School Website
If you have not done so already please head to our website. It has recently been updated with all lots of 2016 information. It is a valuable resource for all of our families to find out what is happening at school and how things work at WCS! For primary specific information, click on the ‘Primary School’ tab at the top.  

Scripture
Our weekly scripture classes will begin again on Tuesday. This year we have Catholic scripture classes also available. If you listed your child’s religion as Catholic on their enrolment forms and you gave permission for them to attend scripture classes, they will now be attending Catholic scripture lessons. Other students previously attending scripture will continue with the non-denominational scripture classes using Anglican resources as before. Students who have previously attended non-scripture will continue to do so. Students who attend non-scripture engage in non-curriculum based activities such as reading in order to follow the DoE guidelines. You can change your child’s scripture preference at anytime by requesting the change in writing. This can just be a simple note to the teacher.

Ethics Classes
Ethics classes are now available in NSW public primary schools as an option for children who do not attend Special Religious Education (SRE) / Scripture. The NSW government has authorised the charity, Primary Ethics, to create curriculum and deliver these classes. Curriculum is available for children from Years K-6.

Classes are inquiry-based where children use dialogue and discussion to learn how to think about ethical matters through the give-and-take of reasoned argument. Trained and vetted volunteer Ethics Teachers lead discussions.

We DO NOT currently have ethics classes at our school. To enable classes to commence at Wadalba Community School we require volunteer Ethics Teachers. Ethics Teachers must attend two days of training through Primary Ethics and commit to teaching their weekly ethics class for a minimum of one year. You do not need to be teacher trained, just be willing to commit to the training and weekly lessons. We will commence ethics classes at Wadalba if there is enough demand and suitable volunteers.

Schools in the Wyong Shire that currently offer ethics classes are: Bateau Bay PS, Budgewoi PS, Jilliiby PS, Kanwal PS, Killarney Vale PS, Tuggerah PS, Warnervale PS and Woongarrah PS.

If you would like more information, please visit the website at www.primaryethics.com.au or contact the Primary Ethics Regional Manager, Julie Bell, on 0415697109 or wyong-region@primaryethics.com.au.
Parent Information Night

Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on the afternoon and evening of **Tuesday 1st March**. We use an online booking system where you can see the available appointment times for each teacher and select a time that suits you. Timeslots are 10 minutes each and range from 2:40-6:30pm. Go to: [http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and use the event code: **S5Q6T**

You will be emailed a confirmation once the booking is complete. Bookings close on **Monday 29th Feb.** On the day, ensure you arrive prior to your interview time to assist with the smooth running of the event.

If you are unable to make it on this night and still wish to have an interview, please contact your child’s teacher directly to arrange another time either in person or over the phone. You can do this by sending a note with your child or contacting the office to leave a message.

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Swimming Carnival

This will be held on **Thursday, 18th February** for all students in Years 3 – 6 and for any student in Year 2 who is turning eight this year and can competently swim 50 metres. Here are a few notes about the running of the day:

- Parents are welcome to come as spectators and sit with their child in the stands.
- The carnival starts around 9am and will be finished by 2pm in order for students to travel home from school as normal.
- Students can wear their swimmers to school as well as their house colours.
- Please put sunscreen on your child before school as well as pack sunscreen for them to reapply during the day.
- Please send a towel, food and drinks for the day and goggles if preferred.
- Students can bring money to spend at the kiosk if desired.
- Swim caps are available all week from the canteen and will also be available for purchase on the day for $8.
Our Schools, Our Story
NSW public education has undergone significant reform over the past four years and we will continue this transformation at all levels of our school system to benefit every student.

The NSW Department of Education have produced a short video, Our schools, our story, that you can watch here.

Our priorities are to continually improve results for all students by raising teacher quality with a future-focused approach to learning. We concentrate on school excellence and innovation and ensure that our school leaders are supported to succeed in their roles.

Community Board:
Stuck for lunchbox ideas? Want some new ideas on how to get your kids to eat healthier food?

Healthy Kids is a government website with plenty of kid friendly recipes, ‘Lunchbox Lifesavers’, easy snacks and other parent tips that could be just what you are looking for!


Homework
Homework has commenced this week for all students. Homework includes:
- Home Reading
- Spelling (sight words in Kinder)
- Maths mentals
- Study skills (Yrs 5 & 6)

Homework is due back on Fridays. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to your child’s teacher.

Canteen
Our canteen is currently open:
- Mon- recess & lunch
- Tues- recess & lunch
- Wed- recess
- Thurs- recess
- Fri- recess & lunch

If you are able to assist in the canteen, please contact the canteen through our office.

If you need another copy of the Primary School menu please visit our website at:

Our Road Safety Focus for Term One is PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Help your child to STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, THINK anytime they must cross a road - STOP one step away from the kerb, LOOK both ways, LISTEN for any cars, and THINK about the safest time to cross.
Sydney Rooster Visit
Today at Wadalba Community School we were lucky enough to meet two of the SYDNEY ROOSTER players! I was so excited! They were handing out gifts. Then we got to look at all the tries that they have scored. The Roosters taught us that hydration, sleep and belonging lead to a nice healthy life. Some people are going to Morrie Breen oval tonight to watch them train and get their autograph.
Delano 4/5G

On Friday after recess we got to learn things about the Sydney Roosters. They told us the most important things of footy are hydration, sleep and belonging. We also learnt that the most important meal of the day is breakfast. We got to do a quiz. They asked me how many minutes were in a game of footy. I answered 80 minutes and won a cooler bag. The only problem is that I go for the Parramatta Eels!
Alannah 4/5G
Introducing KC!

