



# Werrington County Public School

*'Through Perseverance'*

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**Week 2, Term 1**

**Friday 4 February 2022**

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Welcome to 2022 at Werrington County PS

I would like to say thank you for such a warm welcome to Werrington County PS, it has been lovely to meet some of you each morning and afternoon this week. I look forward to getting to know our community more as the term goes on. The students have gone above and beyond to make me feel welcome with their cheery 'good mornings' and conversations throughout the day. It has been a pleasure to visit their classrooms this week and see quality teaching and learning underway already. Our teachers have shown their commitment and dedication to our school during this first week back by supporting me to ensure that we are operating in a COVID smart way and preparing for the many possible scenarios we may face in the coming weeks. I would especially like to thank our 2022 Leadership Team consisting of Mrs Pearce, Mrs Sheridan, Mrs Turnbull, Mrs Willis, Miss Graetsch, Miss Bailey and Mrs Galuszka for their support, guidance and work during the holidays to ensure a smooth start to the 2022 school year.

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to our returning students and their families and to our new students and families – welcome to the Werrington County family! This year we welcome Mrs Turnbull (Relieving Assistant Principal) and Mrs Samuel (Teacher) to Werrington County PS. Mrs Turnbull will be teaching 1/2J and is the Assistant Principal for Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. Mrs Samuel will be with us in Term One teaching classes across the school for their weekly RFF programs.

### Meet Mrs Clarke

I am very excited to start my journey as the new Principal of Werrington County PS. I have been teaching for almost 20 years and have worked in a number of schools in both South West Sydney and Western Sydney. For the past 10 years I have worked at Kingswood PS in the roles of Assistant Principal and for the past 4 years Deputy Principal. I have taught all grades K to 6 and especially love to teach Kindergarten! I believe that we are all lifelong learners and enjoy opportunities to improve my knowledge, skills to make me a better teacher and leader. One of my favourite times of the day is welcoming students to school each day at the gate, I really enjoy seeing the smiling faces and taking a few minutes to check in and have a quick chat.

I have been married to my husband Robert for 19 years and have an 8 year old son Ollie. They both love sports which means I spend most of my free time watching Ollie at cricket and soccer or watching all kinds of sports on TV! We like to travel and explore new places, which has been difficult lately. We enjoy getting as much family time in as we can and like to find new places to ride our bikes or go for walks. My favourite place to visit is Disneyland, it truly is the happiest place on Earth! I enjoy watching Friends, The Big Bang Theory, Disney movies and I love Mickey Mouse!



I am looking forward to learning as much about the Werrington County PS community as I can in the coming weeks. I feel honoured to have been given the responsibility of Principal at Werrington County PS and I am

excited to give our students the best possible education and opportunities that build on their academic, creative, social and emotional skills to prepare them for the next chapter in their lives.

### Newsletters

This year our newsletters will be published on Fridays of even weeks each term. Our first regular newsletter for the year will be published on Friday 18 February (Week 4). Next Friday 11 February we will publish a 'special edition' newsletter with information about our new classes and staff roles for 2022. Please make sure you like our school Facebook page and download the School Enews App to stay up to date with our communication. This is extremely important during these uncertain times.

### 2022 Classes

Students will move into their new 2022 classes on Monday 7 February. Our teachers have worked very hard to consider both the academic and social needs of all of our students and have spent many hours forming new classes to ensure we are meeting the needs of all students. We would like to thank you for your patience this week whilst we finalise the number of students we will have at Werrington County PS and plan our classes accordingly.

This year our class organisation has changed to a stage-based model. This means that classes will have more than one grade in each class. Stage based classes are formed for a range of reasons including academic, social and organisational needs. Our syllabus documents are organised into four stages in primary school and using a stage-based model for classes allows our teachers to differentiate and cater for a range of needs within the class. Year groups are broken down into stages as follows:



Grouping students by stage does not change the year group they are in nor does it impact on what they are learning, students academic needs will be catered to based on their current needs. There has been no change to class organisation in the support unit. If you have any questions about stage based classes please contact the Assistant Principal for your child's stage:

- Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 – Mrs Turnbull
- Year 3 and Year 4 – Mrs Willis
- Year 5 and Year 6 – Miss Graetsch

### Afternoon Organisation from Monday 7 February (Week 3)

From Monday afternoon the new classes for 2022 will exit from the following gates:

- COLA Gate (near carpark) – Kindergarten (at 2.30), Year 1 and Year 2 (at 3pm).
- Main Gate (near office) – Support Unit (at 2.45), Year 3 and 4 (at 3pm).
- South Gate – Year 5 and 6 (at 3pm).

### COVID-19 Update

A huge thank you to our families who collected the Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) last Friday and Monday. We hope that you are finding the surveillance testing helpful and reassuring when sending your children to school. I would also like thank our families who have been keeping their children home from school if they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 and have tested negative. Please keep us updated if you are keeping your children home if they are unwell, you can do this by email or phone. Our second delivery of RATs arrived this week and we will communicate how these will be send home after receiving advice from the Department of Education.

Mrs Belinda Clarke  
Principal