

# AVONVALE EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRE

*Inspiring Dreams, Celebrating Success*

Hutt Street, Northam, Western Australia, 6401

 (08) 9621 5250  Avonvale.ESC@education.wa.edu.au



## A Message From the Principal



Dear parents, carers and community members

This term hasn't disappointed with its usual busy start to the school year. Swimming, assessments and developing Individual Education plans for students have kept us all busy. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Jade Wilson, who has joined us as the teacher in Room 1, working with our Kindergarten and Pre-Primary students. We are very pleased to have Jade as part of our team and look forward to the positive contribution she will bring to our early years students.

### **Interm Swimming Program**

Our Interm Swimming Program will conclude this Friday, and it is fair to say that everyone at the Primary Campus is feeling the aftermath of two very busy and energetic weeks! A big thank you to the staff at the Northam Aquatic Centre for their ongoing support in providing such a valuable program for our students. Swimming lessons give students the opportunity to develop important physical, social and personal skills, as well as build confidence in the water. We would also like to acknowledge Ms Covek and Mr Ford for safely transporting students to and from the pool each day—your support is greatly appreciated.

Be sure to enjoy the photos included in this newsletter, capturing some wonderful moments from the swimming program.

### **Health Reminder**

We are currently seeing an increase in students attending school while unwell with cold and flu symptoms. Unfortunately, this is resulting in illness spreading to both students and staff. We kindly ask that if your child is unwell, they remain at home until they are fully recovered. This helps protect the wellbeing of our whole school community.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

### **Individual Education Plans (IEPs)**

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended recent meetings to review their child's Individual Education Plan (IEP). These plans are carefully developed by teachers to outline each student's learning goals and the strategies used to support their progress. Teachers are now actively teaching to these goals and implementing structured assessment processes to monitor student achievement. Reports will be developed based on this data, ensuring clear and meaningful feedback on your child's progress. It was very encouraging to see such strong parent attendance and engagement in these meetings—this partnership is vital in supporting your child's success with their learning at school.

### **School Buses**

We would like to clarify for families that the management of student access to, and transport to and from school, is the responsibility of School Bus Services and is not managed by the Department of Education or the School.

The school's role is to ensure that students are safely supported when arriving at school and when departing onto their allocated bus at the end of the day.

For any enquiries, concerns, or changes relating to bus arrangements, families are encouraged to contact School Bus Services directly.

Parents and carers are reminded to:

Inform the bus driver if your child is absent, has an appointment, or will not be catching the bus on a particular day

Notify the school of any changes to travel arrangements

Clear communication helps ensure the safety of all students and avoids any confusion.

As always, I would like to thank our staff for their ongoing dedication, professionalism, and care. I also extend my appreciation to our families for your continued support.

A gentle reminder as we move through the term—schools are complex environments, and our shared goal is always the best possible outcomes for students. When we approach challenges with understanding, respect, and a willingness to work together, we create a community where everyone can thrive.

Please take care, stay well, and we look forward to a positive and productive remainder of the term.

Warm regards,

Mrs Michelle O'Brien

Principal

Avonvale Education Support Centre

Hello, Primary Room 1 Families,

“This Class is a Rainbow of Possibilities” Each student brings their own unique strengths and ideas to our classroom.

Here we are, already over halfway through Term 1, it will be Easter before we know it! We would like to warmly welcome our new Kindergarten students and families to Avonvale ESC, we look forward to an amazing year ahead. They have settled in nicely with their own little area to work in as well as making great use of our sensory room. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new teachers that have recently joined Room 1, Ms Wilson and Mrs Caputo! So wonderful to have you both become a part of our team. As the weather cools down, we have big plans for Kindy to do more outside dramatic play sessions and various play-based learning areas. Arts and crafts are a favourite amongst the students, linking well known story books and nursery rhymes with fun, creative artworks.

Students have been settling into classroom routines and building positive relationships with their classmates. It has been great to see everyone showing enthusiasm for learning and trying their best in all activities. In Literacy, we have been continuing to develop our reading skills, with a focus on blending and segmenting CVC words. Students have also been introduced to basic sentence structures and early reading strategies as they begin to build confidence in both reading and writing. In Numeracy, we have been learning about ordinal numbers and discussing how they can be used in real-life situations, such as reading a calendar, describing position in a line or the order in a race. We have also continued working on number recognition, counting, and simple addition through a variety of hands-on materials and engaging games.

