

# Bute Early Learning & Primary School News

Week 6, Term 4

23rd November, 2023



**Growth**   **Respect**   **Integrity**   **Teamwork**

## Diary Dates

30/11—Wacky Walkers Day

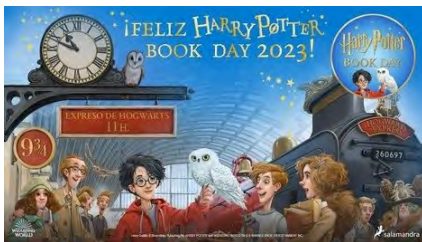
4/12—Raffle donations due back

7/12—Presentation Night

12/12—JP Excursion

12-13/12—Yr 3-6 Camp

15/12—Assembly 1.45pm



## Reminders

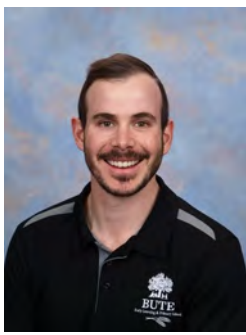
**Breakfast Club** is held Daily.

**Newsletters** will be fortnightly

Students are required to **wear broad brimmed** hat this term.

We are a **NUT FREE** school

**Principal:**  
**Richard Hall**



BUTE EARLY LEARNING & PRIMARY SCHOOL

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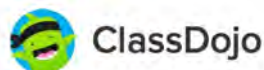
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Government of South Australia  
Department for Education

# From the Principal's Desk

## End-of-Year Presentation Night

The End-of-Year Presentation Assembly / Concert will be held on Thursday, 7th of December at the Bute Soldier's Memorial Hall. This night will include both Preschool and Year 6 graduations. There will be performances from each of the classes, including the Preschool children, as well as whole school items. We will also be acknowledging the hard work and consistent efforts of students through the presentation of awards. We hope to see many of our families in attendance on the night to celebrate our journey throughout 2023. Keep an eye out for further details over the coming weeks.



## 2024 School Year

As we enter the "pointy-end" of the school year, we are busily organising staffing structures, student stationery orders etc. for the 2024 school year. To help us with this process, please contact the school on 88 262 060 if your child(ren) **will not be** attending school at Bute next year. Please make contact by Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> of November.

## Walk for Kids' Mental Health

Get ready for an incredible update...we have already raised over \$700 to go towards this wonderful cause. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has donated so far. Donations can still be made up until and including the 30<sup>th</sup> of November.



A reminder that as an extra incentive, for every \$100 we raise, I will walk 1km on my commute to school on the final day of the challenge. If you would like to contribute towards this very worthy cause...or you just want to inflict some pain on me, use the QR Code to access our fundraising page.



## Playberry-Laser Literacy

In 2024, we will be commencing our partnership with the Playberry-Laser team to further strengthen the teaching and learning of essential literacy skills in our school. The information below has been shared with the Governing Council and was also shared at the recent Parent Reading Workshop. It is included here so that all families are up-to-date with this information.





# Parent Information



## What is Playberry Laser T1-2?

**Playberry Laser T1-2 is an evidenced informed Literacy Program for primary school students.**

We follow a structured, synthetic phonics approach to teaching reading and spelling that focuses on developing children's understanding of the relationship between letters and sounds. Learning to read involves recognising individual sounds in words (phonemes) and linking them to the letters or groups of letters (graphemes) that represent those sounds. By explicitly teaching the relationships between letters and sounds, children develop the foundational skills necessary for reading fluently and accurately. The efficacy of the structured, synthetic phonics approach is evidenced by one of the strongest evidence bases in educational research.

Students in the early years of **Playberry Laser** learn how to read and spell *basic code* (letter-sound correspondences) and progress to more complex letter-sound correspondences known as *extended code*.

In the middle years, students consolidate their knowledge of *extended code* and less frequent, more complex spelling patterns. Students in the upper years consolidate less frequent spellings and master spelling rules associated with how meaningful word parts, (morphemes) come together. Students are taught morphemes, grammar concepts and common spelling rules from Reception to Year 6.

## How is Playberry Laser T1-2 taught?

**Lessons are taught by teachers who have been trained in Structured Literacy.**

In **Phase 1** there are five reading and spelling lessons per week with basic morphology built in to lessons.

In **Phases 2 and 3**, there are five reading and spelling lessons per week as well as one morphology lesson in some weeks.

In **Phases 4 and 5**, there are three reading and spelling lessons per week and one to two morphology lessons.

