



Tunable Falls Community School

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117 Upper Tuntable Falls Road Nimbin NSW 2480

21 February 2023, Term 1, Newsletter 2, Next issue due 7 March 2023

Parent Update:

Term one is well underway and already jam-packed with great stuff happening for our kids. Excitement is building for our **whole school camp to Flat Rock, March 1-3**, a wonderful way to kick off the year together. With all the disruptions of the past few years, it's been quite a while since we've had a whole-school camp, and for many of our families, this will be their first camp. I know I'm looking forward to spending time getting to know our school community a little better, while enjoying a few days of 'seaside school'.

A big warm welcome to our new student Oak in Gooarng! Son of Fionn and Laura, and little brother to Iyla.

The committee and staff wish to send **an enormous thank you to Jacintha**, who resigned from the committee, for all the time, love, energy, and knowledge she has put into the running of our school over the past three years. Thanks Jacintha!

It is so lovely to see our school looking so beautiful and bustling with wonderful activities for our children. Please get involved, think of ways you can participate and do your **roster days**.

Many hands make light work, and we all have something valuable to share; in the garden, the kitchen, on the committee, on sports days and excursions, or helping out in the classroom. *Check the teachers' newsletter articles for ideas or have a chat with a committee member or your class teacher about how you can help.* The chalkboard on the outside wall of the kitchen has a list of current jobs to do, so even if it's just an hour or two here and there when you drop off the kids, every little bit helps. *And don't forget to fill in the roster-day book in the office so Adjana can credit your next invoice.*

Have a wonderful fortnight – hope to see you all around the rockpools at Flat Rock.

Elowyn 😊



School Calendar:

- **Term 1 Ends**
Fri, 31 March 2023
- **Term 2 2023 Begins**
Wed, 26 April 2023

School Bell:

- School starts: 9:05
- Recess: 11:00-11:30
Thu: 10:30-11:00
- Lunch: 13:00-13:45
Thu: 12:30-1:15
- School ends: 14:45

Committee Meetings:

Thu, 23 Feb, 3pm
Thu, 2 March, 3pm
(At school, subject to change)

2023 Whole School Camp
1 – 3 March 2023
Flat Rock Camping Ground

NAPLAN

15-27 March 2023

Garden Day

Families welcome.
Wed, 21 March

TERM 1 SPORT: Volleyball

Ruben will be organising sport on Fridays. The nets have been set up and the kids are excited about learning a new sport.

Drink Bottles:

All children are to bring their own drink bottles.

Especially important on Thursdays for CIRCUS.



Birthdays

We would like to congratulate the following students on their birthdays over the summer holidays.
Happy birthday precious possums!



Communication:

Please visit our website for full details on the most recent COVID-19 advice from AIS NSW, issued 14 Oct 2022.
<https://www.tunablefallsschool.nsw.edu.au/covid-safe>

Calendar of Events:

On the school's website:

All events and excursions are added to the calendar of events, available from our website

<https://www.tunablefallsschool.nsw.edu.au/calendar-of-events>

Integrating the school calendar with your existing digital calendar:

Access the Google Calendar to get timely notifications of events and excursions.

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=tunableschool%40gmail.com&ctz=Australia%2FSydney>

In the bottom righthand corner, click to add



Use this link to access the calendar from applications other than Google Calendar.

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/ical/tunableschool%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics>

Absentees:

- It is important to **call the Office by 9:30am** if your child is unable to attend school for any reason.
- If children arrive after 9:05am or are picked up before 2:45pm, parents/carers need to sign the **Late Arrival/Early Pick-Up Register** in the office.
- Please provide a **Doctor's Medical Certificate** to the Office if your child is absent due to illness for five **consecutive days** or more.
- If you are **planning time away from school** during the term, please complete an *Application for Exemption from School* form at the Office.

Committee:

The committee feels strongly about open communication at the school. Please keep our contact details handy and don't hesitate to contact whomever you feel comfortable with.

Committee Member	Position	Phone Number	Email
Blossom Gillard	President	0497 800148	blissbloss@gmail.com
Contact regarding complaints/compliments, TFC liaison, TFC work levies.			
Adjana Flow (Kristoff Brunet de Courssou)	Treasurer	0481 090 348	adjana.tfcs@gmail.com
Contact regarding fees, and social media.			
Bart Bunting	Member	0400 398 603	bart@bunting.net.au
Contact regarding liaising with teachers, and maintenance concerns.			



