



Birchgrove Buzz

Term 2 Week 4 2025

This Buzz in Bullets...

Click straight through to what interests you!

- [Principal's message](#)
- Upcoming Event: [Pyjama day](#)
- Upcoming Event: [Playgroup for mums and little ones](#)
- [Wollemi hosted assembly](#)
- [Banksia hosted assembly](#)
- Debating season launch: [That's Debatable.](#)
- In Other News: [Operation Art BPS submissions](#)
- In Other News: [Stage 2/3 Author visit](#)
- In Other News: [Waratah/ Snow Gums on the move!](#)
- [BPS after hours' programs](#)
- [OAIC Notice](#)
- [Transport for NSW Notice](#)
- [DoE Calendar and school attendance](#)
- [Contact and useful links](#)

For your calendar

Term 2 2025:

- 29 May Mufti Pyjama Day – gold coin donation
- 30 May PSSA begins - select students only
- 30 May Waratah class hosts school assembly
- 4-6 Jun Stage 3 Canberra camp
- 6 Jun Lilly Pilly class hosts school assembly
- 12 Jun BPS Athletics carnival
- 13 Jun Aust Daisy class hosts school assembly
- 20 Jun Wattle class hosts school assembly
- 24 Jun Taronga Zoo incursion: Kindy-Year 2
- 26 Jun Mufti Career Day – no gold coin
- 27 Jun Bottlebrush class hosts school assembly
- 4 Jul Snow Gum class hosts school assembly
- 4 Jul Last day of term

BPS Merit Board



Congratulations to Lucy M (F. Flower) and Sophie O (Waratah) whose artworks were selected for this year's Operation Art submissions.

[Full story here.](#)

We acknowledge the Wangal people of the Eora Nations, the traditional custodians of the land on which we play, learn and grow. We pay respect to Elders past and present.

Message from our Principal

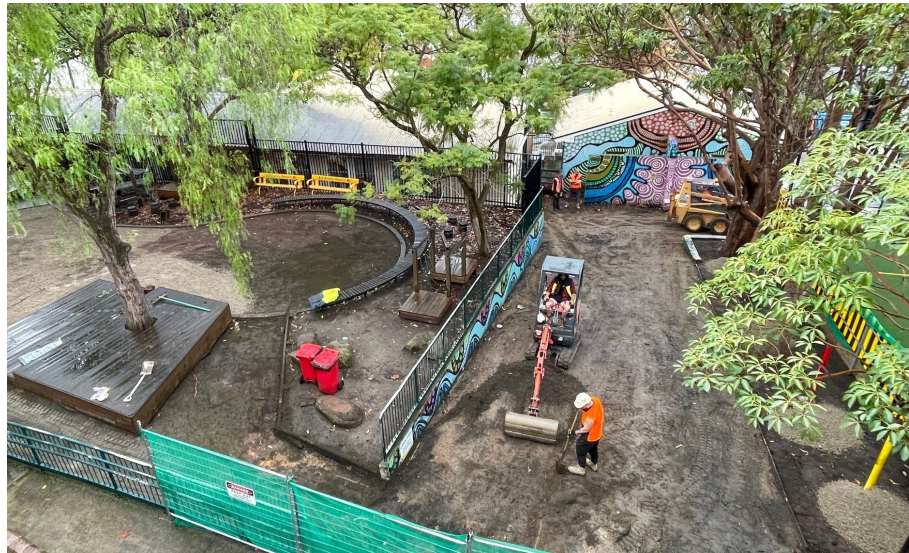
It was inevitable. The playground work started, and the rain came. Sometimes I think BPS could be used to break the drought.

The playground works are moving along quickly with access to the preschool being opened earlier than planned. Thank you to all the preschool families who had to trek around to Gow Street to access the preschool whilst the access work was being done, we appreciate your understanding.

I would also like to thank our school community who pulled together with short notice to help the Snow Gum and Waratah classes move out of the demountables and into their new classrooms in the main building. We are extremely fortunate to have such a fabulous community who are always willing to lend a hand.

