



PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

MRS GILLIAN DAVIS

Dear parents, carers and community members,

As we embark on another exciting school year, which is also the 150th year of the school, we want to extend a warm welcome back to all students, staff, and families! We hope you had a restful break and are ready to dive into a year filled with new opportunities, learning experiences, and community engagement. We also welcome our 7 new kindergarten students and their families, also to those students starting at Emmaville Central School for the first time and all the new families.

School events calendar can be found at the end of this fortnightly newsletter and on our Compass parent app. New parents will be sent a log in code and details on how to get onto the app. If you do not have access to Compass or are having problems with the app, please contact the school office.

This year, we are thrilled to introduce several new initiatives aimed at enhancing our learning and fostering a supportive environment for all learners. Our dedicated staff have been working hard to prepare for a year filled with innovation and engagement in every classroom. Yesterday we introduced students to our new points system which was born out of feedback that we had received in our surveys at the end of the year. The system has been designed to engage all students.

We encourage all families to stay connected with us through our newsletters, website, and especially our Compass app. Your involvement is crucial to our School's success, and we look forward to partnering with you throughout the year.

As we set our goals for the year ahead, let's embrace the spirit of collaboration, respect, diligence and resilience. Together, we can make this a memorable year for all!

Here's to a fantastic school year ahead!

SECONDARY NEWS

MISS REBECCA GRANT

Welcome to the 2025 school year! It was great to welcome students back to school last week, in particular, our new Year 7 students, and those starting at ECS for the first time. We very much look forward to teaching secondary students and working with their families to ensure the best educational outcomes. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school. Our staff will return your call when they are first able. Thank you for understanding that staff may not be immediately available, it is important that we're able to call and give you the time that you deserve.

Changes to staffing

This year we welcome Mrs Wright to our teaching staff. She will be teaching Science and Geography whilst Mrs Cunningham is on maternity leave.

Compass

Parents, please engage with the Compass Parent Portal frequently. We have added some additional functions to the parent portal, to improve communication with parents and carers. This year, the calendar will have additional information and assessment information for secondary courses will be available for families. Ensuring that you check the Events module, to give permission or to decline, will mean that your child has access to the wonderful extra-curricular opportunities offered at our school.

The Resilience Project

ECS remains a partnership school with The Resilience Project in 2025. Students from K-12 have lessons that focus on building resilience and improving wellbeing. Secondary students undertake their lessons for The Resilience Project during the MSL lesson (after lunch) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Why are resilience and wellbeing important?

- Research shows us that there is a direct link between wellbeing and academics, therefore children who are not emotionally healthy will have difficulty learning.
- When we are stressed, the part of our brain responsible for learning does not function effectively.
- Calm children can focus and retain more information.
- Resilience enables children to take safe risks without fear of failure.



ECS Behaviour Support Plan



Underpinned by our three school values:

RESPECT	DILIGENCE	RESILIENCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be safe, kind and show empathy.• Work co-operatively.• Value school property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend class, on time and ready to learn.• Be hard-working and engage in all learning,• Be aspirational and do your best.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek help and accept advice.• Overcome challenges.• Be grateful.

Our rewards system recognises students who demonstrate our school values:

- Each term, students start on 50 'GEM' points. Points will restart at the beginning of every school term.
- The points that a student has at the end of the term will determine the reward level that they reach.
- Students can earn points for being respectful, diligent or resilient, but may lose them for behaviour which does not demonstrate our school values.

End-of-Term Reward Levels:

BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	DIAMOND
50 GEM points	70 GEM points	85 GEM points	100 GEM points

What if I need more help to demonstrate the school values? You can expect your teacher to do one or all of the following:

- Give you a visual or verbal prompt to remind you about what is expected.
- Direct you to take a timeout to reconsider your choices.
- Have a one-on-one conversation with you to discuss your behaviour.
- Record the incident on Compass, resulting in a GEM point/s being deducted.
- Invite you to reflect on your behaviour with the Head Teacher, during part of your break time.

REMEMBER!