Learning and Support News

Children may need additional support at home or school for various reasons. Sometimes the support needed may be temporary (e.g., using a checklist to help them pack their bag independently). At other times it may need to be in place for a longer period (e.g., seeing a counsellor to help deal with a significant loss), or permanent (e.g., wearing glasses to read). Throughout the year I will share some information from various sources that I hope will be informative and helpful.

Neurodiversity and neurodivergence: a guide for families

Neurodiversity, neurodivergence and children

Neurodiversity is the idea that there's **natural variation in how people's brains work** and how people experience, understand and interact with the world. This means there are natural differences in the way people learn and communicate.

Most children's brains develop in ways that are seen as typical for their age and stage. These children can be described as **neurotypical**.

About 1 in 5-6 children have variations in their brain development. These variations include those seen in [attention deficit hyperactivity disorder \(ADHD\)](#), [autism](#) and [dyslexia](#). These children can be described as **neurodivergent**.

Embracing neurodiversity

Embracing neurodiversity is about **accepting, including, celebrating and supporting neurodivergent children**. Their differences are part of natural variation and don't need to be treated or changed.

When families and communities embrace neurodiversity, it's **good for neurodivergent children's mental health, wellbeing, sense of self and identity**.

Embracing neurodiversity takes away the pressure for neurodivergent children to behave in neurotypical ways, hide behaviour like stimming, mask or hide who they are, or cope with sensory overstimulation. This kind of pressure can be physically and mentally exhausting. And it can make it hard for children to focus on schoolwork and take part in social activities.

Embracing neurodiversity involves:

- acknowledging that neurodivergent children might do things differently from neurotypical children
- adjusting tasks and activities so that neurodivergent children can fully participate
- making the most of neurodivergent children's skills, especially the skills they're proud of
- helping neurodivergent children develop ways of managing everyday tasks and activities that feel natural to them
- not expecting neurodivergent children to change behaviour like [stimming](#), which doesn't interfere with their everyday activities
- making sure that schools, sports clubs, social groups and community organisations include and support neurodivergent children.

This information was taken from <https://raisingchildren.net.au/guides/a-z-health-reference/neurodiversity-neurodivergence-guide-for-families>

To read further, press Ctrl and click on the link or type the URL into a browser window.



Buribi & Goarng (K, Yrs1&2)



Hello families,

We have settled into our Term 1 routine with *investigations* becoming a highlight of the week. So far, the tinkering stations have been very popular with discoveries of computer chips and wires inside a toy truck, door mechanisms that operate with a spring as well as observations of odd and even amounts of screws that have held most of our pull apart toys together. The measuring tape has been in circulation to measure the length of each other, marble runs and connector block bridges (which spanned over 3 tables).

We have explored sensory experiences through clay making and creating potions with aromatic flora. During this rotation, Emmy has provided a microscope to explore varying objects on slides. The microscope will provide a quality and inspiring experience for our young scientists.



Strengthening our literacy focus of letter writing is the writing *investigation* station. This station has provided an open-ended experience for letters to be composed, envelopes addressed and posted through the class letter box. We hope you have been enjoying any letters that have been coming home to you. There was great excitement to receive a letter from Fiona this week and we look forward to continuing to write and receive letters this term. Continuing our letter writing literacy theme, students will be supported when writing and responding to book characters and composing letters to pen pals and buddies.

Family reminders: If you have any household items with mechanisms that can be pulled apart and investigated, please donate them to Ishta's classroom.

Readers: Contact Ishta or Heather for any further information you may have to guide your children with reading at home.

Library: Thursday this week, 23 Feb.

Warm regards, Heather



Yuruugin (Years 3&4)

The ball continues to roll with class routines and our keen learners have shown great stamina with 30 minutes in our **writing sessions** every day. I have shared with our students a tale, from a book about art, of a ceramics class that shows how gradual improvement relates to quantity of output. Using this mentality of consistency in our class with writing makes room for targeted and consistent feedback. I have enjoyed some great 'aha' moments so far!

We have started working on the **'s' sound**. There are quite a few combinations (s ss st c ce se sc) and quite a few words to look at; so we should be looking at them through until what few school days we have in Week 5. In **Maths**, we will be looking at length from metres to millimetres and moving onto fractions and decimals.

In **History**, we have been learning about Bennelong and Arthur Phillip, which has involved learning about a very funny interaction between the Eora people and Arthur Phillip's crew. Your child should be able to fill you in on that, it created a good laugh. We continue to look at their history as well as our historical narrative, 'Birrung' by Jackie French.



