To assist your child in developing positive attitudes towards school and learning, it is important to develop punctual attendance habits. Our school day commences at 8:45am and concludes at 2:45pm. Our first session each morning is our literacy block where students are developing their reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation skills. If your child needs to leave the school early there is a form to be completed at the office.

Below is the Queensland Government’s policy for regular school attendance.

**Regular school attendance**

Parents and caregivers must send children to school every school day under Queensland law unless there is an acceptable reason such as:

- Illness
- Doing work experience
- Competing in school sporting events

If your child is going to be absent from school, you must let the school know why the absence has occurred within two school days of their return. If possible, it is best to advise the school beforehand. Avoid keeping your child away from school for reasons such as:

- Birthdays
- Shopping
- Visiting family and friends
- If they sleep in
- Looking after other children
- Minor check-ups or care, such as haircuts

Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays. Establishing good routines around school can assist with regular school attendance. These include:

- Have a set time to go to bed
- Have a set time to get out of bed
- Have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- Have a set time for starting and finishing breakfast
- Set a time for daily homework activities
- Speak about school positively
- Send your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of each term throughout their schooling years.

If you are experiencing difficulty in sending your child to school, contact the school principal for advice and support.
Our school target for all primary students’ attendance in 2014 is 95% daily attendance rate. Our year to date attendance rate is 96%. Keep up the good work. As I have mentioned previously, regular attendance at school will result in improved learning outcomes for all students.

Putting it simply –

It’s as simple as A B C  A = Attendance, B = Behaviour and C = Curriculum

Have these 3 things in order and student performance will improve.

**SUPPORTING BEGINNING READERS**

Five steps in the procedure for supporting beginning readers

**STEP 1: Introducing the book**

- Ask your child to choose from a range of books.
- Discuss the subject matter and illustrations.
- Talk about the cover.
- Go through the book, discussing the illustrations and predicting the storyline or information.

If possible, link the vents or information to your child’s experiences.

**STEP 2: The first reading**

- Read the book to your child.
- Confirm or reject predictions made in the first step.

Share responses together after the reading is completed.

**STEP 3: The second reading**

- Read together.
- Allow your child to ‘take off’ on their own.

Begin to hand control of the reading to your child. When your child is reading along confidently, begin leaving out the words that can be easily predicted.

**STEP 4: Supported reading**

- Support your child’s attempts to read independently.
- Become a listener.
- Wait and observe.

Give cues and support your child’s use of strategies

**STEP 5: Revisiting a familiar text**

- Ask your child to choose from a range of books previously read.

Support your child to read independently, if necessary.

READ TOGETHER EVERY DAY AND ENJOY YOUR TIME TOGETHER!
**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - READY READERS WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS**

As reading is one of our key priorities for 2014, I would like to organise a professional development workshop called ‘Ready Readers’ for parents of our school. This will develop your skills in listening to your own child/ren read with the hope that some parents will also be available to volunteer to listen to our students read at school. I would like to encourage you to register your expression of interest as I need sufficient numbers for a presenter to come and deliver the workshop.

**RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR PLAN FOR STUDENTS**

Our responsible behaviour plan for students outlines the expected behaviours for students in our school. As part of our plan, we have a behaviour matrix which explicitly details how our four rules apply to various situations within our school. These behaviours are discussed within the classroom each week. Our focus for this week is ‘Be Respectful in the Classroom’ by using your manners at all times.

**SWIMMING**

A reminder that this Friday is the last swimming lesson for this year.

**IPAD COMPETITION**

Help us win a set of 10 iPads –

Students and parents can help our school win a set of 10 iPads by collecting daily tokens from the Mackay Daily Mercury. Students can bring their tokens in on a daily basis to the school up until the final bell on Monday 31 March when the promotion ends.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14th March</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd April</td>
<td>Cross Country Run, Carmila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th April</td>
<td>Last day of term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22nd April</td>
<td>Term 2 commences</td>
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<tr>
<td>25th April</td>
<td>Anzac Day</td>
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**SCHOOL BUS ASSISTANCE FOR LOWER INCOME FAMILIES**

The Safety Net Scheme was developed by the State Government to assist students who do not receive other forms of School Transport Assistance and are members of lower income families.

**WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE?**

To be eligible for assistance under the safety Net Scheme, students must be in one of the following categories:

- Students of families eligible for a Health Care Card;
- Students eligible for a Health Care Card
- Students of families eligible for a Pensioner Concession Card;
- Students of families receiving Veterans Affairs Pension; or
- Students placed under a Care and Protection Order.

Application forms with further details are available by calling into the Translink Division of the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Nelson Street, Mackay or by telephoning 49 518673.
CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE ASSISTANCE

Conveyance Allowance is an assistance provided by the Department of Transport and Main Roads to eligible parents/guardians who drive their students to school or to the route of a school bus.

There are several types of Conveyance Allowance available. These are determined by the type of school attended, distance driven to school or bus route and the type of school bus service (if any) provided in the area.

Application forms with further details are available by calling into the Translink Division of the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Nelson Street, Mackay or telephoning 49 51 8673.