

CANTERBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL

Wangal and Bediagal Country
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canterbury-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
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Thursday 6th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Canterbury Public School for 2025. Today I had the pleasure of catching up with students at the gate, in the playground and classrooms. As always, any first-day nerves were quickly soothed when children greeted their friends and there were smiles galore when classes were announced. Students look so smart and proud of their school in their uniform too. Getting back into routine can be challenging – especially after such a long break - so thank you and well done, parents and carers!

On behalf of the school community, I would like to warmly welcome our new families to Canterbury. We are honoured that you have placed the education and care of your children in the hands of our team.

For your convenience, this letter has also been emailed to you to make following all links to online resources and documents easier.

Essentials – Please download these apps



[SZapp](#)

Stay up to date with school information and organisation including:

- All school events (you can sync them to your smartphone calendar)
- Newsletters
- Notifications (e.g. sport cancellation) and much more.

Follow the link/QR code to download the app.



[School Bytes](#)

- School payments and statement of account
- Student permission to attend excursions and additional activities

Important emails to parents are sent via a School Bytes email address so please check that they are not landing in your spam/junk folder.

Follow the link/QR code to download the app.

Save the date!

Kindergarten commence

Tea and Tissues (Kindergarten parents)

Swimming Carnival (optional)

P&C Meeting (all families welcome)

Welcome Picnic – SEE BELOW

Meet the Teacher (All parents K-6)

Year 7 Enrolment (Parents of Year 6)

Gardening Bee (all families welcome)

School Photo Day (K-6)

Year 3 and Year 5 NAPLAN begins

Growth Goal interviews K-6

Friday 7th February

Friday 7th February 9:30-10:30am (B Block)

Wednesday 12th February (for students born 2017 or earlier and can swim 50 metres)

Wednesday 12th February 7:15-8:30pm (B Block)

Friday 14th February 5-7pm (enter via Church St)

Wednesday 19th February 3:30-4:30pm (SU classes 2:30pm)

Wednesday 19th February 4:30-5:00pm

Saturday 1st March 2-4pm

Tuesday 4th March

Wednesday 12th March

*Note change of date: Monday 24th to Thursday 27th March

Further details will be sent home closer to each event.



Suggestion box

Canterbury PS is dedicated to continual improvement and school excellence. Please consider sharing with us your ideas and feedback on what we are doing well and/or how we could improve on programs, community engagement, policies and systems. <https://goo.gl/forms/DZzNsxKejP5BurNk1>

Are our records correct?

Hopefully every child received my letter via Australia Post a couple of weeks ago. Please contact the office on 02 9718 2884 when your residential address or contact details change.

Class Connect 2025

Class Connect is an informal social group run by volunteer parents at CPS to provide opportunities for families to meet and foster friendships outside of school hours. Please contact the Office on 02 9718 2884 ASAP if you are interested in volunteering to coordinate a social group within your child's cohort. More information will be shared at *Meet the Teacher*.

Staffing

This year we are thrilled to welcome Ms Blumer, Ms Akiki, and Ms McSpadden (classroom teachers), and Ms Chitra and Ms Najmeh (school learning support officers) to the CPS team.

This term we have a few staff on leave including Ms Burke, Mr Lay, Ms Kenny and Ms Lee.

You will receive your teacher's email address at *Meet the Teacher* afternoon. In the meantime, please contact the office if you need to make time to speak with your child's teacher.

