



# Smithton Primary School

RESPECT ❖ ENCOURAGE ❖ ASPIRE ❖ LEARN

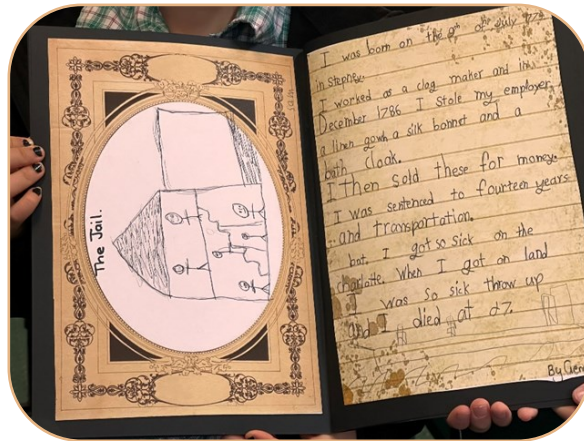
Issue 19 - 4th December 2024

## 3-4 Gausden



In 3-4 Gausden we have been learning about the First Fleet. We learned about the lives of convicts who travelled from the United Kingdom to Australia in 1788.

We created journal entries about convicts, some we made up and some were real. We compiled these into a class book called "Convict Tales from The First Fleet."



## 2024 CHRISTMAS PARADE

You are invited to join us as part of the Smithton Primary Parade entry.

All students, parents and staff are welcome to join the Christmas parade as part of the walking group...

- Students need to be in FULL school uniform with a Santa hat!
- Parents in neat casual clothing with a Santa hat!

We will assemble at Gibson Street (near Jules Takeaway) at 6:45pm on Friday 13th of December.

Students need to be collected by parents from Gibson Street at the conclusion of the parade.

We hope to see as many students and parents as possible to walk the parade.



## Smithton Primary School

### 2025 Kinder Parent Information Session

with Mrs Jayde Grey

**Friday, 6th December at 11:40am in the assembly hall.**

*The session will take place while children are at their Pre-Kinder session.*

There will be information regarding uniform, school days, what to expect in Kinder and other relevant information. Mrs Grey can also answer any questions you may have regarding school next year.

All 2025 Kinder parents/carers are welcome to attend!

Department for Education,  
Children and Young People





It's been fantastic to feel the buzz of excitement through the corridors as Christmas creeps closer and end of year celebrations begin. Teachers and students are making the most of opportunities to celebrate the learning and friendships that have evolved throughout 2024. It's a timely reminder that, while the end of the school year is closing in on us, our routines and expectations continue to be very important, allowing all of us to end the year in a safe and supportive learning environment. Keep up the great work everyone!

### Early Learning

Our little learners had a fantastic trip to the vet last Friday. Thanks Mrs Coombe for making it happen and to Mrs Williams and Mrs Close for supporting our families. Pre-Kinder students have two more sessions exploring our learning environments before they become Kinder students in 2025. This Friday Mrs Jayde Grey will meet with families to support them with information about starting Kinder, including routines, what to expect and some opportunities to ask questions. This will occur in the assembly hall while Mrs Coombe continues with the Pre-Kinder session for the children. Next Friday (the 13<sup>th</sup>) will be the final Pre-Kinder for 2024.

### Year 6 Orientation

Year 6 students will spend this Friday, the 6<sup>th</sup> December having a trial run at being high school students. They will meet the high school staff at the school gym by 8:45am and experience a day in the life of a Year 7 student. Have a fantastic day!

### Kinder Celebrations

Kinder students will join their families next Tuesday, the 10<sup>th</sup> December for their Celebration of Learning. We can't wait to share the learning and development of all our Kinder students with their families and our school community.

### Upper Primary Swimming

Our 3/4 and 5/6 classes launched into their swimming program this week, the participation rates are fantastic and feedback from all staff is our students are learning so much about water safety – keep up the great work! Upper primary swimming will continue until the 13<sup>th</sup> December.

### Looking ahead to 2025

Staffing is almost finalised and will be announced in our final newsletter. We are excited to announce our Kindergarten teachers for 2025 will be Mrs Jayde Grey and Mrs Hayley Sharman. In all other year levels, your children will find out their teacher for 2025 when reports go home on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

### School Data

Mrs King and I have been reviewing school data and have been so excited to share our progress against the targets set at the start of 2024. Some noteworthy achievements are:

- While our attendance rate didn't quite get to where we wanted, only 2.9% of absences remain unexplained. Thanks especially to Kim for helping us keep on top of communication with families.
- Safe at school – Our student wellbeing data tells us we've grown 10% higher in the number of students feeling safe at school. How fantastic!
- Parent survey data also tells us we have very high rates of families feeling their child is safe at school, where our rating is above the state average.
- Staff report feeling high levels of satisfaction relating to meeting the learning need of students.
- 97% students participated in the PAT reading assessment and the growth in all year levels is worthy of celebration.
- The number of students being identified as 'at risk' with their reading has drastically reduced over the year.

Congratulations to our students and staff for their hard work, all year! I'm very proud of every one of you.

