



# Coorow Primary School

2nd March 2023

▶ Edition 49



## THE COOROW QUILL

Our school is built on the land of the Yuat people – the Yuat are part of the Noongar nation. We respectfully acknowledge that the Yuat have been the custodians of this country for many thousands of years and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

Welcome to the first Coorow Primary School newsletter of 2023.

We have had a beautiful, smooth start to the year, with classes settling quickly and a hum of concentration around the school as everybody is busy with teaching and learning.

We are pleased to welcome some new people to our school community. Firstly, welcome to Miss Jennifer Stevens who is teaching in our Senior Room this year. Jeni comes to us with a rich set of experiences – she has qualifications in music and drama, and a background in special needs education. She is also an active member of the Naval Reserve. Jeni has already made valuable contributions to our school development planning and has implemented some new strategies in her classroom. We are very happy to have her working in our team.

We would also like to welcome Aaron-Kojo and his dad Woody. Aaron has joined our Junior Room where he is working hard and loving learning. Aaron’s mum is still in Fiji at the moment and it is exciting to see her following our Facebook page.

### Dates to remember



Mini Leadership Camp Y5-6	Feb 28— March 1
Public Holiday Labour Day	6 March
Assembly and Open Classrooms	7 March
Board Meeting	9 March
Faction Swimming Carnival	10 March
Wheels at School	24 March
Interschool Swimming Carnival	31 March

### Voluntary Contributions

Lots of families have already paid their voluntary contributions this year! A special shout-out to two families who paid them in January!

The voluntary contributions are only \$50 per child per year – that’s less than the total cost of one cup of coffee each month – but they make a big difference to helping us provide learning opportunities for your children.

At the moment, payments have been made for 18 students. That’s a fraction under half-way... let’s try and get over that mark by the end of the week! You can make your payment in the office, or by direct deposit: BSB:306023, Account:0100416, Reference: Lastname/voluntary.



**Monday 6 March is a public holiday for Labour Day.**



**Our vision**  
*At Coorow, we strive to do our best. We are confident and resilient. We laugh and learn and grow together.*

## Positive Behaviour Support

We have introduced a new behaviour policy this year. This policy aims to ensure that all members of the Coorow Primary School community:

Care, respect and cooperate with others

Respect the property of others

Play safely and sensibly at all times

Work in an environment that is safe, respectful, inclusive and encourages learning

We want our students go grow to be life-long learners who are responsible, brave, and resourceful, so the policy is built around these four core values:

Being **responsible** means do the right thing even when no-one is watching. It means being honest, thinking about others, looking after everyone's property and the environment.

Being **brave** means making good choices even when it's hard. It means having the confidence and courage to stand up for what's right, learn from your mistakes, and try new things.

Being **resourceful** means being a problem-solver and thinking for yourself. It means knowing where and when to seek help. It means looking after our world and using resources wisely.

Being **a learner** means striving to improve and always doing your best. It means thinking hard and persisting, even when the work is difficult. It means accepting that people learn differently and helping everyone to do their best.

We want to support all our students as they learn to demonstrate appropriate behaviours, both at school and in the wider world. Our new policy helps us to teach those behaviours by explaining and practising them, noticing when the children do the right thing, and clearly redirecting them when they don't.

You will see signage around the school, helping to remind the children of our four values and of the behaviours we expect. At the moment, those signs are temporary, but over this year, they will be replaced by colourful and attractive signs that enhance the school environment. (If you have any graphic design skills and would like to help with this, we would love to hear from you!)

Information about the behaviour policy will come home to you via Skoolbag in small, manageable steps. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

## Leadership Mini-camp

Year 5 and 6 students spent Tuesday and Wednesday this week in Perth with Miss Stevens and Ms Whyte on a special leadership mini-camp. On Tuesday, they visited Parliament House, learning more about decision-making and law-making in our democracy, and on Wednesday they attended the Youth Leadership Conference at the Convention Centre. Wow! What an event, with so many schools represented and such an awesome venue. Our kids have come away full of enthusiasm and understanding for their new and future leadership roles.

On Tuesday night, they also practised their life skills, shopping, cooking dinner and preparing lunches, and (of course) cleaning up afterwards. They worked as a team and produced delicious results!

