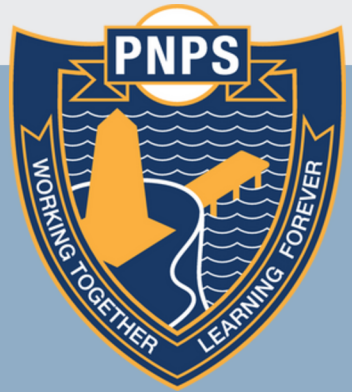




2025

# **PARENT UPDATE END TERM 3**



Port Noarlunga  
Primary School

# Principal Update

---



We are at the end of another busy term at Porties. There has been a lot of 'behind the scenes' work that you will read about later in this document.

There are 20 new Reception students this term and they have settled in really well. Mr Josh and Mrs Indy have been working super hard with the new children and have started taking them on Friday walks to the playground and RSL. This is a great effort after only 8 or 9 weeks at school. Well done team!

We have been impacted by illness lately with an increase in respiratory and stomach concerns. Unfortunately, children don't always have well-developed hygiene or social distancing behaviours in primary school which then contributes to the spread of illnesses. It is vital that children who are unwell stay home from school so that the spread of illness can be lessened.

There have been so many families who have supported the school by volunteering this year already. There are set ratios we need to maintain on excursions to ensure that there is adequate duty of care and supervision. We couldn't do as much with our students without your help and support. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers!

This term your child has been given 1 or 2 books to build the love of reading at home. We were lucky enough to purchase a large number of quality books for a hugely discounted price.

The Seaford Lions group have also included us in their Year 1 book program. They donate cash to purchase a book for every Year 1 student in the school. We will invite them in to present the books in Term 4. We thank them for their support and generosity.

# Staff News

---

We are excited to announce that **Hayley Blokland** and **Wanna Bamroongkool** have both been converted from temporary to permanent in the past couple of weeks.

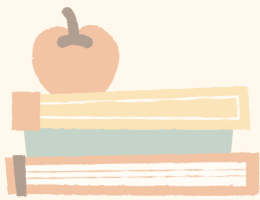
This provides consistency and continuity in the Administration area with Hayley remaining in her role in the front office. Wanna will continue to provide high quality support and interventions across the school.

**Shona Thompson's tenure as Deputy Principal has been extended for a further 12 months** which ensures that there is consistency in the leadership team. We will be able to continue building on the good work that we have done together in 2025.

**Kris Sander** will increase to 3 days per week in Term 4 and she will continue with her existing schedule. We will determine her schedule for the extra day before the end of Term 3.

We continue to determine our exact staffing structure for 2026 and will hope to have this finalised early in Term 4 so that we can make the 'best fit' choices for our students in their next class.

To support us in our staffing planning, **please let Jason or Hayley know if your child/ren are moving from Port Noarlunga Primary School at the end of this year.** Likewise if you have a child that you've not enrolled for Reception in 2026, please do so as soon as possible.



# Class Placement

---

Class placement is a complex process that isn't just popping students with the teacher they want or the children that they like. There are a number of considerations prior to classes being finalised. These include:

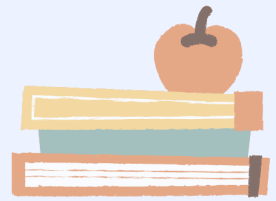
- Class configuration and year level options
- Student learning and behaviour needs
- Staff views and recommendations
- Parent and student survey responses

Every child is valued and considered during the class placement process which usually follows this process:

- Collect information via surveys
- The first placement round involves photos of all children placed onto A2 cards for each class. We take into account all requests and information provided from family, student and staff.
- The 'draft' classes are then viewed by the students' current teachers usually in year level teams. The teachers place sticky notes with comments regarding who should be moved or what else should be considered.
- Leadership review all requests and look back at all information to make an informed decision.
- All staff view the classes and any concerns are discussed and acted upon if necessary.
- At this time the A2 class sheets are provided to Jason so that he can prepare the placement letters.
- **Families receive the placement letters with the school reports on Wednesday December 12th.**

# Class Placement

---



We are unable to meet every parent or student request. It is logistically impossible due to the volume of requests and complex nature of the placement process. There can be some challenges posed when working through the placement process.

## **Scenario 1:**

*Steven's parent wants their child to be with Jeffrey but his parent wants them to be separated.*

In this situation, we will lean towards the separation but look at Steven's other friendships and needs. These requests are often confidential. This scenario is made even more difficult when the families have friendships out of school.

## **Scenario 2:**

*A group of parents ask for their children to stay together and then one of the parents requests 'Definitely not Mrs...'*

We will most often follow the latter request and split that child from friends to ensure that they wouldn't be placed with that teacher. This is best for all involved including the teacher.

These are just two of the most common complexities that arise. We ask that you keep in mind the information provided when you receive your child's class placement this year.

# Culture and Community Room

---



We have reviewed our use of space and have decided to maximise usage of our existing Culture Room. We will now utilise the area as our Culture and Community Room.

This room will continue to be the workspace for our Aboriginal Community Education Officer (ACEO) and will also include a space for parents to meet and share learning, access the new Community Closet, find information about service providers, and other initiatives that we are still determining.

Our Community Closet will complement our existing Grow Cart where our community can share produce, and our new Book Swap Cart that Tina is busily creating. The Community Closet will have a variety of clothes available for families to access that we have had donated as part of our involvement with Good360. The current clothing donation is from BigW and we will share more information once we have everything ready to go. Thank you to Alberta for her support and assistance with this initiative.

