

Start of Year Red Hill School Newsletter

Coming Events

Harmony Week

17th March to 23rd
March

Down Syndrome “Odd Socks” Day

21st March

NAPLAN

11th March to 23rd
March

Early Excursions

Year 5 Camp

Cooba Sport and
Education Centre

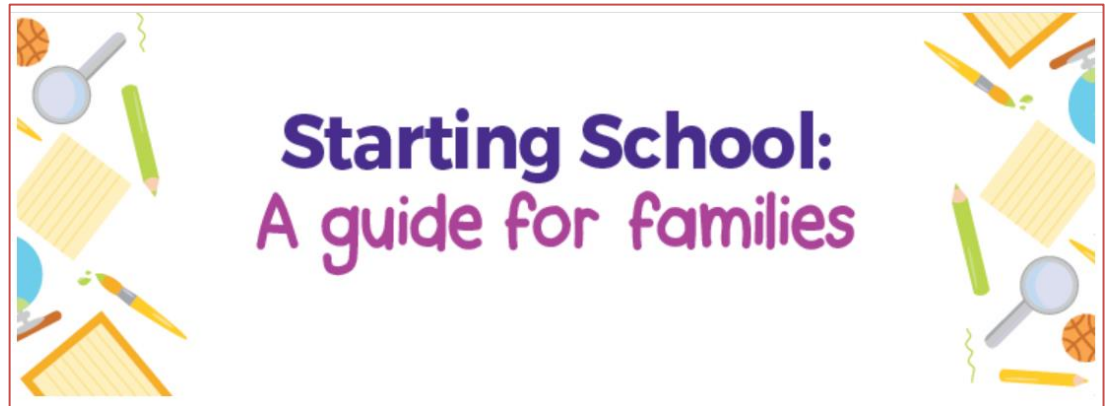
Wednesday 4th March
to Friday 6th March



Red Hill School is a Nut Free Environment



Starting school is an exciting event but can also be an anxious time for children and their parents. The information in the link below may help you and your child to prepare for this next chapter in their lives.



2026 Start Days and Times

Preschool Session 1

Monday 2nd February - 9.00am to 3.00pm

Preschool Session 2

Thursday 5th February - 9.00am to 3.00pm

Kindergarten

Friday 30th January - 9.10am to 3.15pm

Years 1 – 6

Monday 2nd February - 9.10am to 3.15pm

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LEADERSHIP TEAM OVERVIEW

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to everyone, whether you are new to our school community or returning.

The start of the year can seem hectic, and sometimes a little overwhelming, particularly if this is your first experience of formal schooling or you have just moved to Canberra. We would like to make your experience at Red Hill School a positive one. With this in mind, we have documented some processes to help you.

START OF YEAR ARRANGEMENTS

IMPORTANT

PLEASE NOTE THAT CLASS LISTS FOR YEARS 1-6 WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING IN THE BREEZEWAY ON FRIDAY 30th JANUARY FROM 12PM. *For privacy reasons please do not photograph these lists.*

Individual class lists will also be emailed to parents and carers later on Friday afternoon so don't worry if you can't make it to school.

PRESCHOOL

Our **Program 1 preschool students** will be starting on Monday 2nd February.

Parents and carers are invited to take children into the preschool setting from 9am onwards and are welcome to stay for a brief time. However, we ask that parents and carers leave after 10 -15 minutes. We know from many years' experience that children settle more easily into preschool if allowed to be independent of their parents. Equally though, it will be particularly important that the children are picked up at 3pm unless attending After School Care. The confidence that children build to be away from their parents and carers is quickly eroded if they are not collected on time.

Please note that at the end of the day we do not hand over children to anyone other than a designated responsible adult.

Entry to Red Hill Preschool is through the blue gate next to the French Australia Preschool on Astrolabe Street. However, for safety reasons, if you arrive between the hours of 9.30am and 2.30pm, you will need to sign in at the Front Office and make your way to preschool through the main school building.