We held our kindergarten information evening for prospective families on Monday evening this week. Thank you to Mrs Boyle and Mrs Copping for presenting a fabulous session about Kindergarten at Birchgrove Public School.

Thank you also to Miss Hayward for helping out with the presentation and to Miss Taksa for coming along to support her colleagues. A big thank you goes to Annette Plant for speaking on behalf of the P&C and sharing her insights about starting kindergarten and BPS in general.

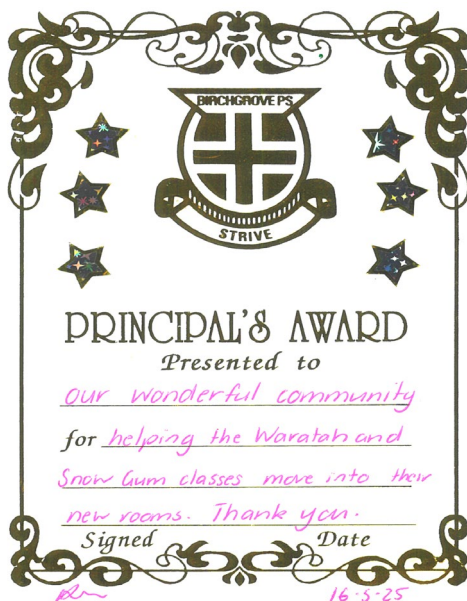


Stage 2 and Stage 3 had an excellent visit with author, Penny McGee. They enjoyed hearing about her books and were extremely impressed when they heard that Penny was part of the cast for MJ The Musical. There were more than a few students attempting to Moonwalk back to class!

Our playgroup for children aged birth to 5 years of age and their families started in week 2, the children and their families have enjoyed meeting each other, playing, and participating in a variety of craft activities. Playgroup runs from 9.00 am -10.15 am on a Friday mornings in Ms Keating's classroom and the terrace area. Playgroup is open to all families in the Balmain community. Everyone is welcome to attend, regardless of having a current Birchgrove PS enrolment. We hope to see you there.

Please keep checking the information updates and your emails, as there are quite a few events coming up. If your contact details have changed, please let the office know so that we can update our records.

- Kylie Mitchell Principal (relieving)