This mini-camp was funded through the students' voluntary contributions and subsidised by the school's other funding sources. For those who had paid their contribution, there was no charge, even though the contributions did not cover the full cost of the camp. I'm sure that the students and their parents agree that this was a worthwhile use of the money!

**Absences**

Please keep your children home if they are unwell. Fever, coughs and sneezes, green noses, diarrhoea, school sores, and unexplained rashes all mean that a child needs to stay at home.

We understand that sometimes you have family commitments that mean you have to take your child out of school. Please let us know via a note, Skoolbag, phone or email (not email on Fridays). And please let us know in advance if you are taking a short family holiday. We understand that you can't always do this during school holidays.

Legally, we have to ask you the reason for any absence from school, and we have to describe to the Education Department whether that absence is due to sickness, or other reasonable excuse. Family commitments and short holidays are considered reasonable, or 'authorised' absences.

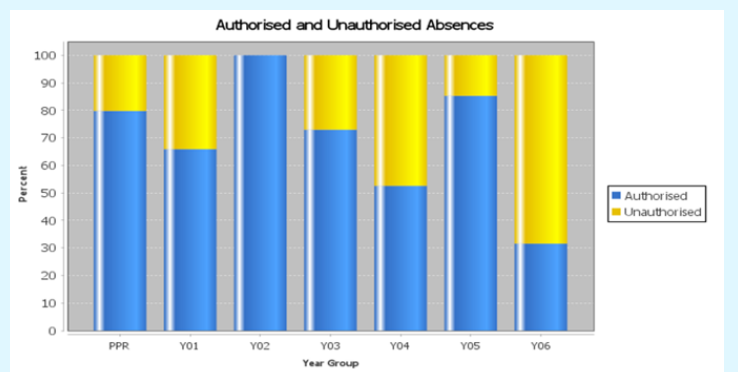
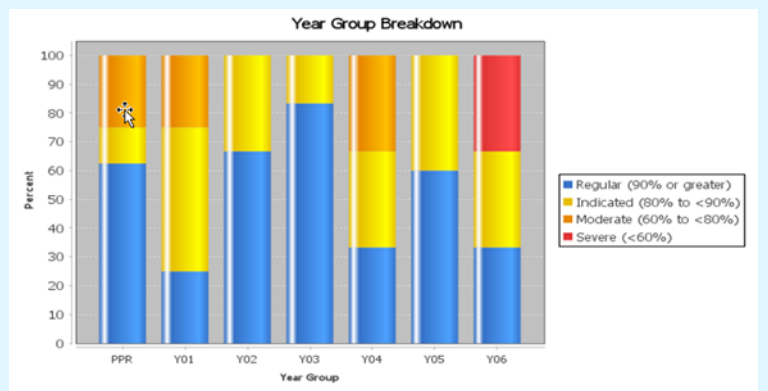
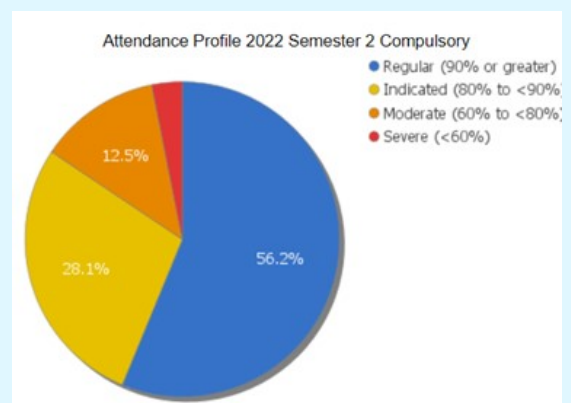
Children should not stay home if they are not sick! **Being tired from a late night or big weekend is not a good reason to stay at home.** Can't find your shoes? We can supply some. Can't find your uniform? We can supply that too. No food in the house for lunches? We've got that covered too. Blisters on your feet? Wear thongs to school and bring a note to explain the problem. Have an injury that needs dressing? Let us know. It's your birthday? Come to school and we will celebrate with you! Keeping your child home because they are tired, have minor non-infectious medical problems, or because they don't have everything they need for school is NOT considered a reasonable absence.

