



Issue No 13
9 September 2020



DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
learners first

5/6 Nichols

Last week the Grade 5/6's were tasked to use their team work skills to work through challenges together.

NATHAN MF - *It was fun and challenging. I learnt that we had to use team work and lots of encouragement.*

JAYLA - *I learnt that team work is key and that even if you lose we still all had a go.*

TANNAH - *I learnt that we need to use team work to do a lot of things and the funniest thing for me was trying to get over the 'electric fence' and we kept going even when it was challenging.*

EZRA - *I liked when we had to pick up the chairs and move from one end of the gym to another. I learnt that we had to use team work to solve the challenges.*



Attendance

With only slightly over 2 weeks to go, there has been and continues to be plenty of good things going on at Smithton Primary School, which is fantastic to see. As always in any school there are things to celebrate and challenges to face. One challenge we are facing is that we are noticing in the school (and across many schools in the post-covid world) that we have higher than usual attendance issues. I would like to encourage parents to take a strong stance with their children around sending your child to school (unless they are sick). Allowing your child to stay home does two very negative things:

1. **Prevents them from learning** – Our teachers plan detailed and well-structured lessons that are sequenced in a way to maximise the learning for your child. Missing out on regular days each week totally damages the learning that your child can possibly have and disadvantages them now and into the future.
2. **Can create a habit that will be hard for them to break later on in life** – Children that often stay home in Primary School will more than likely follow this through to High School and then possibly take this habit with them into their work life. Our job as a school in partnering with families is to help create reliable habits in our children so



EVERY DAY COUNTS....

A day here or there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...	that equals...	which is...	and therefore, from Kinder to Year 12, that is...	This means that the best your child can achieve is...
1 day each fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 11/2 years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 21/2 years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

Should I send my child to school if they are sick?

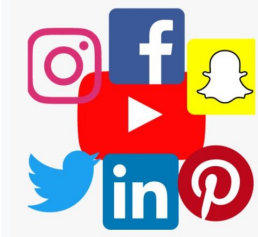
We are having many families ask the questions “should I send my child to school if they are sick?” The best advice we can get from public health is that we need to be able to confidently state that our schools are safe places. Children should not be sent to school if they feel unwell with COVID-19 symptoms, flu symptoms or any other symptoms of infectious disease. These include:

- * Fever
- * Runny nose
- * Cough, sore/itchy throat
- * Shortness of breath
- * Nausea
- * Vomiting



Children should stay home and you should phone your GP or the Public Health Hotline on 1800 671 738 for a referral to be tested for COVID—19 or medical clearance has been received by a doctor. Children should only be returning to school once their cold/flu like symptoms have passed. If your child has serious symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, call

Social Media



During this term, it has become very obvious to me that we have many children in our school who have access to the variety of social media apps. The reason I know this is because we are having too many issues arise at school that are a result of something said on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat or even in using TikTok. While the phones are not accessible during school hours, these issues are arising outside of school time. Can I please remind parents that these social media accounts generally have the age restriction of 13 years old meaning that no one in Primary School is recommended to be using them. I strongly encourage each family to consider the risks of allowing their child to use social media if they are under the age of 13 years because there currently is a lot of harm being caused to children that could so easily be avoided if they did not have access to these apps. I would strongly

3/4 Sports Expo



Well done to all 3/4 students last week who attended the 3/4 Sports Expo. They not only represented the school well, but it was a great opportunity to mix with students from the other cluster schools. The sports they chose from were Footy, Hockey, Taekwondo, Tennis and Netball.



Grade 6 Transition to Smithton High School

Over the past few weeks, each Thursday small groups of our Grade 6 students have been given the opportunity to spend a day at SHS in preparation for 2021. Our students have done an excellent job of learning, asking questions and finding out more about what next year will be like at SHS.



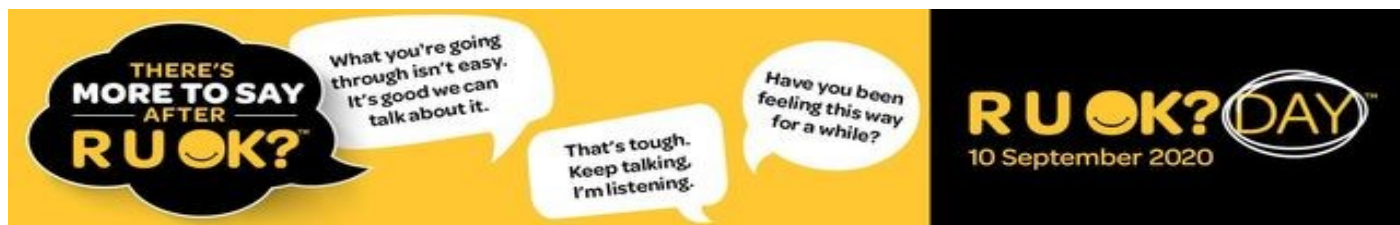
I really appreciate the level of communication that I am receiving from parents/community members over the past month or so about a variety of things. Having honest feedback I believe is the key to us making positive steps forward as a school. So please continue to feel free to make an appointment to see me; I value your input.

