

FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter Week 2 Term 3 2020

Mission Statement

Forrest Primary School helps all of our students reach their full potential in a safe, loving, inspiring and challenging learning environment.

We strive to develop confident, compassionate, responsible children who are lifelong learners and can make the world a better place.

Our community is culturally diverse and we value and celebrate the perspectives, knowledge, skills and abilities all bring to our school.

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Dear Forrest Community,

Welcome back to Term 3. It seems hard to believe that we are halfway through 2020 already! This term looks to be a busy one as we continue our preparations for School Review and PYP Evaluation. In today's newsletter we will explain a little bit about what School Review is and how we are preparing for it as a School.

COVID Update

We would like to thank the community for their continued support during this challenging time. In the ACT we remain on stage 2.2 of COVID-19 restrictions. This means we are continuing to limit the number of adults in the school building. We are continuing with enhanced hygiene measures such as hand washing, social distancing of adults and additional cleaning. The drop off and pick up system continues to work well and we thank parents for using this system safely.

School Review

Every school in the ACT Education Directorate participates in the School Review process. It is a part of the cycle of School Improvement. Each school has a 4-5 year School Plan. The plan sets out the strategic direction of the school. In conjunction with the School Plan we also have an Action Plan that is created annually to set shorter strategic goals. It is through the Review process that we are supported by the Directorate and ACER (Australian Council of Educational Research) to reflect on our progress against our strategic goals. Although we constantly reflect throughout the school improvement cycle, it is the Review by the external panel that provides us with another perspective. The information obtained from our own reflections and that of the Review panel will inform our next 5 year Strategic Plan.

For Forrest our Review will be occurring in Week 2 of Term 4. During this week we will host a team of Reviewers that will interview staff, students and parents. Prior to their visit we will provide them with a self reflection report of our progress including evidence against our claims. This is the work the school has been doing this year so far. We use a tool called the National School Improvement Tool (NSIT). This ACER tool is based on global evidence and outlines 9 key domains that exist in schools. An example of how we are doing this can be seen in our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Teaching teams are using Helen Timperley's Spiral of Inquiry to deepen their understanding of explicit and strategic approaches to spelling in the classroom. This is an action research model that leads teams,

DATES TO REMEMBER

ICAS Note due
Monday 10 August

JUST A REMINDER!

When your child is **absent** from school, please inform the front office via email:
forrestps@ed.act.edu.au

If your child is **late** to school (even by five minutes), they need to come to the front office for a late arrival pass.

If you need to collect your child **early** from school, please inform the front office where possible.

under the School Plan's Strategic goals, to improve practice. Stay tuned in the coming weeks to learn more about the Review and what we are doing to prepare for it.

Virtual Awards Presentation

Due to the continued restrictions about gathering in large groups we are going to trial virtual awards presentations. Starting this Friday, and alternating between the junior and senior school, Ms Pilgrim will initiate a Google Meet where she reads a story and then announces the Learner Profile Certificates. Teachers will present the certificates to the recipients and post to Seesaw their congratulations. This is an exciting notion and we look forward to connecting as a larger school community.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Last term you will have received a Semester 1 report for your child/ren. Mid-year interviews this year will be held on a needs basis. If your child's teacher needs to speak to you, he/she will request an interview/meeting with you. Alternatively, you can request a meeting with the teacher. Please note that meetings may be via phone, on Google Meet.

2020 School Satisfaction & Climate Survey

Each year, the Directorate surveys all parents, school staff and students in Years 4 to 12 about their satisfaction with public education. The 2020 School Satisfaction & Climate Survey will be available online from **10 to 31 August**. The survey results will help us to continue to make quality informed decisions about how to improve our school. No personal identifying information will be provided to any school or college. For each child in their family who attends an ACT public school, parents will receive:

- A letter about the student survey asking whether their child may participate during class time; and
- An email about the parent survey, including a unique link to access the survey; parents who do not receive the email may contact EDUSurveys@act.gov.au to request a survey invitation.

