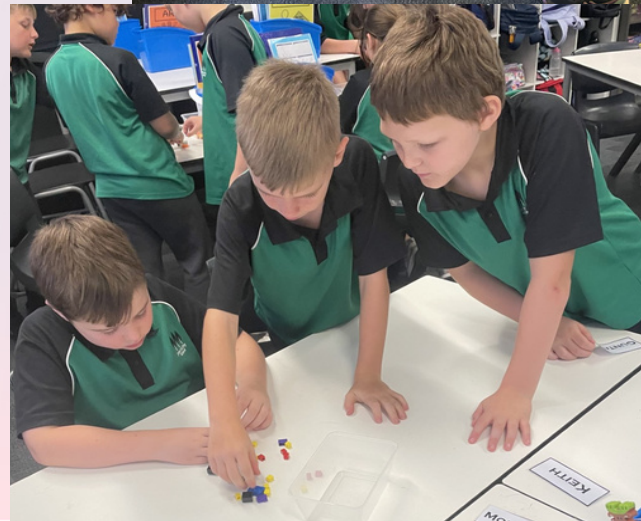
TEAM BUILDING

IN 11.3 & 11.4

Mr. Kelly's and Miss Farley's Year 5 classes have started 2024 with some team building activities.

- **Lego Challenge:** one student at a time reports to the group on which piece goes where to build the model in the common area.
- **Paper Chain Challenge:** students worked as a team to make the longest paper chain using only paper, glue and scissors.

Students were all very successful during these activities. Students built strong connections, improved their communication skills, and further developed their problem solving skills.



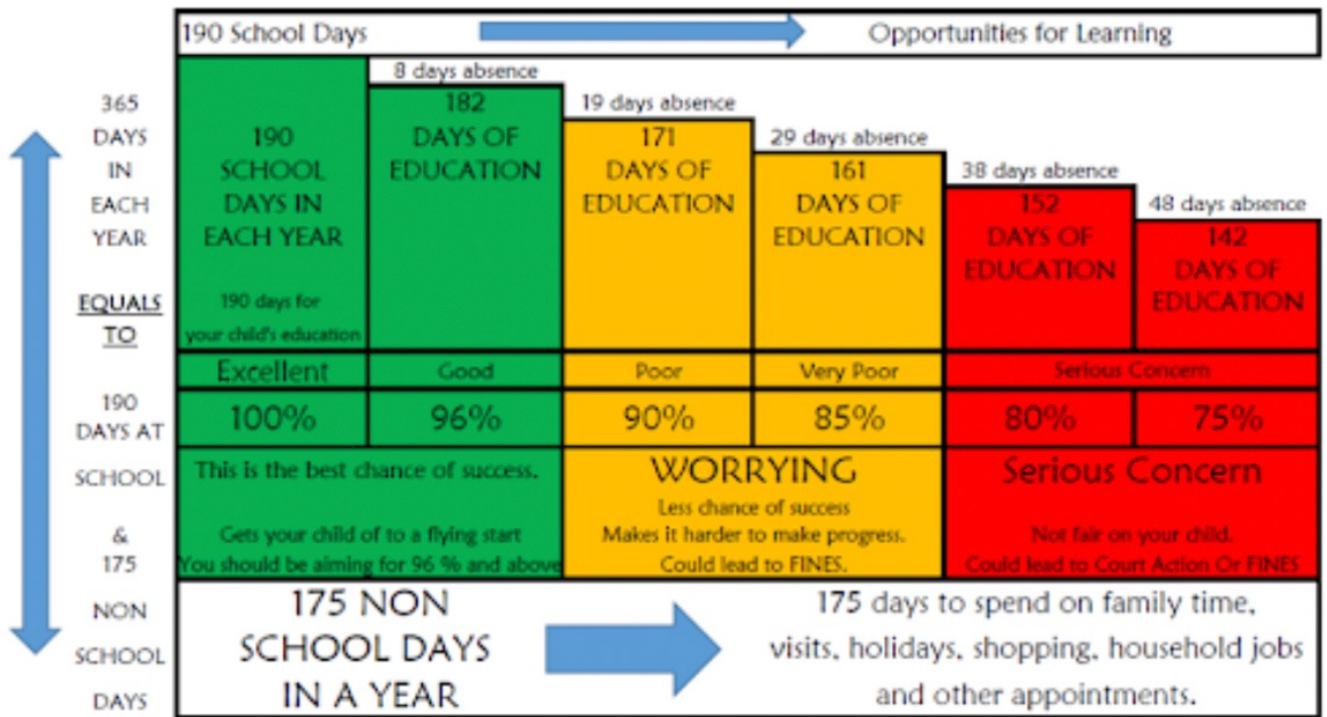
In Science with Mrs Singh, students have been identifying different feelings by playing “Feelings Bingo’ and becoming familiar with the calming area in the science room.

Student learning this term has been programmed around physical sciences. The year 1s follow steps to make snails out of playdough and using push and pull forces.

The year 3 student investigations will develop concepts of heat energy and temperature. Students have begun investigating sources of heat energy.



John Hartley School Attendance



Please let us help you. If you are worried about your child's school attendance, we are available to support you.

Ebony McLean, our attendance officer, Pamela Kelly and Punu McGovern, our Wellbeing Leaders, as well as Mandy and Phil from our Nunga room are all available to support.

Below is our schools class averages for our student attendance data for week 1. Looking forward to working with families to create growth in student attendance.

School Attendance averages

Class	% explained attendance	Class	% explained attendance	Room	% explained attendance	Class	% explained attendance
V.1	82.9	SPOJp	97.5	9.2	95.2	11.1	85
V.2	91.1	SPOPp	78.3	9.3	87.6	11.2	87.8
V.3	92.6	8.1	92.5	9.4	93.3	11.3	98.4
V.4	93	8.2	88.8	10.1	96.9	11.4	95.2
V.5	85.7	8.3	83.8	10.2	95	11.DV	92.8
V.6	89.5	8.4	82.5	10.3	98.3	School attendance: 90.6%	
V.7	92	8.DV	76.3	10.4	89.2		
V.8	90.6	9.1	89.5	10.DV	93		

Many students have asked their teachers about homework. Classroom programs and practices are still being developed whilst many students are attending swimming. During this time, students are encouraged to read for at least 20 minutes each night at home. Reading at home builds stamina and minutes towards a wider vocabulary and more successful growth in literacy subjects at school.

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?

Student "A"
reads **20 minutes**
each day

3600 minutes in
a school year

Student "B"
reads **5 minutes**
each day

900 minutes in
a school year

Student "C"
reads **1 minute**
each day

180 minutes in
a school year

1,800,000 words



90th percentile

282,000 words



50th percentile



8,000 words



10th percentile

By the end of 6th grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)