



Texas P-10
State School

Texas Telegraph

Week 2, Term 1 2026



Diary Dates

TERM 1:

Thursday 5 February
Scholastic Book Club orders due

Friday 6 February
Year 3-10 Swimming Carnival
No tuckshop

Wednesday 25 February
P&C Meeting

Tuesday 3 March
Year 10 immunisations

Wednesday 1 April
Cross Country

Thursday 2 April
Last day of Term 1

Friday 3 April
Good Friday Public Holiday

TERM 2:

Monday 20 April
First day of Term 2

Saturday 25 April
Anzac Day Public Holiday

Monday 4 May
Labour Day Public Holiday

Wednesday 20 May
Prep Carbal Hearing

Tuesday 26 May
School Photo Day

Tuesday 14 July
Year 7 and 10 immunisations

TERM 3:

Wednesday 9 September
Year 7 & 10 Immunisations

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Texas P-10 State School

Principal's Report

Welcome to 2026. We are off to a flying start at school. The students have come back to school with great attitudes and have spent the first week seeming to be very content, hot but content. I am looking forward to 2026. I feel it's going to be a very good year.

New Members of our Team

We have several new faces who have joined us in 2026. Miss Leah Eaves is new to the high school teaching staff and will teach Maths and Science. This is Miss Eaves's first teaching position and she is very excited to be at Texas P-10 State School, as we are to have her.

Welcome Miss Eaves. Miss Loader has taken the position of District Relief Teacher in 2026.

I am extremely happy to announce that we will have a Chaplain in 2026. Neolene Heppes, or Chappy Neo as she is known, started work here last Wednesday and immediately started getting to know staff and students. I think Chappy Neo is going to be a very good fit for our school. Welcome Chappy Neo.

In 2026, Speech Language Pathologist Kate Simmons, will be making Texas P-10 State School her base. As well as Texas, Kate will be servicing other nearby schools in Inglewood and Stanthorpe but will base herself here in Texas. Welcome Kate.

We have a new Music teacher in 2026. Mrs Clare McCulloch will teach our instrumental music students online from her base in Millmerran on Mondays and will be in Texas for one face-to-face lesson each term. Welcome Mrs McCulloch.

Finally, Sarah Johnstone has taken up her position in the office on Thursdays and Fridays. Sarah started in her role in 2025 as Mrs Prentice provided a hand-over. Mrs Johnstone is now at the front desk on her own. Welcome Miss Sarah.

Day 8

Each year on Day 8, Queensland schools report student numbers to the department

so that staffing and school funding can be calculated and allocated for the year. We are well prepared for this year's audit and are not expecting there will be any major changes outside of our predictions. Currently it seems likely that our student numbers on Day 8 will be 135.

Swimming Carnival

We are looking forward to the swimming carnival on Friday. We offer an invitation to parents and families to come along and support our swimmers. A BBQ will be available as well as food and drinks from the canteen. I'd also like to remind all that our **swimming carnival is a school day**. It is not a 'day-off' for students. It is expected that ALL students in Years 3-10 will attend the swimming carnival. I hope to see you on Friday.

Cross Country Training

We have begun cross country training each morning. The school Cross Country will take place in Week 10 (Wednesday, 1 April) of this term.

Extreme Heat Conditions

There were some extremely hot conditions in the playground last week with more hot weather expected. We have a plan ready to put in place once the temperature rises above 40 degrees. Cool alternatives to lunchtime play will be provided with supervision.

We have stressed that during these conditions it is vitally important to wear hats, drink lots of water, stay cool and apply sunscreen.

New School Supervisor

I was advised at the start of the year that Ashley Roediger will no longer be our School Supervisor. After a regional realignment, Meghan Rodgers has been allocated Texas as one of her new schools for supervision. We look forward to warmly welcoming Meghan into Texas.



Sean Cole, Principal



📞 **Student Absence Line: (07) 4653 3366** Operates 24 hrs 7 days a week. Please call by 9:30 am on the day of absence, stating your child's name and year level. A reason for the absence must be provided.

1 Flemming Street, Texas QLD 4385

Phone (07) 4653 3333 principal@texasss.eq.edu.au

<https://texasss.eq.edu.au> /Texas P-10 State School



Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible

Head of Department

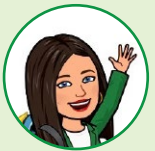
Welcome back to what has been a calm and positive start to the school year. It has been wonderful to see students settle back into routines so smoothly and to feel the strong sense of belonging across our school community.