A shortened paper-version of the parent survey is also available in the following 12 languages: Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Dari, Dinka, Farsi, Hindi, Karen, Korean, Mon, Urdu and Vietnamese; email EDUSurveys@act.gov.au to request a copy.

For the results to reflect the opinions of our whole school community, we need as many parents, staff and students as possible to complete the survey. Your feedback is important, and we hope you will take part.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/school-satisfaction-and-climate-survey>

The Year That Was... 2020 MEMORABILIA BOOK

This year, Forrest Primary School will be creating a memorabilia book to acknowledge all the challenges and experiences we have endured in 2020. All students will have the opportunity to create a piece of work for the book, which will then be professionally published and sold at the end of the year.

To support us in creating this wonderful historical document that will be treasured for years to come, we are asking for volunteers to assist us in the editing, publishing, graphic design and sale of this book. If you are able to assist in anyway, please contact Nicole Richardson at nicole.richardson@ed.act.edu.au

ICAS

This term we will be offering the ICAS Assessments to students in Years 2 - 6. ICAS Assessments are designed to recognise academic excellence, students are assessed on their ability to apply classroom learning to new contexts using higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills. A note was sent home this week with information about how to select and pay for the ICAS Assessments.

In 2020 students can participate in the following subjects:

(Please note Writing is not available in 2020)

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ICAS Science (Yrs. 2-6) | Wednesday 19 August 9.30am |
| ICAS Digital Technologies (Yrs. 3-6) | Monday 24 August 9.30am |
| ICAS English (Yrs. 2-6) | Tuesday 25 August 9.30am |
| ICAS Mathematics (Yrs. 2-6) | Monday 31 August 9.30am |
| ICAS Spelling (Yrs. 2-6) | Wednesday 2 September 9.30am |

Testing will take place online at school. Cost per test: \$15.95 including GST

If you need more information about the ICAS Assessments please contact hayley.munsie@ed.act.edu.au or jemma.o'brien@ed.act.edu.au or access the website: unsw.global/ICAS

Thank you

Candice Kingston
On behalf of the Executive Team

FOOTSTEPS NOTE

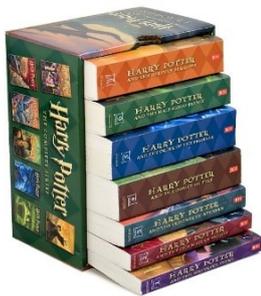
The Footsteps Dance Programme has begun for the term and all students from Kindergarten — Year 6 attend weekly dance lessons. These lessons are a part of the Dance Curriculum and culminate in an end-of-year performance.

A reminder for parents that if you haven't yet paid, please do so through the front office or via QuickWeb with the fee code 'FOOTSTEPS'.

LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you to our wonderful parent community for your donations to the School Library Fund. If you or your children would like to make any book suggestions for the library, including for the parenting section, please email through to: forrestps@ed.act.edu.au

For any Harry Potter fans (40th Birthday Friday 31 July), Library classes celebrated author JK Rowling and Harry Potter books today but you may wish to celebrate at home too. There are plenty of ideas on the official Harry Potter website: <https://www.wizardingworld.com/>



Chief Minister's Reading Challenge has now finished. Year 4-6 students are reminded to hand in their **Reading Logs** to the library. Class teachers from preschool – Year 3 have a class reading log. Students need to have read 30 books since the start of February to be eligible for the participation certificate from the Chief Minister.

MS Readathon starts 1 August and finishes 31 August. Families register directly online at: <https://www.msreadathon.org.au/kids> under the school name to raise money for Multiple Sclerosis research and support. This is a voluntary fundraising activity.

Thank you, parents and carers, who have sent in library books the children read during home learning. We still have quite a few overdue so we would be grateful if you could please encourage your child to look in their special reading spot as other children are keen to borrow them too.

Happy Reading!

