



Hallam Happenings

20 February 2025

Term 1 / #2

<http://www.hallam-ps.vic.edu.au/>



Smart Schools

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS



CCTV in operation

Hallam Primary School's learning and teaching programs support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to elected government, the rule of law, equal rights for all before the law, freedom of religion, freedom of speech and association and the values of openness and tolerance.

Hallam Primary School has a zero tolerance approach to child abuse.

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land where we work and live, the Bunurong People of the Kulin nation, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

School Savings Bonus

Hallam PS Administration Office personnel continue to support parents and carers with the School Savings Bonus...to locate SSB emails, go online, understand the process and access and allocate these funds in the interests of their child's education. Many members of our school community continue to struggle with the process.

The following **links are included on our website** to further support members of our school community to access SSB funds, and to allocate them accordingly.

In English: [Receiving the School Saving Bonus | vic.gov.au](http://www.vic.gov.au/Receiving-the-School-Saving-Bonus)

Translations: [Receiving the School Saving Bonus | vic.gov.au](http://www.vic.gov.au/Receiving-the-School-Saving-Bonus)

If you are still unsure how to access and use these funds for your child's education, please come to the Administration Office and staff will try to assist you, where they can.

IMPORTANT: Refer to the Calendar and Website

Information about what's happening at Hallam PS can always be found in the fortnightly *Hallam Happenings* newsletter and on the school's website.

English Language Classes-Adults

Hallam Community Learning Centre provides adult English language classes on Wednesdays between 9:00-11.00am in the hall. For further information contact the Hallam Community Learning Centre on 9703 1688.

Illegal Dumping of Rubbish

Members of the Hallam PS community are reminded that the school's dumpmaster is not for public use. The dumpmaster is for the exclusive use of Hallam PS.

Cameras and staff monitor the area and illegal dumping is reported to the City of Casey. There are substantial fines for the illegal dumping of rubbish.

Traffic and Road Safety

Drivers are reminded that the School Crossing is a *no parking area when the flags are displayed*. This restriction is clearly sign posted.

Parking illegally creates safety issues for our Crossing Supervisor, students and families. Harmer Road is very busy at peak times and we do not want your child to be at risk.

Please observe the parking restrictions around our school in the interests of students' safety.

Helmets - Bikes, Scooters, Skateboards, Rollerblades...

A University of Melbourne study ten years ago found that children are **seven times more likely to need neurosurgery for a head injury following a bicycle, scooter or skateboard accident if they aren't wearing helmets**.

In Victoria there are laws that apply specifically to cyclists, including:

- You must wear an approved helmet and it must be done up securely
- Bicycles must be 'roadworthy' with at least one working brake and a working bell, horn or other 'warning device'.

For the safety of your child, please ensure they have a properly fitted helmet whenever they use 'wheeled recreational devices'.

Hallam Primary School-Arrival at School

Staff have noticed unsupervised children along Harmer Road at 8:00am. There are no Hallam PS staff on duty at this time.

The school's front gate is opened at 8:30am for students who wish to participate in Breakfast Club. **Students not participating in Breakfast Club should arrive from 8:45am**. This is when teachers go on duty, and open the gates for students to access the school grounds.

Prior to 8:45am, teachers are not on duty as they have various other professional responsibilities that need to be undertaken.

Julie Macfarlane

2025 TERM DATES/HOLIDAYS

TERM 1:

Tuesday 28 January	CURRICULUM DAY	STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND
Wednesday 29 January	CURRICULUM DAY	STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND
Thursday 30 January	YEARS P-6 COMMENCE	8:45am-3:30pm
<i>Wednesday 5 February</i>	<i>PREPS DO NOT ATTEND</i>	<i>Prep P-T Interviews</i>
<i>Wednesday 12 February</i>	<i>PREPS DO NOT ATTEND</i>	<i>Prep P-T Interviews</i>
<i>Wednesday 19 February</i>	<i>PREPS DO NOT ATTEND</i>	<i>Prep P-T Interviews</i>
<i>Wednesday 26 February</i>	<i>PREPS DO NOT ATTEND</i>	<i>Prep P-T Interviews</i>
PREPS ATTEND FULL TIME 8:45AM-3:30PM DAILY FROM MONDAY 3 MARCH 2025		
Friday 7 March	CURRICULUM DAY	STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND
Monday 10 March	LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY	HALLAM PS CLOSED
Friday 4 April	END TERM 1	DISMISSAL 2:30PM