During the Student Free Days at the beginning of the year, staff participated in a range of professional learning opportunities focused on extending our already high-quality pedagogical practices at Texas. A key focus was a deep dive into the impact of vocabulary on language comprehension and how this understanding will shape the way we plan and teach across learning areas. Teachers also engaged in an initial presentation on DIBELS testing, a new approach to measuring student reading success. DIBELS aligns with the Science of Reading and supports the implementation of the Australian Curriculum Version 9, ensuring our assessment practices are evidence-based and purposeful.

Staff were eager to engage in rich professional conversations, ask thoughtful questions, and reflect on how these learnings will translate into strong classroom practice. This collaborative and enthusiastic approach has set a solid foundation for the year ahead and, most importantly, supports improved learning outcomes for all students.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will continue to operate on Wednesday and Thursday mornings.



Attendance Data

Congratulations to Prep for their strong start to the year with perfect attendance. Outstanding!

Ms Jillian Hazard
Head of Department

Scarborough's Reading Rope

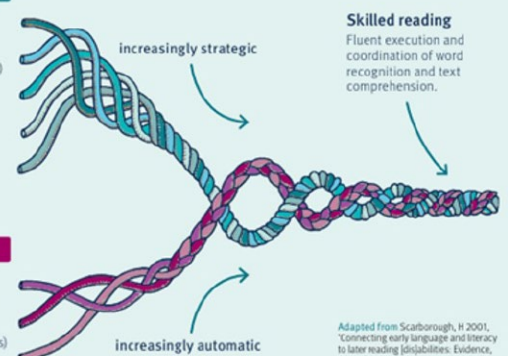
Scarborough's Reading Rope¹¹ confirms and extends the **Simple View of Reading**, identifying language comprehension and word recognition as essential components for skilled reading. It provides an additional scaffold through the rope metaphor, representing the interaction and interconnectedness of the components as students transition from beginning to skilled reader.

Language comprehension

- **Background Knowledge** (facts, concepts, etc.)
- **Vocabulary** (breadth, precision, links, etc.)
- **Language Structures** (syntax, semantics, etc.)
- **Verbal Reasoning** (inference, metaphor, etc.)
- **Literacy Knowledge** (print concepts, genres, etc.)

Word reading

- **Phonological Awareness** (syllables, phonemes, etc.)
- **Decoding** (alphabetic principle, spelling-sound correspondences)
- **Sight Recognition** (of familiar words)



Adapted from Scarborough, H 2001, 'Connecting early language and literacy to later reading (dis)abilities: Evidence, theory and practice' in Neuman, S and Dickinson, D (eds.) Handbook of Early Literacy, Guilford Press, New York.

HIT OUR ATTENDANCE TARGET!

Our 2026 Whole School Attendance Target is 90%



Below 80% Attendance

More than 39 days absent all year.
This is equal to more than 10 days absent each term.



80-89% Attendance

20-38 days absent all year
This is equal to 5 - 9.5 days absent each term.



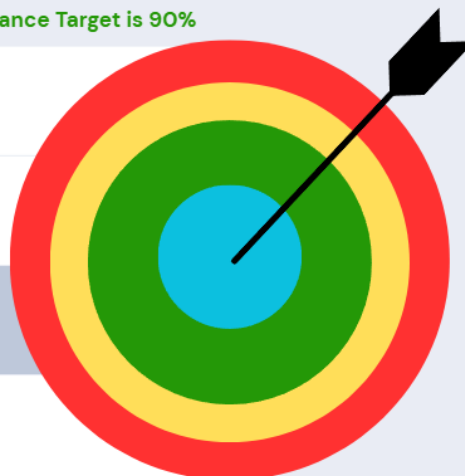
90 - 95% Attendance

11-19 days absent all year
This is equal to 2.75 - 4.75 days absent each term.



Above 95% Attendance








Less than 10 days absent all year.
This equates to no more than 2.5 days of absence each term.



Classes	
Prep	99.04%
Year 1/2	96.43%
Year 3	87.50%
Year 4/5	84.78%
Year 5/6	97.40%
Year 7	96.43%
Year 8	89.84%
Year 9	91.67%
Year 10	87.50%
TOTAL	92.29%



Students of the Week

Term 1 Week 1	Student		Reason
Prep		All Prepafins	For navigating and learning the school and classroom rules. You worked so hard in your first week and I am so proud of you. Keep up your hard work. You are Fintastic!
Year 1		All students	Congratulations to all students for a fantastic start to the year. Thank you for listening well and following instructions correctly.
Year 2		All students	Congratulations to all students for a fantastic start to the year. Thank you for listening well and following instructions correctly.
Year 3		Presley	For having a great attitude to start the year off. You have come back into the classroom engaged and ready to learn.
Year 4/5		All students	Congratulations to all students for a fantastic start to the year. Thank you for listening well and following instructions correctly.
Year 5/6		Scarlett	For showing up with a pep in your step and a smile on your face. You are a committed learner and an excellent friend.
Year 7		Rita	For being a 'stand out' student with a positive attitude for the first week of 2026.