*Lindsey*

Lindsey Blake | Principal



# Circular Head Show

Congratulations to Kinder-Prep Sharman for first prize in the Decorated Cupcake category and Kinder-Prep, Prep-1, 1-2 and Year 2 classes for second prize in the Collective Exhibit - junior class for their Snail Art.

Well done also to 3-4 Wilson, 3-4 Underwood and the Early Childhood classes for their contribution. What a great effort by you all.



On behalf of the Circular Head Show Society would you please pass on our thanks to the students and staff for their amazing entries in the Circular Head Show. It never ceases to amaze the variety and quality of work that the schools produce and is commented on by the patrons on the day. The support shown is very much appreciated. Thanks again.

Sue Smedley - Secretary



# 5-6 Fletcher

Over the last two terms, Year 5/6 Fletcher has had the opportunity to develop their own business – a restaurant. This project was connected to several curriculum areas including English, Maths and HASS. Each learner created an advertising campaign that included, a company logo and slogan, an advertising poster, a grand opening invitation, a signature dish flyer, and a persuasive newspaper article. Along with these elements they also created an opening hours timetable, collected, and presented data to help them develop their business and designed a digital floor plan.

The most recent elements that were added to their portfolios were a series of procedures that could be found in restaurants including a hand washing procedure and a recipe for their signature dish. The final component they will be working on over the last few weeks of term is developing a budget for their business.



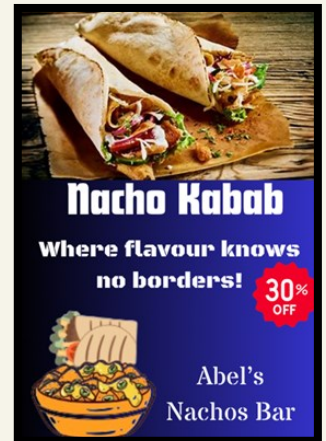
## Floor Plans



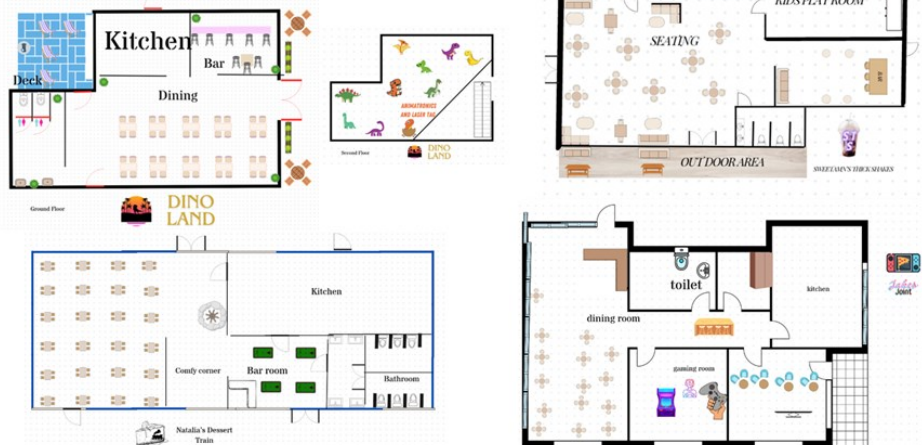
# RESTAURANT

# 5-6 Fletcher

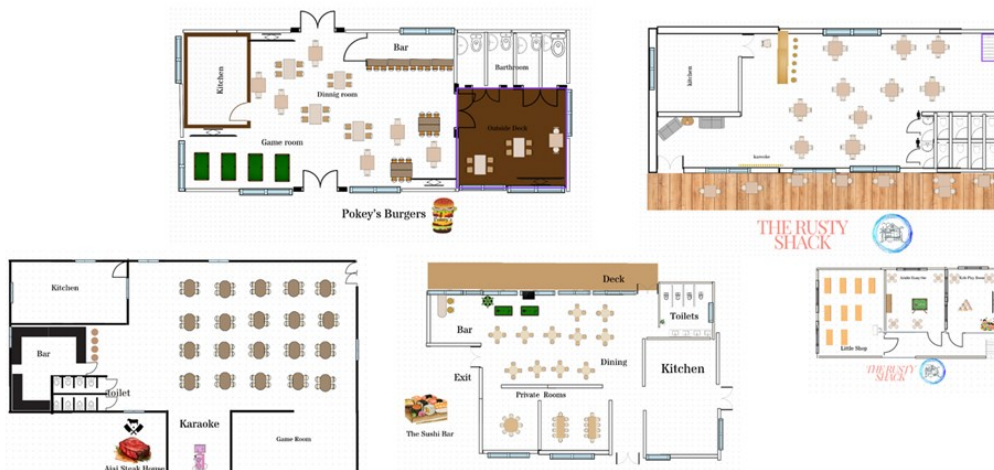
## Floor Plans



## Floor Plans



## Floor Plans



RESTAURANT



## Key Word Sign

Key word sign (KWS) is a communication technique that uses speech and sign together to help support children and adults communicate. It is a strategy used for people with communication difficulties to get their message across to others.

KWS provides visual information alongside speech, which can assist visual learners. Learning KWS can help reduce the levels of frustration by a child who can't express their needs and wants.