Last year, our attendance figures were not good. Only 18, out of a total of 39 students, attended school regularly.

(Regular attendance is being at school for at least 9 days out of every 10.) One third of the absences (33%) were for unauthorised reasons. I have attached some graphs from 2022 that illustrate these figures. Well done to the Year 2 class (this year's Year 3s), the only class who had no unauthorised absences during Semester 2!

In order for students to make the best possible progress that they can at school, they need to be at school, so I have set some attendance targets for 2023. I would like to see 30 students attending regularly this semester: at the moment, it is only 24 students who are meeting this target. I would also like to see 85% of absences being authorised (i.e. considered reasonable). At the moment, it is only 55%, so there is a long way to go.

Please help us to meet these targets. Send your children to school every day that they are able to be here, and if they are sick, or you have family commitments, let us know. Reminder slips will be sent home this week to the families who have unexplained absences. Please complete these and return them to school as soon as possible.



**COVID**

COVID is active in our school community again, so if you think that your children may have that, please test and let the school know if they return a positive result. A child who is COVID-positive should remain at home for at least 5 days. They can then return if they have no symptoms. If they are close contacts (i.e. someone in the family has COVID), they should take a test each day before they come to school. Older children should consider wearing a mask on the bus and in the classroom.

**NAPLAN**

The NAPLAN tests have moved to Term 1 this year and the Year 3 and 5 students have been busy practising, learning to use the electronic platform. On the first day of practice, though, they didn't use the computers: they played some games that required them to think quickly. They discovered that it is easy to think of an answer when you are relaxed, but much harder when you are under pressure. We have discussed the fact that NAPLAN is really a measure of students; it is a measure of schools, intended to make sure that schools are teaching the curriculum effectively and providing support or extension to meet students' needs.

To support your child during NAPLAN testing, March 15 – 20, it is important to make sure that they have good food to fuel their brain and plenty of sleep. It is even more important to remind them that they should do their best, but that there is nothing to stress about. There is definitely no need to have them doing extra homework! If you have any questions or concerns about NAPLAN, please give me a call. If you would like to see what a NAPLAN test looks like, and try out the electronic platform yourself, you can visit <https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/public-demonstration-site>

**Swimming Carnivals**

Our faction swimming carnival will be held at the Coorow Pool again this year, on Friday March 10. More information will be coming home shortly, including which events your children have been placed in. Events range from a challenging 100m freestyle event, to supported races for beginners, and active water games for non-swimmers. If you have any concerns about your child's events, please contact Mrs Millsted or Miss Johns who leads our Phys Ed program.



The interschool carnival will be held on March 31, the Friday of Week 9, and we are excited to be the hosts this year. Only Years 3 – 6 compete in interschool events.

We will be needing parent helpers at both carnivals, so if you are able to help, please contact Mrs Millsted.

**Learning programs – Spelling Mastery**

At Coorow, we regularly review our students results and if those results are not as good as we would like them to be, we put improvement plans in place. We make sure that any new programs or strategies that we choose are evidence-based. That means, we choose practices that research has shown will have the biggest impact on student learning.

The spelling program that we were using in our Senior Room was not evidence-based and it was not providing the improvement in results that we needed to see. Our students do not spell as well as other students their age. We have made the decision to change to a new, evidence-based program called Spelling Mastery. The program will commence as soon as the students' new books arrive. Until then, they are working on spelling using words taken from their writing and tests.

Students in our Early Childhood and Junior Room will continue to use Sounds Write. This is an evidence-based program that teaches early spelling and reading skills using a phonics approach. (Phonics means matching the sounds of our language to letters or groups of letters.) Senior students have mastered basic phonics and with Spelling Mastery will learn to spell more complex words using morphology – learning to spell word bases, prefixes, suffixes, and a small set of rules for combining them correctly.





What should you do if you have a question or a problem? Do you know who to contact, or the best way to contact them? Please remember that speaking directly with the school is the best way of getting the correct information and ensuring that your problem is dealt with quickly and effectively.