Louise McMullen

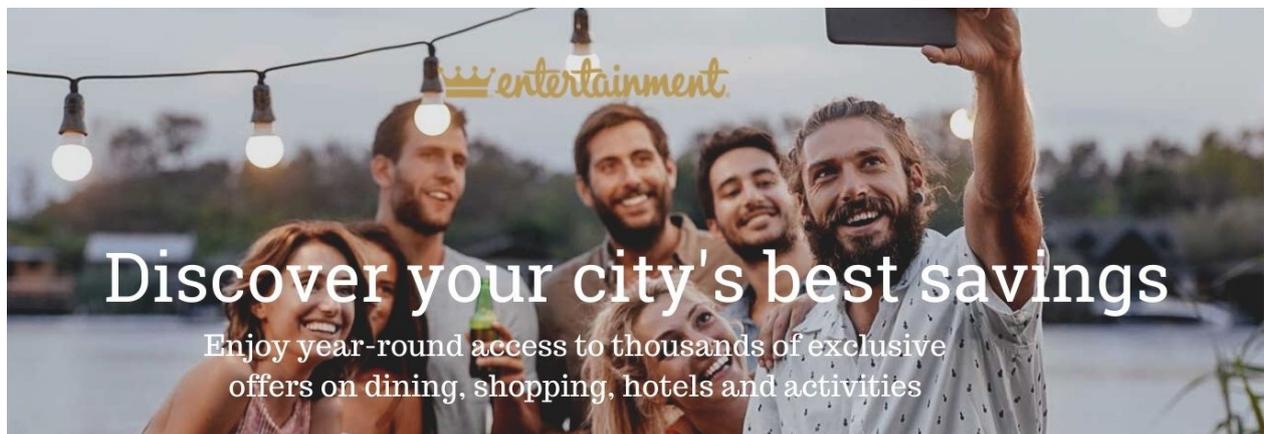
FUNDRAISING



The COVID-19 restrictions have unfortunately impacted on our fundraising efforts but you can still *make a difference from a distance* by purchasing a **digital Entertainment Membership!**

And what better time to do it than now, as current memberships are expiring and there are so many amazing benefits on offer for you and your family to enjoy! The Memberships are also a great way to support our local dining establishments who have been struggling to keep their doors open.

Visit <https://www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/25z707>



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Forrest Primary School

& Deakin Preschool

Catherine White

0409 070 009

cathian77@hotmail.com

FUNDRAISING WITH
entertainment

FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

COMMUNITY NOTICES

COVID-19 Education Assistance Package Update

1 May 2020

nbn helping to connect low-income families with home-schooling needs

To help Australians respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, **nbn** is providing up to \$50 million to assist phone and internet providers to support low-income family households with school-aged children who do not currently have an active **nbn**[™] connection at home.

This funding will help phone and internet providers create more affordable offers to connect eligible families during term two of school.

More than 20 phone and internet providers have agreed to participate in this program. Phone and internet providers that are ready to connect customers as of 1 May 2020 are:

- Activ8me - <https://www.activ8me.net.au/>
- Aussie Broadband - <https://www.aussiebroadband.com.au>
- IPSTAR Broadband - <https://ipstarbroadband.com.au/products/educationreliefoffer/>
- SkyMesh - <https://www.skymesh.net.au>
- Superloop - <https://www.superloop.com>
- Southern Phone - <https://www.southernphone.com.au/>
- Flip Connect - <https://www.flipconnect.com.au/nbn/>

An up-to-date list of phone and internet providers participating in the COVID-19 relief and assistance package, that have consented to their details being provided by **nbn** and are ready to connect customers is available at: <https://www.nbnco.com.au/response>

What is **nbn** doing?

To help low-income families with school children get connected, **nbn** will be providing phone and internet providers with rebates against its wholesale charge for many 25/5 Megabits per second speed tier services between April and September. This is intended to enable phone and internet providers to create more affordable offers to connect eligible families.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

How do I know if I'm eligible?

If internet access has not been financially possible previously and you have children requiring broadband access for school purposes, then you may qualify for this support. This offer is available only for low-income family households that were not connected to the **nbn**[™] access network before 1 March 2020. You can contact the participating phone and internet provider of your choice today and they will help determine if you are eligible for assistance. A full list is available at <https://www.nbnco.com.au/response>

I think I qualify, who do I contact?