During the hot and extreme weather we have had our classroom set up with construction areas on the mat including, Duplo Lego, Mobilo, shape magnets on the light table; as well as our newest addition to the classroom, the wooden building blocks, this has become a much-loved area with everyone, involving lots of small world and role-playing fun.

Our Primary Campus began swimming lessons last Monday. It has been a busy and exciting time for the students, especially those who are commencing swimming lessons for the very first time. During these sessions, students practice many life skills such as sun safety and putting sunscreen on, they work towards learning to change their clothes and put on their swimming bathers and school swim rashie. Students are also learning about road safety when in a vehicle by sitting in the school bus with their seatbelts on. Everywhere we go we continue to learn and practise our school values of: Good Listening, Good Work, and Good Attitude.

IEP meetings are also underway, thank you to the families who have had their meetings so far and I look forward to the ones still to come. I will be in touch with those yet to attend and will schedule in a suitable time with you. It is a great opportunity for us to discuss your child's learning goals and areas of focus for them to work towards at school and beyond. The student's communication book is a great way to let us know about anything that may affect them whilst they are at school or any other information that may be of importance. Please make use of this book and regularly check for information that we may need to communicate to you.

We cannot wait to see the wonderful things Room 1 will achieve in a classroom filled with a rainbow of possibilities.

Please enjoy some photos of what we have been up to so far.

Warmest Regards,

*Mrs Hocking, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Caputo*

*Room 1 Teachers.*





## School Diary

Monday 9 March to Friday 20 March	Swimming Lessons (Primary only)
Monday 17 March to Sunday 23rd March	Harmony Week
Wednesday 25 March	Craft Stall
Thursday 26 March	Epilepsy Awareness Day
Thursday 26 March	School Council Meeting
Thursday 2 April	Last day Term 1
Monday 20 April	Term 2 begins

*For further enquiries contact the school  
Avonvale Education Support Centre  
Cnr Perina and Mudalla Way, Northam,  
Ph: 96215250*

## Student Birthdays

### March Birthdays

*Byron, Nate, Akira*

### No hat No play

We are a sun smart school and as such, the Centre has a “no hat no play policy”. Students need to wear a hat during recess and lunchtime as well as any additional outside activities including swimming.



**The Secondary Assistance Scheme (SAS) is to assist low-income families with secondary schooling costs for students in Years 7 to 12.**

The Secondary Assistance Scheme is intended to provide assistance to secondary students in meeting the costs of books and uniforms and includes eligible home-educated students. To be eligible for the allowance the parent/guardian must hold a Centrelink Family Health Care Card, a Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card or a Veterans' Affairs Pensioner Concession card that represents a statement of income for the family.

The allowance consists of two components:

- \$300 Clothing Allowance paid directly to the parent/guardian or school.
- \$235 Educational Program Allowance paid directly to the school.



Application is made by the parent or guardian for student/s registered for study in the secondary years. Application forms are available from Avonvale Education Support Centre offices. Applications must be received by the Schools on or before 1 April 2026.

In Week 6, the Primary Campus began the two week in-term swimming program. The week started with beautiful warm sunshine, although the weather cooled as the days went on. We are very grateful to the staff at the Northam Recreation Centre for turning on the pool heater, ensuring the pools remained warm and comfortable for both our students and the staff who support them in the water.

These swimming lessons require significant planning and organisation. Our staff work rigorously to ensure that each day runs smoothly and that students are well supported throughout the program. A big thank you to our incredible staff who choose to go into the pool with our students to be there for them so that they can get the most out of the swimming lessons. Another thank you to the Department of Education's amazing swimming teachers, who provide engaging lessons to our students, focusing on both water safety and the development of important swimming skills. We have had a successful time and we are proud of our students. Please enjoy some photos from our lessons.





# ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

- 1 day a fortnight = 1 week a term = 4 weeks a year = **1 year** by the end of Year 9
- 1 day a week = 2 weeks a term = 8 weeks a year = **1 year** by the end of Year 4
- **2 years** by the end of Year 8 = **3 years** by the end of Year 12

## Secondary Assistance Scheme and Abstudy Years 7 to 12

A reminder to parents, guardians and carers that completed Secondary Assistance or Abstudy forms are due back at school by **Thursday 1 April 2026**.

**Parking at the primary campus**  
 Reminder to parents the carpark at the front entrance of the school is for ACROD Permit Holders only.



**Contacting the school** Parents can contact their child's teacher through the students communication book or via the school office between 8:30am-3pm to arrange a time to speak with their child's teacher or the school Principal. [96215250 primary campus](tel:96215250) [96210025 secondary campus](tel:96210025)