Term 1 Staff and Classes

Tracy		Considine		Principal
Vanessa		Silva		Deputy Principal
Karla		Sevenoaks		Assistant Principal Curriculum and Instruction
Gerard	Searle		KS	Assistant Principal Early Stage 1
Nadia	Grimes		KG	Classroom Teacher
Chrisoula	Tzodouris		KT	Classroom Teacher
Linda	Askin	M-Th	1/2A	Assistant Principal Stage 1
Stephanie	Aceveski		1/2S	Classroom Teacher
Yiana	Boufeas		1/2B	Classroom Teacher
Jacqueline	Goulder	F	1/2A	Classroom Teacher
Kara	Holt	M-W	1/2XH	Classroom Teacher
Eileen	Xie	Th-F	1/2XH	Classroom Teacher
Anna	Murray		3/4M	Assistant Principal Stage 2
Rana	Matar		3/4R	Classroom Teacher
Pamela	Phillips		3/4P	Classroom Teacher
Carmel	Aiello		5/6A	Assistant Principal Stage 3
Amy	Akiki		5/6BA	Classroom Teacher
Maki	Blumer		5/6B	Classroom Teacher
Mark	Healey		5/6H	Classroom Teacher
Anaita	Talati		SU-T	Assistant Principal Special Education
Sadie	Davies	M-Th	SC-DM	Classroom Teacher Special Education
Mary	McSpadden	F	SC-DM	Classroom Teacher Special Education
Christine	Nasser	W-F	SC-NI	Classroom Teacher Special Education
Stephanie	Iacullo	M-T	SC-NI	Classroom Teacher Special Education
Melanie	Papasavvas		SC-LP	Classroom Teacher Special Education
Grace	Valastro		SC-V	Classroom Teacher Special Education
Gaby	Aitkin	M-Th	LaST	Learning and Support Teacher 3-6
Jacqueline	Goulder	W	RFF	Covering MS Lee's Term 1 leave
Dora	Koursaris		LaST	Learning and Support Teacher K-2 and Deadly Kids
Stephanie	Iacullo	W	RFF	Special Education RFF
Mary	McSpadden	W	RFF	Release from Face-to-Face Teaching
Jenny	Parkes		RFF	Teacher Librarian (and covering Ms Lee's T1 leave)
Meghan	Ryan		RFF	Creative Arts Teacher
Bjorn	Wallin		EAL/D	English as a Second Language/Dialect Teacher

Felicity	Williams	T-F	RFF	Visual Arts Teacher
Janet	Stefanis		SAM/BM	School Administrative Manager & Business Manager
Annamarie	McKay		SAO/SAM	School Administrative Officer and relieving SAM
Linda	Thomas	M, W, Th ^(2nd)	SAO	School Administrative Officer
Yukiko	Arita	M, W-F	SLSO	School Learning Support Officer
Aelien	Kama	M-F	SLSO	School Learning Support Officer
Nadia	Kamal	M, W-F	SLSO	School Learning Support Officer
Louise	Little	M-Th	SLSO	School Learning Support Officer
Pamela	Makelas	M-W	SLSO	School Learning Support Officer
Sonya	Nassif		SLSO	School Learning Support Officer
Karen	Quinn		SLSO	School Learning Support Officer
Najmeh	Saeian	T, Th, F	SLSO	School Learning Support Officer
Keiko	Seino	M, T, Th, F	SLSO	School Learning Support Officer
Chitra	Sonaian	T-F	SLSO	School Learning Support Officer
Midori	Tran	M, W-F	SLSO	School Learning Support Officer
Gina	Tzerbos	M-W	SLSO	School Learning Support Officer
Daniel	Kvasnicka	T, F	GA	General Assistant
Kylie	Grace	M-T	SC	School Counsellor

Class structure and class placement 2025

This year's classes were formed last year based on our knowledge of 2025 enrolment numbers at the time. In the last three days, we have received an additional seven enrolment enquiries, so please be aware that there may be changes to some class formations if enrolment numbers significantly grow or decline over the next two weeks. If this is the case, we will endeavour to minimise disruption and change for students.

A school's class structure varies from year to year and is essentially based on student numbers. It is common for schools to have 'composite' (multi-age) classes, and this structure is very familiar to Canterbury families. Although it is natural for some parents to be cautious of multi-age classes, it is important to remember that a composite class does not disadvantage its students. Qualified educators understand that every class is in fact a 'composite' comprising up to 30 individuals with a wide range of academic, creative, physical, language, social and emotional abilities and needs. The NSW curriculum has been stage-based, and not grade-based, since 1998, with students working towards learning outcomes over a two-year timeframe. Canterbury's teaching and learning programs are designed to identify and address children's academic, social and emotional needs, to ensure all students are engaged and challenged, regardless of their date of birth.

Consequently, I can assure you that we have high expectations for all students and our highly trained teachers are committed to getting to know your child and meeting their needs through engaging and personalised learning programs.

Class formation takes hours of team work to achieve optimum classroom dynamics to maximise learning for all students. I hope that you share my confidence in our teachers' professional judgement. The children were certainly happy and excited when I visited classrooms today.