AUTUMN & EASTER BREAK: MONDAY 7 APRIL-MONDAY 21 APRIL 2025

TERM 2:

Tuesday 22 April	PREP-6 RESUME	8:45am-3:30pm
Friday 25 April	ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY	HALLAM PS CLOSED
Monday 26 May	SCHOOL PHOTOS	
Monday 9 June	KING'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY	HALLAM PS CLOSED
Friday 4 July	END TERM 2	DISMISSAL 2:30pm

WINTER BREAK: MONDAY 7 JULY-FRIDAY 18 JULY 2025

TERM 3:

Monday 21 July	PREP-6 RESUME	8:45am-3:30pm
Friday 19 September	END TERM 3	DISMISSAL 2:30pm

SPRING BREAK: MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER-FRIDAY 3 OCTOBER 2025

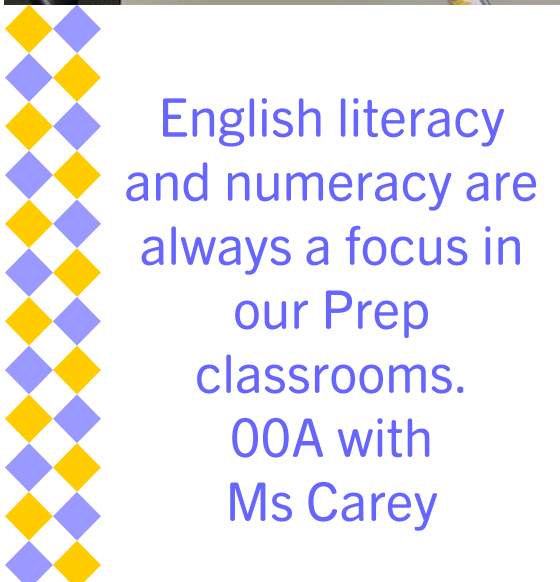
TERM 4:

Monday 6 October	PREP-6 RESUME	8:45am-3:30pm
Monday 3 November	PPD-REPORTING	STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND
Tuesday 4 November	MELBOURNE CUP HOLIDAY	HALLAM PS CLOSED
Thursday 18 December	FINAL DAY-ALL STUDENTS	DISMISSAL 3:30pm
Friday 19 December	2026 PLANNING DAY	STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND

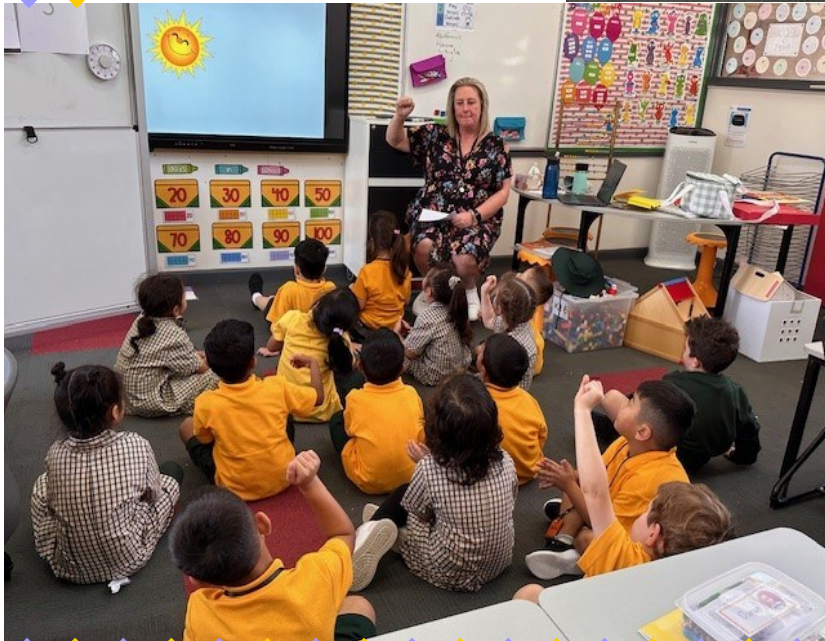
SUMMER BREAK: MONDAY 22 DECEMBER 2025-MONDAY 26 JANUARY 2026 (inclusive)



