



JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Term 1 Week 3
February 2025

"Books are a uniquely portable magic."
Stephen King

NEW RULE REGARDING TOYS AND SPORTING EQUIPMENT AT SCHOOL

We have recently introduced a new rule regarding toys and sporting equipment being brought to school. Due to a few incidents arising from these items, we kindly ask that students **no longer bring personal toys or sporting equipment** from home. We are fortunate to have an abundance of **sports equipment** available in our sports shed for use during playtimes, and we encourage all students to make the most of these resources. This ensures everyone has access to safe, shared equipment and helps keep playtimes enjoyable for all.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe and fun environment for all our students. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation!

A HUGE SHOUT-OUT TO OUR AMAZING JUNIOR SCHOOL STUDENTS!

I just wanted to give a *huge shout-out* to our incredible junior school students who greet me with such enthusiasm and positivity every morning at the front gate. Your bright smiles, cheerful "Good Mornings," and friendly waves truly set the tone for the day and exemplify what it means to show **respect** and **pride** in our school. It's your kindness and energy that make our school a welcoming place for everyone, and I couldn't be more proud of each and every one of you. Keep it up — your positive attitude makes a difference and brightens everyone's day! Thank you for being such fantastic role models! 🌟🚲

SAFETY COMES FIRST

A friendly reminder to please drive safely and responsibly when using the school car park and the area in front of the school. We ask that you be extra cautious and mindful of pedestrians, including our students and families crossing the road.

For everyone's safety, please:

- Slow down and stay alert for people crossing.
- Be patient, especially during busy drop-off and pick-up times.
- Give right of way to pedestrians at all times.

By working together and being patient, we can ensure that everyone stays safe. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to keeping our school community safe!

PUPIL FREE DAY: Friday 7th March

2025 PUPIL FREE DATES	
7 MARCH	Term 1 Pupil Free day
6 JUNE	Term 2 Pupil Free day
4 SEPTEMBER	Term 3 Pupil Free day
8 SEPTEMBER	Term 3 School Closure
17 NOVEMBER	Term 4 Pupil Free day

Kind Regards,
Julie Stockdale- Head of Junior School
Julie.stockdale908@schools.sa.edu.au

DIARY DATES

WEEK 4

Monday 17th Feb

PHOTO CATCH UP

WEEK 5

Monday 24th Feb

GOVERNING COUNCIL

Thursday 27th Feb

ASSEMBLY 1.30pm
in the Pavilion
(all welcome)

WEEK 6

Monday 3rd March

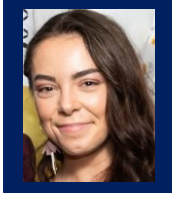
CLEAN UP SCHOOL DAY

Friday 7th March

PUPIL FREE DAY



MEET THE STAFF



Jackie Zachoryj

Hi everyone, my name is Jacqueline Zachoryj and I am one of the Reception teachers this year.

2025, will be my third full year working at Gawler and District College B-12, and each year I have taught within the Reception/ Year 1 space.

I love supporting our littlest school members to create a foundation of knowledge and a love of learning which will set them up for their education journey. Watching their successes and growth across their first year of school is incredibly rewarding.

In my spare time, I love being outdoors with my family, friends and pets. I spend most of my time in the garden, growing flowers and fruit trees.

JUNIOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Julie Stockdale

Head of Junior School R-6

Julie.stockdale908@schools.sa.edu.au

Michaela Selway

Acting Assistant Head of Junior School, Learning Support Leader & AIT

Skye Miller

Wellbeing Leader & AET

Welcome to Our 2025 Receptions!

A big warm welcome to our wonderful Reception classes of 2025! It's been an exciting start to the year, and we couldn't be more proud of how quickly our new students have settled into school. With bright, smiling faces and a love for their new routines, they're already making great memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Our Reception students had the honour of being featured in the local *Bunyip* newspaper, capturing their first moments of school life for the community to see. It's a true joy to watch them blossom in this new chapter of their education.

We are fortunate to have an amazing team of teachers guiding these young learners. A special shout-out to Miss Zachoryj, Ms. Coomber, Mrs. Burne, and Mr. Singh for their dedication, care, and enthusiasm in helping our Receptions feel right at home. Their support and encouragement are helping to foster a love of learning in every student.

