

Cook's Log

Principal News

Cultivating Healthy Reading Habits in Primary School



For a primary school student, the simple act of reading can feel like just another task on the list. But for a child, it's so much more. Reading is a gateway to new worlds, a tool for understanding complex emotions, and a fundamental skill that underpins all academic success.

Fostering lifelong reading habits is one of the most profound gifts we can give a child. It's about moving beyond the 'what' and 'when' of reading and focusing on the 'why' and 'how' to make it a healthy, natural part of their daily routine. The goal isn't just to get them to read, but to help them cultivate healthy reading habits that they carry with them long after the school bells stop ringing.

While reading instruction begins in early childhood, the primary years are when students make the leap from learning to read to reading to learn.

Frequent reading supports higher academic achievement, improved concentration, enriched vocabulary, and greater confidence in learning new skills. These habits can begin almost anywhere: at home before bed, in the classroom, or on family outings to the library. When reading is woven into everyday life and celebrated by families and schools, children view books as a valued, enjoyable part of growing up.

Notably, developing a routine around reading can also support broader social and emotional growth and helps children build empathy and resilience, skills closely linked to social and emotional literacy.

When reading becomes a natural part of everyday life, it equips children with the tools they need not just for school, but for life. Building healthy reading habits is easiest with fun, interactive reading activities:



- **Storytime Routine:** Set aside a daily reading time, encourage kids to select books, and take turns reading aloud together.
- **Library Adventures:** Visit the local library and let children choose their own books, join story hours, or chat with librarians about recommendations.
- **Creative Storytelling:** Use puppets, draw story scenes, or role-play as characters to bring reading to life.
- **Emotional Exploration:** Select stories that reflect real-life situations, such as making friends or starting school, and discuss feelings together for deeper connection.

Not every child naturally takes to reading. Some may struggle with literacy skills, while others may be more drawn to screens or other forms of entertainment. Set screen-free times during the day to prioritise reading. Patience, encouragement and creativity go a long way in supporting children who find reading more challenging. While e-books and online texts have value, overuse can contribute to eye strain, reduced focus, or disrupted sleep if read late into the night.

Healthy reading habits are about enjoyment, variety, and balance. Encouraging children to mix independent reading with social activities, outdoor play, and creative pursuits helps ensure that books remain a positive part of their lifestyle.

Creating lifelong readers requires a partnership between schools and families. Teachers provide structured opportunities, explicit instruction, and access to resources, while families reinforce habits through daily practice and encouragement at home. When both environments value and support reading, children are far more likely to embrace it as a core part of their lives.

SPORTS NEWS

A massive congratulations to Grace in 56B who ran 1st in the 80m hurdles last Friday at the State Athletics tournament with a massive PB of 12.80 seconds. This is a fantastic effort, the James Cook community are all so very proud of you!



FOUNDATION 2026

Our transition sessions for our 2026 Foundation students began last week. We have had an amazing turnout for both weeks and have loved getting to know all of the new faces.

If you have a child who is due to start school next year and have not yet enrolled, please contact the office.

~ Anne

*Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance.
Samuel Johnson*



ANNE BURGESS
Principal

Upcoming Events



NOVEMBER

Fri 14th Prep Transition Session 2

Thurs 20th Yr 3-6 Project Rokit Workshop

Fri 21st Prep Transition Session 3

Mon 24th- 28th Swimming Program

Fri 28th Prep Transition Session 4

DECEMBER

Mon 1st - 4th Swimming Program

Thurs 4th

Wed 3rd School Mini Fete 5pm - 7pm

Fri 5th Prep Transition Session 5

DECEMBER continued.....

Tues 9th Yr1 - 6 UP Day
Prep 2026 Orientation Day
School Council

Wed 10th iRock Extravaganza

Wed 17th Year 6 Graduation

Thurs 18th Year 6 Celebration Day

Fri 19th Last day of Term 4 - 1.30pm finish



Students of the Week

Week 4: 27th- 31st October 2025

FA

Yusuf

for your enthusiasm in Maths this week learning about capacity. You asked great questions and gave your best effort. Well done!!