At home, you can support your child with a positive attitude and positive conversations about school and staff. This will go a long way in setting up students for a successful school year. If you have any concerns, I encourage you to make an appointment to discuss them with your child's teacher in the first instance or the Assistant Principal of the stage if further consultation is required.

Attendance and explaining absences

Attendance at school is compulsory and students must attend every day the school is open for instruction. Parents are required to explain the absence of their child from school promptly and within seven days of the first day of any absence. Extended leave of six or more school days requires written prior approval from the Principal. Parents of absent children who have not already explained the absence will receive an SMS asking to provide an explanation. Replying to the text message is the most convenient way of communicating promptly with the school. If your child attends before or after school care and they are away, parents are responsible for informing Primary OSHCare directly.

Home time etiquette

It is parents' responsibility to supervise toddlers and pre-schoolers when on site to keep them safe.

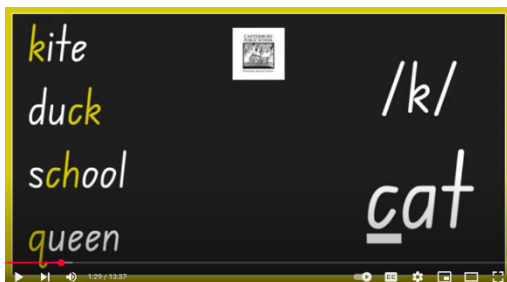
The Aboriginal Outdoor Learning Area is culturally sensitive and is not a play area. The message sticks' artworks belong to our Aboriginal students and must not be touched. Thank you for your respect and cooperation.

It is the responsibility of parents and carers to arrange collection and supervision of children from 3:20pm. If you are running late, please notify the school by phoning 02 9718 2884 so that we can communicate with your child and allay any worries they may experience. Students who are not collected on time will need to wait in the office foyer and parents will be contacted. Late collection of children will take place via the Church Street office gate. Buzz reception and a staff member will bring your child to the gate. Under the law, ongoing supervision concerns are considered a child protection matter.

Homework

The completion of homework is a school expectation and formal homework will commence after *Meet the Teacher*. In the meantime, please encourage your child to read every day and you are welcome to read our Homework Policy located on SZapp via the Forms and Documents tile and visit our YouTube channel to learn more about our Counting Cards program. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpZSjQ-1V7jigT8J8Vc01w> (or Google Canterbury Public School counting cards).

New phonics resource for home



You asked for it so we delivered!
Produced by Mr Searle and Ms Considine
in response to CPS parents and carers'
requests for a Standard Australian English
phoneme reference/resource to use at
home. Use the QR code to view or click
[here](#).

Voluntary School Contributions

A **voluntary** contribution of \$51.00 per child this year will be used for the purchase of additional school resources such as library books, enhanced communication systems, site maintenance, additional capital items and equipment and additional programs beyond the core curriculum. Other than excursions, stage-based activities, PSSA and carnivals, there are no other costs this year.

Volunteers and Parent Helpers

We are fortunate to have the support of many parent, carer and grandparent volunteers to assist in different aspects of school life. If you would like to volunteer at the school in any capacity this year, please complete this survey <https://forms.gle/NmcFj1n97tygRZjL9>.



Canteen (Operated by Made Fresh)

Lunch orders must be given to the canteen before 9:20am (learning time). Please remember to *let your child know before school* if you have ordered their lunch online so that they know to collect their lunch. Online orders can be placed via the [Flexischools](#) app by 9:30am each day. Your feedback to *Made Fresh* and to the school is encouraged. The [current menu](#) is located on the SZapp via the Forms and Documents tile.

Library, *Kids Who Read, Succeed!* and the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

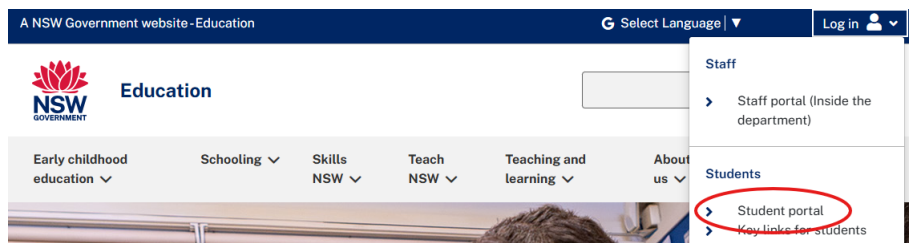
Students visit the library once a week to borrow books. Returns can be made during library time but also before and after school – just pop the book in the 'Bookie Monster' to the right-hand side of the door to the library as you arrive or leave for the school day.



