

BULLETIN



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10th April, 2013

Thank you for taking the time to read our school bulletin. It is an important way to keep in touch with what is happening at our school and to know what your child will be doing. Please keep this bulletin somewhere where you will be able to refer to it so you will know about special coming events.

Dear Parents and carers,

Message From the Principal -

Last Day of Term 1— The last day of school this term is Friday April 12th 2013.

School Holiday Dates — Saturday April 13th 2013 until Tuesday April 30th 2013. (Inclusive)

School Starts In Term 2— School for the children will start again in term 1 on Wednesday 1st May 2013.

Thank you for all the hard work- It has been a very busy 1st term at Villawood East Public School. I wish to thank the P&C for all their hard work with fundraising through such activities as the Easter Raffle and the canteen. Thank you also to the staff for all their hard work this term. I appreciate dedication and professionalism of the staff.

Managing depression- One in four kids over 12 has symptoms of depression. Would you know what to look for and how to help? Don't be afraid, ask your child how they are feeling and keep communicating with them. Find out more:
<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/health/managing-depression-in-children>

Spellcheck— Is your child learning to spell? Struggling with the weekly spelling lists? Here are a few strategies that will help: Find out more:
<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/zh/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/getting-your-child-used-to-writing>

School Times – School begins each day with a bell at 9.15am with a brief assembly under the cola. Students should not be at school before 8.45am. There are no teachers on duty until 8.45am.

School finishes at 3.15pm. Students are required to be collected promptly by parents and carers at 3.15pm.

Playgroups at VEPS – the Burnside Playgroup is conducted in the school hall on Mondays from 10am to 12pm and the Karitane Playgroup is conducted in the school hall on Thursdays from 10am to 12pm. These groups are wonderful for children that are not school aged and provide parents and carers with an opportunity to connect with other adults.

Ms K Deacon
Principal

SCHOOL TIMES

School begins each day with a bell at 9:15a.m and the students move to class at 9:15a.m.

Students should not be at school before 8:45a.m.

THERE ARE NO TEACHERS ON DUTY UNTIL 8:45 a.m.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL BEFORE THIS TIME.

Dates for the Calendar for 2013

Thursday April 11 - Fun Day and Spider Day

Friday April 12 – Last Day of Term 1

Wednesday May 1– Students return to school

Friday May 3 - School Cross Country—Thurina Oval

Monday May 6 - P&C Meeting

Wednesday May 8 -Year 3 COMPASS Excursion

Thursday May 9 - Mothers Day Stall

Friday May 10 - Stewart House Day

Tuesday May 14, Wednesday May 15 & Thursday May 16 — NAPLAN Test

Wednesday May 22 - Boys Soccer Competition

Thursday May 23 - Girls Soccer Competition

Wednesday May 29 - Kindergarten Farm Excursion

Ms K Deacon
Principal

PARENT INFORMATION SHEET

www.parentline.org.au



Helping with Homework

REMEMBER:

- *Create conditions that encourage homework*
- *Focus on strengths rather than mistakes*
- *Provide enough help to get the work done, but do not give them the answers*
- *Notice their efforts and praise them*
- *If problems continue, talk to your child's teacher*

Proudly managed by



Many parents experience difficulty from time to time over homework with their children.

Some children refuse to do homework, or their work is poorly done. This can lead to emotional situations where stress can easily turn into arguments. Nevertheless, parents do have an important role in helping their children with their homework. Listed below are some suggestions.

Focus on Strengths

Remember that children's learning and their performance is very influenced by motivation as well as their ability. One of the best ways to encourage better motivation is to focus on your child's successes - the things she does right rather than wrong! Nagging can often have a negative effect.

Relax

Let your child relax after school for a short time before they start their homework. Give them a snack and try and spend some pleasant time together. Try and set up a routine after school and make homework a part of it.

Find the Right Place

Organise a place to sit and do homework free of distractions. This is most likely to be at a desk or table in a room away from interruptions. Turn the TV off until homework is done.

Let Them Do It

All children are different and some will require more support than others. Help your child get started and be near enough to help and provide guidance if needed. But only provide enough assistance to help them do it.

For example if your child asks 'what is 2 multiplied by 6' you might reply by asking 'what is 2 multiplied by 5, - then add 2 more'. Don't end up doing their homework for them, but do give help where it is needed.

Encourage

Offer praise and encouragement whilst your child is working. Comments such as "you're working well tonight" or "that's great," are often very useful in the early stages of motivating a child to persist with homework.

If your child is young, you may wish to check your child's homework. Try to concentrate on noticing the good points. If there is an error, gently point it out but try to avoid criticism.

Setting up a special homework / reward chart may work to encourage a child who has had problems with homework in the past.

Let Them Learn From Consequences

Allow your child to experience the consequences of handing in work to the teacher that is not perfect, or even late. Your child may then learn from their mistakes. It is their homework, not yours.

Monitor the Situation

Keep an eye on how long it takes. Talk to other parents if you feel your child's homework seems to be taking too long to complete. Remember they have already had 6 hours at school and many play activities can be good for their development as well.

Check with the teacher if your child is having problems. Arguments about homework must be avoided if possible as this can give rise to greater problems later. It is worth checking with the teacher as to what their expectations are about homework.

Don't make homework time a family feud time. Remember your job is to be a parent, not a teacher.

NEED MORE HELP?

Call Parent Line on 1300 1300 52 for professional support tailored to your situation.

No knives at school

NSW Department of Education and Training



There's no good reason to bring a knife to school.

NSW now has the toughest knife laws in Australia. As a parent, you need to be aware of these laws, as you can also be charged if you allow your child to carry a knife.

No knives allowed at school under any circumstances.

- If a student has a knife at school the principal may call the police.
- The student may be expelled or suspended immediately. Possessing a knife includes your child simply having one in their bag or locker. Having a knife for self-protection is also illegal. If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing or safety, contact the principal.
- Tough penalties apply for children convicted of knife offences, including jail sentences of up to 25 years if someone is injured with a knife during an assault.

What kind of knives are prohibited?

School policy is designed to keep all students safe, and so no type of knife is allowed at school. That means no butter knives or fruit knives in lunchboxes, or knife tools for craft purposes.

- Flick knives, ballistic knives, sheath knives, push daggers, trench knives, butterfly knives, star knives are all prohibited.
- Your child cannot bring to school any item that can be used as a weapon (such as a chisel).
- In lessons requiring the use of knives, for example cooking or trades, your child's teacher will supply and supervise the use of the tools.
- There are some senior subjects, such as hospitality, where children may be required to have their own knives. Your child's school will advise you about these courses and the procedures for carrying knives legally to and from school and TAFE.

The law makes parents responsible

You need to make certain your child is aware of the school's rules and the State laws about knives.

If you allow your child to carry or possess a knife at school or in a public place, you can be charged.

- The police can search any child they suspect of having a knife. They can confiscate any dangerous object they might find during the search.
- Your child must comply with such a police search, or they may be arrested and charged.
- It is also illegal for anyone to sell a knife to anyone who is less than 16 years old.

Every child has the right to feel safe and secure at school. There is no good reason for them to ever have a knife at school.

If you want to talk about children and knives at school, please contact the principal.