Thanks,
Josh Smith
Principal

R U OK Day

Thursday 10th September
(tomorrow)

As a part of our theme "Be a Good Friend," this week, we are encouraging students to wear something yellow as a part of R U OK Day. This day encourages people everywhere to look out for the people around them by observing any changes in the way others appear to be and asking them if they are ok? We are aiming to teach our children that it is ok to not be ok and that if you are struggling in any way, you need to get help to get you through that tough time. Friends can be a great support to us and can point us in the right direction when we are not feeling ok.



Walk Safely To School Day

Friday 11th September is Walk Safely to School Day.

On Friday it would be great to get as many children (and their families) walking to school from our three locations. This is occurring among many schools across Australia and is a way of raising awareness of the importance of exercise in keeping people healthy and improving health in general. We will be leaving from three locations at 8am (weather permitting):

Pick up point 1: The Hospital

Pick up point 2: The Reject Shop

Pick up point 3: West Esplanade car park (near the Bridge Hotel)

You will see two staff members (in high-vis vests) at each location. Will be great to see as many as we can get involved in this!



Please note this is a walking only activity and scooters or bikes will not be permitted.

Parents and Friends

The P&F have had some very productive meetings of late. I would encourage anyone who is interested in being involved to come along to our next meeting at 7pm on the 15th of October.

Another way you can support the P&F is to purchase a ticket in our Thermomix raffle. Tickets can be purchased from the school office (correct cash only), contact any member of the P&F or Facebook message Rhiannon Powell who can arrange for a contactless purchase of the ticket.

SPS PARENTS & FRIENDS FUNDRAISER

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WIN A TM6?

Tickets - \$20 each
Drawn at a Thermomix event, details to be advertised soon.

Monies raised will go towards seating in the stop, drop and go area.



<i>Dates To Remember</i>	
SEPTEMBER	
Every Monday 9.00am	Mother Goose online
Every Tuesday	Pre-Kinder- for children turning five in 2021, 9:00am to 10:30am Student Banking Day
Every Thursday 9:00am to 10:30am	Pre-Kinder - for children turning five in 2021
Every Friday 9:00am to 10:30am	Launchpad
Friday 25th	Last day of Term 3
OCTOBER	
Every Monday 9.00am	Mother Goose online
Every Tuesday	Pre-Kinder- for children turning five in 2021, 9:00am to 10:30am Student Banking Day
Every Thursday 9:00am to 10:30am	Pre-Kinder - for children turning five in 2021
Every Friday 9:00am to 10:30am	Launchpad
Monday 12th	Start of Term 4
Monday 19th to Friday 23rd	Early Childhood Swimming, Kinder to Grade 2



WHAT IS FOSTER CARE ??

Have you ever thought about fostering a child or young person?

In the Circular Head area we're seeking full-time, weekend and emergency foster carers to share their home and heart to help children succeed in life.

So come have a chat and a coffee on us and find out more.

Drop in and see Kylie at Time Out on Emmett on Friday 18th September anytime between 12.00 - 2.00pm.

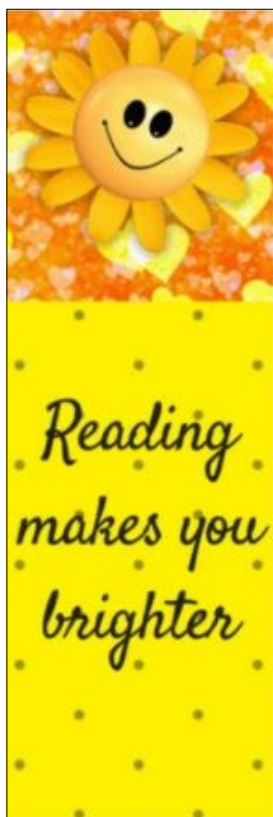
If you can't make this time please call or email to find out more.

Kylie Gibbs
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