Asra

for your enthusiasm and curiosity during our Puffing Billy excursion. Your confidence in asking lots of questions during our train ride made us so proud. Well done!

1B

Vesa

for her engagement and enthusiasm in our Puffing Billy excursion. Well done Vesa!

Yusuf

for his engagement and curiosity in our Puffing Billy excursion. Well done Yusuf!

1/2C

Oliver

for their wonderfully positive attitude! They come to school with a bright spirit every single day, making our classroom a happy and energetic place.

Georgie

for her outstanding behavior on our Puffing Billy trip! She showed wonderful manners, being respectful, and a safe traveller.

2D

Dina

for demonstrating strong effort in your persuasive writing about seasons and confidently using ELASTIK for the first time — wonderful work, Dina!

David

for showing responsible behaviour and fantastic engagement during our Puffing Billy excursion.

3A

Ashvitha

for always demonstrating excellent behaviour and positive engagement during our learning tasks and our Puffing Billy excursion. Well done.

Mason

for showing impressive focus, progress and growth in his Maths tasks, keep it up!

4B

Astral

for demonstrating positive and enthusiastic behaviour on our Puffing Billy Excursion! Well done!

Mahtab

for her fantastic persuasive piece on why school shouldn't start an hour later and using strong persuasive strategies. Well done!

5A

Zubidullah

for demonstrating a commendable ability to persevere in comprehending and enhancing his Mathematical skills.

Uzmaan

for enthusiastically embracing new learning experiences and consistently demonstrating a sound work ethic and growth mindset.

5/6B

Jaina

for always being a helpful and respectful member of our class. Jaina always goes above and beyond to ensure her space is organised.

Isaac

for always applying himself 100% and willing to jump in and support his peers.

Art

Oliver (3A)

for putting in a fantastic effort, focusing on the task at hand and taking the initiative to clean up at the end of the Art session.

Jaina (56B)

for her creativity and understanding of space, line, shape and colour in her Art work

P.E

Elin (1B)

for displaying great balance and coordination during the 'egg and spoon' races in PE.

Rezwan (00A)

for demonstrating resilience, teamwork and positive attitude when playing competitive games in PE.



Students of the Week

Week 5: 3rd - 7th November 2025

FA

Jason

for your amazing effort during our subtraction lesson. Well done!

Sajra

for your engagement in our literacy lessons and doing your best in writing a recount for Puffing Billy. Well done!

1B

Devansh

for showing excellent engagement in discussing technology from the past and present. Well done Devansh!

Malak

for always showing respect and care for her peers. Keep up the great work Malak!

1/2C

Mahdi

for his amazing persistence! He kept practicing his o'clock and half past time and never gave up, proving he can do anything he works hard at.

Tobias

for being an excellent listener whilst being on the floor and actively participating in classroom discussions.

2D

Rossana

for her enthusiastic approach to all learning tasks and for being kind and helpful to younger students in the yard.

Abeera

for her determined effort in learning to tell time to the quarter hour and for sharing her thinking with others.

3A

Shahida

for her wonderful transition to James Cook, demonstrating resilience, and learning our routines, well done

Enaayah

for doing a great job on her Puffing Billy recount, and keeping calm and focussed throughout our summative testing. Keep it up.

4B

Zohaib

for his effort and work during our inquiry task on transport. Keep it up!

Yasmine

for her exciting ideas and contribution to her transport task. Well done!

5A

Haktan

for consistently seeking clarification to strengthen his understanding and demonstrating notable improvement in his mathematical abilities.

Zainab

for demonstrating a strong work ethic and willingness to support and encourage her peers.

5/6B

Hania

for having the confidence to speak and share her thoughts to the group during our visit to Gleneagles Secondary College.

Aarona

for being a wonderful representative of our school at our visit to Gleneagles Secondary College.

Art

Jaksa (3A)

for his encouragement of others with their Art work

Zahra (4B)

for putting in a fabulous effort and taking the initiative to set out materials in the Art room

P.E

Miray (4B)

for displaying resilience, determination and stamina when running in the beep test in PE.