Your question or problem	Who to approach
School policies	Principal – by phone, email or appointment.
Confidential queries about the welfare of your child	Principal – by phone, email or appointment.
Problems with the class teacher	Firstly, contact the teacher by note, email, appointment, or by phone after 3.05pm. If the problem is not resolved after contacting the teacher, contact the principal, preferably by email.
Problems with the principal	Firstly, contact the principal by email, telephone, or appointment. If the problem is not resolved after contacting the principal, please refer to the Coorow Primary School Complaints Management Policy for details about how to escalate your complaint.
Bullying or other problems with friends	Class teacher - by note, email, appointment, or by phone after 3.05pm.
Classroom routines, academic work or homework	Class teacher - by note, email, appointment, or by phone after 3.05pm

# Kindergarten 2023 - First Day



We would like to welcome Blair, Della, Harris and their families to Coorow Primary School.

## *Coorow Shire Library - Library Lovers Day*

The students at Coorow Primary School would like to thank Karen Nardini for the opportunity to become members of the Coorow Shire Library, and inviting them to the library on Tuesday February 14, to borrow books and listen to stories.

The students also enjoyed the cupcakes provided at the end of the session.





## Literacy in the Senior Room

Michael

1 March 2023

As the bus pulled up I looked nervously at my new school. The flowers shone in the daylight. I saw the happy kids jump off the bus with a smile on their faces. I saw my class as my teacher came to show me around. I was so excited. I saw other people talking to their friends and laughing. I thought I would get a friend so quick. I looked at the bee garden, the dry riverbed and the bush tucker. I saw spare parts, a lovely bushy tree with lots of playful kids in it and a lovely lush green oval. People were kicking a footy and wanted me to play but I was only 6 so I thought I might get hurt.

Connor

23 February 2023

The Old Tyre Swing

The setting for the background look like afternoon the glory sun shines through the tree's strong branches while ...

Coorow Primary School is holding a Purple Day to raise awareness and funds for Epilepsy Australia.

Come to school wearing purple (or blue) and bring along a gold coin donation.

**DARE TO BE**  
*Different*

**PURPLE DAY | 27 MARCH 2023**

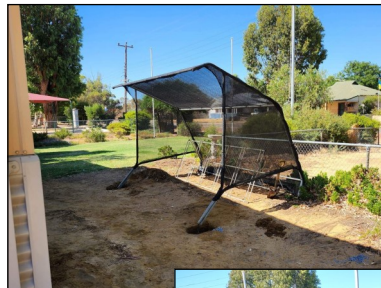
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
www.epilepsy.org.au 1300 37 45 37

March is Epilepsy Awareness month and to help raise awareness we will be holding a Purple Day on Monday 27th of March.

Students are encouraged to come to school wearing purple (or blue) and bring a gold coin donation.

This Purple Day we want to acknowledge and celebrate the strength and courage that people with epilepsy demonstrate as they rise to the challenges of everyday life and strive to overcome barriers of inclusion and participation. Whilst we understand the negative effects that a diagnosis of epilepsy may carry, we recognise the powerful human qualities that it can foster – such as resilience, endurance, adaptability, and perseverance.

## New Bike Shelter



A huge thank you to everyone who organised, supplied and built our new bike shelter!! Great job, Jake and Shannon Kenyon, Luhan and Kristel van den Heever, Phil Smyth, and huge thanks to the Shire for the frame and to Durwin's Coorow Hardware for the materials. We appreciate your time and donations.

### Term 1 2023—Week 6 to Week 10

6	6 Public Holiday Labour Day	7 Kindy Assembly and Open Classrooms	8 Breakfast Club	9 Tennis Coaching Board Meeting	10 Faction Swimming Carnival @ Coorow Breakfast Club
7	13 Kindy Breakfast Club	14 Kindy	15 NAPLAN Breakfast Club	16 NAPLAN	17 NAPLAN Breakfast Club
8	20 Kindy NAPLAN Breakfast Club	21 Kindy	22 Breakfast Club	23	24 Wheels @ School Breakfast Club
9	27 Kindy Breakfast Club	28 Kindy	29 Breakfast Club	30	31 Interschool Swimming Carnival @ Coorow Breakfast Club
10	Apr 3 Kindy	4 Kindy Assembly Harmony Day	5	6 ANZAC Ceremony Newsletter	7 Good Friday

