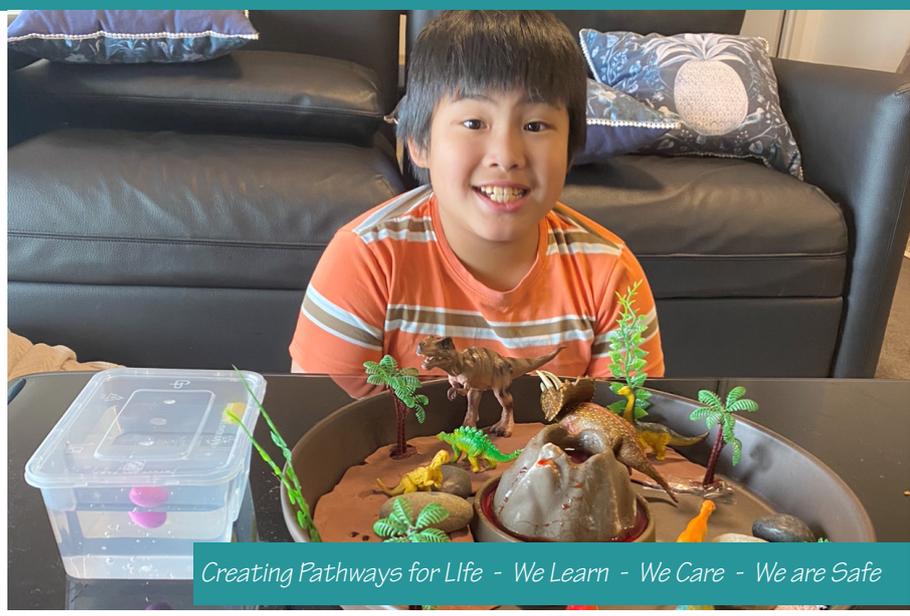




Tallowood School Newsletter

15 October 2021



Creating Pathways for Life - We Learn - We Care - We are Safe

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to term 4. I hope that you all had an opportunity to take a break over the school holiday period and spend some quality time together as a family. It is good to finally see some restrictions easing and to have a plan and timeline in place for the safe return of students to face-to-face learning at school. I know that all our staff are very much looking forward to seeing students back at school.



The information below confirms arrangements for the return of students to learning at school. You should also have received a letter in the post confirming the specific details for your child. If you have any questions about the return to learning at school, please contact the school by phone or email or speak with your child's class teacher.

PROCEDURES FOR STUDENT'S SAFE RETURN TO LEARNING AT SCHOOL

Students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 12 will return to learning at school next Monday, 18 October. All other students will return to learning at school from the following Monday, 25 October.

If your child travels to and/or from school on Assisted Student Transport, you will need to confirm pick-up and drop-off arrangements with your transport driver. Please contact them prior to your child's commencement date to confirm these arrangements.

Parents and carers will only be permitted to enter the school to drop-off and pick-up their child. We ask that you please only come into the front office if you are dropping off or picking up your child outside of normal drop-off or pick-up times. If you are dropping off or picking up during normal times, the following guidelines will be in place for term 4:



- For morning drop-off, please drive into the school and join the bus unload queue. A staff member will unload your child from the car, and you will not need to exit your vehicle. Please be patient as staff will unload vehicles in the order they arrive. Please note: If you exit your vehicle or decide to park on the street and walk your child into the school, you will need to check-in using the Service NSW QR code. These will be positioned in the carpark near the disabled parking spots and at the pedestrian entrance to the school.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18 October	Years K, 1 and 12 return to school
25 October	All students return to school
9 November	Loud Shirt Day
16 December	Last day of school

- For afternoon pick-up, please wait outside the school gates until 2.50pm. You can then enter the school and wait on the marked spots in the waiting area outside the pool. Your child will be brought out to you by a staff member. Please note: you will need to check-in using the Service NSW QR code at the pedestrian entrance to the school before moving to the waiting area.
- Masks must be worn at all times when on the school site and you must maintain 1.5m social distancing.

Our school will be following Department of Education COVID safe guidelines to ensure the safe return of all students to face-to-face learning. All staff working onsite from Monday 18 October will be fully vaccinated unless they have a medical exemption. All staff will wear a mask, both indoors and outdoors when in the presence of another adult or student. Whilst students with disabilities are exempt from wearing a mask, if your child will wear a mask then we encourage you to send one in with them and let your child's class teacher know.

Additional daily cleaning of our school site will continue and includes a COVID day cleaner who will wipe down high touch surfaces and bathrooms around the school throughout the day.

A REMINDER FOR ALL FAMILIES

Students should not attend school if they are unwell, even with mild symptoms. Any person with any symptoms will be sent home and should not return to school until they have received a negative COVID test result and are symptom free. Where children have other medical reasons for recurrent symptoms, a letter from your doctor regarding this is sufficient.

From Monday 25 October, it is expected that all students will be back to face-to-face learning at school. From this time, no new learning from home materials will be uploaded to our website and no work packs will be posted out.



STUDENTS AGED 12 YEARS AND OVER ELIGIBLE FOR THE PFIZER AND MODERNA COVID-19 VACCINES

NSW Health are urging all students 12 and over to get vaccinated with the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible before returning to school.

There is currently sufficient supply of the Moderna vaccine to community pharmacies and the Pfizer vaccine to General Practitioners. Bookings can be made via the Vaccine Clinic <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility?> Depending on location, bookings are available within the next few days.