Preps were learning about the class routines from Day 1. 00B with Mrs Vanovac



English literacy and numeracy are always a focus in our Prep classrooms. 00A with Ms Carey



Language codes and cued articulation assist Prep students with literacy learning. 00C with Ms Kingwell



34 Kitchen and Garden



Year 3 and 4 students have been very excited to get back into our Stephanie Alexander Kitchen and Garden Program. Last week, students harvested zucchinis, watered and weeded the garden and planted potatoes. In Kitchen this week, they prepared, cooked and ate those zucchinis.





STEPHANIE ALEXANDER
KITCHEN GARDEN
PROGRAM
so far in 56...

Our school garden is thriving! We've been busy picking fresh tomatoes, pumpkins, turnips and we can't wait to enjoy them in a delicious 'school-made' soup. It's wonderful to see our hard work paying off, and we're looking forward to even more healthy and tasty vegetables growing and becoming ready to harvest.



NAPLAN 2025

Information for parents and carers



Why do students do NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is a literacy and numeracy assessment that students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sit each year. It is the only national assessment all Australian students have the opportunity to undertake.

As students progress through their school years, it is important to check how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy.

NAPLAN assesses the literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through the school curriculum and allows parents/carers to see how their child is progressing against national proficiency standards.

NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process. It does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance, but it can provide teachers with more information about students' educational progress.

NAPLAN also provides schools, education authorities and governments with information about how education programs are working, and whether young Australians are achieving important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy.

Your child will do the NAPLAN tests online

Online NAPLAN tests are designed to provide precise results and are engaging for students. The tests are tailored (or adaptive), which means that each test presents questions that may be more or less difficult depending on a student's responses. This helps students remain engaged with the assessment.

Tailored testing allows a wider range of student abilities to be assessed and measures student achievement more precisely. A student's overall NAPLAN result is based on both the number and complexity of questions they answer correctly. Your child should not be concerned if they find questions challenging; they may be taking a more complex test pathway.

All Year 3 students will continue to complete the writing assessment on paper.

What does NAPLAN assess?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students are learning through their regular school curriculum.

Students sit assessments in writing, reading, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The questions assess content linked to the Australian Curriculum: English and Mathematics.

All government and non-government education authorities contribute to the development of NAPLAN test materials.

To find out more about NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au.

Participation in NAPLAN

NAPLAN is for all Year 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. ACARA supports inclusive testing, so all students have the opportunity to participate in the National Assessment Program.

Information on adjustments available for students with disability who have diverse functional abilities and needs is provided in the [National protocols for test administration](#).

Schools should work with parents/carers and students to identify, on a case-by-case basis, reasonable adjustments required for individual students with disability to access NAPLAN.

To help inform these decisions, you may consult the National protocols for test administration (linked above), [NAPLAN public demonstration site](#), the [Guide for schools to assist students with disability to access NAPLAN](#), and our [series of videos](#) where parents/carers, teachers and students share their experiences in using NAPLAN adjustments.

In exceptional circumstances, a student with a disability that severely limits their capacity to participate in the assessment, or a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background, may be granted a formal exemption.

Your school principal and your local test administration authority can give you more information on adjustments for students with disability or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

What if my child is absent from school on NAPLAN test days?

Where possible, schools may arrange for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during the school's test schedule.

What can I do to support my child?

Students are not expected to study for NAPLAN. You can support your child by letting them know that NAPLAN is a part of their school program and reminding them to simply do their best. Some explanation of NAPLAN is useful to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the tests; however, it is not necessary for parents/carers to do this. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

ACARA does not recommend excessive preparation for NAPLAN or the use of services by coaching providers.

See the types of questions and tools available in the online NAPLAN assessments at [NAP – Public demonstration site](#).

