

# NEWSLETTER

23rd April 2025

## Principal's Office

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a fantastic time over the Easter break, enjoying special moments with family and friends.

We're excited to welcome several new families to Gympie South SS this term—it's wonderful to see our school community continue to grow, with our student numbers now reaching **530!** Despite the recent weather events, I'm pleased to share that our **overall attendance rate is sitting at 90.3%**. A big thank you goes to Mrs A and all our staff for their ongoing efforts in promoting regular school attendance—it really does make a difference.

## End of Day Routines

Our office staff have recently seen a big increase in phone calls from parents during the school day to pass on messages to students. While we completely understand that plans occasionally change, we're aiming to **minimise classroom disruptions and support students in building independence and self-management skills**—key traits they'll need for high school and beyond.

To help with this, we kindly ask that families:

- **Discuss afternoon pick-up plans in the morning**, or
- **Pop a little note in your child's lunchbox** if needed.

This small step helps children take responsibility, grow in confidence, and learn to manage themselves in a safe and supportive environment.

If things don't go to plan and your child is unsure what to do, please remind them they can always **go to the office**. Our staff will be more than happy to call you or a listed

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emergency contact to check in and help them feel reassured.

It's incredibly rewarding to watch our children grow into confident, capable young people. By guiding them to make great choices—even when no one is watching—we're helping to shape kind, responsible adults.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to give every child the best possible start.

## ANZAC Day Commemorations - School ANZAC Parade - Thursday, April 24

We warmly invite families to attend our **ANZAC Day School Parade** this **Thursday afternoon at 1:40pm**. The ceremony will be held to honour and remember the service and sacrifice of our veterans.

We are pleased to welcome **Mr Ming Roberts**, a representative from the Gympie RSL Sub-Branch, as our special guest speaker.

Weather permitting, the service will take place at our **new ANZAC Memorial on the school oval**. If the weather does not cooperate, we will move the service into the hall. Families are encouraged to join us for this important event.

**Gympie Community ANZAC Day March - Friday, April 25.** Our school will proudly participate in the **Gympie ANZAC Day March** again this year, and we would love to see a strong turnout of students representing Gympie South SS.

**Meeting Point:** Near the bookstore (look for Gympie South SS staff).



**Meet Time:** 9:00 am.  
**March Begins:** 9:30am from the top end of Mary Street  
**Pick-Up Location:** Memorial Park (between Reef Street and River Road) at approximately 9:50am

We've had close to 100 students march in the last 2 years, and we'd love to match or even exceed that number this year!

#### What to wear/bring:

- **Full school uniform**
- **Wide-brimmed school hat**
- **A water bottle** (highly recommended)

This is a meaningful opportunity for our students to show respect and be part of a long-standing tradition that connects generations. We thank you in advance for supporting your child's participation.

#### Term 2 Focus: Helping Students Grow Through Feedback and Literacy

This term, our school is focusing on two important areas to support your child's learning: **quality feedback** and **strengthening literacy skills**, especially in reading and spelling.

#### What is "quality feedback" and why does it matter?

Feedback is more than just marking right or wrong—it's about helping students understand how to improve. Good feedback is:

- **Specific** – it clearly explains what the student did well and what to work on.
- **Timely** – it's given while the learning is still fresh, so students can take action right away.
- **Personalised** – it considers each student's individual strengths and challenges.

When students get meaningful feedback, they're more likely to stay motivated and feel confident to keep trying. We're also encouraging students to ask for feedback and reflect on their progress, helping them take more ownership of their learning.

As we often say: *It's not where you start that counts—it's where you finish.* With the right support, all students can grow.

#### Literacy: What we're focusing on in Term 2

- In addition to feedback, we're continuing to build strong literacy foundations. This term, teachers will be:
- **Matching reading material to your child's level** – so they're reading books that are just right for them, whether they're using decodable texts or more complex stories.
- **Using consistent language for phonics and spelling** – following the PLD (Promoting Literacy Development) approach and the latest Australian Curriculum guidelines.
- **Checking spelling and reading skills regularly** – and using that information to group students for extra support or extension activities.
- **Sending home the right kinds of books** – especially for students in Prep to Year 2, or those who need a little extra reading help.
- **Measuring progress** – so we can see what's working and adjust our teaching accordingly.
- **Planning lessons based on research** – using strategies like "The Simple View of Reading" to make sure all students get the help they need.

We're excited about the work happening in classrooms this term. With strong partnerships between home and school, we can make sure every student gets the best chance to succeed.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. If you have any questions about how your child is progressing or how you can help at home, please don't hesitate to reach out.

#### Changes to Before School Routines

To ensure we meet all employment award requirements and support staff well-being,

we will be making some adjustments to our morning routines.

**Teacher Availability:** Teachers and teacher aides may need time for meetings with parents, administration, or additional preparation before the school day begins. If a teacher's door is closed or a sign indicates they are unavailable, please respect this and return later. Students should head to the courtyard, CPA or oval for morning activities.