The ***Kids Who Read, Succeed!* (KWRS)** program will be up and running soon. Please keep the reading journal that you receive in a safe place at home and remind your child to read every day! Milestones such as reading for 25, 50, 75 and 100+ days will be rewarded with a token which goes into a draw for prizes of free books! Prize winners are drawn twice a term during our online assemblies.

The **2025 NSW Premiers Reading Challenge (PRC)** also opens on Monday 24th February. This links in well with our KWRS and involves logging books online to achieve a certificate at the end of the year. Last year we had 101 students in the school achieve their PRC certificate which is the number to beat in 2025! To participate, students will need to log in at home by going to the Education NSW website at:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/>



The 'login' button at the top right-hand corner of the page has a drop-down button, from which your child can select 'student portal'.

The login details for this portal are the same as your child's login they

use at school. If you do not know your child's school login details, please contact your classroom teacher.



Premier's
Reading.

Inside the portal, you will see a button with the PRC worm on it.

Click on the PRC button and then the banner which says 'Student Experience Site' to log any books your child reads at home.

2025 Premier's Reading Challenge



Students will learn to navigate to this page during library lessons to log any books read at school. If you have any questions regarding the PRC that are not answered by the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page on the website, please contact Ms Parkes at jenny.parkes@det.nsw.edu.au.

We have so much more planned in the library this year, including book clubs, appointing library monitors and of course the all-exciting Book Week experience in Term 3. Stay tuned and keep checking the newsletter for updates.

A reminder that all students should bring a library bag to protect books borrowed. This is also great for keeping notes from school, reading journals, home reading books and homework books dry. Library bags protect our books from their arch enemy - the leaky water bottle!

Extracurricular programs (in addition to the core curriculum)

At Canterbury we offer an impressive range of extracurricular programs for students to explore personal interests, and further develop skills and talents. **Updated information about 2025 programs will be sent home to families within the next few weeks.**

Strings Ensemble and Band applications are now open. Please follow the links to find out more about registering for Strings and/or Band. First in, first served! **Strings ensembles** <https://cpsclubs.info> **Band** <https://www.schoolbands.com.au/>

Code of Conduct

Canterbury Public School is more than a primary school. It is a safe, inclusive and harmonious community which encourages and supports all parents and carers to be actively involved in the education of their child. This welcome extends to all visitors, volunteers and friends of Canterbury.

The Code of Conduct clearly outlines expectations around the behaviour, communication and responsibilities of all parents, carers, visitors and volunteers. One of the best ways children learn appropriate behaviour is through positive role models, and so it is essential that parents, carers, visitors and volunteers display appropriate behaviour to create a positive environment where everyone is respected. Entry to Canterbury Public School depends on compliance to this code.

The Code of Conduct ensures that anyone who visits the school site can do so in a safe and friendly manner. In addition, this code protects students, staff, parents and other visitors from aggressive, hostile, bullying or violent behaviours whilst on school grounds.

Please take the time read the Code of Conduct carefully. It includes helpful information regarding who to contact when you have a specific query or concern. <https://canterburyps.schoolzineplus.com/d/33568>

School Excellence Plan 2021- 2025

Student growth and attainment

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

TO ENSURE STUDENT PROGRESS DRIVES
CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN TEACHING
PRACTICES IN READING AND NUMERACY

Equity and excellence

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

TO SUPPORT EVERY STUDENT TO FULFIL THEIR
POTENTIAL THROUGH ADAPTIVE AND DIFFERENTIATED
TEACHING PRACTICES WHICH ADDRESS INDIVIDUAL
LEARNING NEEDS AND ENSURE CONTINUOUS GROWTH
FOR ALL

Engagement and connection

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

TO MAXIMISE STUDENT INVESTMENT IN
THEIR EDUCATION AND SENSE OF
BELONGING AT SCHOOL

Learn more about this year's strategic directions at Meet the Teacher afternoon as well as in the newsletter and at P&C meetings.

I am looking forward to leading a fantastic year of learning and teaching excellence at Canterbury Public School, working in partnership with you, our wonderful community, staff and students.

Yours sincerely

Ms Tracy Considine
Principal