How is my child's performance reported?

From 2023, NAPLAN results are reported against proficiency standards. There is a standard for each assessment area at each year level. Proficiency standards provide clear information on student achievement. They are set at a challenging but reasonable level expected of the child at the time of NAPLAN testing, based mainly on what has been taught in previous years of schooling.

Student achievement is shown against 4 levels of proficiency: Exceeding, Strong, Developing and Needs additional support.

A NAPLAN individual student report will be provided by your child's school later in the year. If you do not receive a report, you should contact your child's school.

How are NAPLAN results used?

- Students and parents/carers use individual results to discuss progress with teachers.
- Teachers use results to help identify students who need greater challenges or extra support.
- Schools use results to identify strengths and areas of need to improve teaching programs, and to set goals in literacy and numeracy.
- School systems use results to review the effectiveness of programs and support offered to schools.
- The community can see information about the performance of schools over time at [myschool.edu.au](#).

Where can I get more information?

For more information about NAPLAN:

- contact your child's school
- contact your local test administration authority at [nap.edu.au/TAA](#)
- visit [nap.edu.au](#)

To learn how ACARA manages personal information for NAPLAN, visit [nap.edu.au/naplan/privacy](#).

NAPLAN timetable

The NAPLAN test window is 9 days. This is to accommodate schools that may not have the capacity to complete the tests in a shorter time frame. **The NAPLAN test window starts on Wednesday 12 March 2025 and finishes on Monday 24 March 2025.** Schools will schedule the tests as soon as possible within the testing window, prioritising the first week.

Test	Scheduling requirements	Duration	Test description
Writing	Year 3 students do the writing test on paper on day 1 only. Years 5, 7 and 9 writing must start on day 1 (schools must prioritise completion of writing on day 1, with day 2 only used where there are technical/logistical limitations).	Year 3: 40 min Year 5: 42 min Year 7: 42 min Year 9: 42 min	Students are provided with an idea or topic called a writing stimulus (or prompt) and asked to write a response in a particular genre (narrative or persuasive writing).
Reading	To be completed after the writing test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students read a range of informative, imaginative and persuasive texts, and then answer related questions.
Conventions of language	To be completed after the reading test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 45 min Year 7: 45 min Year 9: 45 min	Students are assessed on spelling, grammar and punctuation.
Numeracy	To be completed after the conventions of language test.	Year 3: 45 min Year 5: 50 min Year 7: 65 min Year 9: 65 min	Students are assessed on number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability.

21 Questions to Get Your Child to Open Up About School ... some are very funny... and enlightening!

“How was your day?” “Fine.” It’s not exactly illuminating conversation, is it? Unfortunately, many kids don’t leap at the opportunity to talk to carers about how their day at school went - especially if it went poorly. Here’s how parents can encourage better communication (hint: it starts by asking the right questions).

1. What was the best thing that happened at school today? (What was the worst thing that happened at school today?)
2. Tell me something that made you laugh today.
3. Whom would you like to sit by in class? (Whom would you not want to sit by in class? Why?)
4. Where is the coolest place at the school?
5. Tell me a weird word that you heard today (or something weird that someone said).
6. If I called your teacher tonight, what would she tell me about you?
7. How did you help somebody today?
8. How did somebody help you today?
9. Tell me one thing that you learned today.
10. When were you the happiest today?
11. When were you bored today?
12. If an alien spaceship came to your class and beamed someone up, who would you want them to take?
13. Who would you like to play with at recess whom you’ve never played with before?
14. Tell me something good that happened today.
15. What word did your teacher say the most today?
16. What do you think you should do/learn more of at school?
17. What do you think you should do/learn less of at school?
18. Who in your class do you think you could be nicer to?
19. Where do you play the most at recess?
20. Who is the funniest person in your class? Why is he/she so funny?
21. What was your favourite part of lunch?



Excerpt from ADDitude... [ADHD in Children: ADD Parenting Help Behavior, Discipline, Self-Esteem](#)

[Fact sheet 1: school council elections – information for parents](#)

[What is a school council and what does it do?](#)

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

[Who is on the school council?](#)

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected parent member category – members of this category generally comprise more than one third of the council's total membership. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.

