

DIARY DATES

WEEK 7

Monday 14th March
Adelaide Cup
Holiday

Tuesday 15th March
PUPIL
FREE DAY

Wednesday 16th March
Canteen Mtg
@ 9am

Thursday 17th March
OSHC Mtg
@9.00am
Grounds Mtg
@ 9.30am

Friday 18th March
Fundraising Mtg
@2.30pm

WEEK 8

Monday 21st March
HARMONY DAY
Thursday 24th March
NAPLAN PRACTICE
(YRS 3 & 5)
Friday 25th March
Assembly Rm 12
@2.30pm

WEEK 9

Monday 28th March
Governing Council
@7pm

I feel so privileged to be leading Surrey Downs Primary School for semester 1 as Acting Principal and welcome Mark Taylor as Deputy Principal to the leadership team. Together we have a strong vision for the direction of our school and look forward to working with you all this semester.

The beginning of the 2022 school year presented us with some challenges as we adapted to accommodate COVID restrictions. As always staff, students and families showed resilience and perseverance to create successful learning and team building opportunities for all learners. It was wonderful to have everyone back on site in week 3 and settling into learning spaces. Personally, I never thought my own children would be so eager for the holidays to be over so they could return to school!

We welcome to our school community our 23 new reception students and their families, who have settled into the routines of school in Rooms 1, 5 & 6. We also welcome students and families who have transferred to Surrey Downs Primary School to continue their school journey.

Thank you to those who attended our Annual General Meeting on Monday evening. This was a great opportunity to share successes from 2021 and our future directions as a school.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the following members of our Governing Council in 2022:

Chairperson: Laura Sennett

Deputy Chairperson: Mandy Elliott

Secretary: Aidan Cousins

Treasurer: Natalie Trethowen

Councillors: Jenni Whenan, Emma Gilbert, Cyone Whiting, Michelle Hutchesson, Deanna Gardner, Carly Thorsen, Nicole Burford and Janelle Neave.

Please feel free to ask your Governing Council representatives to raise issues, concerns and ideas on your behalf throughout the year.

Acquaintance Night looked a little different this year with teachers producing short presentations to share information about themselves as educators and the key messages for learning this year. We hope you enjoyed viewing these with your children and they encouraged conversations around school and learning. We look forward to future opportunities to have face to face conversations with you all.

COVID Update

A reminder that all visitors, unless medically exempt, must wear a mask when entering the school grounds and buildings.

We are no longer required to check in using QR codes when entering school grounds. Before being allowed to work on site, all school volunteers must provide evidence that they are double vaccinated against COVID-19. If you are an inducted volunteer please show your COVID vaccination certificate to Janet in the front office so we can update our records accordingly.

Karen Gage

Your Leadership team in 2022

This year we have a new leadership team at Surrey Downs Primary School.

Karen Gage - Principal

Karen has been appointed to the role of Acting Principal for the first semester this year. As Acting Principal she becomes responsible for overseeing the day to day running of the school and for ensuring that the site improvement plan with the school priorities and vision are implemented. As an experienced SDPS staff member, Karen has a solid understanding of the school community and is excited to take up this opportunity.



Mark Taylor – Deputy Principal

Mark has joined us as Deputy Principal, with responsibilities including English as an Additional Language or Dialect intervention and overseeing Inclusive Education to support students with disabilities. He brings experience from a number of prior leadership roles in supporting schools and teachers to develop practices to improve student outcomes.



Louise McAdam – Student Wellbeing educator

Louise has taken on this position for two days a week with a focus on student wellbeing. This role allows her to share her extensive knowledge of wellbeing with teachers to support all students within the school. Louise will be working with teachers and small groups of students as Student Wellbeing educator as well as delivering specialist science lessons to junior primary and special options students and filling a classroom teacher position for a day a week.



Kylie Thompson – Business Manager

Kylie oversees finances within the school to ensure that the Governing Council approved budget guides our spending. She also oversees maintenance of our facilities and coordinates day to day organisation of our SSOs.



Our Site Improvement Plan

Our new Site Improvement Plan 2022-2024 guides our actions for improvement over the next three years. Surrey Downs Primary School's focus areas are improving reading and numeracy.

With reading, we have identified decoding and comprehension as priorities. Decoding is an important skill for learning to read that involves taking apart the sounds in words and blending sounds together. This allows students to identify and make sense of words when reading. Comprehension refers to understanding texts, from directly stated information through to implied meaning, also known as inference.