Our *Behaviour Support Plan* exists to help us:

1. Understand what socially acceptable behaviour is.
2. Demonstrate traits and qualities that will help us be successful in the future.
3. Create a safe, productive and enjoyable environment for everyone.
4. Recognise and reward you when you uphold our school values.
5. Support you when you need more help to demonstrate our school values.



PRIMARY NEWS

MRS MEAGAN COLDHAM

We would like to welcome back all of the students who are continuing with us in 2025 and welcome the many new students we have, especially our brand new Kindergarten students. It has been great to see how all our new students have already settled into their new classes with new teachers and new routines. Keep up the great work!



The students have been briefed on the new reward system and they have already demonstrated many of the new values that have also been introduced this week, receiving many GEM points. These values are respect, diligence and resilience. We are very excited about the new system and can't wait to see the rewards the students achieve each term.

A few days/dates for your diary:

K-3 Library – **Wednesday** – students to bring their own library bag

Yr 4-6 Library – **Monday** – students to bring their own library bag

K-6 Sport – **Wednesday** – students wear their red shirt

K-6 PE – **Thursday** – students wear their light blue shirt and appropriate footwear

14/2/25 - K-12 Swimming Carnival

24/2/25 - Yr 3-12 CPR for students

24/2/25 to 7/3/25 - K-6 swim school – all students in primary will attend the pool every day for two weeks to participate in swimming lessons.

12/3/25 - Yr 3, 5, 7, and 9 NAPLAN begins

21/3/25 - K-12 Harmony Day

20/10/25 to 24/10/25 - Yr 3-6 Lake Ainsworth School Camp

All these events will be added to Compass for consent and payment, if required.

Pocket Speechie

Weekly speech, language, and literacy tips to help children get ready for Kindergarten!

Who can this help?

Children who are going to Kindergarten in 2026.

What is it?

Helpful tips known to build your child's language and literacy skills delivered straight to your phone! Written by speech pathologists, we have sourced helpful information and activities to build your child's speech, language and literacy skills!

Why?

Children entering Kindergarten ready to learn are more likely to thrive. Whether the strategies in the texts are new, or offer a different way of doing something, you can help your child get ready to learn!

When?

February 2025 – December 2025

Register at any time using the QR code:



Or email:

<https://qars.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/Survey?p=1EC24201>

Contact: HNELHD-HNEKidsSpeechPathology@health.nsw.gov.au



HNEkidshealth
Children, Young People & Families



Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District

Term 1 2025

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 3 B	10 February	11 February	12 February	13 February	14 February
					K-12 Swimming Carnival
Week 4 A	17 February	18 February	19 February	20 February	21 February
	TAFE TVET Beauty Cert 3			NNE Primary Swimming Carnival	
Week 5 B	24 February	25 February	26 February	27 February	28 February
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Swim School TAFE TVET Beauty Cert 3 Yr 3-12 CPR for students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Swim School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Swim School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVET Automotive Yr 7 Tech Mandatory Assessment Primary Swim School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSC Visual Design: Task 2-Part B Preliminary Visual Design: - Part B Primary Swim School
Week 6 A	3 March	4 March	5 March	6 March	7 March
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Swim School TAFE TVET Beauty Cert 3 White Card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Swim School White Card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Swim School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Swim School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Swim School
Week 7 B	10 March	11 March	12 March	13 March	14 March
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TAFE TVET Beauty Cert 3 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yr 8 Music Assessment Task NAPLAN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVET Automotive Yr 7 Music Assessment Task NAPLAN 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary Visual Arts Task 1 - Part B NAPLAN
Week 8 A	17 March	18 March	19 March	20 March	21 March
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TAFE TVET Beauty Cert 3 				Harmony Day
Week 9 B	24 March	25 March	26 March	27 March	28 March
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TAFE TVET Beauty Cert 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 5 Food Tech Assessment 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVET Automotive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yr 7 Visual Arts: Visual Verbal HSC Visual Design: Task 2 - Part A Preliminary Visual Design - Part A