Principals Message

Dear Plumpton PS Community,

Everyone is very impressed with our new little Kindergarten students; the children are already settling-in to their new routines. We hope all of our families will enjoy being part of our school community and create many happy memories of your time here.

I am very pleased to say that so many of our students are displaying our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) school wide expectations: 'Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be a Learner.' We will continue to focus on these expectations in classrooms and in all school areas. You can help your child with PBL by positively reinforcing these expectations in the home, at the shops, playing sport, visiting friends; wherever you are with them. We can all work in partnership to help our children be safe and respectful wherever they are.

PLUMPTON P.S. APP

Keep up to date with school events through our very own application. You can download it for free. Search the App Store for ‘Plumpton Public School’

The Username is: Community and the Password is: Plumpton.

BUSWAYS

This week, we received a letter from Busways asking for our assistance in minimising any delay in the afternoon pick-up of our students which would then flow-on to other schools.

In addition, teachers and parents are telling me of the unsafe and illegal behaviour of motorists putting our students at risk.

Illegal use of bus zones and ignorance of other parking restrictions are matters best targeted by the police and local council, however, I would like to remind all parents and carers:

DO NOT park or temporarily stop in the bus zones
DO NOT stop in the no standing areas and
DO NOT park across our driveways.

Please consider the safety of our students.
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
Many of our students are collected by older brothers or sisters who attend local High Schools. Unfortunately, it has been brought to my attention that some of the High School students are riding their bikes and scooters into our school grounds, weaving between adults and children and creating safety issues for all. One student riding a bike almost hit some of the smaller children and refused to get off his bike when spoken to. No students (or adults) are permitted to ride bicycles or scooters on school grounds.

We are also noticing that some of the High School students are bringing friends with them to collect younger brothers or sisters. Others are just taking a short-cut through the school. It is busy enough at 3pm without this added congestion. If they have no purpose to be in our school, High School students will be asked to leave via the nearest exit.

If students display ongoing inappropriate behaviour and choose to ignore requests, I will have no alternative other than to ban them from the school grounds. This would then force siblings to meet at the gate or parents having to make alternative arrangements.

If you have a child in High School could you please discuss these matters with them and remind them to make sure they display appropriate behaviour at all times.

Being on Plumpton Public School grounds is a privilege – not a right.

The safety and welfare of our students is of the utmost importance. I ask parents and carers for your cooperation with this.

ANTI-BULLYING
Bullying is intentional, repeated, intimidating behaviour by an individual or a group that causes distress to others. Bullying will not be tolerated at Plumpton Public School.

I will be delivering a presentation on our new Anti-Bullying strategy: The Method of Shared Concern. This is a highly successful approach to resolving bullying / victim problems. Please join me on Tuesday, 25th February, 4pm-5pm in the School Hall.

SCHOOL UNIFORM
Plumpton P.S. has a school uniform policy requiring all students to wear the full school uniform.

Not only does the school uniform promote group cohesion and a sense of belonging; the school uniform enhances safety in the playground through quick and easy identification of students and also provides protection from the sun.

Unless otherwise notified, students are expected to be in school uniform on all school days. To be consistent with this policy, students will no longer wear ‘mufti’ clothing for their class assembly days.

A reminder to families:
• Students are required to wear black school shoes in lace up, buckle or velcro.
• A Plumpton P.S. hat is required for students to play in the unshaded areas.
• Sports shoes are acceptable on designated sports days.
• ‘Mufti’ clothes only on authorised days, such as school fundraisers or other special whole school events.

Thank you for supporting our school uniform policy.

Yours in partnership,

Mrs Maureen Johnson
Principal
Don’t forget: “Be on time at 5 to 9!”
FACEBOOK – A REMINDER!
Facebook requires individuals to be at least 13 years old before they can create an account.

Providing false information to create an account is always a violation of the Statement of Rights and Responsibilities. This includes accounts registered on the behalf of under 13 year old children by older parties.

If you encounter cyberbullying:
- Report abuse to the relevant authorities.
- Serious instances of cyberbullying may constitute an offence under Commonwealth law.

REPEAT ITEM:

MOBILE PHONES
Whilst not encouraging students to bring mobile phones to school, Plumpton Public School accepts that some parents give their children mobile phones for ease of communication and perhaps a sense of personal safety.

Mobile phones must be handed in at the front office first thing in the morning, where they will be kept in a secure location during the school day, and collected at the end of the day.

The school accepts no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged phones in the instance that they have not been handed in

BOOKPACKS
Bookpacks are now available for purchase.

Cost is $35 for Years 5 - 6
$30 for Years K - 4.

Money should be placed in an envelope with your child's name, class, amount and what the money is for eg. Bookpack and given to your child's class teacher. All money collected is used to purchase paper for the classroom, stationery and classroom resources for your child.