Rossana (2D)

for demonstrating an amazing attitude and throwing skills when playing the 'pyramid' game in PE.

Mandarin

Anisa (1B)

for always putting your hand up, sharing brilliant ideas and showing amazing energy in every lesson.

Jack (4B)

for consistently participating with great enthusiasm, eagerly answering questions and showing a genuine passion for learning.

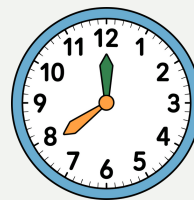


Module 2

Prep, Year 1 & Year 2

WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON

- We had an amazing time at Puffing Billy on Tuesday the 28th of October! Students enjoyed the scenic train ride to the lakeside and saw many exciting things along the way. All students enjoyed the visitors centre where they were able to learn more about the history of Puffing Billy and investigate resources used and dress up as a train conductor!
- Students have enjoyed writing recounts on Puffing Billy and their experience there!
- Grade 1 and 2 students have been also working on time and how to read and recognise the time on an analogue clock. We have been working on using the language of half-past, quarter to and quarter past.



FUTURE LEARNING

- Students will be working on learning about Remembrance day using the story 'Ava's Poppy'. Students will be making some poppies and completing a writing piece about someone special to them.
- Grade 1 and 2 students are also expanding their knowledge of Australian coins in numeracy.
- Grade 1 and 2 students will also be learning more about Dreamtime stories and the history and importance of these to Aboriginal people.

UPCOMING EVENTS/NEWS

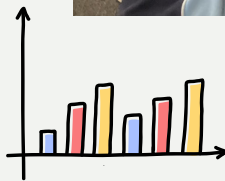
- Swimming program begins week 8!

Module 3

Year 3 & 4

WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON

- Module 3 has started deepening their understanding of “the language of chance”, such as certain, impossible, likely, unlikely.
- We are starting to explore data -collecting and interpreting data results.
- Procedural reading and writing.
- Our Module has welcomed several new students this term, and we have been reviewing some of expected behaviours to ensure they settle in quickly.



FUTURE LEARNING

- Grade 3 students will be measuring their heights and comparing those measurements to the measurements from the beginning of the year.

UPCOMING EVENTS/NEWS

- Swimming lessons
- Project Rockit Incursion



Module 4

Year 5 & 6

WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON

- Speech writing - Leadership and graduation speeches
- Complex sentences
- Exploring advertising features - slogans, colours, figurative language
- Preparation for Mini Fete - planning and creating advertisements
- Calculating decimals and percentages
- Probability
- Statistics - interpreting mean
- Year 6 students visited Gleneagles Secondary College to experience high school for the day



FUTURE LEARNING

- Preparation for Mini Fete - setting up stalls, rehearsing
- Direct and indirect speech
- Delivering speeches to an audience
- Statistics - interpreting mean
- Ratio
- Problem solving with money



UPCOMING EVENTS/NEWS

- Leadership speeches presentation (week 7)
- 20th November - Project Rockit workshop
- 24th November - 5th December - Swimming
- 3rd December - Mini Fete 5pm - 7pm
- 9th December - UP Day
- 10th December - iRock Extravaganza
- 17th December - Year 6 Graduation
- 18th December - Year 6 Celebration Day



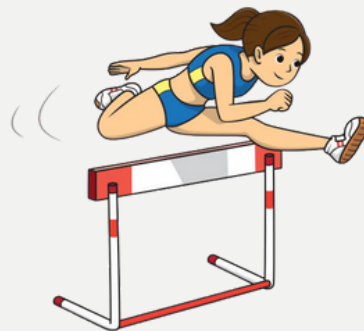
Physical Education

DIVISIONAL ATHLETICS

An enthusiastic team of students from Years 4 to 6 competed in the Endeavour Hills Divisional Athletics Carnival at Casey Fields after finishing in the top two positions at District level. Students had the opportunity to show their developing athletics skills in their selected field and track events; having practised these events during PE classes. The students put in an outstanding effort in all the events and should be congratulated for their positive attitude, resilience and exemplary behaviour. All students represented JCPS with distinction, so well done Anyang, Akim, Haseeb, Isaac, Grace, Letty, Salar, Ali sina and Milad.