Principal's award for excellence

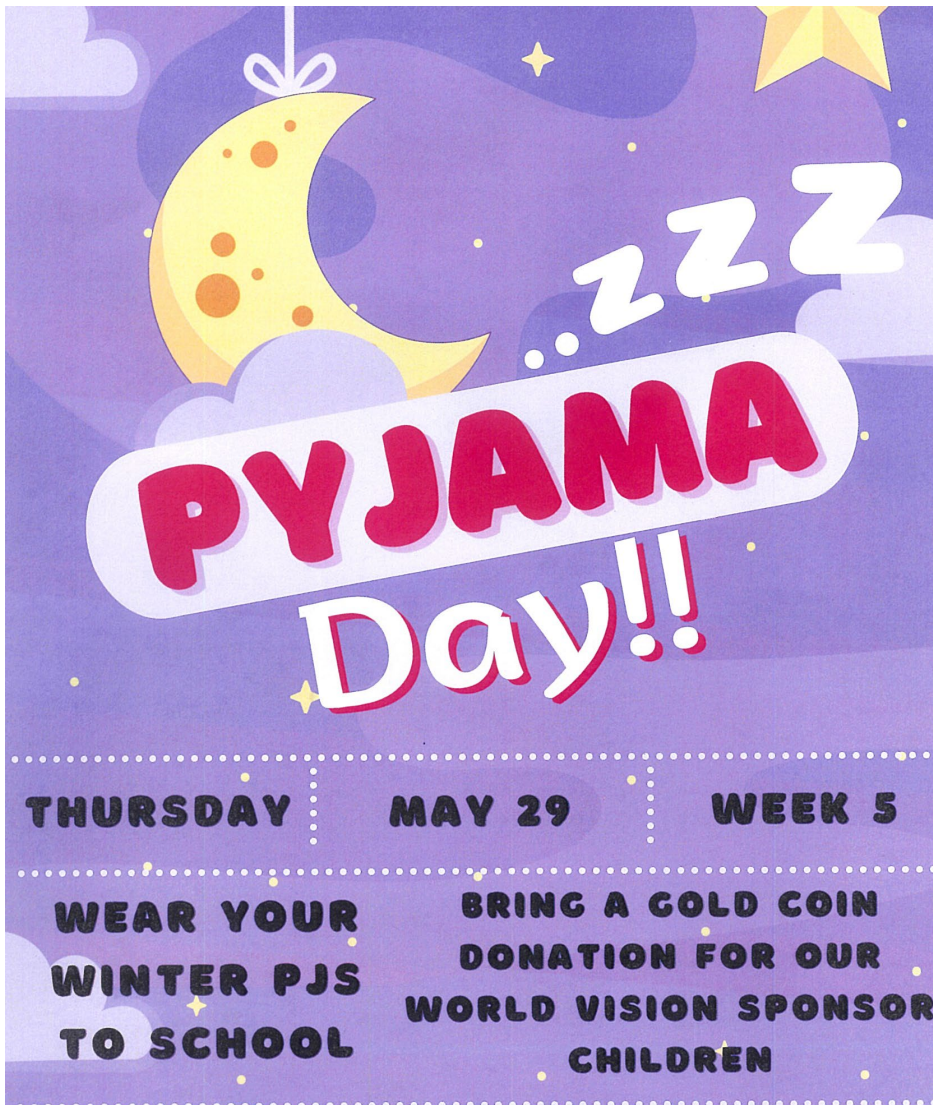
Week 3 - The principal award for excellence was a three-way tie for week 3!

Snow Gum and Waratah classes - for being so sensible and helpful during their classroom move.

AND Parents and Carers - Thank you to all those who assisted with the move of the Stage 3 classes. We couldn't have done it without you.

Week 4 Banksia Class - for their interesting and impressive informative writing.

Upcoming Events



Birchgrove Public School Playgroup

FRIDAY MORNINGS
9AM-10:15AM
BIRCHGROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL

STARTING
TERM 2
9 MAY 2025

FOR CHILDREN
AGED BIRTH TO 5 YEARS
AND THEIR
PARENTS/CARERS

COME AND
JOIN OUR
COMMUNITY

Contact us for more information
birchgrove-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
9810 2469

BPS Playgroup for mums and little ones

I'm excited to announce that our playgroup is up and running. It is held on Friday mornings 9.00 am - 10.15 am and is an opportunity for children aged birth to 5 years and their parents/ carers to come and have a play and meet other families. Playgroup is held in the music room and terrace. Playgroup is free and all families are welcome to attend, regardless of whether you have a student at BPS.

- Kylie Mitchell, Principal
(relieving)

Wollemi / Banksia hosted assemblies

Last week, the incredibly talented students of 5/4 Wollemi had the honour and privilege of running the school assembly. They did an outstanding job keeping everything running smoothly and confidently led the show from start to finish.

For our performance, we wanted to give the audience a glimpse into what a typical morning in our classroom feels like. So, we decided to perform the song we listen to every day to kick off our learning. Usually, the goal is to be ready to learn by the time the song finishes — but for the assembly, the goal was to blow the roof off the hall.

If you ask me, the amazing students of Wollemi did exactly that. Great work, team! - Sam Sturges - Teacher, Wollemi



Banksia class have been working on their fluency in reading. Choral reading is a great way to improve fluency. They practiced for weeks to learn all the words to "The Magic Hat" by Meme Fox. We then worked on rhythm and expression. Finally, we incorporated the acting element. We hope you enjoyed our performance of "Magic Hat" as much as we enjoyed performing it! Thank you to all the parents, families and friends who braved the torrential rain to come and see us host this week's assembly.