A mandated elected school employee member category – members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.

A small number of school councils have nominee members.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

A mandated elected student member category, two positions.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

[Why is parent membership so important?](#)

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

[Do I need special experience to be on school council?](#)

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

[Code of conduct for school councillors](#)

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- **act with honesty and integrity** – be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty
- **act in good faith in the best interests of the school** – work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds
- **act fairly and impartially** – consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest
- **use information appropriately** – respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available
- **exercise due care, diligence and skill** – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school
- **use the position appropriately** – not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage

act in a financially responsible manner – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions
comply with relevant legislation and policies – know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law
demonstrate leadership and stewardship – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

[Indemnity for school council members](#)

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or

the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

[How can you become involved?](#)

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider:

standing for election as a member of the school council

encouraging another person to stand for election.

[What do you need to do to stand for election?](#)

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same category that you are eligible for (e.g. a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate).

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school.

Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

Generally, if there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

[Remember](#)

- Consider standing for election to school council.
- Ask the principal for instructions if you are not sure what to do.
- Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.
- Contact the principal if you are unsure about what is required at any stage of the election process.

Form 2: notice of election and call for nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of <i>(school name below)</i>
HALLAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00pm on Friday 28 February 2025.

The ballot will close at 4.00pm on Friday 14 March 2025.
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Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership category
Parent member

Term of office	Year
From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in	2025
to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in	2027

Number of positions:	2
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Membership category
School employee member

Term of office	Year
From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in	2025
to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in	2027

Number of positions:	1
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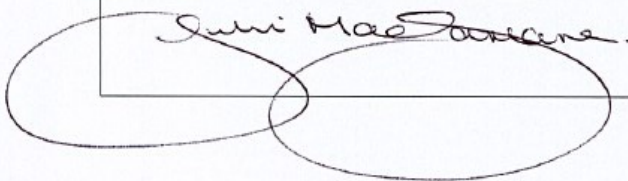
Membership category
Student member

Term of office	Year
From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 20	
to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 20	

Number of positions:	0
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Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Principal signature




Wednesday 26 February

PREPS DO NOT ATTEND

Prep P-T Interviews

PREPS ATTEND FULL TIME 8:45AM-3:30PM DAILY FROM MONDAY 3 MARCH 2025

Friday 7 March

CURRICULUM DAY

STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND

Monday 10 March

LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY

HALLAM PS CLOSED

Friday 4 April

END TERM 1

DISMISSAL 2:30PM

School Holidays 7 APRIL-21 APRIL 2025 (inclusive)

Tuesday 22 April

START TERM 2 - PREP-YEAR 6

8:45AM

Friday 25 April

ANZAC DAY

HALLAM PS CLOSED

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT	SUN
17 FEBRUARY	18 Playgroup Hall 9-11am 	19 PREPS DO NOT ATTEND DISTRICT SWIMMING@ DOVETON POOL (Qualifying Students) Adult English Language Classes 9-11am	20 SCHOOL COUNCIL 7PM	21 NOTICE OF ELECTION AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS- HALLAM PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNCIL	22  Try cycling...	23
24 FEBRUARY	25 Playgroup Hall 9-11am 	26 PREPS DO NOT ATTEND Adult English Language Classes 9-11am	27	28 CLOSE NOMINATIONS- SCHOOL COUNCIL 4:00PM	01 MARCH  Play at the park....	02 MARCH
Y1-6 Student-Parent-Teacher Conferences (SPTC)						
03 MARCH PREPS ATTEND FULL TIME	04 Playgroup Hall 9-11am 	05 Adult English Language Classes 9-11am BALLOTS DISTRIBUTED	06	07 PUPIL FREE DAY-STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND	08  Build sand castles at the beach...	09
10 MARCH LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY- HALLAM PS CLOSED	11 Playgroup Hall 9-11am 	12 2025 NAPLAN Adult English Language Classes 9-11am	13 2025 NAPLAN	14 2025 NAPLAN CLOSE OF BALLOT 4:00PM	15  Visit the zoo....	16