

Newsletter No. 3 June 2020

# **NEWSLETTER**

## **WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!**

It has been absolutely wonderful to welcome our students back to school for face to face teaching and learning. The past couple of months have felt like a very long time and the students' enthusiasm and excitement was evident as they returned through the school gates last week.

Our teachers have worked incredibly hard throughout each phase to ensure that student learning, whether that be learning from home or learning at school, has continued to facilitate student growth and development. Our teachers are very happy to be back in classrooms working directly with their students. Whilst they still have a very heavy workload, writing reports, preparing lessons, assessing student knowledge/understanding and so on, the real joy of teaching — the relationship with students and seeing them progress - is what they can all begin to experience again.

Thank you to our wonderful school community for your ongoing support, particularly throughout the learning from home phase and as we have transitioned into full time learning at school. We understand the challenges for families, facilitating learning from home and now that we're back learning at school, particularly during drop off and pick up times. Please remember that all procedures that have been put in place are essential to keep our students, staff and community safe and healthy.









During the learning from home phase it was phenomenal to see so many parents actively engaged with their child's learning. There is strong evidence that parent engagement is associated with improvements in the social and emotional wellbeing and academic achievement of children and young people. This includes early literacy, school adjustment and student attendance, motivation, self-regulatory behaviour, social skills, retention and graduation rates. Parent engagement in learning encompasses parent involvement in schooling as well as a broader range of activities, including parent support for children's learning at home, at school and in community contexts. Parent engagement in learning and everyday positive parenting can build children's confidence, motivation, capability and competence as learners. Tips for parents and families to continue to strengthen this engagement:

- Build supportive relationships with children and work hard to maintain these when circumstances are difficult.
- Communicate the value of education and the importance of schooling.
- Encourage educational aspirations and career goals; make plans with children for their future.
- Regularly ask children what they are learning at school and what they have found challenging.
- Praise real effort and achievements.
- Take an interest in homework, provide help where needed and offer encouragement and support for children to solve problems for themselves.
- Have high expectations for children's academic success and their behaviour.
- Encourage physical activity and set reasonable boundaries for television, electronic games and online socialising.
- Engage children in meaningful conversations about everyday life and topical issues, and encourage critical thinking and the development of ideas.
- Have positive interactions with teachers; share knowledge, ideas and concerns.
- Participate in school activities to show support for children's learning at school and build relationships with teachers and other parents.

While the students have been away, we have been busy undertaking a number of site enhancements:

The front exterior of the school office has been upgraded with a vibrant blue finish.





Our new building, featuring two classrooms and a large veranda for indoor/outdoor learning arrived via crane, ready for installation.







Mr Glenn created PBL poles with our school expectations, *safe* responsible proud learners, on them.





## **SCHOOL GROUNDS - ARRIVALS & DISMISSALS**

It is very important that parents follow our clear advice not to congregate at school. Teachers supervise students from 8:40 am each morning in the playground. While normally it is okay for parents to wait for class to start, at the moment parents and other visitors are not permitted into the school grounds of a morning. This decision has been made in line with health and Department of Education advice.

In order to help with this, it is vital that parents follow all directions and information regarding physical distancing. In the morning, parents are to drop their children at the gate and not enter the school grounds. We have considered applying this same instruction to the afternoon pick-ups, but we have a number of concerns including parents congregating at gates and the safety of children, particularly those in younger grades, leaving the school grounds unaccompanied. As such, we are relying on our parents to do the right thing. Parents of students in Years 3 to 6 are encouraged to meet their children at a designated location outside of the school grounds. For parents of younger children who cannot do this, please maintain physical distancing while waiting for your children and then leave the school promptly upon collecting them.



## STUDENT REPORTS

The parents/carers of all students are provided with a formal report on their child's learning twice a year. In Semester 1 2020, schools reports will look different; each student will be provided a simplified written report that is easy for parents/carers to understand.

Student reports will:

- describe student progress and achievement on the learning undertaken from home and school
- provide information about student attendance and commitment to learning
- use a three-point scale (working towards, achieved, working beyond) where valid assessment judgements can be made against syllabus outcomes, as opposed to the A-E grades
- not include an effort grade
- provide additional information including a goal or something that each child is working towards in the general comment
- sent home on the last day of school Term 2

## **ATTENDANCE**

All students should be at school unless:

- They have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition
- They are currently unwell.

Please note, students who live with a family member in one of the categories identified as being at increased risk by the AHPPC, should attend school unless a medical practitioner advises otherwise in writing.

If your child is unwell, do not send them to school. If they are unwell at school you or your nominated emergency contact will need to collect them immediately. Please make sure your contact details are up to date.

If a student is absent without a medical reason for more than three days, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and followed up by the school.