Sending out a line for **any parent that has a capacity to join us for reading sessions on Tuesday and Fridays, 10:20 to 11:00** as that is a guaranteed consistent time slot that they will take place in. There will always be a student in an activity where a listening ear can help.

Hope everyone is prepared for camp!
Ruben



Guruman (Years 5&6)

SMOKEY THE CAT, by Indikah.

One rainy and dark night, a cold wet cat lived. The cat lived in a soggy box in an alley way. A human walked by, and saw the cat shivering in a corner. 'Hey little guy' said the human 'Are you alright?' 'No I'm not. Will you be able to help me out by letting me stay with you?' said the cat. 'I-i can hear what you're saying little cat!' said the human. She took the cat home to a nice warm fire. 'There you go,' said the human. 'It's getting a bit late, but we can introduce ourselves in the morning,' (The next day) 'Good morning!' said the human. 'My name is Indi, but I'm only now realising that you probably don't have one.' Indi picks up the cat and sees that his fur colour is a grey sort of colour. 'I KNOW WHAT TO CALL YOU!' said Indi. 'I will call you Smokey.' Smokey's eyes lit up like the night sky. Indi got into the car and went to the pet shop, to get Smokey some food. She got back home to give Smokey his food. Indi called Smokey to the kitchen to eat, but he didn't answer. She tried again but still, Smokey didn't answer. Indi checked all over the house, trying to find him but she just couldn't. Indi was so panicked so she called pet services. They said that they couldn't help. So Indi did the only thing she could do - look for him. She put up missing posters, asked everyone in the neighbourhood, until she got up to the last house. 'Hello?' Indi said. No one answered, so of course she just went in anyway. Indi heard a silent 'meow' in the distance. 'Smokey?' she said excitedly. 'I finally found you!' 'Indi!' said Smokey. 'I have to ask you something!' What is it Smokey?' 'I was really scared so why didn't you come pick me up from school?' 'Pick you up?' said Indi 'Yeah, from school' 'Ohhhh sorry I forgot you went to school!'

The End.



For this week's Guruman place value quiz, guess the number represented in the picture. Closest guess wins a prize!!

Hint: There's a decimal point in there.

THE MONKEY MEETING, by Escher.

A couple of weeks ago, I was visiting Indonesia and I had just got an app that can speak to animals. So I decided to test it on some Indonesian monkeys and I realised three monkeys, Bob, Jackson and Curt, were planning a surprise party for a monkey named Gary. "Cool," I said. Then the weirdest thing happened..... they could understand me? I was confused Then. they told me that they didn't have enough bananas. Obviously they would sort it out. They're monkeys, smartest animals on earth, but I had just bought loads of bananas that I knew I couldn't eat by myself, so I gave some to them. But then Curt went crazy, his eyes went red and he snatched the bananas and ran away. A couple of minutes later, Jackson ran after him. "Stop! Don't you think we should just tell Escher," said Bob.

"I guess, but Curt is definitely kicked out," said Jackson. They both told me what happened, so we set up a trap to catch him. Finally, after hours upon hours of waiting, we caught him, and, on the 27th of September, we surprised Gary with his party and Curt was not invited.

Suck it up, Curt. Ha ha ha.

The End.

ANIMAL CHAT LOGBOOK, by Theo.

In a research lab in Canada, a scientist named Jeff is trying to make a machine used to talk to animals.

"According to my calculations, I have made a machine that can understand what animals are saying. I'm going to do a few tests. I collected a few animals, so let's see if this works."

THE NEXT DAY

"I must test my machine. First thing I'm going to try is a wolf.
Alright! it's in. it works!!!! Next I'll do a turtle."

"The turtle seems to be saying 'Where am I?' since we found him on the beach an hour ago."

"Rabbit seems to be saying he's hungry even though we just fed him an hour ago."

"Snake did not say anything at all for some reason."

"Dolphin said he wanted to play, but we don't have time for that."

"Test two, snake said 'Go away.' Well that's annoying, but I'll keep trying though."

"Test three, snake said you stupid, I hate that snake, this is so annoying."

"Test four, snake said I don't like you and I don't like that snake."

"Test five the final test. Finally, snake said that he's hungry and of course the next day we find him eating rabbit."

"That's all the tests for this week. Finally, I can leave the lab."

NEXT WEEK.

"I'm back and I'm ready to do more tests."

