

Alawa Primary School Newsletter

Welcome to the Alawa Primary School weekly newsletter

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Principal Update

Welcome back and bring on 2023!

Like many of you [from what I hear] plans over the break did not quite go as envisaged due to such a large wet season yet I have to admit the time I had off was spent catching up with family and friends, relaxing and generally just slowing down a tad!

We have had a very busy last few weeks at Alawa with so many families coming in to arrange the use of the Back to School Voucher, purchase uniforms etc. So many smiley faces.

We had the majority of our students resume school for face to face learning yesterday. A few have made contact and advised they are still away and a few we are still waiting to hear from. We appreciate the regular and ongoing communication so we can do our best to support your family. As always we do our best to keep you informed as to the best of our knowledge - this will continue to be via direct email from my own account to parents / carers or through the new Xuno Parent Portal [replacing SeeSaw and Skoolbag App]. If for any reason you are not receiving these emails / messages please contact Ms Tammy in the front office to advise so she can resolve this for you.

We are estimating an enrolment of 316. I am very excited to be at the school with you all again this year and look forward to getting to know /reconnect with all our students and families over the next few weeks. I believe our core business is providing a learning experience for students in a challenging, caring environment to achieve learning outcomes and prepare for flexible and adaptable pathways. It is my belief that you are a critical part of your child's education at school. You are your child's first teacher and I encourage you to continue the next part of the learning journey with the school. I believe in an open door policy and encourage you to be curious about what is happening in the school environment. There are many ways you can be involved in the school, including attending and being part of School Council, helping out with the occasional working bee in the farm and assisting in many different ways in the classrooms. Volunteer surveys will be sent home at the end of this week—please return if you are able to help out in any way. We also have an option on our website for you to register as a volunteer at any time. We do ask that all volunteers have a current Working with Children Clearance.

We have welcomed 15 new children to our classes in Transition - Year 6 from all over Australia - welcome to you all! We have also welcomed some new staff members who you will meet through the newsletter in coming weeks.

Late last week I was advised Ms Jen White was unable to return to Darwin at this stage due to personal circumstances. We have advertised this teaching role [PE & Visual Arts across the school]. In the meantime for the next four weeks our very experienced relief team [Di Griffin, Di Wood and Donna Harding] are teaching PE and Visual Arts. Mrs Griffin is Mondays and Tuesdays, Ms Wood Wednesday and Fridays and Mrs Harding Thursdays.

2023 Leadership Team

- Bianca Hyke Assistant Principal
- Ana Bernardino Senior Teacher Primary Years



- Janelle Thorne Senior Teacher Early Years
- Jed Henderson Senior Teacher Assessment & Innovation
- Sharon Jennings Business Manager

Have a great week and I look forward to connecting with you in coming weeks.

Sandy Cartwright [Principal of the Best School in the Multiverse]

Assistant Principal Update

A warm welcome to all our students and families for 2023. I would like to introduce myself, my name is Bianca Hyke and I will be the Assistant Principal for Term One whilst Genevieve Donohue is away on Long Service Leave.

I am passionate about education and like to provide the best opportunities for our learners. I have had the privilege of teaching in the Territory for over 22 years. I believe in life-long learning and have had the opportunity to work in a range of settings including classroom teacher, senior teacher, Assistant Principal, Acting Principal and Director in the Department of Education. I believe building positive relationships with students is the foundation when creating a safe, happy and nurturing environment where optimal learning can take place.

I am thrilled to be a part of the Alawa community! I look forward to meeting you throughout this year as well as supporting our students as they begin their school journey for 2023.

Bianca Hyke [Assistant Principal]



Back to school pictures: Fantastic to see everyone back at school Tuesday!





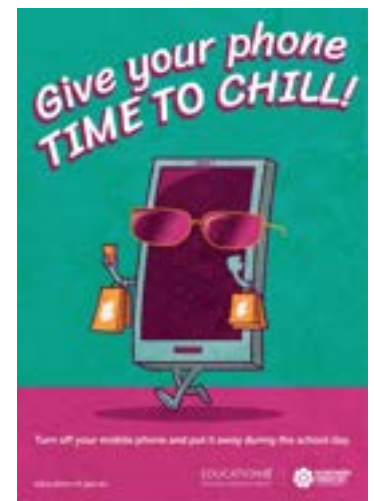
2023 Mobile Phone Policy

As you may have read / heard about through the media from last year, from Day 1, Term 1, 2023 there will be changes in all NT Government schools with the use of mobile phones. All phones and smart watches are not to be used from the time students arrive at school until the end of the school day. This includes recess and lunch breaks.