You can contact the participating phone and internet provider of your choice today. A full list is available at <https://www.nbnco.com.au/response>

Your school also may have a coordinated approach to home-schooling. Please contact your school for more information.

What will I have to pay?

The assistance period runs from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020. Each phone and internet provider has their own pricing structure and may still charge a fee for monthly access, data costs and account set up fees.

How long will it take to get connected to the **nbn**[™] access network?

Connection times are taking longer during the COVID-19 pandemic because of high demand. **nbn** is striving to complete all new connections as quickly as possible.

What equipment do I need to get connected?

Your phone and internet provider will help with getting you the equipment you need to get connected to the internet. You will require a modem, which many phone and internet providers supply when you sign up. You will also need your own device, such as a computer or tablet, to use the internet. Your school also may have advice about how to get a device to access the internet.

I rent my home, am I still able to get the education relief assistance?

Yes. Please inform your landlord that you wish to have the **nbn**[™] access network connected. By agreement with your landlord, you are then able to order an **nbn**[™] powered plan from the internet provider of your choice. Make sure the internet provider you choose is offering the education relief assistance. A full list of phone and internet providers is available at www.nbnco.com.au/response

COMMUNITY NOTICES

nbn will begin charging phone and internet providers normal prices for services at the end of the assistance period. Your chosen phone and internet provider will have a transition plan in place once the education relief package ends. Please contact your phone and internet provider to ask what happens at the end of the assistance period and make sure you agree and understand any ongoing costs.

What if I already have an **nbn™** powered plan and I'm experiencing financial hardship during COVID-19?

Phone and internet providers can help with financial hardship in some circumstances. Please contact your current phone and internet provider to learn more.

For further information, including tips and tricks for using the internet and a list of participating phone and internet providers, visit www.nbnco.com.au/response

COMMUNITY NOTICES

CANBERRA WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

FREE telephone counselling sessions Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

Sessions via Zoom or Skype
Limited availability for FREE face-to-face counselling sessions

Sadly our groups and training are temporarily suspended

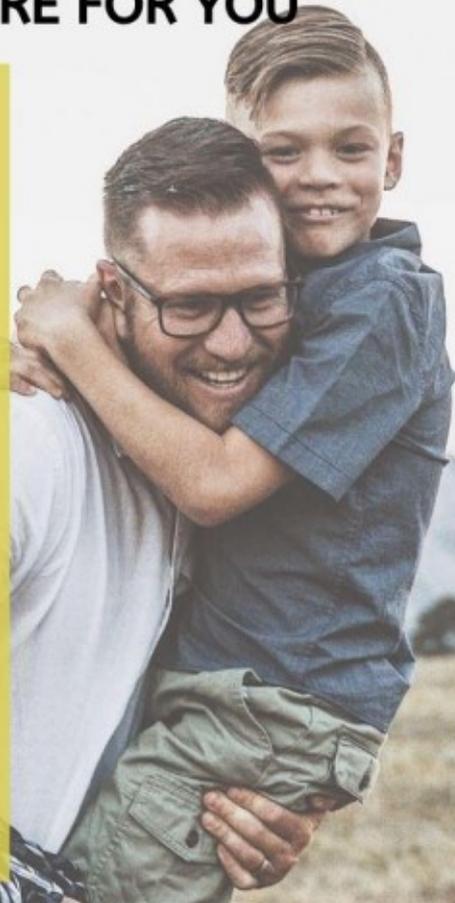
Contact us for a FREE confidential chat



6287 3833



parentline@parentlineact.org.au



CONTACTS

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| Front Office: | 6142 1470 |
| Enrolments: | 6142 1476 |
| Deakin Preschool: | 6142 2853 |
| Email address: | forrestps@ed.act.edu.au |
| Website: | www.forrestps.act.edu.au |
| Principal: | Chris Pilgrim, christine.pilgrim@ed.act.edu.au |
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