



## Week 7, Term 2 2021

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE CALENDAR

Date	Time	Event
Friday 11 June		P&C Lunch Club
Monday 14 June		Public Holiday – no school
Wednesday 16 June	10.30am	Walk-a-thon
Week 10		NAIDOC Week and class speak offs
Wednesday 23 June		Aboriginal performer - incursion
Thursday 24 June		Semester 1 Reports distributed
Friday 25 June		Last Day of Term 2
Monday 12 July		Staff return – NO students
Tuesday 13 July		Day 1, Term 3
Tuesday 20 July	6.30pm	P&C Meeting
Wednesday 28 July	9.30am – 12pm	Education Week Open Day
Thursday 29 July	tbc	Mini Olympics athletics Carnival
Friday 30 July		HGIS Speak Off
Wednesday 4 August	6.30pm	School Readiness Information Evening
Tuesday 17 August		Science Week - Experiment Day
Friday 20 August	tbc	P&C Movie Night / Food stalls
Tuesday 24 August		Book Week Parade

### Attendance Matters

Over the past two weeks we have been speaking to the students about school attendance and how crucial it is for them to be at school and on time.

All public schools across the state are being asked to meet attendance targets set by the Department of Education as part of schools Strategic Improvement Plan and monitoring.

Something that is important to understand is that student attendance figures are calculated by the Department of Education on the number of days a student is absent, whether they are 'explained' absences or not. When a student is absent from school, families need to provide a reason for this absence. If the reason provided is not one supported by the Department of Education, or if no explanation is provided, this absence is recorded as 'Unjustified'. 'Unjustified' absences are monitored by the school and support provided where necessary to families and students. When a valid reason for an absence from school is provided, this is recorded as an 'Explained' absence. Although these absences are recorded as explained, they still count in a student's attendance figures. For example, if a child is sick 10 days within a year and notes or medical certificates explaining this absence are provided, these absences are recorded as 'Explained'. However, this student would still be recorded by the Department of Education as having 95% attendance, not 100%. Explaining an absence does not remove it from the student attendance record.

81 Lansdowne St, Penshurst NSW 2222



When reviewing our attendance data, it was evidenced that late attendance at HGIS had increased and we believe it is an area that we can work on alongside you and your child/ren to easily improve. We believe this to be true as most reasons behind late arrivals have been recorded as being from sleeping in, not being organised and students being distracted by the TV/technology or not following their parent's instructions. We will be regularly reminding your children of the consequence on their education from late arrivals and full day absences (please see the tables below). Each Friday we will also be celebrating improved partial attendance across the school and monitoring the frequency learning is interrupted due to late attendance. This strategy will not identify individual students; however, it is aimed to provide them with autonomy in their access to education and motivate them to promptly get ready each morning. In a week, this strategy has already seen a marked improvement in late arrivals to school and we hope to see this trend continue. The students have been informed that improved attendance will result in class lunch parties at the end of each term.

Some strategies to ensure your child arrives at school on time each day:

- Set the families alarm 10 minutes earlier
- Pack bags the night before (we know lunch boxes will still need to go in in the morning)
- Consistent sleep routines. It is recommended that children under 7 are in bed by 7.30pm
- No TV or devices in the morning or at least prior to the morning routine being complete
- Aim to have your child at school by 9am. This allows time for goodbyes and time for your child to socialise with their peers before the bell

If you have any questions about student attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us at school. Attendance targets are a new component of our Strategic Improvement Planning cycle, and as a result, they are generating a great deal of discussion. We look forward to working with our community to maximise student attendance and learning outcomes.

## Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

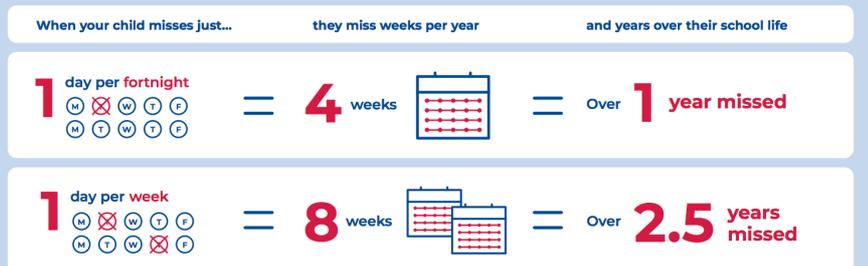


 **Patterns of lateness can have a serious impact on your child's education.**

[education.nsw.gov.au](http://education.nsw.gov.au)

## Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...



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### Walk-a-thon

We are looking forward to hosting the 'WALK-A-THON' Wednesday 16 June at 10.15am. We hope you are able to join us. We will be sending home a note requesting support on the day. If you have some time, we would appreciate your support with this event.

A gentle reminder to have your BBQ sausage order in by Friday 11 June to ensure we cater accurately.

Student sponsorship can be placed into the money chute between now and the day of the walk-a-thon.

### Kindergarten 2022

We are taking 2022 Kindergarten enrolments in preparation for our orientation and transition to school program. If you or your neighbour have a child who is starting school in 2022 please phone or email the school to arrange for an enrolment form or school tour.

### Education Week

Lifelong learning is this year's theme for Education week. We will be hosting three events during Week 3 to celebrate public education and your child's learning at HGIS. Our open day will be on Wednesday 28 July, with open classrooms, an art show, formal assembly and school community BBQ.

### Reconciliation Week

Hurstville Grove Infants School recognised National Reconciliation Week this week through a variety of lessons and activities.

Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians – as individuals, families, communities and importantly as a nation. At the heart of this journey are relationships between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We all have a role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures. 2021 marks twenty years of Reconciliation Australia and almost three decades of Australia's formal reconciliation process.

Kylie McKinnon  
Principal

4 June 2021

81 Lansdowne St, Penshurst NSW 2222

**WE ARE YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL**

**ENROL NOW**

**SCHOOL READINESS INFORMATION EVENING**  
Wednesday 4th August  
6.30pm

**KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION**  
Thursday 9th September  
9.30am - 11.00am

**TRANSITION TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
Thursday 28th October  
Thursday 4th November  
Thursday 11th November  
9.30am - 10.30am



**Please contact the school to arrange a tour**

Ph: 9580 5361  
81 Lansdowne St, Penshurst NSW2222  
Email: [hurstvilgr-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:hurstvilgr-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Website: [www.hurstvillegrove.nsw.edu.au](http://www.hurstvillegrove.nsw.edu.au)