STUDENT BANKING
Student Banking will commence Thursday – 27 February, 2014.

The School Banking program includes an exciting Rewards Program designed to encourage children to get into the habit of making regular saving. Every time your child makes a deposit at school they receive a silver coloured Dollarmites token. The first token will be received upon the first deposit at school. Once your child has individually saved 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive Dollarmites reward item. Students will have lots of fun saving their tokens for these cool rewards items.

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school. The school receives $5 when children make their first deposit at school and a commission on every deposit made through the School Banking program.

Taking part in School Banking is easy.
If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week using their Dollarmites deposit wallet. If your child has misplaced their Dollarmites deposit book or deposit wallet, they can request a new one from either the local branch or contact the School Banking Co-ordinator.

If your child does not have a Youthsaver account, you can open one at any Commonwealth Bank branch, no
forms to fill in! Alternatively, if you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer with access to NetBank you can apply online. Another option is to download a paper-based application form from commbank.com.au/schoolbanking. Please note this option may take up to 2 weeks before a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book is sent to your home address to start banking at school.

This also applies for siblings who haven’t started school yet.

**SCHOOL PROCEDURES & REMINDERS**

**BIRTHDAYS**

If you would like your child to celebrate their birthday with their class please only send in cupcakes (one for each student). No other party food is to be brought in. All other celebrations are to be kept at home with the family. Could you also supply serviettes. Before sending these in please speak to the class teacher a few days in advance.

**SCHOOL CAR PARK**

Parents are reminded that the school car park is for **STAFF PARKING ONLY**. Parents are asked **not to drop children off in the car park, park in or walk through the car park**. The car park is out of bounds for students. This is for their safety.

**EARLY LEAVING PROCEDURES**

Parents and Carers **MUST go to the office first** before signing their child/children out early. You will be given an “Early Leavers” pass which must be given to the class teacher. You must also have a valid reason for taking your child/children from school early. This will then be recorded on our attendance computer system and may be audited by the Department of Education and Communities Home School Liaison Officer. If you go to the classroom before you go to the office your child will not be released without a pass. The safety of your children is paramount so please follow these steps. No early passes will be given after 2.45pm as this is too disruptive to the class.

**MESSAGES REGARDING LATE COLLECTION OF STUDENT**

Please phone before **2.30pm** with any messages for your child. We do our best to get messages to children but it would be appreciated if you could ensure there are alternative procedures in place.

**PAYMENTS**

All payments for excursions, camp, activities etc must be paid by the advised closing date and given to the class teacher. Please ensure you have enclosed the correct money (**no change will be given**) in an envelope clearly marked with child’s name, class, activity and amount. Sorry we do not supply envelopes.

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*Have you changed any of your contact details? If yes, please contact the office immediately. It is very distressing for students and staff when parents cannot be contacted when needed. Thank you.*

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**P&C NEWS**

Hope everyone has had a good start to the year.

As always, this year we are hoping to get some new members to come along and join the P&C and help us with our goal of raising funds for our school. The same small group of people have been running the P&C for quite a few years now and we would love some fresh faces with new ideas and extra hands for some much needed help.
Our next meeting is our AGM where all positions will be up for grabs. We will struggle to fill those positions without some new members joining. WITHOUT THOSE POSITIONS FILLED THERE WILL BE NO P&C.

All the money raised goes straight back in to the school on things like air conditioners, smart boards etc. What a shame if the kids were to miss out on those things. The uniform shop is also run by the P&C.

Please have a think about helping out this year or come along to our next meeting and see what it's all about. Next meeting including AGM 17th March at 6pm in the staff room.

Uniform shop
Monday and Thursday 8.30-9am and 2.30-2.55pm
CASH ONLY

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The simplest way to increase your vegies

**Eat vegetables throughout the day**
It's hard to get all your vegies at dinner. Try vegie sticks with low-fat dip like guacamole or salsa, or vegie pancakes - mix creamed corn, grated zucchini or carrot into pikelet batter before cooking.

**Decrease the meat in your meals and add more vegetables**
For a family of four all you need is 400g of lean meat, fish or poultry per meal. Top up with lots of extra veg. 
*Hint: chickpeas, lentils and beans are rich in protein and will help curb big appetites!*

**Add vegetables to all your meals**
Meals that are easy to add extra veg to are casseroles, stir-fries, pizzas, even the humble omelette!

For more information visit [www.eatittobeatit.com.au](http://www.eatittobeatit.com.au) or join us at [facebook.com/eatittobeatit](http://facebook.com/eatittobeatit)

The Eat It To Beat It program is supported by the Western Sydney Local Health District Live Life Well School Program.