



Our Weekly Chat

Term 1, 2016— 3rd February, 2016

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Welcome to Oakey State School for 2016.

It's great to see our students commencing the new school year in such a positive manner.

To our new students and family we welcome you to our school community. We are very glad that you have decided to join us at Oakey State School. We looked forward to working with you to provide your child/children with the best education possible.

Below is some important information relating to school policies and procedures. Please take the time to read and discuss these with your child/children. The full school prospectus is available on our school webpage.

School Priorities

Our school wide priorities for 2016 are:

- **Reading**
- **Spelling**
- **Number**

Our aim is to provide a highly consistent approach to our teaching in these focus areas with the aim of achieving high student learning outcomes for all of our students.

New Staff

I would like to welcome the following new staff to our school community:

- Mrs Tahnee Hall (Year two)
- Mrs Leith Lethbridge (Year three)
- Mrs Skye Playsted (Music)
- Mr Sam Gilkes (Japanese)
- Mr Shaun Holmes (Head of Curriculum)

I am sure that they will be great additions to our team here at Oakey State School

Uniform

I have visited all classrooms and our students look fantastic in their school uniforms. I appreciate how expensive it is preparing for a new school year and I greatly appreciate the way in which our parents support our school uniform policy.

We believe that wearing a clean, neat and tidy uniform helps students develop a sense of belonging and enhances student pride in their school. Personal hygiene, uniform cleanliness and a neat general presentation assists students to develop self-worth and confidence in their appearance. The wearing of the school uniform is also a safety consideration, it makes students easily recognisable.

The school uniform includes fully enclosed **lace-up or Velcro strap shoes**. Sneakers/joggers of any colour are acceptable so long as they are lace-up or Velcro strap. **Slip on shoes are not acceptable.**

Students who are unable to wear the school uniform due to emergent situations (e.g. wet weather) are required to bring a note to the class teacher.

Calendar of Events

Tuesday 6th February	Year 6 Canberra Trip Meeting 5:30pm—
Monday 15th February	P&C AGM & Meeting 5:30pm—Staff room
Wednesday 2nd March	Regional Swimming Trails
Thursday 10th March	School Photos

Jewellery

The following jewellery is permitted at school:

- Watch
- Pierced earrings – small plain sleepers or studs, one per ear only
- Medical alert bracelet or necklace

Items of significant cultural or religious beliefs as negotiated with administration

Facial piercings are not permitted due to workplace health and safety regulations. A student wearing other jewellery will be asked to remove the item and if necessary give it to the office for safe keeping for the remainder of the day. Students must request the item upon departure at the end of the day.

Bicycle safety

Children who ride bikes to school are required by law to wear a helmet. Bikes must not be ridden in school grounds and must be left in the bike racks provided. These are out of bounds during lunch and afternoon tea to eliminate interference with other children's bikes. Children must bring their own lock and chain to secure their bike.

Skateboards and scooters must not be brought to school.

Before School/ After School

Students should not arrive at school prior to 8:30am and should be collected and left the school grounds no later than 3:15pm. **No supervision is provided before or after school.**

Physical Aggression

There is no place for any form of physical aggression at Oakey State School. Students need to take responsibility for their actions and make good choices in relation to their behaviour. Our School Wide Behaviour Expectations are:

- **Be Safe**
- **Be Respectful**
- **Be a Learner**

Every day counts at our school

Are you giving your child the best chance of success at school? At Oakey State School every day counts. It is a **legal requirement that students attend school every day** unless they are sick.

While most students attend school consistently, there is a small number of students who are absent from school without an acceptable reason and this may harm their education. Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late and being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school.

Research shows that if your child has a record of good attendance, they are more likely to achieve high results in the future.

If your child is away, you need to let the school know the reasons beforehand, or within two days of returning to school.

All student absences will be closely monitored by the school. **Please make every day count and set your child up for success at school in 2016.**

Storm Safety

It's obvious from last Friday that storm season is upon us again. Please be assured that at Oakey State School we have emergency procedures in place to manage such events.

Student safety is always our primary concern. **Collecting students from school during storms can place student and parent safety at risk.**

Please be assured that the students are safe with us during such events.

Please do not place your safety and your child/children's safety at risk by venturing out into the storm to collect them early.

Our office staff have been instructed to leave students in classrooms for safety reasons during storms.

Have a great week, *Scott Pacey*, Principal

SCHOOL ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

In the interest of supervision and safety, children **are not to arrive at school before 8:30 am** and should be collected/have **left the school grounds no later than 3:15pm** each day. **No supervision for students is offered before or after school.** Our staff are extremely busy in the mornings and afternoons with curriculum preparation, meetings and administrative tasks, and therefore are not available to supervise early arrivals or late departures. Thank you for your support and understanding; it is greatly appreciated.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

To reduce the cost associated with the production of the school's weekly newsletter, we have stopped sending home a printed copy. To keep up to date with what's happening at the school, the newsletter can be accessed via the following options:

- View online via the **school's website**: www.oakeyss.eq.edu.au
- Parents/students **collect a printed copy** from the school office.
- **Email**: receive an electronic copy via a weekly email—to activate your interest to receive the newsletter via email please send an email to **admin@oakeyss.eq.edu.au**

In most cases the Newsletter should be available each Wednesday. You can also like us on **FaceBook**.

