



Education

Bankstown South Infants School



Creating Our Future

Newsletter Term 1 Week 3, 2021

What's on @ BSIS

Term 1 Week 3

- **Wednesday February 10th**
 - Got it Team Visit
 - Touch Football Money Due
- **Friday February 12th**
 - Lunar New Year Celebration
 - Y2 Graduation Shirt Money Due
 - Touch Football K-2
- **Friday February 19th**
 - Touch Football K-2
 - Straight sight Note Due
 - Got it Note Due
- **Monday February 22nd**
 - Attendance Letter Half term
 - Straight sight Vision Screening
- **Wednesday February 24th**
 - Straight sight Vision Screening
- **Friday February 26th**
 - Touch Football K-2
 - Straight sight Vision Screening



Find us on **facebook**

Skoolbag 
Smartphone school to parent communication



Principal's Report

Welcome back for the 2021 school year! We have had a wonderful start to the year and students are all settled in classes and already producing wonderful work. As mentioned in the previous note sent home last week we have formed 7 classes and are very lucky to have small class sizes with Kindergarten on 16, 17 and 17 and Stage 1 on 20, 20, 21 and 21. We look forward to continuing to see each child grow and develop to their personal best.

It was lovely to see all of our students back after the holidays looking so refreshed and ready to learn. Their uniform looks amazing and I thank you for your support in making our students look so good in their school uniform. Please remember to send a school hat and water bottle with the students daily.

Communication

Our main forms of communication are SkoolBag, our school Facebook page, K-2 and E1 class dojo, Preschool Seesaw and the newsletter. I encourage all members of our community to download the SkoolBag app via the app store - search Bankstown South Infants School. The newsletter is published on a Tuesday in weeks 3,6 and 9 and will go to the oldest child in each family. The newsletter is also available on our school website. All notes are handed out to students and also placed on the SkoolBag app for parents to download. Please make sure you read all correspondence that comes home so you don't miss out on important information.

Notes and payments

All notes and money need to be brought to the office not the classroom teachers. This includes the preschool and early intervention. Please make sure that all notes are correctly filled out including your child's first name, last name and class.

Payments can be made in cash, through the eftpos machine in the office for credit/debit card payments and online through the school website at the Make A Payment tab. There is no option for cash out.

A permission note still must be returned for cash, online and eftpos payments. Please remember that we strictly adhere to due dates with notes and payments. **No late money or notes will be accepted so please make sure that everything is in on time to avoid disappointment.**

Weather

We have had a full range of seasons in the first few weeks of school! It is important that all students wear a school hat and sunscreen to school every day. Students who do not have a school hat will need to stay in the shade at recess and lunch. Non school caps are not acceptable as we require student to either have wide brimmed hat or a hat that covers their neck. This is why only school hats are acceptable.

During wet weather puddles quickly develop around our school. On very wet days we encourage students to wear gumboots to school and to bring their school shoes in a bag to change into in the classroom. All students need to have a raincoat/poncho or umbrella to access parts of the school like toilets, library and hall. Please ensure a raincoat is in your child's bag every day. We ask that all items are clearly labelled with your child's names so the right property goes home with the right person at the end of the day.

Lost property

We already have amounting piles of lost property at the office. Please ensure that ALL items are clearly labelled with your child's name. If your child accidentally brings something home with another child's name on it, we ask that you return it to school the next day so we can reunite it with its owner.

Meet and Greet session

In place of the usual 'Meet the Teacher' afternoon we will be holding 10 minute individual 'Meet and Greet' interview sessions. This is a time for you to share information with the teacher that will assist them this year. It is also a great time to share strengths and areas for development and to build a strong home/school partnership. We encourage students to attend with their parents in a 3 way interview. The information about how to book online has been sent home today and is included in this newsletter. If you require any assistance booking a time please visit the office.

Attendance

This year we will be again recognising students who have outstanding attendance at Bankstown South Infants School. **Students who have had 93% attendance or above including no more than 4 partial absences (late arrivals or early departures) will be rewarded each term with an attendance party.** Students who have 100% attendance at the end of the year will be recognised at our end of year presentation day.

The department has set us a school attendance target of students attending 93% or above and we will regularly be checking in with families who are falling below this percentage. Please make sure that you send a note or doctors certificate with your child the day they return to school.

Just a reminder that our morning bell goes at 9:00am and a teacher will be on duty from 8:30am. The school day ends at 2:45pm and students need to be collected promptly. We have before and after school onsite every day for K-2 should you need to access extra hours.