**Phases 6 and 7** consist of four focused morphology lessons per week.

Revision drills are an essential part of daily practice across all phases to ensure that students store in long term memory the phonemes (sounds) that match graphemes (letter/s) taught.

**Automaticity is the key.**

Students learn, review and use spelling rules daily in writing tasks. They read and write words and sentences, read texts and learn vocabulary that is new or unfamiliar. Students also learn and practice how to apply grammar in context.

All lessons in the **Playberry Laser Program** utilise proven, highly effective teaching techniques. New learning is revised until the majority of students have reached mastery. Students needing extra practice receive it.

Multisensory learning is a cornerstone of Playberry Laser's effectiveness. Auditory, visual and kinesthetic learning channels are engaged simultaneously as students **see** (read), **say and hear** (sound out, segment, blend, read words), and **do** (spell, write).

## Playberry Laser T1-2 is taught to the whole class.

The focus on daily revision ensures that the majority of students achieve mastery within the class setting. Students who need more revision access additional (Tier 2 small group) support and students needing even more support may access Tier 3 (1:1 or 1:2) support.

## Students learning to read and spell with ease become even stronger readers and spellers.

Experts once thought that good readers guess unknown words without decoding and don't need structured, synthetic phonics. They also theorized that teaching phonics and decoding slows reading development. Brain studies have since proven the exact opposite to be true. It turns out that the best readers decode unknown words, while weaker readers are more likely to try to guess unknown words from context. Guessing sometimes works, but a lot of the time it lets students down and damages comprehension. Although it might seem cute for a student to read *horse* as *house* when they're young, reading *chlorophyll* as *chloroform* in a science test has greater implications.

A very small proportion (about 5%) of students learn to read easily, regardless of whether or not they get high quality, thorough and explicit phonics instruction. This does not mean that they somehow bypass phonics. All strong readers and spellers have strong phonics skills. Some students' brains, however, pick up phonics easily because of well developed language skills and finely-tuned speech-sound analysis



abilities. These students still benefit from thorough and explicit teaching so they can build on this strong base. Strong reading doesn't guarantee strong spelling. Many strong readers may still struggle with spelling due to the complex nature of English spelling. Explicitly teaching the rules and patterns of the English spelling system makes sure students gain a deeper understanding of its structure and logic. Our focus on evidence informed instruction lifts the learning outcomes of all students. It is helpful to all and harmful to none.

The explicit morphology instruction included in the **Playberry Laser** program also helps all students gain understandings of the Latin and Greek layers of English. These are the words that feature heavily in high level language specific to the sciences.

### Playberry Laser is unapologetically thorough, routine based and rigorous.

Using retrieval practice in many forms, students benefit from ample opportunities to reinforce and solidify their skills. *Practice makes permanent.*

In addition to drill and retrieval practice, students are provided with opportunities to apply their knowledge in meaningful contexts. This is achieved through decodable connected texts, read both chorally as a class, in pairs and individually. Gradually, students progress to more diverse texts that include both decodable and sight (irregularly spelled) words. These are called *heart words* in **Playberry Laser**. This helps all children develop reading fluency and comprehension.

### Playberry Laser supports reading comprehension and expressive writing.

While **Playberry Laser** has a heavy emphasis on decoding and spelling, it supports reading comprehension and expressive writing as well. Proficient readers with a solid foundation in phonics quickly and accurately decode and store new words, allowing them to understand the text's meaning. Proficient spellers become more automatic when spelling words. This frees them to think about what they want to say and how best to express it in writing.

Reading and spelling with ease and accuracy is all about automaticity. Phonics instruction lays the groundwork for efficient word recognition and spelling, enabling students to engage with language at deeper levels.

## Cheat Sheet for Parents

**Phoneme:** The smallest unit of speech sound in a word. The word 'shark' has three phonemes (sh) (ar) (k).

**Grapheme:** The letter/s that spell the sounds in words. The word 'shark' has three graphemes: sh, ar, k. The word dog has three graphemes: d, o, g.

**Phonics:** A method of teaching people to read by matching sounds (phonemes) with symbols (letters). Phonics has the strongest evidence base there is when it comes to teaching reading and spelling.

**Morpheme:** The smallest unit of meaning in a word Eg: 'sharks' has 2 morphemes shark + s. The base word is 'shark' and the suffix 's' indicates plurality.

**Morphology is the study of meaningful word parts**

**Sounding Out (decoding):** Saying the phonemes (sounds) out loud to get to an accurate pronunciation (and recognition) of an unknown word.

