Dear Parents and Carers

At our school we aim to create a safe and supportive school community for everyone. We have our 4 rules in place and our matrix of expected behaviour and our students are doing an excellent job, we should all feel proud.

This newsletter I want to address the B word...Bullying.

Let’s define bullying...
Bullying is an ongoing misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that causes physical and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power over one or more persons. Bullying can happen in person or online, and it can be obvious or hidden.

Bullying of any form or for any reason can have long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. Some conflicts between children are a normal part of growing up and are to be expected. Single incidents and conflicts or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not considered bullying, even though they may be upsetting and need to be resolved.

Bullying can happen:
- face-to-face (e.g. pushing, tripping, name-calling)
- at a distance (e.g. spreading rumours, excluding someone)
- through information and communications technologies (e.g. use of SMS, email, chat rooms).

Identifying bullying can sometimes be difficult. Bullying is often conducted out of sight of teachers and children may be reluctant to report bullying.

Online bullying (sometimes called cyberbullying) is bullying carried out through the internet or mobile devices. Children who are bullied online are also often bullied face-to-face.

Examples of online bullying include:
- repeated hang up calls
- sending insulting or threatening text messages
- publishing someone’s personal or embarrassing information online
- creating hate sites or starting social exclusion campaigns on social networking sites.
Online bullying is one potential cybersafety issue for children when they use computers and mobile phones.

**What can we do?**

Sometimes, it can be difficult for parents or carers to know what to do when their child talks to them about bullying.

You are an important part of our work to prevent bullying and to respond effectively if it happens. Stopping bullying involves everyone. If your child talks to you about bullying:

1. Listen calmly and get the full story. Your calm response is important to allow your child to tell you all about the situation. After they've told you their story, ask questions to get more details if you need to: who, what, where, when. Although you may feel some strong emotions about your child's experience, try to keep calm to avoid more distress to your child.

2. Reassure your child they are not to blame. Many children blame themselves and this may make them feel even worse. You could say things like, ‘That sounds really hard to deal with. No one should have to put up with that.’ or ‘I’m so glad you told me. You should be able to feel safe at school; that’s not fair at all’.

3. Ask your child what they want to do and what they want you to do. A critical part of your response is to avoid jumping in to solve the problem. While it is natural to want to protect your child, helping them to find their own solution is a better option. It helps them feel they have some power in the situation.

4. Visit [www.bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au) to find some strategies. The website has tips and ideas for different bullying situations. One idea is to practise strategies at home to help your child feel more confident.

5. Contact the school. Your child may be reluctant for you to do this, so discuss the idea and reassure them that the school would want to know and is able to help. Make an appointment to meet with your child’s teacher and, if you need to, ask to talk with a member of administration (Deputy Principal, Principal, HoD, HoSE). Contact the school immediately if you have a concern about your child’s safety.

6. Check in regularly with your child. Keep the conversation going. It can take time to resolve issues, so check in regularly with your child about their experiences and their feelings. Your ongoing support is important.

If you are looking for support for yourself to deal with a bullying situation, you will find ideas on the [Bullying. No Way!](http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au) website for parents.

As well, please contact the school if you would like to discuss any aspect of our approach to preventing and managing bullying.

We look forward to you being a part of our school parade this week which is themed around key messages “Take a Stand Together: National Day of Action for Bullying”. On Friday, students will be forming a “No Way” message at the front of our school and designing their resilience vests in their classrooms.

Thanks for your support to make our school a great school for everyone.

Kind regards

Helen McCullough
Principal

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**Reading At Home**

Oral language is a very important part of literacy and in particular, learning to read. A child who knows how words and sentences are put together correctly, should be able to monitor their own reading and make corrections when an error is made. For example, a child who reads “The doll fell off the shelf” should be able to hear that this is not correct. They should go back and re-read “The doll fell of the shelf”. It is really important that when we notice these errors, we allow the student time to fix the mistake themselves. If they can’t correct themselves, or acknowledge that they made an error, modelling of the correct sentence must happen. You could say “I notice you read this sentence [read the sentence how the child read it]. Does that sound right? It didn’t sound right to me. I think the text says [read the sentence from the text].”

This might also happen in a verbal conversation. If a child is speaking to you and you notice that they are not using words correctly, you can rephrase what they have said (this will avoid embarrassment for the child) in a comment or question. E.g. “I done good work today” can be rephrased into “Oh, you did great work today, did you?”.

Please find below, some strategies that you can use to make learning good oral language skills fun.
The more fun your child has learning new words, the more likely they are to carry on using them. There are lots of ways you can help your child with learning to communicate using good oral language skills:

- Talk as much and as often as you can to your child. Watch their face carefully and look interested whenever they try to talk to you. Focus on what your child is trying to say, rather than on how clearly they pronounce their words. Try to help your child feel confident about talking to you. When they do communicate successfully, give them clear feedback. For example, you may tell them "Yes, that's right, it is a spoon." Let your child see what you mean, by matching what you do to what you say. "Shoes off" you could say, removing their shoes. Then "socks off", removing their socks.