The key words in a message are signed. KWS is not a sign language, but it borrows the signs from the sign language of the country it is used in.

At Smithton Primary school we are working towards implementing KWS across the whole school.

### Sign of the Week

Learn and use Key Word Sign (KWS) with sign of the week. Try using this sign in different situations, with many people this week. You can also learn other signs.



help

Place dominant hand bent at third knuckles, palm down, onto non-dominant palm. Or may place dominant hand onto non-dominant hand, palms together. Move formation forward. \* With directionality.

#### What you might say when using this sign:

Let me help you.

Will you help me?

Let's help each other.

#### What is KWS?

KWS is a type of Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC). It is a strategy to support people with communication difficulties. KWS borrows signs from the local sign language. In Australia, this is Auslan.

Talk to a DECYP Speech and Language Pathologist (SLP) and visit this website for more information: <https://kwsa.org.au>



#### How do I use KWS?

1. Sign and talk at the same time
2. Sign the key words while saying the whole sentence
3. Use other visual strategies:
  - body language
  - natural gestures
  - facial expression
  - directionality and placement (sign production features used in Auslan)
  - some finger spelling

**Reference:** Caithness, C., Brownlie, E., Bloomberg, K. (2012) Getting Started with Key Word Sign (Auslan Edition)  
Designed by Harmony Turnbull, KWS State Trainer, Clinical Education Lead – Speech and Language Pathology

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## FREE BOOKS!

As a result of a recent stocktake in our library we have some books which have been cleared from the shelves. This is a great opportunity to get your child/children some books for the holidays.



The books are located in the Family Room and have a cancelled sticker on them. Please feel free to help yourself to these books at pick-up time or if you are popping in to school.

Any questions, contact Mrs King.



SMITHTON PRIMARY P&F  
CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

# CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

**ONE MAJOR PRIZE TO BE WON !!**

A KELSO WHEEL BARROW FULL OF  
FANTASTIC ITEMS INCLUDING:

- VOUCHERS
- SKATEBOARD
- PIE MAKER
- GAMES
- BOOKS
- ACTIVITIES & MORE

**\$2 EACH OR 3 FOR \$5**  
**DRAWN 12/12/24**

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE SCHOOL  
OFFICE



## SMITHTON PRIMARY

INVITES YOU TO OUR

# End of Year Assembly

MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER

at 11:00 am

Everyone is welcome to come and  
celebrate the 2024 school year and say  
farewell to our Year 6 students.

Please come through the school office.



## HAVE YOU MOVED HOUSE?

Please contact our office if you have moved  
or changed your postal address.



It is very important that we have accurate and  
up-to-date details so that we can communicate  
important information and maintain your  
childrens records.

## Walk the Talk

# Silence Hides Violence

7 December

Saturday 7 December  
@ ANZAC Park at 10.15am  
Wear Orange to Walk the Talk;  
Finish with BBQ & Speakers



# Dates To Remember - 2024

## December

Friday 6th and 13th - 9:00am to 10:30am	Launching into Learning - Launchpad with Melissa Coombe (Birth - 5 Years)
Friday 6th and 13th - 11:30am to 12:30pm	Pre-Kinder - with Melissa Coombe (for children starting Kinder in 2025)
Monday 2nd to Friday 13th	Upper Primary Swimming
Friday 6th December	Year 6 Orientation Day at Smithton High School
Tuesday 10th - 1:30pm	Kinder Celebration of Learning
Friday 13th	Christmas Parade
Monday 16th - 11:00am start	Final Assembly
Tuesday 17th	Whole School Picnic at Riverbend (Kinder to Year 6)
Wednesday 18th	Year 6 Day Out
Thursday 19th	Last Day for Students

## January 2025

Tuesday 28th	Prep - Year 6: Uniform sales and book pack collection
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## February 2025

Thursday 6th	First day back for students
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### STUDENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME (STAS) 2025

2025 Letters confirming STAS 2025 eligibility are now being delivered by post. Families who have not applied for or received STAS previously are encouraged to apply online at <https://stasonlinesubmission.education.tas.gov.au> (or Google STAS to be taken directly to the link). Online applications can be submitted on any electronic device including mobile phones.

Families who are advised by letter that they are approved for STAS 2025 and who need to add another student can email their full name and the name, date of birth and grade of the student in 2025 to [stas@decyp.tas.gov.au](mailto:stas@decyp.tas.gov.au) and the newly enrolling student will be added to their file.

Any questions please contact the office.

### 2024 School Term Dates

Term 1	Thursday 8th February to Friday 12th April
Term 2	Monday 29th April to Friday 5th July
Term 3	Monday 22nd July to Friday 27th September
Term 4	Monday 14th October to Thursday 19th December

### Student Free Days

Friday 7th June
Friday 1st November

### CONTACT DETAILS

27 - 43 Grant Street, Smithton, TAS, 7330

Phone 03 6452 1955

Email [smithton.primary@decyp.tas.gov.au](mailto:smithton.primary@decyp.tas.gov.au)

Web [www.decyp.tas.gov.au](http://www.decyp.tas.gov.au)