	Student		Reason
Year 8		Jett	For being a 'stand out' student with a positive attitude for the first week of 2026.
Year 9		Blair	For being a 'stand out' student with a positive attitude for the first week of 2026.
Year 10		Nicolas	For being a 'stand out' student with a positive attitude for the first week of 2026.

Expectation of the Week



Scholastic Book Club

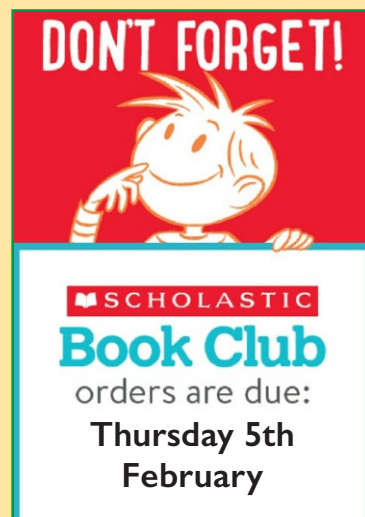
Brochures for the first Scholastic Book Club of the year came home last week. Orders are due to the school office by this **Thursday 5th February**.

Payment may be made by cash dropped into the school office or by credit card (by using the Book Club Loop for Parents – just follow the instructions on the brochure).

Happy browsing!



Mrs Kate Spriggs
Book Club Coordinator



Uniform Change

Our P and C are currently trialling a new school uniform polo shirt. This is in response to family and community feedback that the yellow/gold on the current polo shirt becomes stained often and easily fades.

The new polo shirt details the same colours and patterns however, has more block green than block yellow/gold and is a different blend made up of cotton and polyester.

This trial commenced in Term 4, 2025 and has been extended until the end of Term 2, 2026. This is to allow for a greater trial period where we will continue to assess the wear, fade, staining, comfortability and breathability.

If the trial is successful and a new school polo is implemented, please be assured, the current polo will not become redundant and will continue to be accepted as part of the school uniform. There will be no timeframe or expectation for families to convert to the new polo.

Following implementation, the new polo will be available for families to order in Term 3, 2026 where the school will then cease ordering and stocking the current polo.

If you have any feedback on this change, please do not hesitate to contact the office:

admin@texasss.eq.edu.au

07 4653 3333



Back to School Boost

The Back to School Boost provides a \$100 credit to assist parents with costs associated with school essentials for each primary school student. A \$100 credit has been added to the account of all students enrolled in Prep to Year 6 this year.

Families choose which cost they will use their \$100 for throughout the year. For example, families may apply their 2026 Back to School Boost towards the cost of the Student Resource Scheme (SRS) or, other school related expenses such as excursions, camps, or extra-curricular activities.

Please note that the Back to School Boost cannot be used for reimbursement of purchases made at external stores, nor can it be provided as a cash payment.

Please contact the school administration to discuss how you'd like to use your Back to School Boost.

(See flyer at the end of this newsletter for more information)



Year 3-10 Swimming Carnival

3-10 SWIMMING CARNIVAL

8:30-9:00am - Rolls Marked, Students to find class Teacher and warm up

9:00am Welcome Speech

9:10am - March Past and War Cries

CARNIVAL STARTS

9:20am - 50m Freestyle

9:45am - 100m Freestyle

10:10am - Free Swim

10:35am - 50m Breaststroke

11:00am - 100m Breaststroke

11:20am - Morning Tea

11:40am - 50m Backstroke

12:00pm - 100m Individual medley

12:30pm - 50m Butterfly

12:50pm - Lunch

1:20pm - Relays

1:45pm - Relays (Parents vs Students vs Teachers)

2:00pm - Free Swim

2:20pm - Pack up

2:40pm - Results announced

Technologies

Digital Technology

In Years 3–6, students have dived into the world of data, information systems and computer etiquette. They have learned how to format an email and put it into action, having fun emailing each other and even their teachers like real digital pros!

Design Technology

In Year 7, students got hands-on in the workshop, learning how to cut timber and create rebated joints as they prepared to build their very own sliding-top timber box.

In Year 8, students rolled up their sleeves and practised creating a single box joint as they prepared for this term's project — a personalised serviette holder. They will be designing and creating their own timber napkin weight showcasing their skills.

