



AVONDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER #20 Friday December 19, 2025

VISION STATEMENT: Avondale Primary School; a community that strives for excellence through high quality learning, engagement and wellbeing for all.

VALUES: Learning, Respect, Responsibility

Avondale Primary School is a Child Safe School. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and have zero tolerance for child abuse.

Acknowledgement of Country



IMPORTANT DATES

TERM 1 2026

Monday 22 December – Tuesday 23 December	Team Kids Vacation Care Program is available
Monday 5 January 2026 - Wednesday 28 January 2026	Team Kids Vacation Care Program is available
Thursday 29 January 2026	First day for Foundation – Grade 6 students

Hello to our Avondale community,

What a fabulous night our Grade 6, 2025 Graduates, families, School Council members and staff had at our Graduation evening. Our students made us all so very proud as they inspired us with their Foundation to Grade 6 journey, encouraging us to reflect alongside them and marvel at their range of achievements.

Our step up day yesterday saw a combination of nerves and excitement as our students met their teachers and education support staff in 2026 classrooms. Letters were sent home with students sharing this information with families. We are excited to share with you our staff structures for 2026.

Leadership/School Improvement Team

Principal	Jill Benham	
Assistant Principal	Jenna Heywood	
Learning Specialist	Frances Ferraro	Leading Disability and Inclusion
Learning Specialist	Sarah Carroll (M, W, F)	Leading Curriculum and Pedagogy
Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader	Teriann Bryers	Leading Mental Health and Wellbeing

2026 Avondale Primary School Teaching Staff

Grade	Teacher	Room
Foundation A	Mel Carroll (M, F) Tara Glanfield (Tu, W, Th)	Learning Community 2 – Room 2
Foundation B	Jessica Kinniburgh – PLC Leader	Learning Community 2 – Room 3
Foundation C	Emily Markham	Learning Community 2 – Room 4
1A	Leisha Watson (M, Tu, Th, F) Teriann Bryers (W)	Learning Community 1– Room 7
1B	Natalie Lo Grasso - PLC Leader	Learning Community 1– Room 8
1C	David Boston	Learning Community 1– Room 9

2A	Sarah Pace	Learning Community 4 – Room 15
2B	Kate Nicolaou - <i>PLC Leader</i>	Learning Community 4 – Room 14
2C	Maria Roach	Learning Community 4 – Room 7a
3/4A	Chris Stewart	Learning Community 4 - Room 9
3/4B	Olympia Christodoulides - <i>PLC Leader</i>	Learning Community 4 - Room 10
3/4C	Sarah Chaouk (M, F) Elle Kimpton (Tu, W, Th)	Learning Community 4 - Room 11
3/4D	Ebony Matthews	Learning Community 4, Room 18b
3/4E	Drew Gordon	Learning Community 4, Room 18a
5/6A	Dean Barkell	Learning Community 1– Room 10
5/6B	Jennifer Tombs	Learning Community 1– Room 11
5/6C	Bettina Handley - <i>PLC Leader</i>	Learning Community 1– Room 12
5/6D	Rohini Brown (M, T, W, Th) Frances Ferraro (F)	Learning Community 1 – Room 6
5/6E	Patrick Calleja	Learning Community 1 – Room 5
LOTE - AUSLAN	Kendall Lumby - <i>PLC Leader</i>	Learning Community 4 – Room 12A
Science	Billie Jean Fitcher (M, T) Krystal Dion (W, Th, F)	Learning Community 4 – Room 17
Physical Education	Tricia Devine	
Visual Arts	Michelle Portelli (M, Tu, W)	Learning Community 2 – Art Room
Performing Arts	Sharon Craggill (W, Th, F)	Performing Arts Portable
Intervention	Billie Jean Fitcher (W, F)	Learning Community 1 – Room 1
Intervention	Amy Lane (W, Th, F) (Tu alternate weeks)	Learning Community 1 – Room 1

Education Support Staff - Classroom Team

Alicia Cholakovski, Christina Bonnici, Christine Cacchione, Evangelin Nevin, Frances Cacopardo, Jenny Cutri, Melissa Lawry, Narelle Sharman, Riley Pinneri, Sam Volling, Sandra Gulmen, Seth Catania, Shania Trimboli, Silvana Fedele, Stefan Vrabec and Talia Guzzi

Educational Support - Administration Team

Naomi Reeves (Business Manager)

Sharon Di Pastena (Administration and Library)

Dianne Cunningham (Canteen Manager)

George Paporakis (IT Technician)

Peter Kaye (Maintenance Manager)

Congratulations to our Grade 5/6 Girls Basketball Team who won the AVDSSA competition. They were super excited to receive this plaque, which is proudly displayed in the front foyer of our administration building.



Maintenance works continue throughout the school holidays, with a focus on Learning Community 3 and 4 roof restoration. To ensure everyone’s safety and the timely completion of works, it is important that school and neighbouring community members are not on the school grounds during these works. The Team Kids Vacation care program will not be impacted by these works.

We look forward to continuing to build our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Learning as we work together to accomplish great things together in 2026. We thank each of you—students, staff, and families—for making this year one of growth, engagement and success. May your holidays be restful and full of happiness and may the new year bring fresh opportunities and continued achievement.



Avondale PS School Improvement Team
Jill, Jenna, Sarah, Teriann and Frances

2026 TERM DATES & CURRICULUM DAYS

Term 1 2026	Wednesday 28 January -Thursday 2 April Curriculum Day: Wednesday 28 January ALL students start school Thursday 29 January
Term 2 2026	Monday 20 April - Friday 26 June Student Free Day: Friday 22 May
Term 3 2026	Monday 13 July - Friday 18 September Student Free Day: Wednesday 19 August
Term 4 2026	Monday 5 October - Friday 18 December Student Free Day: Monday 2 November