Tina's Book Swap will be a space where you can access a variety of books. It will provide an opportunity for families to share their love of reading by taking a book and/or leaving a book. There will be books for all ages available. This is an exciting initiative that Tina has been working towards for a couple of years now.

It is important that we continue to develop our school as the learning hub of the community. Thank you for your ongoing support of these initiatives.



# Grounds and Facilities

---

We have had the benefit of two Groundskeepers during the winter months and we are certainly seeing the difference in the yard.

Our draft report as part of the Learning Environment Opportunities Survey was tabled in Week 9. It is a comprehensive 48 page document that has some short term strategies that we can start working on in the near future. The larger, more long term suggestions will require serious funding support from the Department for Education and we will be requesting Governing Council advocacy in this once the final report is tabled.

Essentially, the quality and number of learning spaces we have will not be able to keep up with the expected enrolments over the next few years. There are new housing developments in the local area that are within our catchment area which will invariably increase our numbers.

**We are pleased with the creative suggestions in the draft report and grateful for the opportunity to engage in this process with the architects.**

Jacqui and Emily successfully won a \$3,000 grant recently to enhance our Wellbeing Wagons. We are super grateful for their efforts. We are waiting on the outcome of a couple more small grant opportunities to further support student engagement in the yard and will advise you if we are successful.



# Trauma Informed Practice

Since the beginning of 2024, staff at Porties have engaged in an Action Research project as part of the Trauma Aware Schools Initiative through the Department for Education.

This project aims to enhance trauma-informed practices within the school community, focusing on staff training, student support, and community engagement. The initiative is designed to create a supportive and responsive environment for both students and families, fostering strong connections and improving overall school experiences.

## **Our project goals are:**

- **To foster JOY in our school**
- **To provide a good start to the day, children are ready to learn**
- **To strengthen connections between parents, the school, and the wider community.**

Some of the key changes implemented / adopted since beginning this work include:

- The creation of the Cocoon - our sensory, regulation environment
- Weekly mental health lessons in every classroom using Open Parachute
- Circle time at the start of the day in the majority of our classrooms
- Safe, dedicated regulation spaces in classrooms
- Wellbeing Wagons in the yard at recess and lunchtime with an SSO to assist students when needed





# Way2Go Action Plan

---

This year we have been involved in the Way2Go project with the Department for Transport and Infrastructure and the Onkaparinga Council.

Students, families and staff were asked to complete travel surveys at the beginning of this work. Earlier this term, Desma McMillan and I met with the team to receive our survey results and work on a travel action plan.

**As a result, we have applied to be a part of Bike Education in 2026 for some of our students, and we are writing a grant to improve our bike and scooter storage.**

A key part of our Action Plan is to develop travel routes around the area. These are designed to find an area with parking spaces for families and then have a designated walking, riding, scootering route that can safely be followed to school. This would lighten traffic around the immediate school area, provide safe opportunities for our children to actively travel to school, and build community connections.

The first area that we are looking at is Ron Gill Reserve (Brixton St/ Clovelly Ave). We will continue to consult on other travel routes with Christies Beach Football Club and RSL as suggested future options.

There are other strategies that are being discussed that are out of our realm of responsibility and we will be able to inform you of these when we receive more information.

# Sport



Term 3 is one where a number of our Upper Primary students engage in representative sports including soccer, netball, football, basketball, athletics etc. It is also when the White Pointers Soccer Club engage many of our students and families in after school training and weekend games.

The majority of families and children have a positive and enjoyable time when they attend the matches and training. Unfortunately, we have had some behaviours at soccer matches by children and families that are undesirable, inappropriate and damaging to the reputation of our school.

Childrens' sport is where a love of sport is developed. It is not meant to be where undue pressure is placed on children to be the best and to win at all costs. Match officials, coaches and referees, are volunteers and should never be abused by players or families. Other players, teams, spectators should never be abused by players or families. This has happened this season and has negatively impacted the reputation of our school.

We want our children to learn what the best parts of sport are and they shouldn't witness the worst. The competitiveness that some families desire is better suited to club soccer not Saturday mornings at Porties.

There is a code of conduct that the majority of families abide by and I urge you all to follow their lead in 2026.

Thank you to all of those who are out there loving the game, encouraging the children and enjoying an opportunity to build a positive community.



# EVENTS TERM 4

---

Term 4 is the shortest and busiest term of the year with a number of events and learning experiences scheduled. Staff will be busily writing reports, creating portfolios and working through the class placement process during Term 4.

The term planner that has been sent home and can be found on the website details the events that were planned at the time of publishing. There may be some class centred events or excursions added but your child's teacher will notify you of these.

The two biggest events for the whole school community are **Beach Carnival** (28/11) and our **Final Assembly** (2/12).

Unfortunately, our **Beach Carnival may be relocated due to the impact of the Algal Bloom**. I understand that we will receive further guidance from the Department for Education prior to the scheduled date but we will need to make a decision at the beginning of Term 4.

If we aren't at the beach, we will have a Sports Day here at school. We have had a couple of these in recent years due to COVID and inclement weather forecasts. They are great fun and an opportunity to gather our school community together.

**The Final Assembly** is an after school event where we gather on the small oval for presentations and celebrations. Families usually bring a picnic making the most of the (hopefully) great weather and great company.