- Get your child's attention by saying their name before you talk to them and making eye contact with them. This will help them understand when you are talking to them.

- Give your child plenty of opportunities to talk during everyday activities. If you ask them a question, leave a 10-second pause, so that they have time to answer you.

- Expose your child to new situations where you can introduce more words. Take them for a drive or for a walk. Point out things you see when you're out and about.

- Repeat back what you hear your child trying to say to you, even if they don't say it clearly. Expand on what they say. So if your child says "nana" when they want a banana, you could say "Yes, here's a banana."

- Simplify your speech. Use short sentences and emphasise key words when you are talking to your child. This will help them to focus on the important information.

- Switch off unnecessary background noise such as the TV or radio. This will help your child to focus their attention on you when you are talking to them. Children can find it harder than adults to filter out background noise.

Our reading targets are
- Prep – Level 8
- Year 1 – Level 16
- Year 2 – Level 20
- Year 3 – Level 24

Kayla Hawkins
(Master Teacher/Head of Curriculum)

Term 1 Rewards Day
Rewards day for Positive Behaviour during Term 1 will be held on the last day of term, Thursday 24 March.

Each year level has designed their own Rewards Day activity for children to participate in.

The criteria for attendance to Rewards Day is as follows:
- Only 2 Behaviour Incident recordings
- No Major Incidents recorded
- No Suspensions
- All Assessment completed

The time frame for eligibility begins on the 15th of February. All behaviour incidents (excluding Suspensions), recorded prior to this date will not be considered when determining who will attend Rewards Day.

Parents will be notified by their child’s classroom teacher if their child is ineligible to attend by Wednesday 23rd March.

Attendance
East Ayr School has set a target of 96% attendance rate for the whole school in 2016.

Students and parents, we would like to CONGRATULATE everyone for their efforts this term. Even though, we have fallen short in some areas we are nearly there. Keep up the great job! “Together we make a difference!”

Yes, we are committed to making this target but we do understand students get sick and have unforeseen family circumstances which make your child absent from school.

Please notify the school when your child is absent by phoning 4783 0222 or text 0417 003 685 (child’s full name, class, reason and name of caller/texter).

School Attendance Rate Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance Rate</th>
<th>2015 Whole Year</th>
<th>2016 Term 1 to Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>96.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>94.0%</td>
<td>94.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>95.7%</td>
<td>96.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>95.5%</td>
<td>95.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>94.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>94.0%</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
<td>94.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole of East Ayr School</td>
<td>94.7%</td>
<td>95.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Free Dress Day
Thursday 24 March, the last day of term will be a Free Dress Day.

No singlet tops, midriff tops, thongs/masseur sandals, face painting or shirts with inappropriate graphics or phrases

X-Country
East Ayr’s X-Country will be held on Friday 29 April. Year 3 – 6 will have their X-Country from 9:00am – 11:00am and Prep – Year 2 from 1:30pm – 3:00pm.

Students have begun training for the X-Country. Our Phys Ed teacher, Miss Aili has started X-Country training for those students interested in improving their fitness.

The weekly training times are as follows:
- Tuesday 8:00 – 8:30am
- Wednesday 8:00 – 8:30am
- Thursday 8:00 – 8:30am
- Thursday 1:00 – 1:20pm
- Thursday 8:00 – 8:30am

Students to meet Miss Aili under Block C.
STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS

PA  Jackson Bath
PB  James Ellison
PC  Yarmanee Capper
P1D Tamika Caltabiano
1A  Braelyn Cole
1B  Indiana Smith
1C  Ella Gosper
2A  Charlie Shears
2B  Emme Flanagan
2C  Simby Malayta
3A  Tanisha Darwen
3B  Shelby Olsen
3C  Ella Dabelstein
4A  Phoebe Booth
4B  Taryn McCullough
4C  Tyla Cox
5A  Hannah Weaver
5B  Regan Kross
5C  Claudia Pavone
6A  Daynah Schofield
6B  Madisyn Grant
6C  Josh Davis

CLASS AWARDS

PA  Quinn Smith
PB  Reese Bradford
PC  Quade Johnson
P1D  Evana Bello
1A  Jonas Musumeci
1B  Kashton Ferguson
1C  Tyler Sheehan
2A  Summer Stennett
2B  Kaid Alloway
2C  Angus Innes
3A  Neenah Ivory
3B  Damon Tait
3C  Lucas Gudge
4A  Hayley Jenkins
4B  Marcus Previtera
4C  Summer Case
5A  Adam Prior
5B  Brath Dowson
5C  Chelsea Scalia
6A  Jaden Casella
6B  Joshua Mann
6C  Stella Sitton

