

# MERRIWA NEWS

Newsletter 3

5th March 2025

Breakfast Club  
is open every day  
from 8am

20th March  
Room 11 Assembly

Yr 6 Swimming and  
Day Camps  
6th March – 13<sup>th</sup> March

NAPLAN 11<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>  
March

COMPASS  
Make sure the office  
has your email  
address

Our email is:  
[merriwaps@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:merriwaps@education.wa.edu.au)

Our website is  
[www.merriwaps.wa.edu.au](http://www.merriwaps.wa.edu.au)

## 19th March Year 1 Excursion

We were lucky enough to win free entry to the bike and train safety program! Year 1 students will only need to pay the cost of the bus.

## Parent Teacher Report Meeting

This year the Department of Education has approved extra parent teacher meetings. Our meetings are Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 8.30am - 5pm

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August 8.30am - 2.40pm.

Students do not attend on those days.

If you are working and cannot make alternative arrangements, then supervision will be provided at school.

Appointments will be online and bookings will open soon.

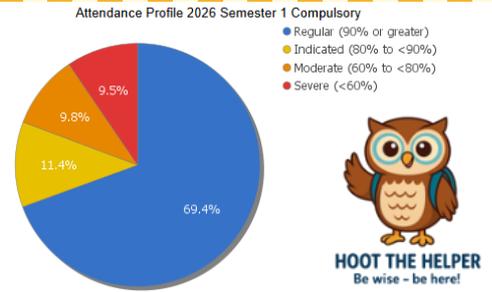
## Oval Carpark Safety

Please observe the traffic direction arrows in the back car park. We need our students and families to be safe.

Mrs Sue Waterhouse & Mr Kristopher Fenn  
Principal

# Attendance 2026 Week 4

Breakdown	Attendance Rate %	Regular	At Risk Indicated	At Risk Moderate	At Risk Severe	Auth. %	Unauth. %
KiN	87.0%	34	4	5	5	75%	25%
PPR	89.6%	26	5	2	5	49%	51%
Y01	88.6%	38	1	6	5	33%	67%
Y02	88.1%	29	5	3	3	47%	54%
Y03	90.3%	42	4	3	5	57%	43%
Y04	87.2%	25	8	4	4	60%	40%
Y05	84.7%	32	8	11	3	55%	46%
Y06	86.1%	28	5	2	5	56%	44%
Compulsory	87.8%	220	36	31	30	51%	49%



Thank you for ensuring your children attend school regularly. Consistent attendance not only supports academic progress, but also helps children build strong friendships, develop important social skills, strengthen problem-solving abilities, and grow in confidence and resilience.

Every school day provides valuable learning opportunities that cannot be fully replicated at home. When children attend regularly, they are better able to keep up with new concepts, take part in collaborative activities, and feel a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

We understand that there are times when attendance can be challenging. If your family needs support, please do not hesitate to contact us – we are here to work in partnership with you to ensure every child can thrive. Together, we can give our children the very best chance to succeed.

## RAAFA DONATION

We would like to say a big thank you to the residents and staff who kindly donated a large amount of stationery for our classrooms.

Some children come to school without stationery they need, and these donations help us make sure every child is supported in the classroom.

It truly takes a village, and we are grateful for ours!



**RAAFA**

## NAPLAN: JUST ONE PART OF THE STORY

As NAPLAN approaches, we want to reassure our families that these assessments are simply a **snapshot** of your child's literacy and numeracy skills on a given day. While the data can be helpful, it represents only one small part of your child's learning journey.

At Merriwa Primary School, we see every child as a whole learner. Their creativity, problem-solving, resilience, kindness, curiosity and the effort they bring to the classroom each day are vital indicators of their growth - far more than any single test can measure.

We encourage students to approach NAPLAN as they would any classroom task: to try their best, stay calm and know that there is **no pressure**. What matters most to us is their wellbeing and confidence.

If you have any questions about NAPLAN or your child's learning progress, please feel welcome to contact us.

Mrs Sue Waterhouse  
Principal



## 🌟🌟🌟 STUDENT COUNCILLORS AND GRIP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 🌟🌟🌟

On Friday 20 February, the Student Councillors attended the 2026 GRIP Leadership Conference. We travelled by train to Elizabeth Quay before heading into the venue. The conference hall was enormous, and it was filled with students from many different schools. The key message of the day was that strong leadership involves facing challenges, serving others, and—most importantly—showing integrity.



Integrity means doing what is right and true, even when it's difficult or when expectations push you in another direction. We met lots of new people and learned so much. It was a big day, and we were definitely tired by the end, but we left feeling inspired and excited about the leadership opportunities ahead of us at school.