COVID-19 vaccination is the best protection against severe illness and also reduces the risk of spreading COVID-19 to others. Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 now will help to protect both you, your family and our school community.



I want to take this opportunity to thank our school community for your support over the last few months as we have navigated our way through the challenges of the pandemic. I also want to reassure you that our priority is the safe return of students to learning at school and we will be following Department of Education and NSW Health guidelines to ensure we minimise the risks to students, staff and families.

Kind regards,
Greg Wood
Principal

CHAPLAIN CHATS ...

Optimism

As we begin a new term, there has been some interesting and possibly exciting news regarding our states "Roadmap" out of restrictions. Now I know that everyone will have very different feelings and perspectives about this, especially given our little school community is one of the most vulnerable. But this roadmap and the season changing into spring can also be a time of great optimism.

Optimism is defined as a sense of HOPE and CONFIDENCE about the future. And in dealing with people, I can see that those with depression often express feelings of hopelessness, and of feeling unmotivated, or unsafe about the future. And there are times, even without a diagnosis, that we can feel like this.



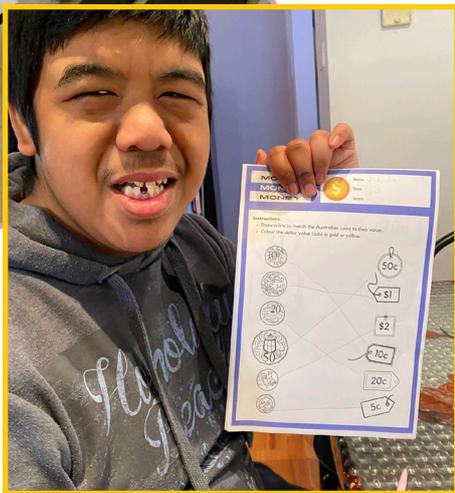
I wanted to share 3 tools that may help build this sense of hope and confidence.

- 1. Post-COVID "to do" list: I did this as part of my "Self-Care September" challenge. It was great to sit down with my family and find out about all the things we have missed while in isolation. And I was pleasantly surprised that it was relatively simple things like playdates and little adventures (e.g. a visit to public gardens). This reminded me of the good things we used to do and built up anticipation about the good things ahead.
- 2. Gratitude list: I always recommend a gratitude practice. Why? Because it retrains our mind to look for the positive things around us. Our minds are naturally attuned to see the bad as a way to protect ourselves in the future. But keeping a list of these good things helps us see that there is good in the world, giving us a sense of confidence and hope.
- 3. Optimism Challenge: Even though we are now halfway through October, maybe this "Optimistic October" Calendar from Action For Happiness can help spark some optimism for you. It has 31 ideas about ways to increase optimism through goals, self reflection and activities. [Optimistic October Calendar](#)

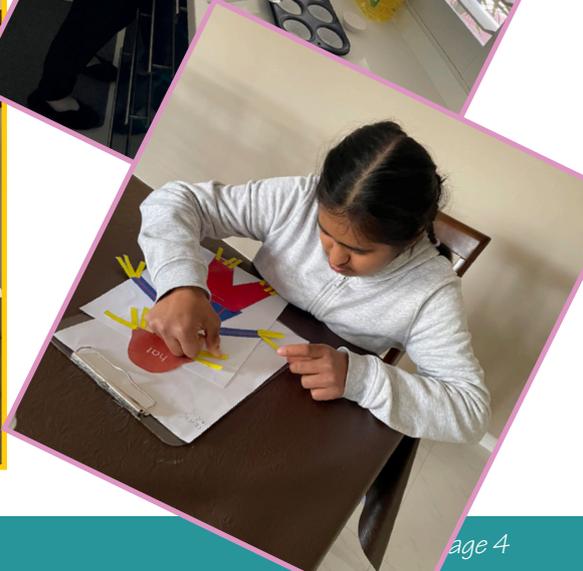


Juanita McMillan
Chaplain

Class 9 & 10



Where has the year gone? All staff in green block are excited to see the return of all students within the next 2 weeks. We want to say a huge thank you to all parents/carers who have tried their hardest to make learning from home possible for their children. It was fantastic to see all students from Class 9 and 10 complete online work and make the best of the situation.





BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE SURVEY

The Department of Education is seeking your input to help determine whether your family or school would benefit from improved access to a Before and After School Care service either onsite or nearby to your school for specific purposes.

Since 2019, the Department has been developing solutions to support families to access before and after school care. We are currently undertaking a range of activities to respond to the needs of families and the sector, based on the data and essential feedback we receive.

The Department will consider demand from parents and carers, input from principals and communities, and other considerations and consultations before reaching a final decision.

Next steps

The [Schools for Specific Purposes Before and After School Care Survey](https://surveys.education.nsw.gov.au/s3/Term-4-Parent-Survey-SSPs) is open and will close on 7 November 2021 at 8 pm.

The survey should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. If you have more than one child attending a School for Specific Purposes, please submit a separate survey entry for each child.

We recommend completing the survey on a desktop/laptop device for the best user experience.

Complete the survey via the following link:

<https://surveys.education.nsw.gov.au/s3/Term-4-Parent-Survey-SSPs>

For questions, feedback and support regarding this survey, contact the Before and After School Care team at BASCReform@det.nsw.edu.au or 1300 244 145.



Education