- Natalie Robinson - Teacher, Banksia



That's Debatable!



Well, debating season has begun again. We have recruited a small, but dedicated, team of debaters who have already hit the ground running. Our first debate last Tuesday, was against our nearest neighbours, Rozelle Public School. The topic of the day?...**That homework is a waste of time!**

Well, you can just imagine how difficult our students found it to agree with that! (wink, wink). Our affirmative team (Elodie, Billie, Frankie and Lily - all but Elodie being newcomers to debating) travelled to Rozelle to fight the good fight and did a very admirable job but came second. Our negative team (Chloe, Sanne, Sophie and Penny - all newcomers) similarly impressed the adjudicators, particularly with their rebuttals. Again, the team came second.

On Friday, the entire team of 8 headed off to Camdenville Public School in Newtown for a day of intensive debating workshops delivered by the Arts Department debating experts. The girls learnt a great deal about the art of the debate and their participation was impressive. They represented our school exceptionally and should be very proud of their effort and involvement.

Stay tuned to hear of their progress through the year.

- Dani Corliss - Debate Coordinator

"Homework is a bad thing because it diminishes student's love of learning - Elodie B, BPS Debater, Affirmative Team



OUR BPS DEBATING TEAM: Chole B – Yr 5 Snow Gum, Billie S – Yr 5 Snow Gum, Frankie M – Yr 5 Snow Gum, Sophie F – Yr 5 Snow Gum, Penny K – Yr 5 Wollemi, Lisanne Sanne V – Yr 6 Snow Gum, Elodie B – Yr 6 Waratah

In other news...



Operation Art

Operation Art is an initiative where school aged children create artworks to brighten the walls of the Sydney Children's Hospital. Each metropolitan school can only select two artworks to be entered into Operation Art.

Each BPS class submitted two artworks for consideration and staff of BPS voted for the two artworks that best met the brief of brightening a sick child's day. Voting was very close with a re-vote needed to select the second artwork.

Congratulations to Sophie O (Waratah class) and Lucy M (Flannel Flower class) on having their artworks selected for submission. Good luck.

Artistic Inspiration:

Sophie O - After the renaming of our classes this year, 5/6 Waratahs had a chance to look closely at the waratah and recreate its beauty. We looked at the shapes and colours and the imperfections and used pastels to decorate our pencil sketches. Sophie's artwork beautifully highlights each of these, as well as her ability to show detail and depth in her art. She is a very talented artist.

Lucy M - Lucy created a colourful flower bouquet using oil pastels then used a dark blue wash for the background.



Stage 2-3 Author Visit: Penny McNamee

Last Friday 16 May, Penny McNamee, a musical theatre performer (WICKED!), an actor (Home and Away), author of the newly released middle-grade novels, STAGE STARS, and local Birchgrove mum, visited Stage 2 and Stage 3 students for an hour lesson on "Narrative: The 12 Steps of the Hero's Journey" followed by a Q&A. Students learnt about Penny's journey to becoming an author and helpful hints to writing an engaging narrative. Thank you, Penny, for visiting us!

- Greta Sun - Assistant Principal, Stage 3



Waratahs and Snow Gums on the Move!

Miss Corliss and Mr Dodds would like to extend our deepest and most sincere thanks to all of the wonderful parents who gave up their time to help with moving our 5/6 classes from the demountables up to the main building last week.

What could have been a very tricky and stressful day ended up going far more smoothly than we ever could have hoped. With industrious assistance from our students, staff and parents, the move was done at light speed and completed before recess! We feel so lucky to have such a generous and community-minded parent body.

- Mr Dodds and Miss Corliss



BPS after hours 2025



AFTER SCHOOL DRAMA CLASSES

BIRCHGROVE SCHOOL HALL

Join our fun and engaging drama classes where children explore creativity, build confidence, and develop self-expression through storytelling and performance!

