

Mallawa Public School

'Striving to Achieve'

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Term 2 Week 1

Principals Report

Welcome back to another busy term at Mallawa. We are excited for sport to start this week (Friday) and would like to welcome JSP Sport back who are with us each Wednesday.

Congratulations Eliza on receiving a Highly Commended in the Moree Show for her art. Eliza's free choice piece caught the judge's eye and she was awarded a Highly commended.

We would like to extend our invitation to the Mother's Day Brunch next Thursday to all our Mums, Nan's and Grandmothers. The more the merrier!

On another note, you may or may not have noticed the name change. It was really nice having the students saying 'Good morning, Mrs Kelly' this morning. Though I am still getting used to the name change I was proud to share a few photos from my wedding with the students.

We are looking forward to another fantastic term of learning here at Mallawa.

Lisa Kelly

Easter Celebrations – I hope the Easter bunny found you all. Please see our Facebook post for photos.

Cross Country - Our annual Cross Country will be held on Friday 29th April at Bellata Public School. The Moree Zone Cross Country is set for Friday 6th May at Gravesend. Further information will be sent home to the qualifying students after our school cross country.

School Photo's - Wednesday 18th May. Summer Uniform please! Envelopes are in school bags today.

NAPLAN- For students in Year 3 and 5 will be held in Week 3 on the **10th, 11th, 12th and 13th May.**

Mother's Day Brunch - A special Mother's Day Brunch will be held by the students on Thursday 5th May at 9:30am. We would love to see as many Mums attend as possible. Please let Penny know if you are attending for catering purposes.

Attendance - Everyone has a role supporting positive school attendance. Regular attendance helps students to:

- develop a sense of belonging
- develop and maintain friendships
- be more engaged at school
- progress with their learning
- be more aware of career and life options.

Every day counts. Missing just one day a fortnight can amount to four weeks of lost learning over a year. Over their school life, this can equal one year of missed learning. If your child is absent from school please ensure you contact the school by mobile, text, send a note or email.

Hot Food – As the days are getting cooler we will crank up the toasted sandwich press this week. If students would like their sandwich toasted please make sure it is wrapped in foil or baking paper. If it's not wrapped it won't be toasted. **Toasty Days – Tuesday and Wednesday.**

Pie warmer day - Friday (no toasted sandwiches). Please have food wrapped in foil or oven proof paper. As Penny doesn't work on Friday's the student's food will be placed in the warmer at recess and removed at lunch time.

COVID – Some of the layered COVID-smart measures you've come to know in recent months will continue this term. These 'baseline measures' are aligned to the NSW Government's general community settings and include:

- rapid antigen testing for symptomatic students and staff
- vaccinations – including booster shots (from 3 months after your child's primary COVID-19 dose) are encouraged for all eligible students and their families. Staff and volunteers on school grounds are to follow vaccination guidelines
- ventilation
- good hygiene practices
- enhanced cleaning.

What's new in Term 2?

As we head into the cooler months, our COVID-smart measures have been updated in consultation with NSW Health, to provide additional protection to our school community.

Change to close contact isolation requirements. On 20 April the NSW Premier announced that from 6pm 22 April 2022, close contacts (including household contacts) could leave home isolation with certain restrictions. The announcement means that from Week 1 of Term 2, students and staff who are identified as close contacts will be able to attend school with the following risk mitigations in place:

You must notify the school if you/your child have been identified as a close contact and are intending to return to school.

You/your child should conduct a daily rapid antigen test (RAT) and receive a negative result each morning before attending school for 5 subsequent school days as part of your personal responsibility to minimise the risk of transmission.

Staff members and high school students must wear a mask indoors at all times except when eating or exercising. Primary school students are recommended to wear a mask indoors at all times (except when eating or exercising).

In line with these changes, students with health conditions should speak with their treating medical practitioner or specialist to review their health support plan or COVID-19 action plan and speak with the school around any local considerations.

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs). The department will continue to supply RAT kits to students and staff to support symptomatic testing and testing for close contacts returning to school (as mentioned above). Within the first three weeks of term we will provide tests. Once these department-supplied RATs are exhausted, please continue to access PCR tests and store-purchased RATs which are now readily available in the community or let the school know that you need more and we will try and assist.

Masks. The latest NSW Health advice recommends wearing a mask for people who have recovered from COVID-19 and recently completed their 7-day isolation period for an additional 3 days (from days 8 to 10 after receiving a positive COVID-19 result). Additionally, as outlined in the above section on close contacts, mask wearing is mandatory for staff and high school students returning to school as close contacts for 5 days and recommended for primary school students returning to school as close contacts for 5 days. Where students or staff are unable to wear a mask, they should be supported to learn or work remotely.

Responding to our local situation. We will continue to liaise with NSW Health and the department's Health and Safety case management team to ensure our COVID-smart settings keep-up with the latest developments. If local conditions require it, this may mean temporarily reintroducing some additional COVID-smart settings including:

mask wearing for all staff and students in Year 7 and above

directing cohorts to learn from home for short periods of time

postponing or limiting non-essential activities like excursions, indoor assemblies and visitors to the school.

We will make sure to update you at the earliest opportunity if any of these additional measures are required in Term 2.

Ventilation. The NSW Department of Education is reviewing environmental differences across NSW as part of their winter ventilation planning, ensuring that local climatic conditions at each school are considered. The department will provide local guidance to schools, including advice on maximising natural ventilation while balancing thermal comfort and the use of indoor and outdoor learning areas for school activities to support schools to adapt to local climate conditions through the winter months.

Reducing the risk of illness this winter. Finally, it's important to note NSW Health's advice to reduce our risk of not only COVID-19, but also other illnesses that may affect our school this winter like the flu. We can all protect our loved ones and our community by:

taking a RAT before visiting vulnerable loved ones or going to large gatherings and events.

staying home if unwell

keeping up to date with our vaccinations – including the flu vaccine, which is available from your local GP, pharmacy or Aboriginal Medical Service now. Flu vaccines are free for all children aged 6 months to under 5 years, or for a small charge for those aged 5 years and older

getting tested immediately for COVID-19 if you become symptomatic and isolating until you receive a negative result

practicing good hand hygiene by washing regularly with soap and water