"I've got a bunch of new animals to test but I can't seem to find the snake though, that stupid snake better not be messing up my equipment."

"The kangaroo said 'Where am I?' just like the turtle did when I first started doing these tests."

"The chicken said he loves it here because of how dusty it is. Yeah I really need to clean up this lab."

"The frog said it's not easy being green. That's a reference to Sesame Street right there but how does he know about Sesame Street."

"Found snake messing up the equipment in my lap. I hate that snake I hate that snake I wish snake died."

"The spider said, 'Do you have any flies?' No."

"The cat said... Oh. Snake just ate the cat."

"Come on microphone. The microphone just broke."

"This took me a week to make. It's going to take another week to fix. I am really mad right now."

A WEEK LATER

"I'm back. It's fixed it. It took me a long time to fix it. Whatever! Time to continue to test."

"The crocodile said 'Where's the river that I was in. Where are the other crocodiles.' What river? I bought him from a zoo."

"The lobster said blue what the hell does that mean because his Blue doesn't mean he has to say blue."

"Fish said 'hello.' Hello to you too, Fish."

"I'm going to do another test with the frog. 'Time to talk to this Muppet again,' the frog said. 'I'm not a Muppet. How come you said it's not easy being green. Wait. But you're blue. Frog just started talking to me. 'What did you say? I'm blue double D...' 'Shut up. I'm not going to song reference, frog.'"

"The bear said..., Wait! Hold! What's snake doing on Machine. Snake! Get away from the wires! What's he doing! Noooooooooo!!!!!"

Scientist pulls gun from pocket.

"Okay! Time to end this."

Kaboommm!!!!!!!

Machine explodes .

"Snake come here!"

Suddenly there is a loud gunshot noise.

Minutes later.

"I got a new pair of boots now."

The End.



SEE and STEAM with Emmy

Week 4 and it feels like we're gathering pace here at school and finding rhythms. It has been absolutely fantastic having parents keen to help get the veg garden into shape. Thank you, thank you!

Highlights from the fortnight include:

- **Guruman** beginning to create the set large chess pieces from upcycled materials, cooking delicious nachos, quesadillas tomato relish and native tamarind icy poles, and letting loose their abstract artist with nature inspired and created prints.
- **Yuruugin** getting rolling with marble runs. What a fantastic way to really make thinking visible! It is fascinating to see the different ways the kids approach design, problem-solving and teamwork.
- **Buribi/ Gooarng** exploring rainforests with nature treasure hunts, learning about plants as primary producers and the exquisite interconnectedness of ecosystems.



Some budding nature artists from Yuruugin.



Buribi & Gooarng venturing out on the Mt Matheson trail on Mount Nardi.



Sports

Swimming Carnival Day

How exciting for the kids and Tuntable Falls Community School. Our very first mini swimming carnival. We were very lucky to have our very own Ginger O'Brien, from Jallum Swim School, organise the day at the local Nimbin pool. It was full of well organised, perfectly timed, fun water activities mixed in with some 50 and 25 m races that included freestyle, breaststroke, and back stroke. It was fun being on the stopwatch with Cushla and supporting Angie with the races. **A massive thanks** to all parents who volunteered on the day, and to Zach for running one of the group activities, and to our lovely teachers for making it such a fun day for the kids.

And of course, a massive thanks to our kids!!! You all participated in such an enthusiastic way that made the day even better.



NCIS Swimming Gala Day

We are excited to mention that **this Thursday** Lieka, Max, Escher, Indikah, and Sibella will be representing Tuntable Falls Community School at the **Interschool Swimming Carnival at Alstonville**. This is a great opportunity for the kids to take part in a structured day of swimming to test out the swimming skills they developed last term and at our own swimming gala day.

Soccer Gala

The Newcastle Permanent Far North Coast Soccer Gala Day is once again being held. On Wednesday, **8 March**, students from Tuntable will head to **Casino** to play games over the day against teams from within the area. This day is about building soccer skills and having fun. *Have a chat to your child (Years 3-6) to see if they would like to get involved.*

Sport at School

As usual we have our favourite sport, Circus, back on a Thursday with Simon, Sarah, and Tanya. We are missing Freya but are all very excited for her and can't wait to meet the baby.

On Fridays all things volleyball is being practiced. Ruben is upskilling the kids with all the hand-eye coordination required for enjoying this sport.

Nicole 😊



2022 Team photo, Lismore Soccer Gala Day