Year 9/10 students got stuck in, digging deep to create a mortise and tenon joint. After plenty of hard work, they quickly learnt to appreciate the mortise and tenon drill press, which made the job much easier. All of this hands-on effort is preparing them for the commencement of building their very own personalised side tables.

Diane Christidis

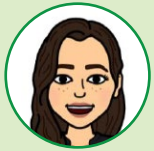


Prep

As most know, I theme my Prep classroom each year. This year we are under the Sea with Miss C as Prepafins!!

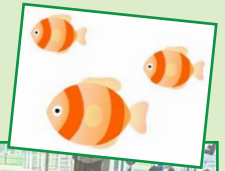
We have had such a fantastic start to our year, I am so proud of each little Prepafin. Week 1 focus has been on navigating the classroom and Prep area as well as learning our school and classroom rules and expectations. Students are already showing kindness, and a willingness to give everything a go – which is something to be very proud of!

A big focus along with routines has been recognising and practicing writing our names. We did a name puzzle, collage with the first letter of our name and a favourite, making our name with playdough.



I am so proud of how well the Prepafins have managed their first week of school. I am super excited to dive into the year and all the learning, growth, and fun we will have together.

Miss Ellea Celotto

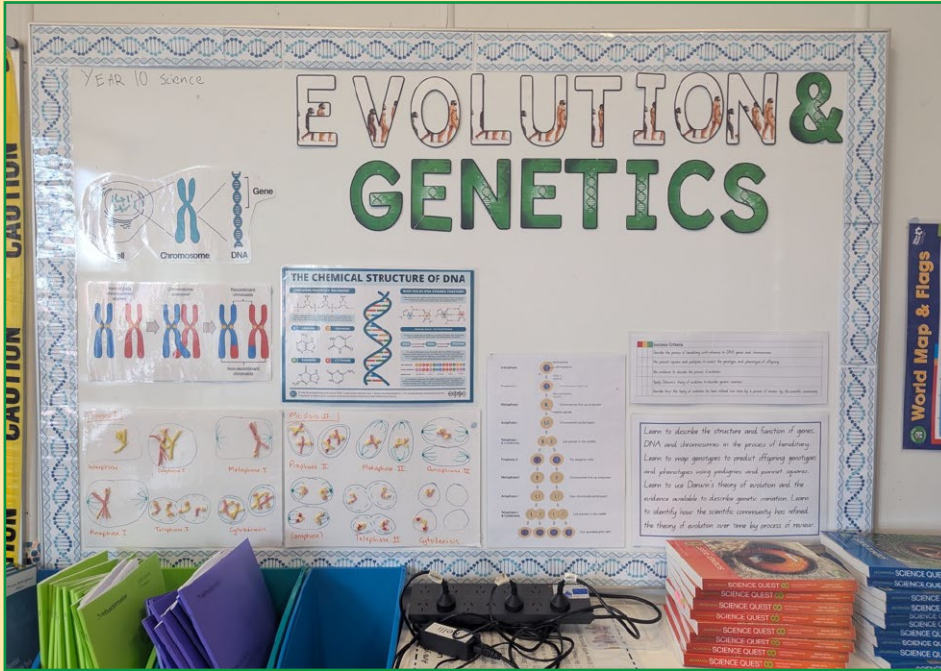


Science/Maths

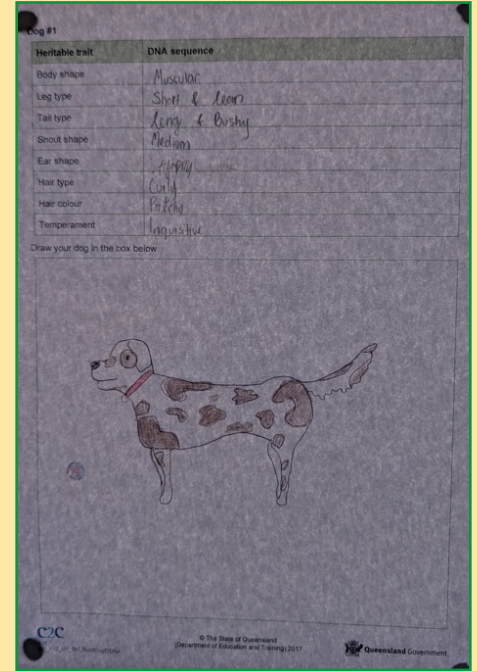
Hi all! My name is Leah Eaves, and I am your new Science/Maths secondary teacher. I am so excited for the opportunity to get to know the students and get active in the community. I love all things outdoors and playing the piano. If you ever need to contact me, please don't hesitate to email me: lreav3@eq.edu.au.