3-4pm Years 1-3

4-5pm Years 4-6

**\$17.5
A CLASS
PAID
TERMLY**

CONTACT LAURA ON 0431136177 / DANCEARAMA01@YAHOO.COM



Level 1 30A George St, Burwood 2134
Office: (02) 9745 1170

CHESS!!

Learn to be a chess champion!
Coaching for students at Birchgrove Public School is held on Fridays from 8:00am to 9:00am, starting on 2 May 2025.

Learning and playing chess helps children develop their logical thinking and problem solving skills, improves their concentration and focus, while also being a great source of enjoyment.
Activities include group lessons on a demonstration chess board or interactive whiteboard, puzzle solving and fun practice games.

Students earn merit awards by making checkmates, or by displaying skills and positive qualities, which all good chess players strive to develop.

Each student in the Chess program will also receive access to Chess Squad <https://www.chesssquad.com/> which is an online teaching/playing platform.

If your child is interested in taking part in the class, please email:

office.sydneyacademy@gmail.com

for an enrolment form.

For all enquiries, please contact Sydney Academy of Chess on:
(02) 9745 1170.



ENROL NOW FOR TERM 2

Limited vacancy!

LEARN MUSIC AT SCHOOL

MUSIC KEYBOARD CLASSES AT BIRCHGROVE PS
LESSON ON WED 8.05-8.50AM

- 45-minute weekly sessions in small groups.
- Instrument not required initially.
- \$33 per session - follows the school term. New students are welcome to join mid-term.
- Ideal for beginners!

Music Shapes Minds!
Learning music enhances cognitive skills, builds discipline and boosts confidence!



To enrol, call 9411 3122 or visit:
www.learnmusicatschool.com.au



VIP Music - Bringing music culture to primary schools since 1984

KIDS AT THE ARTHOUSE

ENROLMENTS 2025

JOIN THE KIDS AT THE ARTHOUSE
TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY 3PM - 5PM
BIRCHGROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR LOTS OF
FUN & CREATIVE ART MAKING
ALL STUDENTS K - 6 ENROL NOW
CONTACT
Sabina Carney
0403768282
sabina.carney1@gmail.com



The programs above are offered by third party companies utilising BPS facilities. Birchgrove Public School is not directly affiliated with and does not endorse any events, services or products represented.

Birchgrove Public School

BPS after hours 2025

Italian classes are run 3.30 – 5.30 pm Tuesdays, (supervision from 3.00pm).
If your child is interested, please contact Casa d'Italia directly.

2025 Out-Of-School Hours Italian Language & Cultural Program

Children who learn languages today
take on the world tomorrow

(02) 9564 0744
coasit.org.au



Who can participate in this course?

- Classes cater for:
- Children aged 5 to 17 currently enrolled in a day school;
 - All levels from absolute beginners to advanced learners.

Classes are organised according to the following levels:

- Primary (Kindergarten to Year 6)**
- Primary Classes: Early Stage 1 – Stage 3
 - Italian Club (Advanced level. Subject to entry examination)

Secondary (Year 7 to Year 12)

- Secondary Classes
- Stages 4 – 6
- HSC Support (Year 11 & 12)

Where and when are the courses held?

Classes are held outside normal school hours (Monday to Saturday) in 18 centres across NSW. Classes commence on Monday 10th February 2025.

What is included in the cost?

The annual program provides each student with 37 weeks of quality Italian lessons, a textbook and interactive activities starting from \$595.

As a registered provider of the Creative Kids Program you can redeem your voucher when you enrol in our program. For less than \$9 per hour, students engage in fun, educational experiences that allow them to explore the wonders of all things Italian.

Our **Basic K-12 program** will engage your child in fun Italian language and cultural activities.

Our **Premium K-5 program** will give your child the edge and deepen their knowledge of the Italian language through the use of our digital resources and full immersion days.

Our **Premium 6-12 program** is your child's passport to Italy. Our full immersion days will give them a leading advantage when sitting the internationally recognised CILS exams.

*See table for all program inclusions

For further information regarding enrolments, terms & conditions, times, classes, early bird and sibling discounts, please call (02) 9564 0744 or visit our website (scan QR code on back page).