There is no variation on our policy on the use of mobile phones for Alawa. This ban has been in place for the past 5 years. Our Alawa Policy can be accessed through our website:

<https://www.alawaprimary.nt.edu.au/sites/default/files/media-library/documents/Mobile-Phone-Policy-2023.pdf>

[NTG Mobile Phone Policy](#)



Events calendar

Friday 10 February	Assembly hosted by the NT Learning Commission and Ms Cartwright	8:40am
Monday 13 February	School Council meeting	5:30pm
Friday 24 February	Assembly hosted by Year 3/4 Bernardino - Morning tea to follow for parents and carers of Year 3/4 Bernardino	8:40am
Wednesday 1 March	Meet the Teacher followed by Alawa Primary School AGM	5pm 6:30pm
Friday 3 March	Netball Gala day	All day
Saturday 4 March	Farm Working Bee	8:30am
Friday 10 March	Assembly hosted by Year 4/5 Block - Morning tea to follow for parents and carers of Year 4/5 Block	8:40am

Wednesday 15 - Friday 27 March	NAPLAN testing [Years 3& 5 only]	All day - timetabled
Friday 17 March	Primary Years Swimming Program [Year 3-6 only]	All day
Monday 20 March	School Council meeting	5:30pm
Friday 24 March	Assembly hosted by Year 1 Thorne-Baines - Morning tea to follow for parents and carers of Year 1 Thorne-Baines Primary Years Swimming Program [Year 3-6 only]	8:40am All day
Thursday 6 April	Soccer Gala day Last Day of Term 1	All day
Friday 7 April	Public Holiday - Good Friday	All day

Library news

Welcome back. I hope you all had a wonderful break and managed to get some quality family and rest time along the way. Way back in 2021 the CBCA shortlisted a book by the name of Hold On! Saving the Spotted Handfish by Gina M Newton and illustrated by Rachel Tribout. We have this book in the library and over the break I had the unexpected opportunity to see the endangered Spotted Handfish up close – I did not realise just how small they are - and just a few days later I happened across an article about how the SeaLife Aquarium in Melbourne has managed to successfully breed them! Photo: Spotted Handfish [\[ABC News\]](#) It was really cool to be able to see what I had only seen in a book and has inspired me to find out more. Kids are fascinated by the world around them and devour Non Fiction books with a passion. If your child is too young or prefers fiction, you can find story books which incorporate factual information into the story giving an insight into nature, history, our world and beyond. Picture books such as Eric Carle's Mister Seahorse, Sandra Kendell's Saltie Mumma and Beth, The story of a child convict by Mark Wilson and series such as I Survived and My Story are great examples of real life presented through characters who help us to understand, empathise, get excited about and connect with animals, history and places when we encounter them in real life.



Miss Sacha [Library and ICT Manager]

Playgroup news

Playgroup will resume Friday Week 2, 10th February at 9:30am in the Preschool.

Everyone welcome.

Miss Erin [Playgroup Coordinator]



Long sleeved uniform shirts

Pre orders for our long sleeved shirts are now open. To order visit the front office during school hours. Orders will close Week 3, Friday 17th February.

Orders will take approximately 6 weeks so we anticipate arrival late this term so they are ready to wear Term 2.



Sports news

We have once again secured a Sporting Schools grant for Term 1.

This term we will be seeking to secure 4 different sports coaches to deliver both lunchtime and after school programs.

Weeks 2-5 we will have Netball for students in Years 3-6 and lunchtime gymnastics for students in Transition - Year 2

Weeks 6-9 we will have soccer for students in Years 3-6 and lunchtime table tennis for students in Transition - Year 2.

Thanks to Miss Gina who runs both the lunchtime and afterschool sessions so these opportunities can be made available to our students.

Cafe

Our Mission is to provide the Alawa School community with delicious healthy meals and snacks and to create meaningful links to our kitchen garden program. We will do our best to ensure we order the same products as advertised but occasionally have to change due to stock availability.

Available every day lunch only:

- mini beef burgers \$4.50
- spaghetti bolognese small serve \$4.50 or large serve \$6.50 /Gluten Free Spaghetti \$6.50 [Wed & Thu only]

Wednesday – Beef Nachos - Large size \$6.50, Small \$4.50

Thursday – Chicken Stir Fry - Large size \$6.50, Small \$4.50

Friday – Homemade Beef Burgers - \$6.50

A reminder that our school Cafe is open Wednesday to Friday ONLY. Closed on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Order online at www.quickcliq.com.au

Community notices