**Blending:** Saying the sounds quickly, or stretching the sounds to hear the word.

**Segmenting:** Hearing a word and breaking it into its separate phonemes (sounds) to spell it.

## Same Teaching Point - Different Outcomes

**New Teaching Point:**

We use **c** in front of the vowels **a, o, u**.  
(cat, cot, cut)

We use **k** in front of the vowels **e, i, y**.  
(Ken, king, sky)

I understand this rule, but I will need a fair bit of practice to remember it in lessons. I need to think about these rules when spelling words on their own. With practice it will become more automatic.

I get this rule right in lessons, but I need to slow down so I can remember to use it in my story writing too. When I'm quickly trying to get ideas on paper I can forget spelling rules.

I'm still trying to remember which one is **c** and which one is **k**! I'm going to need lots of practice because sometimes I call the letters by the wrong name.

I always use 'c' and 'k' in the right place and don't need to think about the rules much. I wonder why *Kangaroo* and *Koala* don't follow this rule! Is that why the letter **c** makes the (s) sound in words like *cent*, *city* and *cyclone*?



# Student Transitions

To help support students transitioning into new classes in 2024, we will be having a full day of transition on Monday, 11th of December (Monday Week 9). This day will involve children moving from Preschool – Reception, and from Junior Primary to Middle Primary and Middle Primary to Upper Primary in 2024. It is an opportunity for students to get a small taste of what school life will be for them in 2024.



# Rural Care Closure

At the end of the year our Rural Care Centre closes to give all of our educators a well earned break. The dates for the closure will be from Monday 18th of Dec (Last Day would be Fri 15th of Dec) – reopening on Monday 15th of Jan 2024. Both the Bute Governing Council and the Education Director have endorsed this closure. Families are not charged during this closure. Thank you to all of the families who utilised and supported our Rural Care program in 2023 and we look forward to welcoming many of you back in 2024.

# Wacky Walkers Day – Casual Day

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, all students are invited to wear a “wacky” outfit for a gold coin donation towards our Walk for Kids’ Mental Health campaign. This could be something as simple as odd socks or shoes or crazy hair! The student leaders will also be making and selling milkshakes and spider drinks at recess time. Again, all proceeds will be donated to this wonderful initiative.