If you have further questions about drop off and collection, or other processes, please read our preschool handbook which is available on the school website : [Preschools - Red Hill Primary](#).

KINDERGARTEN

Our **kindergarten students** will be starting on **Friday 30th January**.

We ask families to **drop their child off in the kindergarten shared area** between 8:50am and 9:10am (unless they are attending Before School Care for a 9.15am start where they will be met by the kindergarten teaching team and some year six buddies.

Students will need to bring fruit, a healthy packed snack and lunch, a water bottle and a sun smart hat. Book packs can also be brought along on Friday or next week.

Please collect students between 3.10pm and 3.15pm on the concrete area at the front of the school.

Teachers will bring the children to this space and hand them over directly to parents and carers.

Alternatively, parents are invited to use the kindergarten 'drive through' system, in which case teachers will direct children to their cars.

Note: This Friday and next week kindergarten parents are invited to the classrooms from 2.45pm onwards.

If you are not collecting your child yourself, please let the school know in writing – for kindergarten students' safety we do not hand over children to anyone other than a designated responsible adult. If your child is registered to attend After School Care, Woden Community Services staff will collect them.

NEW FAMILIES AND STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Between 10.30am and 12.30pm on Friday 30th January we invite all **new students in years 1- 6** to come in for a '*meet and greet*' visit. This is a brief, informal visit so children will not be remaining at school on this day and will not need to wear school uniform. Year six student leaders will take these students and their families on school tours and then introduce them to their new teachers and classrooms.

Students with special needs are also invited to visit their classrooms and meet their new teachers during this time.

YEAR 1-6 STUDENTS

All students in years 1-6 start back at school Monday 2nd February.

In the Breezeway we will have class lists and a school map. Once you have checked which class your child is in, please take your child directly to the year level shared space where the teachers will be

waiting. Student leaders will help you with this. You are very welcome to stay with your child until 9.10am. At 9.10am parents will be asked to leave the classrooms and make their way to the school library where we will be offering tea and coffee, and an opportunity to chat with executive staff and other parents. (We ask that you do leave the classrooms at 9.10am so that the teachers and students can settle in.)

Students will need to bring a piece of fresh fruit, a healthy packed snack and lunch, a filled water bottle and a SunSmart hat. Book packs can also be brought along on Monday or later in the week.

Students can enter and leave school through the Breezeway doors, the black gate to the oval and/or the black gate near the bike racks. Year 4 students may also exit through the blue gates on Astrolabe Street but should not enter these gates in the morning as the area is not supervised before school.

Parents and carers are welcome to bring their children into the school to drop them off, especially in the early days of the school year. However, if you wish to stay on site for more than 15 minutes e.g., to meet with a staff member or help out, please make sure you sign in and out at the front office.

You are very welcome to help out in the classrooms or elsewhere around the school, for example in the canteen or library. We enjoy having family members in the school : many hands make light work, additionally, you get to see how classes operate, your child enjoys your engagement in school life and the students benefit from your skills and interests.

Before and After School Supervision

The central asphalt courtyard inside the fence is supervised from 8.50am every morning. Before School Care is also available in the Senior Hall and on the Griffith Preschool Campus for families who need support earlier than this. Please remind your children that once they have arrived at school they are in our duty of care and cannot leave the premises for any reason, for example to visit the local shops.

- Kindergarten is supervised in the kindergarten corridor.
- Years 1 and 2 students are supervised near the inside playground equipment and Play Pod.
- Years 3 and 4 students are supervised in the area outside the staffroom.
- Years 5 and 6 students are supervised in the area outside the senior wing.

There is also a teacher on duty from 3.15pm until 3.40pm at the front of the school. This teacher's role is to supervise students while they wait to be collected by parents/carers or catch a bus. Please make every effort though to collect your child by 3.20pm and make use of After School Care if you need longer care arrangements.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

In accordance with ACT Health and Education guidelines students should not attend school if they are showing symptoms of the Coronavirus (the most common symptoms are fever and respiratory symptoms, including cough, sore throat and shortness of breath) or are generally showing signs of being unwell (e.g., runny nose, cough, headache, high temperature).