P&C MEETINGS

Get involved! We would love to see some more people at our P & C meetings. Meetings are held in the school office once a month starting at **5:30pm** and finishing by 7.30pm. This semesters meetings dates are:

- ♦ **15th February—AGM & meeting**
- ♦ **21st March** Come and have a coffee with us and hear first hand the exciting plans for the year to come. All
- ♦ **18th April** general business items need to be submitted to the Office prior to 3pm on the day of a meeting.
- ♦ **16th May**
- ♦ **20th June**

ARE YOUR DETAILS UP TO DATE?

Please remember to keep the school informed of any changes regarding addresses, telephone numbers, emergency contact numbers and student medical details.



SWIMMING LESSONS FOR LOWER SCHOOL THIS TERM

Lesson Time	Tuesday	Wednesday
9:00— 9:45		2A
9:45— 10:30		2B / T1
12:00— 12:45	3A	1A
2:00— 2:45	3B	1B

Positive Behaviour for Learning



This week our school wide Positive Behaviour for Learning focus is wearing my school uniform with pride. Mr Pacey spoke on parade on Monday about how wonderful it is to see students wearing their uniform with pride. Students look fabulous. Classes then discussed with their teachers the benefits of wearing a uniform. Students' uniforms should be clean and tidy, hats must have a brim and shoes must be closed in with laces or Velcro. Jewellery is to be kept to a minimum (watch, small studs/sleepers, medical bracelets, religious necklaces). Wearing a uniform gives students a sense of belonging to our school and create an identity for our school in the community.

Have a great week. Mrs Nicholson and PBL team



2nd Hand Uniforms: *If your child/children have grown out of their uniform or are moving on to another school, you may like to consider donating their school uniforms to our uniform pool. The uniform pool can assist new families or those experiencing financial hardship.*



Reversible **school hats** are available for sale from the school office. These blue hats sell for \$15.00 each and can be reversed into the students' school house colour (**red, blue, green or yellow**). **School bags** are also available from the school office at \$30.00 each

HEALTHY LUNCH BOXES—Try these tips:

- ☑ Think about what your child likes to eat at home and try to translate that into a lunch box option.
- ☑ Vegetables are often overlooked in the lunch box. Try cutting up some carrot sticks or putting in a handful of cherry tomatoes.
- ☑ While the humble apple is a great lunch box filler (sturdy and hard to squash), consider cutting softer fruit up and putting it into a smaller container for protection. Berries and kiwi fruit survive very well this way.
- ☑ Dairy can be hard to include, particularly in hot weather. If you can't safely get a yoghurt into the lunch box, make sure you offer dairy when she comes home from school.
- ☑ Last night's leftovers in a container with a small spoon can make a welcome change to the parade of endless sandwiches.
- ☑ Try putting together a small picnic in her lunch box - slices of tomato, ham, grated carrot, grated cheese and some bread and butter - so she can build her own sandwich.
- ☑ Stick to water in the drink bottle - most juices are full of sugar and make the drink-bottle smelly. They also don't do a very good job of quenching thirst.
- ☑ Homemade pikelets are a great snack - easy to make ahead of time, they're filling and don't require any extra toppings.



Scouting is for Boys and Girls

If you have a child between the ages of 6 and 15 then we have an activity for you!

Scouting in Oakey caters for three sections:

- Joey Scouts 6-8 years old
- Cub Scouts 8-11 years old
- Scouts 11-15 years old.



If you would like information on Scouting in Oakey then please contact the Group Leader via email oakeyscouts@hotmail.com, visit our Facebook page "Oakey Scout Group", or phone 0417 797 644.

Lunch Boxes

It is essential your child's lunch is sent to school in a lunch box as we have a system that requires all lunches to be kept in lunch tubs. The tubs are taken to the eating areas at each break. **Please ensure the lunch box is named and contains enough healthy food for both breaks.**

Thank you for your support.

WATER BOTTLES

As we are now in the warmer months of the year, it is recommended that students drink plenty of water. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school.



CAR PARKING / Student Pickup

Please note that the car parks within the school grounds are for staff use only. **Parents can utilise the Yumba**

carpark on the corner of Lorrimer Street, or the curb side on Lorrimer Street, Desmond Lane and Campbell Street.

For the safety of ALL: Pedestrians are asked to use the pedestrian gates, not enter/exit via the car entry gates.



STUDENTS BRINGING PERSONAL EQUIPMENT TO SCHOOL

To prevent playground issues arising involving student's own personal sporting equipment, students are **not** to bring their own personal sports/play equipment to school. That includes things such as basketballs, footballs, skipping ropes, soccer balls etc. The school has sports equipment and each class will have their own container of equipment for the students to access and play with at lunch times. The sports shed will also be open at lunch breaks for students to access equipment from there. If students bring sports equipment to school it will remain in the classroom with their class teacher until home time.

LOST PROPERTY Our lost property bin is located just outside the office.

Please come to see if there are any items belonging to your students.

ALL unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity shop at the end of term.



SUN SAFETY is IMPORTANT NO Hat—NO Play!

NO Caps allowed—Broad brimmed or Bucket hats only.

Please label ALL your Childs' possessions.