From your 2026 Student Councillors.

# Where's Cookie?



## UWA Student Social Worker

Dear Parents,

Hello! My name is Ysabel Rogers, and I am a University Student Social Worker from UWA. I am very happy to be doing my work experience here at Merriwa Primary School for Term One!

Social Work is all about supporting others, and my role here, working alongside Principal Mrs Sue Waterhouse, is to support students and their families at Merriwa to feel seen and heard, and to have a strong sense of belonging and connection to the school community.

I will be a friendly face to chat to, and I will be at the Breakfast Club every day from Monday to Friday, so please, come and say hi!



### Merriwa Miyawaki Forest News



Our Year 5 and 6 students were excited to begin their monthly forest monitoring lessons with Dr Grey Coupland from Murdoch University. There is now growth of our forest, which we planted using the Miyawaki method in Term 3 of 2022, compared to the growth of non-Miyawaki monitoring plants planted at the same time. This is truly exceptional!

We are thrilled to continue finding examples of biodiversity in our forest that have not yet been found in other Western Australian pocket forests. It is wonderful that our students participate in this exciting program, providing our forest data to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, as part of a research project investigating soil microbe biodiversity, soil respiration rates, and the use of eDNA in ecological research. This helps our students develop their skills as leaders and citizen scientists, through lessons in STEM, environmental restoration, urban sustainability, and climate change.

Even more rewarding is our participation in recent research, showing our forest program has a very positive impact on student wellbeing. It is fabulous to have Dr Coupland, who has received multiple awards and nominations connected to the Pocket Forests WA program, as a member of our School Board.



### Merit Certificate Winners

Congratulations to our most recent Merit Certificate winners

- |                          |                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rm 1 - Charlie and Amare | Rm 12 - Kaylen and Aryan          |
| Rm 2 - Aria and Noah     | Rm 15 - Peyton and Nixon          |
| Rm 6 - Maarlia and Paige | Rm 16 - Kai, Aliyah and Mackenzie |
| Rm 7 - Jayson and Alice  | Rm 17 - Duke and Angus            |
| Rm 11 - Jeremy and Keanu | Rm 21 - Kellan and Elizabeth      |
|                          | Rm 22 - Room 22                   |



### Newsletter Raffle - Where is Cookie?

I have read Newsletter 3. Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Room No. \_\_\_\_\_

Cookie is \_\_\_\_\_

Last week's winner was Kenzie Rm 11



## COMPASS, What are you missing out on?

Compass is our way to communicate with families. Through the compass app we are sharing updates about what we are doing in our classrooms and our school. We will also use this to communicate student attendance, and you can also use the app to share with us when your child is away from school. You will also get notifications about all the positive behaviours which, this will include merit certificates.

### Getting Started

Go to the app store or google play store and download the compass app.

We have emailed you your log in details. if you have not received an email please contact our office.

Once you log in you should be able to reset your password.

Further help and support with the different tasks can be found on our school website. There are some step by step guides on how to log attendance and utilise the app. Additionally the contact teacher function on the app sends communications to an unmonitored email so the best way to get in contact with your child's teacher is through the [merriwa.ps@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:merriwa.ps@education.wa.edu.au) email or through the schools phone number on 6206 2340.

## Parent Parking

The car park off Addison Gardens includes a kiss and drop zone and the flow is only one way. Please do not park in the kiss and drop zone or where there are no designated parking bays. If you need to leave your vehicle you must park in the marked parking bays.

When the buses drop off the ESC students staff are waiting there to collect them but it can take a bit of time for the students to disembark.

Please be patient and wait behind the bus so that that area remains safe for everyone.



### Term One Parent planner 2026

MTH	WK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
Mar	5	2 Labour Day	3 NAPLAN Practice	4 Newsletter Rm 22 Board Meeting	6 Yr 6 Day Camp	
	6	9 Year 6 Yanchep Lagoon Swimming	10 Year 6 Yanchep Lagoon Swimming	11 NAPLAN Year 6 Yanchep Lagoon Swimming	12 NAPLAN  Year 6 Yanchep Lagoon Swimming	13 NAPLAN Yr 6 Day Camp Year 6 Yanchep Lagoon Swimming
	7	16 NAPLAN	17 NAPLAN	18 NAPLAN	19 NAPLAN Newsletter Rm 9 Constable Care Excursion Yr 1	20 NAPLAN Assembly Rm 11
	8	23 NAPLAN	24	25 Interim Report Day	26  27 Constable Care K- 6	
Mar/ Apr	9	30	31 Summer Carnival MSP Photography	1 MSP Photography	2 Newsletter MSP Photography Principals Afternoon Tea	3 GOOD FRIDAY