Abby      Albie      Alexander      Ashton      Ava
Risha     Rishika    Jai           Lachlan     Kaiden
Jackson   Merekai    Sachin        Zoe         Mia
Beau      Brianna    Brodie        Casey       Gabby

We started our school journey on the 1st February 2016 with excitement, nerves and anticipation as to what it would be like at 'big school'. We are delighted to share that our time already at Wadalba has been a blast! We have made new friends, tried new and exciting activities, laughed, danced and practised many new routines. We start school with a smile and finish each day eager for the next. We have already set goals with Mrs Calverley including learning to read, write sentences and to dance every day!
Many people *confuse conflict with bullying* and it is important to make a distinction between them and to teach this to our children. Conflict and disagreement are a normal part of life. We often don’t see eye to eye with others over many and varied things. Learning how to resolve conflict in an effective way is a skill that can be taught and learned by families and schools.

**Conflict is normal**

Conflict is a normal part of children’s lives. Having different needs or wants, or wanting the same thing when only one is available, can easily lead children into conflict with one another. “She won’t let me play,” “He took my …”, “Tom’s being mean!” are complaints that parents, carers and school staff often hear when children get into conflict and are unable to resolve it. Common ways that children respond to conflict include arguing and physical aggression, as well as more passive responses such as backing off and avoiding one another.

When conflict is poorly managed it can have a negative impact on children’s relationships, on their self-esteem and on their learning. However, teaching children the skills for resolving conflict can help significantly. By learning to manage conflict effectively, children’s skills for getting along with others can be improved. Children are much happier, have better friendships and are better learners at school when they know how to manage conflict well.

**Different ways of responding to conflict**

Since children have different needs and preferences, experiencing conflict with others is unavoidable. Many children (and adults) think of conflict as a competition that can only be decided by having a winner and a loser. The problem with thinking about conflict in this way is that it promotes win-lose behaviour: children who want to win try to dominate the other person; children who think they can’t win try to avoid the conflict. This does not result in effective conflict resolution.

**Win-some lose-some:**
Compromising means that no-one wins or loses outright. Each person gets some of what they want and also gives up some of what they want.

**Win-win:**
Using a win-win approach means finding out more about the problem and looking together for creative solutions so that everyone can get what they want.

**Key points for helping children resolve conflict**

The ways that adults respond to children’s conflicts have powerful effects on their behaviour and skill development. Until they have developed their own skills for managing conflict effectively most children will need very specific adult guidance to help them reach a good resolution. Parents, carers and teaching staff can help children in sorting out conflict together, by seeing conflict as a shared problem that can be solved by understanding both points of view and finding a solution that everyone is happy with.

To read more of this article, go to: https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/mental-health-matters/social-and-emotional-learning/resolving-conflict

**What is bullying?**

Bullying involves deliberately and repeatedly attempting to hurt, scare or exclude someone. It can include hitting, pushing, name calling, or taking someone’s belongings.

Bullying can also be more indirect, for example, deliberately leaving someone out of games, spreading rumours about them, or sending them nasty messages.
Cyber-bullying involves using mobile phones and the internet to bully others. The main purpose of the bullying is to have power over someone else. Bullying is a mental health concern because it causes distress and can lead to loneliness, anxiety and depression. Bullying can also affect children's concentration and lower their achievement at school.

When children have been bullied they may:

- not want to go to school
- be unusually quiet or secretive
- not have friends
- seem over-sensitive or weepy
- have angry outbursts.

You may notice that their property has been damaged or is missing.

**Responding to bullying**

It is very important to let children know that bullying is not okay and that they should report it when it does occur. Schools set standards for appropriate behaviour and safety. They also have guidelines for reporting and responding to bullying when it occurs. The consequences for bullying should address what has happened and help to ensure it will not happen again.

It is very important for the bully to understand how his or her behaviour has affected the other person and to be clear not to repeat that behaviour. To help prevent bullying, children can be taught how to be respectful and caring towards others. Children who bully may appear confident but often lack skills for building positive friendships.

Learning to be more assertive can help those who are bullied to stand up for themselves. Learning the skills of assertiveness can also help those who bully find ways to communicate their wants, needs and opinions without becoming aggressive. Both those who are bullied, and those who do the bullying, will benefit from learning effective social and emotional skills.

**How parents and carers can help**

If your child is being bullied:

- listen and provide support to your child
- try to understand what has been happening, how often and how long
- encourage social skills, like being assertive, telling the bully to stop and seeking help
- support your child to think through different ways they could deal with the problem
- talk with your child's teacher and ask for help
- keep talking with the school until your child feels safe.

To read more of this article, go to: https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/mental-health-matters/bullying

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**Are you concerned?**

Arrange a time to speak to your child’s teacher.

*The Assistant Principal may also be involved in the meeting.*

Set a positive plan in place with the teacher and your child and follow through.

*Stay in contact with school as arranged.*

Seek out the positive parts of your child’s day to help them bounce back.