Program Inclusions	Basic K-12 \$595	Premium K-5 \$700	Premium 6-12 \$1250
2-hour weekly lessons (Total 37 weeks)	✓	✓	✓
Textbook	✓	✓	✓
Access to Minister's Awards competition	✓	✓	✓
Access to Co As It's Settimana della Lingua Italiana competition	✓	✓	✓
Unlimited access to on-line activities		✓	✓
Exam preparatory materials			✓
Dedicated educational channel with digital resources	✓	✓	✓
Three Italian language experiences in Meadowbank during school holidays		✓	
Six Italian language development days in Leichhardt during school holidays			✓



About the curriculum and the teachers

This program is supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation through the Italian Consulate General in Sydney and the Embassy of Italy in Canberra, as well as the NSW Department of Education – Community Languages Program. Co As It teachers are friendly, dedicated, experienced and approved to teach by the Department of Education – Community Languages Program. Our teachers follow the OSH teaching program developed by Co As It in conjunction with the K-10 Italian Syllabus of the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA).

How to enrol

Online
coasit.org.au

By email
learning@coasit.org.au

In person
Casa d'Italia
67 Norton Street
Leichhardt NSW 2040

Scan here to visit our website.



THE ULTIMATE SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

ROCKETEERS
Extraordinary Holiday Adventures



Take the stress out of the school holidays with Rocketeers. Featuring over 200 wonderfully unique experiences that will ensure your child's school holidays are extraordinary!

From our Ninja Showdown experience, brought to you by Proactivity and featuring special guests from a certain Ninja obstacle TV show, to creating a DIY mini golf course right here at Rocketeers – and everything in between! There's something for everyone at Rocketeers.

Plus, a Big Art Day double feature – 2 massive days of creative and social fun!



Build
Friendships



Discover
Adventure



Create
Memories



Have lots
of fun!

DID YOU KNOW?

You don't have to attend the school where we operate to use our awesome holiday programs. Simply book into any of our convenient locations.

SAVE BIG THIS WINTER!

Child Care Subsidy
available for
eligible families.

**BOOK INTO SCHOOL
HOLIDAY FUN NOW!**

WHAT'S ON THESE HOLIDAYS!



Special Event



Experience Takeover



Jet set on an Adventure



Programs vary by location. Jump on our website to find out what's happening at your local Rocketeers.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY BOOKINGS NOW OPEN

ROCKETEERS

campaustalia.com.au

by **Camp Australia**

The programs above are offered by third party companies utilising BPS facilities. Birchgrove Public School is not directly affiliated with and does not endorse any events, services or products represented.

Birchgrove Public School

OAIC Notice: Children's Online Privacy Code



Australian Government
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

Children's Online Privacy Code

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC), the Australian Government's privacy regulator, is seeking input from parents and carers to assist them in its development of the Children's Online Privacy Code (the Code).

The Code will put children at the center of privacy protections in Australia. By the time a child turns 13, it's estimated that 72 million pieces of data will have been collected about them. The aim of the Code is to strengthen privacy protections for the handling of children's personal information.

Your insights as a parent or carer are important.

To have your say, please take a few minutes to complete the parent discussion paper here:

[Children's Online Privacy Code \(consultation for children and parents\) | OAIC.](#)

Your support is also important in helping your child or young person to take part too, please assist them in filling out the appropriate worksheet, provided in the link above.

This consultation will be open until the 30 June 2025.

You can read more about the Code here:

[Children's Online Privacy Code | OAIC.](#)

OAIC

Transport for NSW Notice

Transport for NSW

Careers

Is this role for you? School Crossing Supervisor



About you:

Help protect our vibrant school communities.



Be a road safety hero for school kids, caregivers, school staff and local motorists.



Able to communicate with different groups and give clear instructions.



Willing to work outdoors in all weather conditions.