Here's to an exciting year ahead filled with growth, fun, and friendship! We're so excited to watch our 2025 Receptions thrive in their first year at school! 🌟 🐣



WIRRA TEAM BUILDING CHALLENGE

On Thursday, we gathered in our Kuma Houses for a fun team-building challenge: building a house out of Lego! The activity was a great opportunity to strengthen our **collaboration** and **teamwork**. Each team worked together to create their best house, contributing ideas, skills, and creativity along the way.

This challenge wasn't just about building a structure; it was about learning to communicate and support one another to achieve the best results. A big thanks to everyone for their effort and teamwork — we're looking forward to more challenges ahead!

Well done **WIRRA**.



MEET THE STAFF

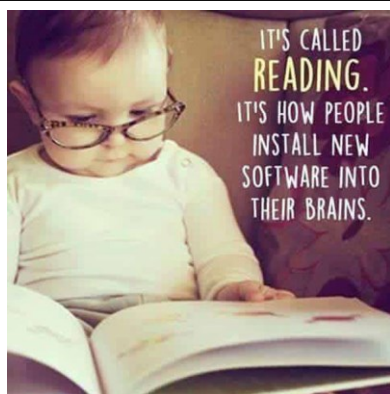


Ella Field-Dowding

Hi, I'm Ella and I'm an SSO in the Junior School. I have been with Gawler and District College since earlier last year and I have loved and enjoyed every moment. This is my first time being an SSO but everyone in the GDC team is very welcoming and helpful.

Last year I came back from a charity tour to Cambodia called Cows for Cambodia, which is an organisation that helps those who are less fortunate. We gave out over 200 bags of rice, fed over 400 school children dinner and much more.

In my spare time I love going to the beach, spending time with friends and family and going to the gym. I look forward to seeing the children and their smiling faces every day.



GIDDY UP FRIDAY !!



We're thrilled to announce a brand-new Friday Lunchtime Club, led by the ever-enthusiastic Ms. M, that's sure to bring joy and excitement to all our students: the *Hobby Horse Club*! If you're curious about what a hobby horse is, it's a toy horse that children can ride, typically made up of a plush horse head mounted on a wooden pole. It's like pretending to ride a real horse, but in the comfort of our school playground!

Hobby horses have been around for centuries, and they are not just toys — they are a way for kids to use their imaginations, pretend to be horseback riders, and even take part in fun competitions. Hobby horing can be seen as a mix of sport, hobby, and play. While you may think of it as a simple game, it actually has a growing global following, especially in places like Finland, where hobby horse riding has become a recognized sport. Riders participate in challenges, jumping over obstacles with their hobby horses, much like in equestrian competitions, and are judged on their performance, style, and grace.

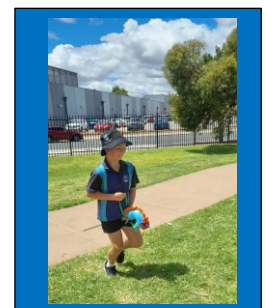
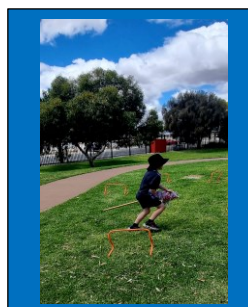
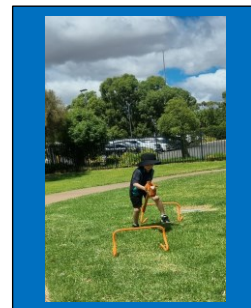
At the Hobby Horse Club, students will not only get to practice their riding skills but also learn about the history and culture behind this fascinating pastime. You might even be surprised to find out that hobby horing has been a part of celebrations and festivals worldwide, from parades in Spain to May Day festivities in the UK.

Ms. M will guide participants through fun, creative activities that include learning about the elegance of riding and developing their own hobby horse "style." We'll focus on important skills such as rhythm, balance, and even creating a hobby horse costume! There will also be opportunities to compete in friendly, informal riding challenges, where students will be judged based on how well they navigate a course with their hobby horse.

So, for our students who have dreamt of being a horseback rider or just want to try something new and exciting, they can join in on Fridays at lunchtime. We have collected a few hobby horses, all ready to gallop into a world of fun!

[We are in search of more hobby horses to increase our herd, so if you or you know of someone who has a horse to share with us- we'd be very grateful.](#)

We can't wait to see the Hobby Horse Club — *let's saddle up and have some fun!*



The Importance of Regular Home Reading: Celebrating Our First Winners for Term 1!

