



# Welcome to the Support Unit for 2023

Friday 3 February 2023

Dear Families,

We are looking forward to working with you and your child in 2023. We trust that they will have a happy, safe and productive year in their classes. Throughout this year our students will be engaged in some exciting programs where they will have the opportunity to access all areas of the curriculum.

## **The year ahead**

Students will attend Library lessons with Mrs Bailey on Mondays. Can you please supply your child with a library bag to bring their books home in. It doesn't have to be anything fancy. Mrs Pex will be teaching Geography/History and Sport lessons throughout the year to all classes in the Support Unit. In 2-6S, she will also be teaching Visual Arts, Geography and Speaking and Listening lessons

Support Unit sport will be held on Friday mornings from 9.00 – 9.55am. Students are to wear their sports uniform with *appropriate shoes and a hat*. Students will also participate in an additional hour of Physical Education with their class throughout the week where they will engage in a warm-up, fun fitness activity and a short cool down and stretch session.

## **Homework**

The Support Unit does not send home homework. If you would like to have your child participate in learning after school, you might want to engage in any of the following activities-

- Read to your child
- Teach them to do household chores
- Play a game with them
- Let them engage in art and craft activities
- Go for a walk, a bike ride or play in the park
- Let them help with preparing a meal

These living skills are just as, if not more important than homework.

## **Rewards, Awards and Wellbeing Programs**

Chittaway Bay Public School is a Positive Behaviour for Learning School. Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is an evidence-based whole school process to improve learning outcomes for all students. PBL is a comprehensive, integrated approach to student wellbeing and behaviour. Our expectations are: Safe, Respectful, Responsible and Engaged. Students who display positive behaviour will receive Kooka coins, which they can 'spend' on specific rewards. Merit certificates will be awarded fortnightly at assembly for students who demonstrate high achievement or effort towards their learning.

This year, we are also implementing a new wellbeing program called PAX – Good Behaviour Game. PAX means peace, productivity, health and happiness. These are the qualities we want to see and develop in our school. Throughout term 1, students will be learning about the 'kernels' of PAX and will practice using them in the classroom. Once they have mastered the kernels, students will then begin to play the Good Behaviour Game everyday at school. This will teach students to self-regulate their behaviours and help to make students feel psychologically safe by ensuring they know the types of behaviours we want to encourage and see and those that we don't want to see.

## **Fruito**

Each day, students are encouraged to bring to school a small quantity of fruits or vegetables to have as a snack. They are able to eat this during the morning session and provides an opportunity for students to top up their energy levels before the recess break.

## **Attendance and Absence Notes**

Attending school every day makes learning easier for your child and helps build and maintain friendships with other children. If your child is away from school, please send in a note explaining their absence on the next day they return to school.

Alternatively, you may email or call the front office, send a notification via the Sentral for Parents app or reply via the schools automated text system. Should you intend to take your child out of school for an extended period, you will need to apply for approval for this from the Principal. Contact the school office for details.

### **Birthdays**

You are welcome to send in store-bought individually packaged treats for your child to share with their peers for their birthday. We ensure to check all students' dietary restrictions prior to allowing them to have one of these shared treats. Please let your child's teacher know if you wish for them to NOT have any treats provided by parents and / or the teacher and ensure a list of ingredients is provided to the teacher.

### **Communication**

Chittaway Bay Public School has various platforms in which it communicates with parents and students. Sometimes there is overlap within the platforms although not always. We strongly encourage all families to join Sentral for Parents as this will be teachers' main form of communication with families.

<b>Platform</b>	<b>Whole School</b>	<b>Stage Based</b>	<b>Class Based</b>	<b>Student Based</b>
<b>Digital Newsletter/Website</b>	X			
<b>Facebook/Instagram Page</b>	X			
<b>Sentral for Parents</b>	X	X	X	X
<b>Telephone</b>				X

We believe that communication is key to making this year a success. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher as soon as they arise. We encourage you to use Sentral for Parents as the primary means of communication, but you can also phone or email your child's teacher through the school; Phone 4388 2188 or email- [chittaway-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:chittaway-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) if you would like to discuss anything in detail. Face to face meetings can be arranged, if required.

The school will no longer be using Seesaw or Skoolbag from 2023 onwards.

### **Special Swimming Scheme**

The Support Unit participates in a learn to swim program every year, run by the Department of Education. This program delivers qualified swimming teachers that teach our students water safety and learn to swim skills in a safe environment. This year the program is scheduled for Weeks 5 and 6 of Term 1. The pool we have gone to for over 10 years (Swim Start Pool) has now closed permanently, therefore we will be attending a different swimming centre as of 2023. I am still waiting to hear back from the Swimming Scheme Coordinator to find out which pool we will be attending. As soon as I have this information, permission notes will be sent home with students. Please complete these notes and return them to school as quickly as possible, as Week 5 is drawing near already. We would like to ask that any parents who are free and willing to transport students to and from the pool, let your child's class teacher know. This would be a tremendous help.

We are looking forward to sharing this exciting year with you and your child.

Kind regards,

Ms Naomi Pex  
Assistant Principal (Support Unit)

Miss Michelle Ahmu  
K/6A

Mrs Cheryl McDonald  
K/6M

Mrs Michelle Geary  
K/6G

Mrs Alison Shaw  
2/6S (Mon – Thurs)