Getting every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school. There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes. Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower assessments than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do
The main reasons for absence are:
- **Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference
- It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided
- **“Day off”** – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts
- **Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:
- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx)
TRAFFIC SAFETY
Killara Primary School is a “large school and, with over 600 students, caring for the safety of everyone is a challenge that we are all responsible for.
We teach the children that everyone has the right to feel safe and comfortable while at school and that there is an individual and communal responsibility to uphold safety and comfort levels.
It is important that this responsibility is modelled and reinforced by all members of the school community.
Please encourage children to follow road rules – in particular to use crossings to safely cross roads. Even if you are with your children, they should be shown that crossing at the school crossings is the way to go.
When driving and parking around the school road rules must be followed for the sake of all concerned and, most importantly, the safety of our students. Parking will be at a premium if everyone tries to park right outside the school. Families can assist by walking, not driving, if that is feasible. If you need to drive, please be patient and consider parking and walking.

Be fair to our friendly neighbours, by not parking over driveways and being aware of their rights.
Please be aware that the area around the school is patrolled regularly by the authorities and fines will be issued for misdemeanours.

Best wishes,
Phil and Andrew

CURRENT NEWS

OUT OF UNIFORM DAY TOMORROW
To coincide with Education Week we would love to raise money for “Care Works” Sunbury. This group supports families in crisis with emergency accommodation and food.

As 5/6 sport and physical education classes remain scheduled, it is important that your child is dressed appropriately if they have sport. Please ensure that your child wears runners and suitable clothing that will not hinder their involvement or safety.

Please bring a gold coin donation and come out of uniform on Friday 23 May.

WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY
Friday, May 23 is Walk Safely to School Day. Walking to school has many benefits, including encouraging a healthy lifestyle, promoting safe pedestrian behaviour and reducing the level of air pollution created by motor vehicles. On the day, we will be surveying the students of the school to find out our impact on the environment.

If walking to school is not an option due to the distance from your home, you can park your car a short distance from the school and walk from there. Thanks in advance for your support and encouragement

KIDS MATTER CONFERENCE
As the train pulled up at Sunbury Station the excitement in the air doubled. It was Tuesday, May 6 and 8 selected S.L.C. members were chosen to represent the school at the Kids Matter conference – and it was the first time students were allowed, so all of us were really excited.

When we arrived at the venue we introduced ourselves and the lady in charge let us know her name which was Caroline. We all were given tables to sit at but she told us not to get too comfortable because we would be on the move. On the table we were sitting at there were 2 pieces of paper and on those sheets there were different questions for each table, relating to how students, parents and teachers can work together to make school a successful, safe and fun place to be.

We rotated through several topics and then shared what we had discussed with the entire group. A lot of great ideas were shared and we were able to also let kids from other schools know what we do at Killara to give kids a say in what goes on.

On the way back to Sunbury we were talking about the experience we had just had and most of us wanted to do it again! We are particularly excited to work together to implement some of the ideas that were mentioned at the workshop.

Thank you to Karen and Linda who went with us and to the Kidsmatter representatives who were willing to listen to what we had to say. – By Tahlia W

COMMUNITY NEWS

HUME LIBRARIES AUTHOR VISITS
Join in the fun with Andy Griffiths, one of Australia’s most popular children’s writers, with more than 20 bestselling books, including the JUST! and BAD book series. (For children aged 7+)

Saturday 7 June 2014, 2–3pm
Craigieburn Library,
75–95 Central Park Ave,
Craigieburn
Bookings essential: Tel (03) 9356 6980
For more information visit www.humlibraries.vic.gov.au

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