**Parent Meetings:** Parents wishing to meet with a teacher must schedule an appointment in advance. While we aim to be flexible, there are times when unscheduled meetings are not possible due to prior commitments.

**Student Independence:** To foster independence, we encourage parents to allow their children to walk to the courtyard or classrooms on their own where possible.

**Classroom Access:** Teachers will welcome students as soon as they are available, and all classroom doors will open at **8:45 AM**.

**Parent Waiting Areas:** Parents should remain in the undercover area and only proceed to classrooms when children are dismissed from the CPA or are collected by teacher aides.

**Breakfast Club:** Breakfast Club will begin at **8:10 AM** on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

**Before & After School Care:** Our school offers **before and after-school care services**. If you need to be at work early, please use this service to ensure appropriate supervision for your child.

Thank you for your support in creating a smooth and respectful start to the school day.

Following our first day back we have had a "rethink" about supporting our learners before school. We hope that this explains everything well so that everyone knows how each morning we will make before school, work.

From 8:15am to 8:30am all children without parents will continue to sit in the courtyard and those with parents will sit under the CPA.

Either Mr Pelling or Mrs A will be there from 8:15am. Prep Teacher Aides will collect their classes at the times needed (from the courtyard and CPA) and will take them to their rooms to set up etc.

At 8:30am children will be sent to their rooms with their bags by Mr Pelling etc and children will place their bags away at their rooms and head to the Senior Oval or Courtyard to play, if in Yr 3-6 and Yr 1-2 can pop their bags away at their classrooms and head to the junior playground with their hats to play.

At 8:40am when the bell sounds, Yr 3-6 will head to the Courtyard to sit and listen to the messages. Year 1-2 will head to the D block shed area (paved area outside Mrs Telford's room) to settle and listen to messages.

At 8:45am when the bell sounds, Teachers will come and collect their learners from either the courtyard or D block shed area and take them to their classrooms to start their day.

Parents are welcome to come to rooms etc to drop off bags etc and come and watch their child/ren play no matter what year level.

We hope that this provides details to assist drop off in the morning and how you can support your child/ren to start their day.





Deputy’s Desk

Welcome to Term 2!

After a great two week break, we are back into the “swing of school” and our learning.

This term we are focusing our attendance on not only being at school on time for our raffle ticket – but to remain at school to 3pm to earn our raffle ticket. The end of the school day is just as important as the start as it sets us up for success for the following day of learning and our learning in the afternoon is just as important as Maths/English in the morning! We will continue to pull of a winner from each year level each week and all entries will go into the running to win 1 of 15 learners to have a hot chip lunch. And every day counts – the only days that we have off are for if we are sick etc – we still come on our birthday and when Mum or Dad go shopping.

Each term we will be putting all of our PBL information together and sharing this with our families and communities – we will be posting our first PBL newsletter this week sharing our work and highlights from last term. We are so proud of how our learners are working hard to make a positive contribution to our school and to their own learning.

This Friday, learners are invited to march with Gympie South in the Gympie Anzac March. We will meet at Twiggy Books, next door to the Toy Shop at 8:30am as the march will start at 9:00am. Learners are expected to wear their full school uniform and their school hat.

Next week a letter will be sent home with every Year 3-6 learner outlining our upcoming Creative Generation Excursion in Brisbane. This is at the start of Term 3 and is an incredible day in Brisbane where we

spend the morning at Southbank and their playgrounds, taking a walk around the area, before heading to the Convention Centre to watch some of our South kids (but a whole lot of incredibly talented Qld State School Students) perform. There is music, dance, aerals, drums, you name it is to shown and displayed with current music played to engage EVERYONE. The cost of the trip including the bus and ticket to the performance is \$60 and we hope to fill our bus again in 2025 and take a cheer squad down.

With the Qld Maroons Fun Day also coming to Gympie in early June – we are also working with Gympie Rugby League and other schools to see how we are able to be a part of this momentous occasion for Gympie and Rugby League – so watch this space!!!

Mrs A

Celebrating Student Success

PREP	Ethan	Darcy R	River	
Year 1	Zaria	Nylah H	Harper	
Year 2	Claudia V	Samara G		
Year 3	Alayah T	Noah	Phoebe G	Zayden B
Year 4	Max	Ayda H	Ashton H	Ava D
Year 5	JD	Paityn R		
Year 6				



## Office Update

ACTIVITY PAYMENT DUE DATES	
DUE DATE	DETAILS
9th May	Yr 4–Wildlife HQ Excursion

### Student Absence Line: Option #1

When calling to notify the school of your child's absence - please use option #1 and leave a short message to include your name, your child's name and the reason for their absence.

This option has been designed especially for student absences and allows office staff to check the messages at convenient times throughout the day.

## Upcoming Events

UPCOMING EVENTS	
DATE	DETAILS
24th April	ANZAC Day Service
30th April	Yr 5/6 Tino Cup
14th May	Wildlife HQ–Yr5
14th May	Yr 2/3 Rugby League Gala Day
26th May	Interschool Chess Tournament
29th May	Choral Fanfare