Congratulations to the Rooster Winners
JACKSON BATH & PHOEBE BOOTH

PA  Sneha Shrestha
PB  Sonny Jenkins
PC  Victoreea Campbell
P1D Andy Eathorne
1A  Layla Walsh
1B  Case Power
1C  Bella Lawry
2A  Sally Laidlow
2B  Lewis Breen
2C  Milla Arboit
3A  Olivia Marson
3B  Cade Wilshere
3C  Meg Fallon
4A  Alec Contzonis
4B  Blake Walker
4C  Emma Chellis
5A  Dekota Cutuli
5B  Alexandria Bello
5C  Abbey Dowie
6A  Ricky Gongora
6B  Tayte Malas
6C  Paris Reid

Congratulations to the Rooster Winners
VICTOREEA CAMPBELL & BLAKE WALKER

SCHOOL BANKING NEWS

Information Pack

Information packs have been distributed to all Prep students and ALL banking students from Year 1-6.
This pack contains information about the new rewards and prizes on offer for 2016 and there is a reward coupon that you need to keep handy at home for when your child is redeeming a reward. Our first order will occur this week - Thursday 17th March.

Rewards Orders
If you have 10 tokens, you are able to order your reward by filling out your coupon. Please check the list below to see what is on offer in Term 1. We also accept reward orders written on a piece of paper as long as you include your name, class, student banking number and your reward item you wish to order.

Available Rewards
Reward items for Term 1 include:
- Dollarmites Money Box – 2014
- ET DVD – 2015
- Galaxy Glider - 2015
- Intergalactic Rocket - 2015
- Outerspace Savers Money Box – 2015
- Flying Snake Trail – New
- Wildlife Write Set – New

Spot Your Student Number?
Please note: I may have included younger sibling’s student numbers. To order rewards, a student must be currently enrolled at East Ayr. The electronic records show the following student numbers are eligible to order rewards this week:

10 or more tokens:
209 200 247 284 300 303 2 205
223 184 186 187 163 227 293 87
238 282 291 302 204 210 138 159
195 197 213 290 283 287 268 312
169 214 221 226 194 207 279
280 248 202 244

9 tokens (eligible to order a reward if they bank this week):
271 281 257 292 230 235 236
208 137 165

20 or more tokens (eligible to order 2 reward items):
278 306 267 160 285 134 140 246
239 249

Commonwealth Bank have a wild Grand Prize competition running with a family trip for two adults and three children to explore Australia Zoo on offer. Simply make 15 or more School Banking deposits by the end of Term 3, 2016 and you’ll automatically receive entry into the competition for a chance to win. See your information pack for more details.

Thank you for your continued support with school banking, you are helping to raise money for your school by choosing to bank with us each Thursday. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to leave us a note in your child’s bank book, or drop by the library at 9am on Thursdays.

Neva Neal
School Banking Coordinator

At School Before the Bell?
Please remember that all students are to remain under Block C until the first bell at 8:30am. While waiting under Block C all students are to be reading.

Year 1 – 6 Disco – POSTPONED
Due to the wet weather, the disco which was on tomorrow night, Thursday 17 March has now been postponed.

The disco will now be held early in Term 2.

Parade
There will be NO PARADE on Thursday, 24 March (last week of school)

Staff Carpark
There is an area of the school grounds next to the school residence designated as a “Staff Carpark”. The aim of allowing staff cars to park in this area is to bring them off Ross Street allowing additional parking places for parents and visitors. If the 60 staff vehicles were parked outside from 8:00am – 4:00pm there wouldn’t be any space close to the school for parents and visitors to park or drop children off.

The Staff Carpark is for the use of East Ayr School Staff only at all times. This area is also Out Of Bounds for students. This is a safety rule that has been in place for many years as cars and delivery vehicles use this access throughout the school day.

Students are not permitted to enter or leave the school grounds via the Staff Carpark. There are a number of entry and exit points for pedestrian traffic to use in Ross Street, James Street and Davenport Street.

Should parents have a special need to drop a student into the school grounds (eg: medical reason – broken leg / on crutches) this can be organised through the Office and permission to drop off using the Tuckshop delivery access in James Street will be granted.

Thank you for your assistance in continuing to make our school a safe place for everyone.

Keep Watch On Our School
These Holidays
Parents and students can help take care of our school by reporting any suspicious after-hours activity to School Watch on 13 17 88. By keeping an eye out we can work together to create a safer school community and help to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in our school.

If you see something suspicious, please don’t intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

Absent from School
Ph: 0417 003 685
Send a text or leave a message