At our school, we believe that developing strong reading habits is key to building confident, lifelong learners. One of the most effective ways to support your child's learning journey is through **regular home reading**. Reading at home not only helps to reinforce what students are learning in the classroom but also opens up a world of possibilities for personal growth, imagination, and creativity.

Why is Home Reading Important?

Reading regularly at home plays a crucial role in helping children:

Improve Literacy Skills: The more children read, the more they expand their vocabulary, understanding of sentence structure, and overall reading fluency. These skills lay a strong foundation for academic success in all subjects, not just English.

Enhance Comprehension: By reading at home, children can practice understanding the stories, asking questions, and discussing what they've read. This helps build critical thinking skills that are important for problem-solving in school and beyond.

Develop a Lifelong Love of Reading: The more children read, the more they develop a passion for books. Regular home reading helps children discover genres and authors they enjoy, turning reading into a fun and engaging hobby.

Boost Confidence: As children improve their reading skills, they become more confident in their abilities. This confidence extends into the classroom, where they are more likely to participate and share their thoughts during lessons.

Strengthen Parent-Child Bonding: Reading together at home gives parents and caregivers a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with their children. Whether it's reading aloud or discussing a book, it fosters a strong, supportive relationship and helps children feel safe and encouraged in their learning.

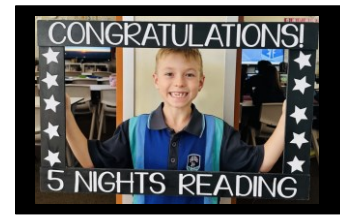
Celebrating Our First Home Reading Winners for Term 1, 2025!

We are thrilled to announce the **first Home Reading winners** of 2025! These students have demonstrated excellent dedication to reading at home, and their commitment to learning deserves to be celebrated.

These students have gone above and beyond in making reading a part of their daily routine, showing us all the benefits of staying committed to reading regularly.

Let's all be inspired by these students' enthusiasm and make home reading a regular part of our daily routines! Remember, the more we read, the more we grow!

Keep up the great work, and here's to many more reading milestones in Term 1! 📖 ✨

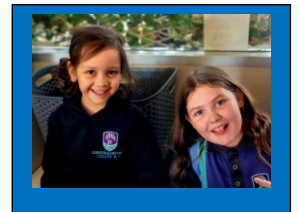




🌟 Week 1 of Kuma Connection Was a Blast!

What an amazing start to Kuma Connection! Week 1 was filled with fun as we had the chance to meet our awesome buddy classes and spend some quality time with our older/younger buddies. Whether it was sharing stories, playing games, or just having a chat, it was truly special to see the connections being made. 🤝

We're so excited for more fun and bonding in the weeks to come. Can't wait to see where this journey takes us! Let the connection continue! 🔄



🌟 Exciting News for Our Junior School! 🌍

We are thrilled to announce that thanks to the incredible support from our school community and the funds raised at our recent disco fundraisers, we now have a brand new set of **soccer goals** for our students!

These new goals will provide even more fun and opportunities for our young athletes to enjoy during playtime and sports activities. It's fantastic to see the kids out there having a blast, scoring goals, and staying active!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped raise funds — your generosity is making a big difference. Let's keep the momentum going!



Year 6 uniform

We are very excited to wear our Year 6 tops! As leaders of the Junior School, we strive to demonstrate respect, excellence, and generosity. We can't believe it's already our final year!



Buddies

This year, we are thrilled to be working with our Year 1/2 buddies in Mrs. Mon's class. We can't wait to mentor and inspire the next generation of learners,



Mindfulness

Wednesday

Guided meditation is when a narrator leads individuals through a meditation experience, offering verbal instructions and prompts for relaxation, focus, and mindfulness.



Mindfulness

After each lunch break, we engage in mindfulness practice—an essential routine that helps sharpen our focus, reduce stress, enhance self-awareness, and build resilience.

In the classroom

This year we are looking forward to

Year 6 camp	Swimming
Sports Day	Wellbeing Day
S.A.P.S.A.S.A	Book Week
Graduation	Excursions
Walk and Talk	Buddies

In the classroom

We love being in Room 4.10! We are excited to explore new learning opportunities and work hard to meet the success, stretch, and challenge criteria of our Learning Intentions.