Kim Collas

Principal

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

education.nsw.gov.au



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**

M	W	T	F
M	T	W	T

=

4 weeks



=

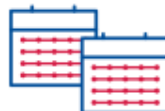
Over **1** year missed

1 day per **week**

M	W	T	F
M	T	W	F

=

8 weeks



=

Over **2.5** years missed

education.nsw.gov.au

NSW Department of Education

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Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss days per year

5 mins per day



=

3 days

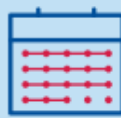


30 mins per day



=

18 days



Patterns of lateness can have a serious impact on your child's education.

education.nsw.gov.au



Education &
Communities

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. 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 Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

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 and Communities 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 Department of Education and Communities 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.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, Information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning website*

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities

2021 Library Borrowing Days

Tuesday	Wednesday
1M	KB
1N	KC
2D	KJ
	1/2X

Library lessons begin this week with Mrs Stephandellis our Librarian. Classes each have an allocated Library day where they can borrow books from the library to take home. It is important that all students bring their library bag on their allocated class library day. They keep the book at home to enjoy for the week and return it the following week so they can borrow a new book. Students without a Library bag are unable to borrow from the Library.

Playgroup

Playgroup is returning on Wednesday 17th February! More information will be provided in the coming days about the COVID safe procedures and how it will operate this year.



Early Intervention

Welcome to all the new families to Early Intervention. It is very exciting to see our new students starting. Please remember to check your ClassDojo App for updates and don't hesitate to upload any special events at home.



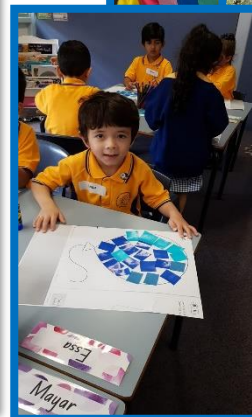
Preschool

We were so excited to welcome our Preschool groups for their first day of preschool! We are so proud of how well they settled in and look forward to a fantastic year of learning, fun and play with them!



Kindergarten

Our new Kindergarten students were all happy smiles today as they began their big school journey. There was lots of learning, fun, new friendships and familiarising themselves with this new environment.



Years 1 & 2

We are so excited to see our Year 1 & year 2 students back at school. What a week it has been! Our students are already engaged in their learning for 2021.



2021 Term Dates**2021 School Dates for Students**

Term 1 – Friday 29 January 2021 to Thursday 1 April 2021

Autumn vacation - Monday 5 April 2021 to Friday 16 April 2021

Term 2 - Tuesday 20 April 2021 to Friday 25 June 2021

Winter vacation - Monday 28 June 2021 to Friday 9 July 2021

Term 3 - Tuesday 13 July 2021 to Friday 17 September 2021

Spring vacation - Monday 20 September 2021 to Friday 1 October 2021

Term 4 - Tuesday 5 October 2021 to Thursday 16 December 2021

Summer vacation - Friday 17 December 2021 to Tuesday 1 February 2022



Stay informed with the SkoolBag App

The SkoolBag app is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minutes notices, newsletters and all school communications.

- 1 Download the app**
Search for the free SkoolBag app in the Apple App or Google Play Store
- 2 Create an account**
Sign up in seconds with your email address
- 3 Add your school**
Search for your school and add your subscription groups

SkoolBag

Uniform Shop

Uniforms can now be purchased from our uniform shop. The shop is now open 2 days per week.

Tuesdays 8.30am-9am & Thursdays 2.40-2.50pm

Payment can be made by eftpos (preferred) or cash (only correct money will be accepted).

If you are unable to attend the shop during these times you may email your order to bankstowski-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au payment is then to be made via the "make a payment" tab on the school website. The order form and price list can be found on our school website www.bankstowski-p.school.nsw.gov.au

Please note that your order will only be packed during one of the above opening times and will be delivered to your child's class.

Please ensure your child is in full school uniform each day including black school shoes and a school hat.



Change of clothes

Can all families, especially Kindergarten and Preschool students please place a change of clothes in your child's school bag as this will help to stop our office staff ringing you to come up to school to change your child if required.





Dear Families and The Community of Bankstown South Infants School,

My name is Elias Issa. I will be your new Centre Manager of SMOOSH (Before and After School Care). I have been working in Children's Services for over the last ten years and have had many roles within my years of working in the field. I have a Certificate III in Children Services, Certificate IV in Out Of School Hours Care and a Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care.

I am beyond excited to be starting my new journey at Bankstown South SMOOSH and building a connection with the children, families, the school and community. I'm excited to explore, learn and have fun! But also "Becoming, Belonging and Being "as one.

About SMOOSH at Bankstown South Infants School:

Location: SMOOSH is in the school grounds and we are located in the school hall located near the school canteen.

Operating Hours: Before School Care 7:00am to 9:00am (opening from the 16th of November 2020) and After School Care 2:45pm to 6:00pm.