In numeracy we are working to improve students' visualisation and reasoning. Visualisation describes the ability to create mental models in our thoughts that we can manipulate. In number, this might mean visualising fifty three as five tens and three ones. Five and three can be imagined and manipulated, whereas fifty three is too large a number for a mental image as ones. Students reason when they explain their thinking and strategies when solving unfamiliar problems.

Combined with what we are focusing on, we are also looking at evidence based explicit teaching strategy. This is more than just telling students information, some of the things it involves are:

- teachers and students being really clear about what they are teaching and learning
- clear criteria for success – how do students know when they have achieved goals
- modelling strategies for approaching problems
- checking in with students and targeted support
- regularly reviewing the learning

We use research based evidence from educational studies around the world to identify ways to include these successfully in our teaching practice. Teaching is a complex task, so we will support each other to work through these strategies to support our students – your children – to achieve their best.

Listening to Primary Children read at home: developing inference

An area of difficulty in reading for many primary aged students is in developing skills in understanding inference. Many parents have asked me over the years "How can I help my child at home?" To support parents, I have put together some information and ideas that may help. **Mr Taylor**

What is inference?

Inference is about using clues in a written or visual text, and combining them with what you already know to make an assumption to gain extra meaning from the text. Authors and movie makers often want the reader/viewer to actively think about and connect with the text in order to create meaning for themselves rather than presenting everything directly.



Examples of inference:

<i>The author wrote:</i>	<i>The author implied:</i>
They bought tickets and popcorn.	They were going to see a movie at a cinema.
She looked out the window, and grabbed her rain jacket and umbrella before walking out the front door.	It looked like it was going to rain.
As he carefully read the doctor's report, tears welled up in his eyes.	The doctor's report either had very bad news (tears of sadness) or very good news (tears of joy) – the reader would need to use more clues in the text or read on to find out which is correct and who the report is about.

Note that the writing doesn't directly state the inferences, but leaves readers to use the text clues and their past experiences to fill in the blanks and uncover the meaning.

Remind your child that they need to **think like a detective** to find inference in a text – look for clues in the text, and combine them with what they know to find the full meaning.

Questions you can ask to help our child identify inference in text. Don't forget to ask them to share the clues they used in the text that helped them come up with their ideas.

- Why did the character react that way? What clues in the text make you think this?
- What do you think the character is feeling? Why?
- "What just happened?" (where it is not directly stated) How do you know this?
- What is the main idea of this text? How do you know this?

Sometimes students can use inference to help them work out the meaning of unfamiliar words. Ask "What do you think this word means? What part of the text helps you make this inference?"

Most books contain inferences, but it is worth noting that books like "Two minute mysteries" and Aesop's Fables require the reader to use inference to gain the full meaning from the text. You can also find examples online on Youtube and Pinterest, or try inference riddles like the ones at <http://www.philtulga.com/Riddles.html>

Don't forget to have fun with reading and to praise your child for reasonable attempts, even incorrect ones, to develop Growth Mindset along the way.

Catching Up With Lorena

Good Day to everyone!!!!!!

It is so exciting to be writing to you again. It is a New Year and with it comes a new OPPORTUNITY to do/be different and better.

For those who do not know me, my name is Lorena Flores and I am the Pastoral Care Worker at Surrey Downs Primary School. My role is to assist you and your family in anything you might need: a chat, a coffee or guidance into what services are out there that will support you and your family.

I will be at school:

Tuesdays 8:00am – 3pm

Fridays 8:00am – 3pm

Breakfast Club

I also run Breakfast Club on the mornings I am at school. Breakfast Club is open from 8:30am – 8:45am. Just enough time to grab a hot Milo and a piece of toast. Everyone is welcome 😊 Please, consider that breakfast will stop being served at 8:45am on the dot since the children should be finishing what they are eating and heading to their classrooms so they can be on time to line up.

Recess and Lunch

My plan for this year is to run activities at recess and lunch times. I will display on the window of my office's door what activities I will be running for the day and where, so tell your child/ren to keep an eye out.

Message Box

Meeting with your child/ren for a chat is very important to me so I have set up a message box in the Demac building for the children to leave me messages to let me know they want to see me.

LEGO

Lastly, I would like to ask you a favour. If you are thinking of downsizing your LEGO collection or getting rid of it completely, would you kindly donate it to the school so I can run a LEGO club at recess and lunch? 😊

Have a wonderful year and see you around,

Lorena Flores

Pastoral Care Worker Contact me @: lorena.flores496@schools.sa.edu.au or call the office.