If your child tests positive for Coronavirus please advise the school so that we can monitor cases and outbreaks.

OTHER REMINDERS

- Don't forget your child needs a water bottle and sun smart hat every day.
- Students also need to bring plenty of fresh fruit, as well as healthy snacks and lunch. (Please don't send 'red food' such as cordial, juice, sweets, chocolate or lollipops and remember we are a 'nut free' school.)
- Students should wear school uniform and 'closed toe' shoes to school. Please contact the principal if accessing school uniform is difficult for your family because of financial or other reasons.
- Please ensure you provide a current medical plan if your child requires any special treatment by school staff. Refer to the last page of this newsletter.
- Playground duty starts on the asphalt at 8.50am each day. Bus duty is from 3.15pm until 3.40pm daily.
- Year one students will be escorted by their teachers to the paved area near the "Kiss and Go" area on Astrolabe Street at 3.15pm each afternoon to meet their parents and carers.
- Year two students will be escorted by their teachers to paved area near the Breezeway at 3.15pm each afternoon to meet their parents and carers.
- If you are going to be later than 3.15pm we recommend that your child waits near the bus duty teacher at the front of the school. This includes younger students waiting for older siblings.
- Kindergarten parents can use the *drive through pick up* system in the main car park. This pick-up area is for **kindergarten students only** because they are our youngest, therefore most vulnerable students, outside of preschool.

SUN AND HEAT

With high UV levels at present, we ask that all parents and carers apply 50+, 4-hour water resistant sunscreen to their children just prior to dropping them off at school. Classrooms will also have sunscreen available, and students will be given reminders to reapply this protection. Students without hats will be required to play in shaded areas when outside.

Additionally, all teachers on duty have discretion to take students indoors at play time if they feel outdoors is too hot. Similarly, PE lessons will be conducted indoors on very hot days or rescheduled to cooler parts of the day.

PARKING AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Parking and traffic can be difficult in the afternoon, especially on Astrolabe Street. It is important that all of us adhere to safe practices around the school to keep our students safe. So please don't double park and abide by the parking signage in our carpark and on our local streets.

Here are some suggestions to ease the congestion.

- Consider parking on Monaro Crescent and walking across the park to meet younger children. Consider parking on Carnegie Crescent if you have older children and asking them to walk across the school oval to meet you.



- We encourage older students to walk or ride their bike to and from school. (As part of our commitment to healthy and sustainable living, bike safety and bike riding are taught in our PE curriculum for years 3.)
- If there is a bus service near your home, consider using it. We are serviced by Routes #2020 and #56. There are specific Route # 56 buses that stop outside the school on Astrolabe Street each morning and afternoon so that your child does not have to cross any roads, and a teacher is on duty every afternoon to supervise children getting on the buses.
- If your child is in grade one or above, please don't feel that you must collect your child from the class teacher. If you pull in at the "kiss and collect" area on Astrolabe Street the teacher can send your child straight over to you when the child sights your car. That way you don't have to leave your car and can leave the "kiss and collect" area quickly. If your child doesn't arrive, we ask that you circle the block and return a few minutes later. This way other parents can pull in and collect their children and the traffic can keep flowing.
- Secondly, we have observed that the traffic congestion on Astrolabe Street settles between 3.20pm and 3.25pm. Although school finishes at 3.15pm parents of older children are very welcome to collect their children between 3.20pm and 3.30pm. A teacher is on bus duty at this time and will always keep an eye on your children until you arrive. Quite a few parents have adopted this approach and find it less stressful and much easier to pull in and pick up their

children on Astrolabe Street from 3.20pm onwards. If you think this strategy would be helpful let your child know so that he/she doesn't worry.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Our staff are here to support students, parents and each other. If you have any questions or concerns, big or small, please do not hesitate to talk to your child's teacher. However, there may be times when the teacher is unable to help you, or you feel your question has not been answered. On those occasions, please come to see a member of the leadership team. We want to work in partnership with you and the sooner we are aware of a concern, the faster we can work together to find a solution.