Vacation Care: Operates at Bankstown Public School from 7:00am to 6:00pm – All children from ages 5 to 13 years old are welcome to join our fun filled program ranging from in centre activities, incursions and excursions. Breakfast is supplied. Children will need to bring morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, drink bottle, hat and bag.

SMOOSH Menu: SMOOSH offers a range of food on our delicious menu. We have a breakfast club in the morning from 7:30am to 8:00am, afternoon tea from 3:30pm to 4:00pm and late snack from 5:00pm. Children and family suggestions are implemented into our food menu and our SMOOSH menu is reflected on the "Australian Guide To Healthy Eating". At SMOOSH we also cater to all dietary needs. We have a different menu implemented every two weeks so that children are getting different, nutritious, healthy food.

SMOOSH Program: SMOOSH before and after school care programs are committed to high quality care for each and every child, including those with additional needs. Care is provided in a safe, relaxed environment that nurtures creativity, social skills, life skills and physical activity appropriate for middle childhood. The educational programs take a holistic approach to your child's development, extending their competencies and skills, to enhance their learning and help them progress with confidence. Our programs are also recreation-based. We partner with children and families to plan activities, menus and inclusive experiences that support children's interests and needs. A collaborative learning community is encouraged by promoting opportunities for children to explore, discover and create.

If you have any other questions please don't hesitate to call me on 0431 452 311 (this mobile phone will always be on me) – email me on smoosh_bsis@secc.sydney – or come and say hello at our centre where we can give you a tour. I look forward to be working in your community.

Kind Regards,

Elias Issa – Bankstown South Infants School SMOOSH Centre Manager.

Please see below some awesome pictures of what we do here at SMOOSH.



**Watch our space
in 2021 for more
fun filled
activities.**



Connect with us on:



secc.sydney



South Eastern Community Connect



Dear Parents,

We will be starting the year with our meet and greet Parent/Teacher/Student interviews instead of the usual meet the teacher afternoon so parents get individual time with their child's teacher and can see their classroom.

This is an opportunity for you and your child to talk to the class teacher. You can share information you feel will be helpful, and your child can discuss their areas of strength and their learning goals for the year. Teachers will also provide information on how your child has settled into their class. The meet and greet will be held on:

All K-2 classes (KB, KC, KJ, 1M, 1N, 1/2X, 2D): **Thursday 25th February 2021.**

Preschool Echidna: **Tuesday 23rd February 2021.**

Preschool Koala: **Friday 26th February 2021.**

Interviews will be held in your child's classroom. You will need to scan in with the Service NSW app, sign a school COVID declaration and adhere to our COVID safety plan. Please do not attend if you are unwell or display any flu like symptoms. If you are unwell, interviews can take place over the phone at your allocated time.

Interviews are strictly 10 minutes. If you require more time with a particular teacher, please arrange a separate meeting by telephoning the school on 9790 6176

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au

MAKE A BOOKING

enter the code **5zvcj**



Enter your details



Select the teachers you wish to see



Select the appointment times that suit your family best

Bookings must be finalised by Monday 22nd February 2021.



When you click FINISH your selected bookings will be emailed to you immediately. If you do not receive your email, please check your junk-mail, or enter the event code again and check your email address spelling. Update your details if email address is incorrect.

DO NOT DELETE the email you receive. Keep it somewhere safe. You may need to refer back to it at a later date.

Term 1 2021 Calendar

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	Jan 25	Jan 26	Jan 27	Jan 28	Jan 29 Years 1&2 Return Kindy & Preschool Best start.
2	Feb 1 Kindy First Day	Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4	Feb 5 Touch Football k-2
3	Feb 8	Feb 9	Feb 10 Got It Team Parent Visit 2:30pm	Feb 11	Feb 12 Lunar New Year Celebration Y2 Graduation Shirt Note & Money Due Touch Football k-2
4	Feb 15	Feb 16	Feb 17	Feb 18	Feb 19 Touch football k-2 Straight sight note Due Got it notes Due
5	Feb 22 Straight sight Vision	Feb 23	Feb 24 Straight sight Vision	Feb 25 Meet & Greet Parent Interviews	Feb 26 Touch Football k-2 Straight sight Vision
6	Mar 1	Mar 2	Mar 3	Mar 4	Mar 5 Touch football k-2
7	Mar 8	Mar 9	Mar 10	Mar 11	Mar 12 Touch football k-2
8	Mar 15	Mar 16	Mar 17	Mar 18 Big Vegie Crunch	Mar 19 Touch football k-2
9	Mar 22	Mar 23 School Photos Preschool	Mar 24	Mar 25 School Photos P-2	Mar 26 Touch football k-2
10	Mar 29	Mar 30	Mar 31 Easter Hat Parade	Apr 1 Last Day of Term 1	Apr 2 Good Friday Public Holiday