Casual

Inner West Local Government Area - Balmain to Marrickville – 99978

In this role, you'll:

Work shifts that fall between 8:00am - 9:30am and 2:30pm – 4:00pm, Monday to Friday during school terms with a minimum of one hour shift as required.

Salary:

\$32.84 per hour plus superannuation.

Apply today

Applications close 11:59pm on Sunday 1st June 2025.

Visit jobs.transport.nsw.gov.au and search for **Reference Number: 99978** or search 'School Crossing Supervisors' for a full list of vacancies or scan the QR code to apply.

For further information, contact Sandhini Chaudhary
E: sandhini.chaudhary@transport.nsw.gov.au
P: 0466 343 704



OFFICIAL

jobs.transport.nsw.gov.au

Birchgrove Public School

Dept of Education Notice

NSW Department of Education

NSW Department of Education

Compulsory school attendance

Information for parents and carers

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or are registered with the NSW Education Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- gives students time to greet their friends before class
- reduces classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child had to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- Being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance e.g. attending a funeral.

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child, if the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

My child won't go to school, what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school, in circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Telephone interpreter service

Please contact the school if you would like more information. If you need interpreter assistance to contact the school, please call 131 450, tell them what language you need and ask the operator to phone the school. The operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

education.nsw.gov.au

Compulsory school attendance - English 1



education.nsw.gov.au

Compulsory school attendance - English 2

NSW Department of Education

Calendar 2025



January

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Key dates

* Check with your school as starting and finishing dates may change.

- Term 1**
 - First day for students in Eastern division schools: 6 February
 - First day for students in Western division schools: 13 February
 - Last day for all schools: 11 April
- Term 2, 3 and 4**
 - Term 2 to last days for all students**
 - Term 2: 30 April to 4 July
 - Term 3: 22 July to 26 September
 - Term 4: 14 October to 19 December

- School development days (students do not attend)**
 - Eastern division schools: 31 January to 5 February
 - Western division schools: 7 February to 12 February
- All schools:**
 - 28 April, 29 April, 21 July, 13 Oct
- School holidays**
 - All Schools**
 - Summer 2024-25: 22 December 2024 to 30 January 2025

- Autumn:** 14 April to 26 April
- Winter:** 7 July to 19 July
- Spring:** 29 September to 11 October
- Summer 2025-26:** 22 December 2025 to 26 January 2026
- Additional summer holidays for Western division schools**
 - 31 January to 6 February 2025

Public holidays



School development days

The dates are determined by the department. Always check with your local school as dates may change. Parents and carers should not send their children to school on school development days.

education.nsw.gov.au/school-development-days



Scan me for key dates

education.nsw.gov.au/calendars

Birchgrove Public School

Contact us and useful links

Please contact the school with any queries:

Phone: 02 9810 2469

Email: birchgrove-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

You can find important updates and further information on our website, via the Sentral app, and the BPS Facebook page:

Website: <https://birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

Facebook: [@BirchgrovePS](https://www.facebook.com/BirchgrovePS)

Useful Links:

NSW school term dates inc. Staff Development Days (pupil free):

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/calendars/2025>

Camp Australia before and after school care: Phone: 1 300 105 343

<https://campaustralia.com.au/school/?accessCode=9F7B>

The School Canteen: An external company supplying canteen service to our school Thus-Fri each week:

<https://www.theschoolcanteen.com.au/>

Extended Leave form: To apply for leave beyond what is available in the school holiday periods please fill and return this form for Principal approval prior to travel:

https://birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/doe/sws/schools/b/birchgrove-p/forms/Extended_Leave_Travel_notification.pdf

Administration of medication at school: Information and paperwork required for support at school

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/health-and-physical-care/health-care-procedures/administering-medication>

Prior Newsletters: <https://birchgrove-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/newsletter.html>



BPS P&C contacts and sponsors

BPS P&C contacts and further information, including the second-hand uniform store, can be found here:

Website: <https://www.bpspandc.com/>

or by scanning the QR code below. Our P&C would like to thank our local sponsors for their ongoing support.

McGrath

