



Dear Long Flat school community,

I would like to start off by saying I had a wonderful time relieving in the Principal position for the time that Mrs Pepperell was away. As always the students, teachers and parents were amazing and super supportive.

What a busy 10 days it was!

Years 3 – 6 had a fantastic time while away on camp. Ms Davison and I were lucky enough to go with the students to Lake Keepit where we rode BMX and mountains bikes, kayaked on the beautiful lake, had a go at archery and played frisbee golf. The Long Flat students displayed our PROUD expectations and had a lot of fun. They tried all the activities, displayed excellent listening skills and were branded "one of the best groups I've ever had" by our instructor Fiona. I'm sure the kids have shared lots of stories with you about their time at camp, although I wouldn't believe all the stories (especially the ones about a game called wasps and ants).

On Monday we had a puppet performance from Quiz Worx called 'Molly and the Good Shepherd'. I didn't get a chance to get down to the COLA to see it but from all accounts the students enjoyed it and shared a few laughs.



Long Flat has been successful in receiving a Sustainable School Grant and will be putting that money towards an upgrade to the canteen facilities and garden areas. A big thank you to Mr Small for applying.

Lower North Coast Cross Country will be held next week, and I wish all Long Flat students attending the best of luck! Do not forget that a copy of the note must be taken with students on the day.

Skye Sherlock

Toys stay at home

Just a timely reminder that toys are not to be brought to school. This includes trading cards, fidget tools, figurines, toy cars, dolls, games and large balls. Toys are expensive for parents and we would hate for them to get lost or broken. We have lots of fun things at school to play with so students do not need to bring anything but themselves.

Natalie Pepperell
Principal (Relieving)



National Reconciliation Week – 27 May to 3 June – Be A Voice for Generations

The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2023, **Be a Voice for Generations**, encourages all Australians to be a voice for reconciliation in tangible ways in our everyday lives – where we live, work and socialise. For the work of generations past, and the benefit of generations future, let's choose to create a more just, equitable and reconciled country for all. This year's National Reconciliation Week theme, **Be a Voice for Generations**, urges all Australians to use their power, their words and their actions to create a better, more just Australia for all of us. Students at Long Flat Public School will be participating in activities during the week in their classrooms and sharing them at the combined 3/4 and Reconciliation assembly on Friday 2 June. Parents are welcome to join us for the Reconciliation assembly at 2:15pm.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2023

27 MAY — 3 JUNE

BE A VOICE FOR GENERATIONS

NRW.RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU

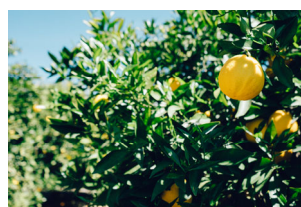
#NRW2023



Thank you to the CWA for their donation of fruits trees to Long Flat school. Students helped to plant these trees in our orchard. We have some finger limes and lemon myrtles for our Bush Tucker Garden, also some lemonades, oranges and white and black mulberries to add to our already productive fruit trees.

Coming Events

29th May	Lower North Coast Cross Country
30th May	Library Van visit
1st June	School photos
2nd June	3/4 Assembly/ Reconciliation Assembly
6th June	Yr 3-6 Speeches
12th June	Public Holiday
27th June	Library Van visit
28th June	Small Schools Athletics Carnival



Also, thank you to our P&C for the donation of vegetable seedlings for our garden beds. They have been planted by our garden club and we look forward to harvesting when the time is right.





2023 NSW PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Welcome to the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. The Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is open to all NSW students in Kindergarten to Year 10, in government, independent, Catholic and home schools. If you need help using the website and the answer cannot be found on the [PRC Support](https://prc.det.nsw.edu.au) site, please contact us at prc@det.nsw.edu.au

2023 Challenge dates

Students can include any books read from the end of the 2022 challenge on their 2023 reading record. Key dates for the 2023 challenge are:

27 February 2023 - challenge opens for student entries

Friday 18 August 2023 - challenge closes for student entries

Friday 1 September 2023 - final date for coordinator validations of completed reading records.

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

Days missed = years lost

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

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight



=

4 weeks



=

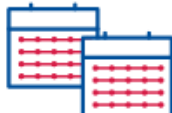
Over **1** year missed

1 day per week



=

8 weeks



=

Over **2.5** years missed





Compulsory school attendance

| Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my Legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The Importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

My child won't go to school what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.