Leadership team	
Executive Teachers	Kristy Aitchison, Deb Lawrence, Ellie Deacon
Deputy Principals	Antonia McGuire and Nathan James
Principal	Louise Owens

Canteen News

Our school canteen is open Tuesday to Friday for lunch orders and counter sales. It is operated by Woden Community Services (WCS) under the Social Enterprise Program. WCS has been operating since 1969, providing community services throughout the ACT. The school is very pleased to be able to work in partnership with WCS, not just in our canteen but also in providing out of hours school care.

The Social Enterprise program aims to create social impact by providing nutritious food for students and providing employment for vulnerable people with the purpose of positively impacting the community. If you would like to become more involved in your community, read the information at this link: [Get Involved - Woden Community Service](#).

Ordering lunch for your child is made easy via the Flexischools app. Just click on the link, create an account and start ordering: <https://flexischools.com.au/>. Our menu can be found below. (Please note that not all the advertised drinks on our primary school menu are available at Red Hill School.)



Canteens4kids ACT Menu

2028

Sandwiches

Served on wholemeal bread unless white bread is requested.
Wraps and GF bread also available.

Happy Little Vegemite (with margarine) V	\$3.50
Cheese V	\$4.50
Cheese & tomato V	\$5.00
Ham & cheese	\$6.30
Ham, cheese & tomato	\$6.80
Ham, lettuce & mayo	\$6.30
Chicken & cheese H	\$6.30
Chicken, lettuce & mayo H	\$6.30
Tuna & cheese	\$6.00
Tuna, lettuce & mayo	\$6.00
Rainbow: Lettuce, carrot, tomato, cucumber, beetroot V	\$5.50
Egg, lettuce & mayo V	\$6.00

Toasted Sandwiches (in press)

Served on wholemeal bread unless white bread is requested.

Happy Little Vegemite (with margarine) V	\$3.50
Cheese V	\$4.50
Cheese & tomato V	\$5.00
Ham & cheese	\$6.30
Chicken & cheese	\$6.30
Tuna & cheese	\$6.00
Ham	\$5.30
Ham, cheese & tomato	\$6.50
Gluten-free bread	Extra \$1.50

Fresh Salads

Build your own salad	From \$5.50
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Hot meals

Pasta bolognese DF, H (GF available)	\$7.50
Pasta napolitana DF, H, V (GF available)	\$7.00
Sausage roll	\$6.80
Beef lasagna H	\$7.50
Satay Chicken & Rice H	\$7.50
Chicken tender sub H	\$7.00
Mac & cheese V	\$7.00

Daily Specials

Daily specials available online

Snacks

Fruit salad	\$3.50
Popcorn	\$1.00
Cheesy garlic bread	\$3.00
Banana bread	\$2.70
Jelly cup (made with 100% fruit juice)	\$2.50
Homemade mini muffins	\$2.50
Corn on the cob	\$1.50
Chocolate mousse	\$2.50
Milo cookie	\$2.00
Piece of fruit	\$1.50