REGIONAL & STATE ATHLETICS

A big congratulations to Letty for moving through to compete for JCPS at Regional level in the girls 9-10 500g Discus Throw. Also, well done Grace for earning a place to compete at State level in the girls 12-13 80 Metre Hurdles. Check out Ms Burgess' message with Grace's amazing results on page 2.



EUROPEAN HANDBALL

Students from Years 4 to 6 have been competing in a girls and boys "European Handball" competition within their JCPS Houses. So far, the games have been played with lots of energy and with a very high standard of skills being displayed. The competition has been supporting teamwork, fair play and resilience. At the end of term, the Houses on top will play off in a game of the champions.



Everyone will



when we all follow our "Matrix of Expectations."

Let's just 	 Safe Protecting yourself and others	 Responsible Looking after yourself and making good choices	 Respectful Looking after people and property
ALL SETTINGS	We keep our hands and feet to ourselves. We use property and furniture for its correct purpose. We transition in two lines. We tell a staff member if something is wrong. We stay in designated areas.	We return equipment to its rightful place. We put rubbish in the correct bins. We keep all our belongings in their correct place. We follow instructions from staff. We wait quietly when lining up. We ask for help when needed. We admit our mistakes.	We share school property. We wear the correct school uniform. We take turns. We use please, thank you and excuse me. We ask before touching others' belongings. We transition quietly during learning times. We let other out the door before entering.
TOILETS	We give others privacy. We wash our hands with soap. We report problems to a staff member.	We close the door when in use. We flush the toilet. We leave when finished.	We use toilets for their correct purpose. We are quiet. We wait our turn.
LEARNING AREAS	We get permission before leaving. We walk inside. We remain properly seated during learning times.	We have our tools and equipment ready. We are on time. We complete our work on time. We stay on task to reach our goals.	We are quiet during independent learning times. We allow others to stay on task. We wait our turn to speak.
OFFICE	We use the correct doors. We listen to office staff. We sign in and out, when we are late or leaving early. We return to class straight away.	We bring one person only with us to first aid. We sign our mobile phone in and out. We place all payments and forms in the post box.	We wait until the first aid adult invites us in. We enter the office quietly. We wait our turn.
PLAY AREAS / OUTDOORS	We walk on ramps. We stay in the correct play areas. We leave sticks, rocks and stones on the ground.	We move to the Module as soon as the music starts. We ask the yard duty teacher for help if needed. We bring our equipment and belongings in after play.	We discuss, agree to and follow the rules of the game. We accept or decline politely others' playing choices.
ICT	We only use sites on Bookmarks. We use our own log in details. We keep our passwords private. We walk with our Chromebook.	We adhere to the ICT user agreement. We carry our Chromebook as instructed. We return our Chromebook to the charging area. We plug in the charger.	We remove our earbuds when the teacher is giving instructions. We half-close the lid when the teacher is speaking. We keep our hands off the keyboard when the teacher is giving instructions.



JAMES COOK PRIMARY SCHOOL MATRIX OF EXPECTATIONS

Our goal is to build successful and responsible learners, in a safe and respectful environment.



LOST PROPERTY ANNOUNCEMENT

There are a number of clothing items currently in lost property.

If your child is missing any clothing, you may visit your child's module in between 3:00 - 3:15pm.



To assist with the return of misplaced items, we kindly ask that all children's uniforms and belongings are clearly labelled.

Labelling can be done using a black permanent marker or iron-on labels. This simple step greatly reduces the likelihood of items being lost or unclaimed.

Community News

iROCK
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James Cook
Primary School

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Community News

COME & EXPLORE



ST JOHN'S REGIONAL COLLEGE
5-11 Caroline Street, Dandenong
Wednesday, 13 November, 6:00 pm — 8:00 pm

Discover what makes our College such a vibrant and inclusive community at our Open Evening.

Join us for a guided tour and experience all that St John's has to offer — where every student finds their pathway through learning, sport, the arts, and leadership.



St John's
REGIONAL COLLEGE

SCAN TO BOOK A TOUR