This term, our Year 10 Science students are diving into an exciting unit on Evolution and Genetics, building their understanding of how traits are inherited and how genetics function. Students are learning to explain the processes that underpin heredity and genetic diversity, as well as to describe the evidence supporting the theory of evolution by natural selection.

Leah Eaves



Learning Wall



"Design-a-Dog" Genetics Activity

The Arts

It has been wonderful to welcome students back to school, and they have settled in beautifully. Year 7 students have made a great start by exploring how to draw three-dimensional objects. Our Year 9/10 class has been busy hanging the artwork they created for last year's art exhibition. It has been fantastic to see their creativity on display around the school.

Mrs Byrnes



Back to School Boost

Back to school boost



Information for parents and carers

About the Back to school boost

The Queensland Government is introducing the Back to school boost from 2026, which provides \$100 for every primary school student (Prep to Year 6) to assist families with school-related costs.

Parents and carers can choose how the \$100 can be used towards school-related expenses.

For state school students

A \$100 credit will be applied to the student's school account. Parents and carers can choose to use the credit to reduce the school's Student Resource Scheme (SRS) fees. Or they can use it for school-organised camps, excursions, incursions and extracurricular activities, stationery items purchased from the school, uniforms or excellence programs offered by the school.

For students at non-state schools

The non-state school sector will be responsible for administration of the \$100 Back to school boost, including how it can be applied to reduce school fees or other related school costs.

Not a cash payment

Back to school boost will not be issued as a voucher or given to parents and carers as a cash payment to purchase items outside their child's school.

The funds can only be used to reduce fees or costs that schools charge to parents and carers directly. It cannot be used to reimburse families for items they purchase directly from an external or third-party supplier.

Ways to use the Back to school boost

Parents have the choice on how their \$100 Back to school boost credit is applied.

For state schools that have an SRS, the credit can be applied to reduce the cost of your child's SRS fees.

If parents and carers choose not to apply the \$100 to SRS fees, or a school does not have a SRS, the funds can be applied to the cost of other items or activities offered by the school. For example, school-organised camps, excursions, incursions and extracurricular activities, stationery items purchased from the school, uniforms or excellence programs offered by the school.

Back to School Boost

Evidence of how funds are used

State schools are required to provide full transparency on how the Back to school boost funds have been applied.

Carry-over of unspent funds

Any unspent Back to school boost funds remain on a student's account and will carry over to the next year while a child remains at the same state school.

Outstanding debts from before 2026

A state school cannot use the Back to school boost to offset debts relating to charges for resources used prior to 2026. Debts related to these charges must be managed in accordance with [debt management procedure](#).

Changing schools during the year or graduating Year 6

The \$100 Back to school boost is provided once per year. If a child changes to another Queensland state or non-state school during the year, they will not receive another \$100.

Parents and carers may request a refund of any remaining funds in their child's account when they leave the school or graduate at the end of Year 6.

State schools will advise parents and carers of any remaining funds on a student's account as part of the departure process. Please contact your child's school to request a refund prior to leaving the school.

Non-state schools: decisions regarding refunds for students who leave a non-state school part way through the year, will be made at the discretion of the school. Parents and carers should contact their child's school directly to discuss refund policies and arrangements.

Special schools

All students in primary school (Prep–Year 6) are eligible for the Back to school boost, including children who attend a special school.

Schools of distance education

All students in primary school (Prep–Year 6) are eligible for the Back to school boost, including children who are enrolled in a school of distance education.

Home education

The Back to school boost is available to children enrolled in home education, in line with current Textbook and resource allowance (TRA) arrangements. Home educating parents and carers receive information from the Department of Education (the department) outlining how they can provide payment details to the department to receive their Back to school boost.

Moving to Queensland after Term 1 of a school year

Students who enrol in a Queensland state school for the first time after Term 1 of the school year, will be eligible for a pro-rata credit to be applied to their account on the following basis:

- students joining in Term 2 will be credited \$75
- students joining in Term 3 will be credited \$50
- students joining in Term 4 will be credited \$25.

Living in NSW and attending a Queensland school

All students enrolled at and attending a Queensland state or non-state school are eligible for the \$100 Back to school boost. Eligibility is based on the school's location, not the student's place of residence.

However, if a family resides in Queensland and their child attends a school in another state, including a boarding school, the student will not be eligible for the payment.

Financial support for secondary school students

All students in Years 7–12 enrolled in a state or non-state school in Queensland are eligible for the Textbook and resource allowance (TRA). This is separate to the Back to school boost and will continue for all students in Year 7–12. The 2026 TRA rates per student per year are:

- Year 7–10: \$164
- Year 11–12: \$357.

Further information

Talk to your school if you have any questions.