Frozen

Frozen juice cup	\$2.50
Twisted frozen yoghurt	\$3.00

V- Vegetarian/GF- Gluten Free/ DF- Dairy Free/H-Halal

Prices inclusive of GST

UNIFORM SHOP



Open hearts • Inquiring minds

Red Hill Primary School Uniform Shop



Item	Price
Hat Surf	\$10.00
Hat Bucket	\$12.00
Hat Slouch	\$10.00
Hat Micro bucket	\$12.00
Dress Summer	\$47.00
Polo Shirt Short Sleeve (green)	\$23.50
Polo Shirt Short Sleeve (gold)	\$23.50
Polo Shirt – Long Sleeve (green)	\$23.50
Jacket Waterproof Flying	\$43.00
Jacket Microfibre	\$43.00
Polar Fleece Jumper	\$30.00
Skorts Pleated	\$23.50
Skorts Gabardine	\$23.50
Shorts Knit	\$18.50
Short Gabardine	\$23.50
Pants Long Gabardine Double Knee	\$28.00
Pants Long Stretch Boot Leg	\$38.50
Track Pants Microfibre	\$33.50
Track Pants Straight Leg Fleece	\$23.00
Socks Ankle Green	\$5.50
Tights Bootle Green	\$12.00
School Backpack (M)	\$47.00
School Backpack (L)	\$50.00



Uniform Shop Opening Hours
Wednesday 8.30-10.00am
and
Friday 2.30-4.00pm

Payment Options: Cash, EFTPOS, Credit Card (no American Express)

Ordering Online: The Red Hill School P&C Association uses [flexischools](http://flexischools.com.au) for uniform shop sales. It is a cashless online ordering system which streamlines payment, ordering and processing of purchases and events. The system is quick and easy and can be accessed 24/7 from your PC or mobile App on your iPhone/iPad or Android.

Please note the following: -

- For further information and to register please visit: www.flexischools.com.au
- School uniforms orders will be delivered to your child's classroom via their teacher or uniform shop staff.
- Payments by Credit Card or Bank transfer
- Some fees may apply
- Online orders are delivered on Wednesday or Friday of the same week, some deliveries may carry over to the following week.
- Details on sizing, including height, chest and waist are noted with each garment listing.
- Please include your child's name and class (for families new to the school and not yet been allocated a class please enter "New Student" and orders will be held at the front office for collection.

Lost property: Lost property collected around the school is placed in the big blue bin outside of the uniform shop. Items in the blue bin will be sorted and then placed in the adjoining blue and white cupboards for students to look through and collect any of their property that they find. When possible, staff will deliver labelled items to classrooms.

The Red Hill Uniform shop is staffed by volunteers from our parent community who kindly donate their time to help. If you have some time to help, please email rhps.uniformshop@gmail.com

Uniform Shop Extended Hours 2026

The uniform shop is open for extended hours early each year to cater for increased demand in this period.

We will open in the week before schools restarts with the hours shown below.

Please note that new students start school on Friday the 30th of January. Continuing students return to school on Monday the 2nd of February. Monday the 26th of January is the Australia Day public holiday.

Current opening hours (Wednesday 8:30am to 10:00am and Friday 2:30pm to 4:00pm) will not change for the duration of term four in 2025 but Flexischool orders made after the 9th of December will not be available until the shop reopens in 2026.

The shop will be set up in the art room (adjoining the uniform shop) for early trading.

