

JUMBUNNA

"TALKING TOGETHER"

SOMERVILLE RISE PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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Week 6 – Principal Update

Swimming

This week our Foundation – Year 2 students attended Swimming Lessons at Core 24 in Somerville. For some of our students this was their very first swimming lesson experience and for others a great opportunity to swim with their friends.

We noticed that our little humans were very, very tired and went through some very big emotions. We are so proud of how they have represented our school and how much they learned outside of the school environment as well!

For your amusement Bobby and I thought we needed to get a photo to celebrate swimming lessons 😊



Social Media and Cyber Safety

It seems to be around this time each year that the social media bug kicks in and we see a few issues arise. I have had a few students and families raise some concerns about the use of mobile phones and social media and messaging apps that are causing concerns for some of our students. Unfortunately, there is always some cons with technology and a reason why all social media platforms have very clear guidelines around age limitations for their use.

In 2024, the federal government developed legislation to ensure that young people are protected from online environments that is to be enforced by December 2025. See the eSafety Commissioner's communicate in the link here – [Social media age restrictions](#).

Everyone knows how incredibly easy it is for a child under 13 to open a social media account. All they have to do is use simple math to figure out a birthdate that makes them, say, 72 years of age instead of 11. Few, if any, social media sites use age verification tools. So, in just a few moments, children can easily gain access to a world of people, videos, photos, posts, likes, and more that their undeveloped brains just might not be ready to handle.



As a society we have largely given up caring about young kids being online, giving age restrictions a collective shrug and "so what?" But many of the online problems that plague kids today, such as cyberbullying, sexting, exposure to inappropriate content, predators, screen "addiction," and more would likely decrease if parents just waited a bit longer to give their young one's access to connected apps.

At Somerville Rise Primary School we will work at developing a proactive approach to the issues listed above, the difficult part is that we don't allow the students access to these platforms at school and require your support to manage and monitor your children's online presence at home.

Somerville Rise Primary School

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Student Mobile Phones

This morning, we received a call from a concerned member of the community that had seen video footage of a student from our school taken during break times.

As a school we have developed very clear procedures for mobile phones at school and it is disappointing to hear this type of behaviour happening. The Department of Education's policy is quite clear around mobile phones in schools, I have attached the link [Department of Education Mobile Phone Policy](#).

We will be following up with those involved, however it is a timely reminder that if students do not hand in their phones at the start of the school day – the device will be confiscated and will need to be picked up by an adult.

Before and After School Supervision

During the week, we sent out a news item on Compass in regard to the before and after school supervision. As discussed in the letter, Teacher supervision does not start until 8:45am. We have had a few parent emails and questions about this communication.

Just to correct any misconceptions, the school gates open at 8:20am each day. Students can enter the school from this point onwards and stay out of any extreme weather. We understand that some families need to get to work, however your children are not supervised by our staff before 8:45am.

If you need to drop your children off before this time – I recommend that you contact DS Sports and enrol in before school care or alternatively remain with your children until 8:45am.

We appreciate your support on this matter.

Staff Carpark and Crossings

We have noticed an increase in families using the staff carpark to drop their children off before school. Although this may be convenient, it is unsafe for our students and staff. Can all families please ensure they are using the carpark available outside of the school grounds moving forward.



We have also been contacted by the shire that a number of parents are completing illegal U-turns near the school crossing on Graf Road. Please be vigilant when driving near school crossings as our students aren't always the best at following traffic conditions. This is a council and police matter and is taken out of our hands! Nothing worse than getting pulled over in front of everyone at school pickup or drop off!

Thanks for helping keep our children and community safe!

2026 Enrolments – Reminder

If you have any children starting foundation in 2026 or know anyone in our school zone, we would love to have them come and tour our school and see firsthand, the amazing work that is happening!

Keep living the dream!

Matt Jackson
Principal



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What's happening at Somerville Rise Primary School!

Term 2 Week 7

Wednesday 4th June

School Council Meeting 5:30pm

Term 2 Week 8

Monday 9th June

King's Birthday Public Holiday

Friday 13th June

Whole School Assembly

Term 2 Week 9

Tuesday 17th June

Winter Lightning Premiership – Year 5 and 6

Thursday 19th June

Positive Leadership & Activated Youth – Year 5 Incursion

Term 2 Week 10

Tuesday 25th June

Girl's Footy Day

Friday 27th June

Whole School Assembly – Leaders on the Rise June

Term 2 Week 11

Friday 4th June

Last Day of Term 2

#KeepYourEyesonSomieRise #2025EstablishingExcellence

At Somie Rise we value...



Kindness



Curiosity



Creativity

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