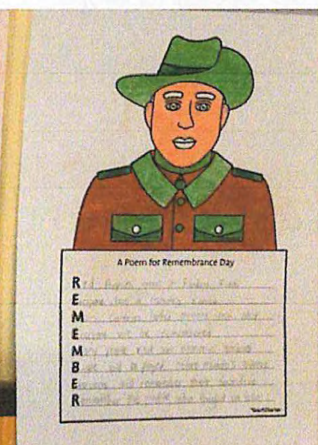
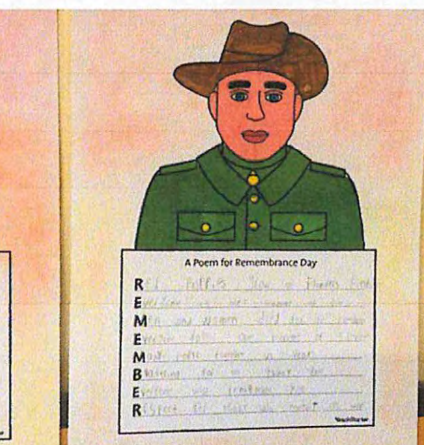
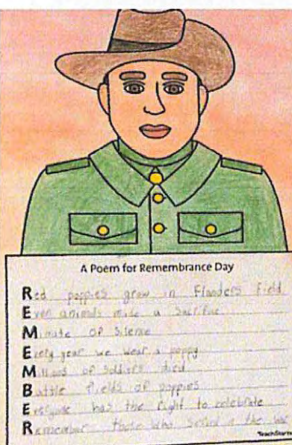
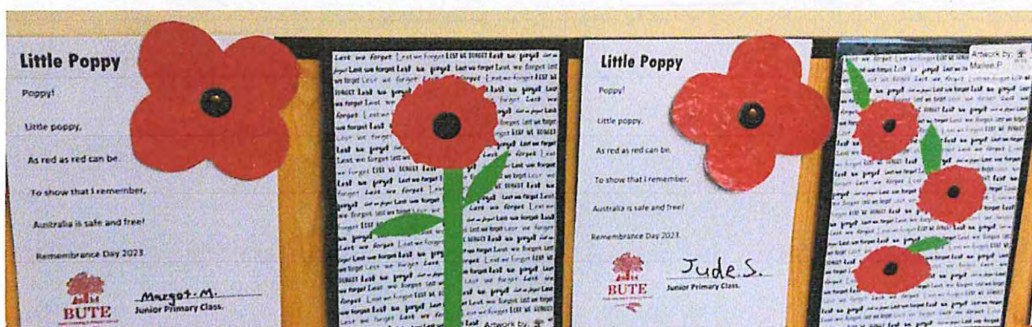
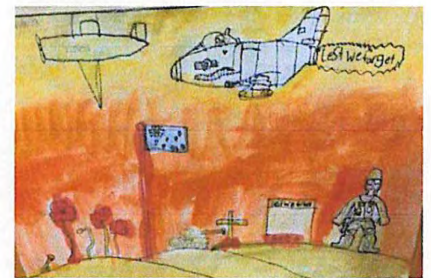
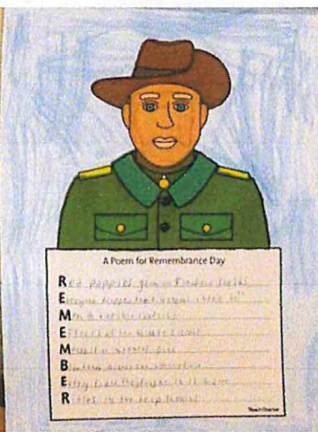
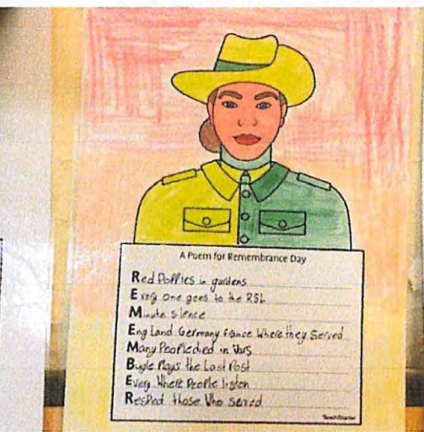
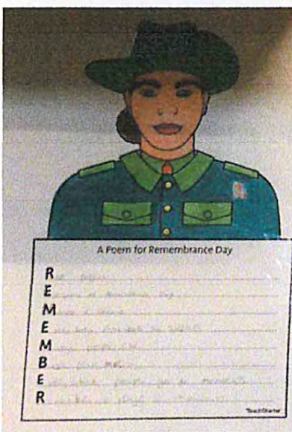
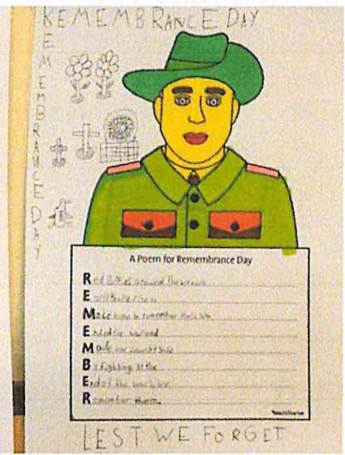
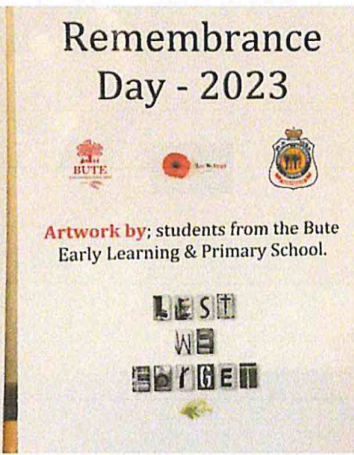
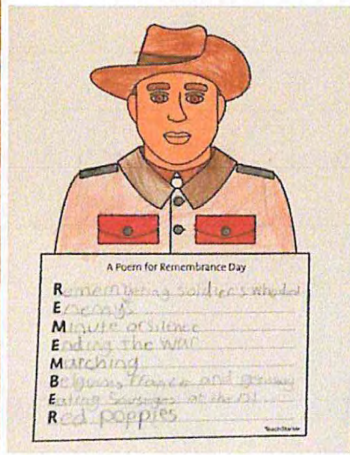
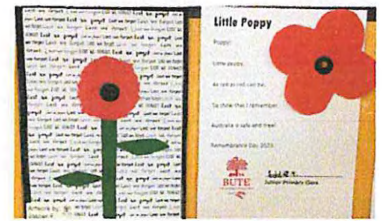
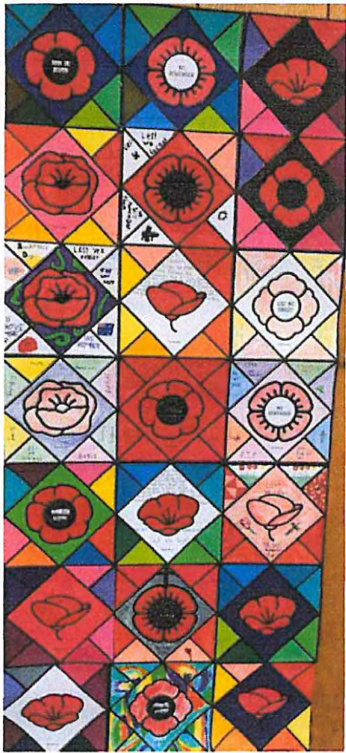