Opening Hours 2026

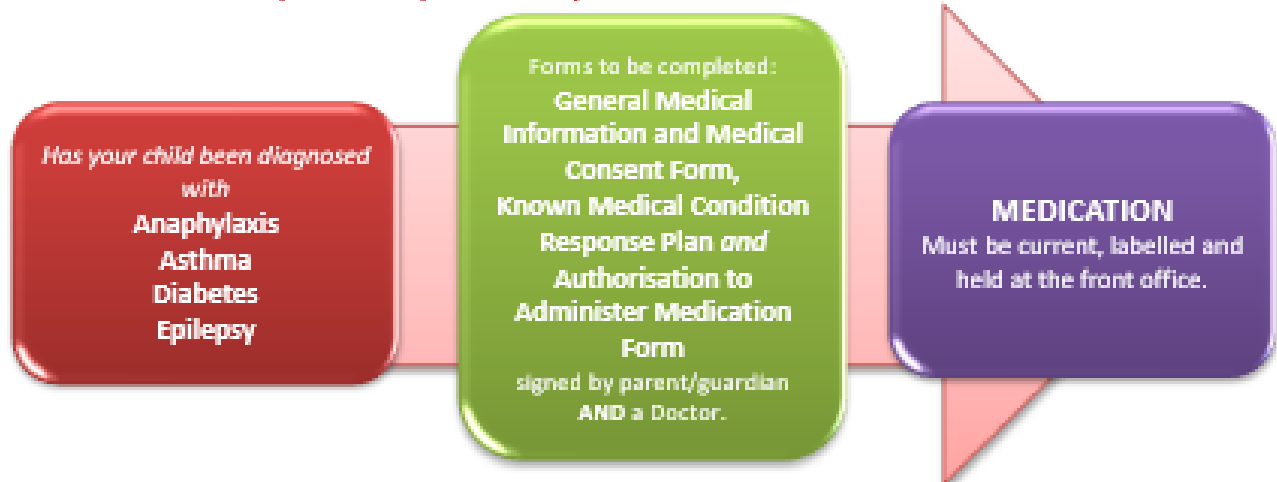
Wednesday 28th of January	1:00pm to 3:30pm
Thursday 29th of January	11:00am to 1:00pm
Friday 30th of January	9:00am to 12:30pm
Monday 2nd of February	8:30am to 10:00am
Tuesday 3rd of February	8:30am to 10:00am

And from then on, Wednesday 8:30am to 10:00am and Friday 2:30pm to 4:00pm from the usual uniform shop location.

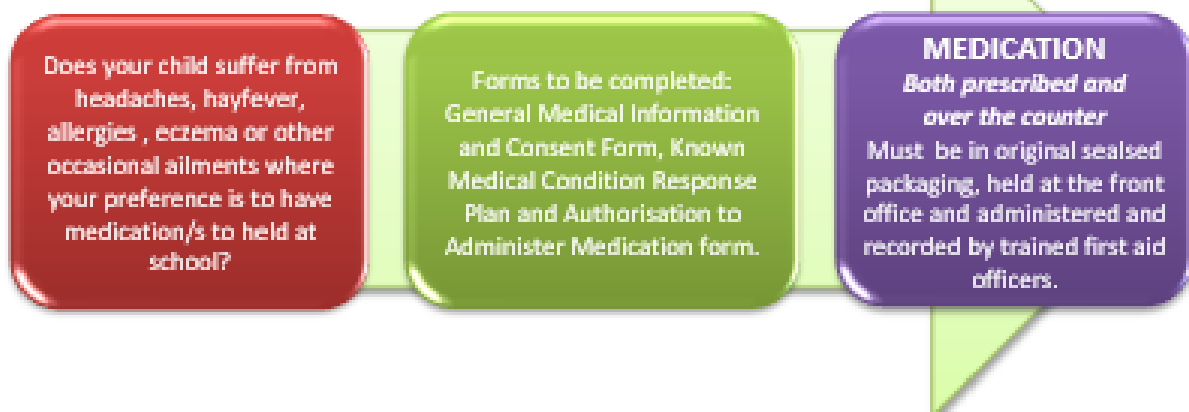
The 1,2,3 of Medical Conditions, Medication and Treatment Plans

The ACT Education and Training Directorate guidelines regarding Medical Conditions, Treatment Plans and the administration of all medication to students must be closely followed. The rule of thumb to ensure that we are able to assist your child in the best way we can while at school. At the beginning the school year families are required to complete a Medical Information and Consent Form. Any specialised, individual or temporary medical requirements must be accompanied by additional paperwork.

1. ANAPHYLAXIS, ASTHMA, DIABETES, EPILEPSY



2. Occasional Migraine, Headache, Hay fever, Allergies etc.



3. Temporary Medication for Seasonal colds/flu/Allergies, Antibiotic, Pain relief etc



For further advice and to collect copies of medical forms please visit the front office or contact the front office staff on 6142 0960.