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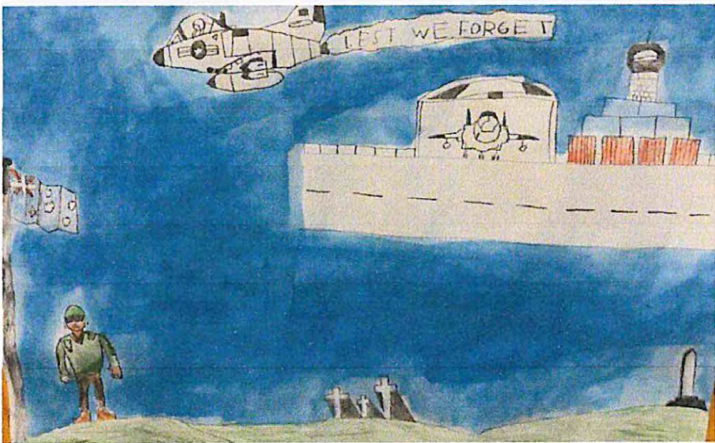




# Remembrance Day work displayed at the Bute RSL, 2023.











## Wonder Recycling Rewards

Thankyou to the school and wider community for collecting your bread bags. We were able to select a range of sporting equipment for the school.

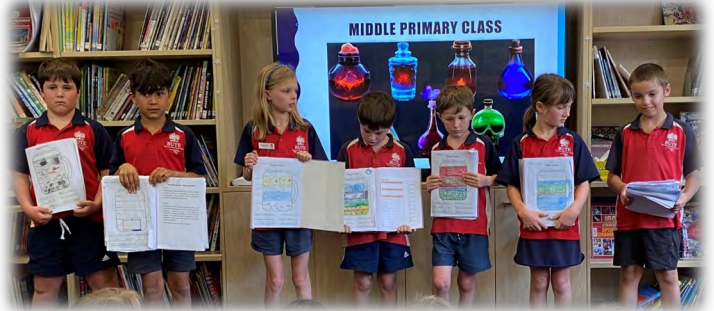




# Integrity Assembly



Junior Primary presented their paper making skills after we watched how to make recycled paper.



Middle Primary read out their Magic Potion recipes.



Upper Primary showed us their advertising posters and the videos they made.

1000  
Minute  
Club Term  
3  
Members



Principal's Award—Shayla Bettess



JP—Jasper Flowers



MP—Amelie Flowers



UP—Eliza Krieg



# Remembrance Day

Nicholas McArdle represented Bute Early Learning & Primary School at the Bute Remembrance Day Service. He placed a wreath on behalf of the school community.



## Community Notices



*The Bute 2000 Onwards Committee  
invite all to the annual*

**CHRISTMAS**  
*party*



**BUTE SPORTING CLUB**

**FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER | 6 PM**

BBQ | Live music | children's activities | Bar facilities

Father Christmas will be arriving at 7:30pm



LIVE MUSIC BY

*Annie Wheare*



Kids to BYO Nerf Gun, and towel for water fun!

Supported by Snowtown Wind Farm II

## Gold Pass



Harry Brackstone received a gold pass for his great handwriting on the lines.

## BCLPS Christmas

### RAFFLE

PARENT CLUB ARE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS FROM FAMILIES FOR OUR RAFFLES TO BE DRAWN AT THE END OF YEAR CONCERT. ANY DONATIONS CAN BE LEFT AT RURAL CARE OR THE SCHOOL BY MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER.

PLEASE NOTE, NO HOME BAKED GOODS PLEASE.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**NO : 123456**

**ENTRY NO : 123456**