A day here or there doesn't seem like much but ...

When your child misses just	that equals	which is	and therefore, from Kindy to Year 12, that is	This means that the best your child can achieve is
1 day each fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ a years of school	Equal to finishing Year 11
1 day a week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school	Equal to finishing Year 10
2 days a week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 7
3 days a week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years of learning	Equal to finishing Year 4

... every day counts!

#### **OC PLACEMENT 2021**

The 2021 Year 5 opportunity class placement process was put on hold in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation. The Department of Education has now rescheduled and streamlined the application process.

# Why have changes been made to the 2020 opportunity class placement process?

Due to the shorter time frame available for the OC placement process. The department is committed to supporting the continuity of learning and transitions for each child, and the revised application and placement process will ensure students are placed in 2021 Year 5 opportunity classes as soon as possible.

#### What changes have been made?

To ensure the fair and consistent assessment of students across all schools and regions of NSW, this year students will be placed on test results only. Taking this approach reduces the effect of the disrupted start to the school year, which could compromise school assessment scores, and ensures that all students are placed using the same test under the same conditions. The test is created by an independent educational assessment provider and measures academic ability, not achievement, giving a reliable method for identifying highly gifted applicants which is not subject to the variable classroom conditions experienced this year. The illness/misadventure or appeals process will not be available this year.

#### What are the key dates I should be aware of?

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Action	Date			
Applications open	9 June 2020			
Applications close	26 June 2020			
Opportunity Class Placement Test date	16 September 2020			
Parents and schools advised of placement outcome information	From 1 December 2020			
Parents accept or decline first round placement	By 15 December 2020			
Principals arrange orientation day for successful candidates	December 2020			
Reserve places offered	From mid-December 2020			
Authority to attend an opportunity class letter sent to parents	Late January 2021			
Successful candidates enrol in Year 5 at a school with an opportunity class	Late January 2021			

Parents are advised to review the new dates carefully and ensure an application is submitted by the closing date for their child to be eligible to sit the placement test as, owing to the shorter timeline, late applications will not be accepted.

If you would like your child to apply for Opportunity Class placement for Year 5 2021 please note all applications are completed online. **The application website opens on Tuesday 9 June 2020** via the following link. Detailed instructions on how to apply online will also be available from this date at:

https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5

#### **KINDERGARTEN 2021**

If you have a sibling who will be commencing Kindergarten in 2021 (turning 5 before 31 July 2021), please start the enrolment process as soon as possible. Applications can be obtained either from the school office or from the school's website.



## LIBRARY BORROWING

Due to the strict hygiene controls that the Department of Education has in place for school libraries, our students are currently unable to borrow books from our library at the moment. Please keep returning any books you may still have at home. We are looking forward to returning to regular library operations soon.

## NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

The dates for NRW remain the same each year; 27 May to 3 June. These dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey— the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

Reconciliation must live in the hearts, minds and actions of all Australians as we move forward, creating a nation strengthened by respectful relationships between the wider Australian community, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

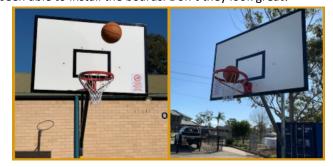
The theme of National Reconciliation Week 2020 is *In this Together*. In 2020 Reconciliation Australia marks twenty years

of shaping Australia's journey towards a more just, equitable and reconciled nation. Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians — as individuals, families, communities, organisations and importantly as a nation. At the heart of this journey are relationships between the broader Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. On this journey, Australians are all In This Together; every one of us has a role to play when it comes to reconciliation, and in playing our part we collectively build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories and cultures.



## **YEAR 6 GIFT 2019**

The Year 6 Class of 2019 raised funds to purchase new basketball backboards for the school. These were presented by our 2019 school captains to the school at our Celebration of Excellence assembly at the end of last year. We have finally been able to install the boards. Don't they look great!



## **STAGE 3 NEWS**

Stage 3 have enjoyed their return to face to face learning and wasted no time getting back into the routines of school life. The Stage 3 teachers were very happy to see the student's smiling faces and welcomed face to face learning again. Students are to be congratulated with how they handled the transition to online learning and their work ethic on Microsoft Teams. We look forward to beginning our Athletics program during stage sport, where students will be participating in instructional running, jumping and relay style activities.



## **STAGE 2 NEWS**

It was so pleasing to see Stage 2 students arriving back at school with giant smiles and a fresh, new enthusiasm for attending school every day. Each Year 3 and 4 class has been busy reestablishing classroom routines and resuming face-to-face learning programs. Our reading groups, writing and mathematics programs are back up and running. Whilst also having a literacy and numeracy focus some classes have been participating in reader's theatre, learning about various artworks and art movements, exploring Australian history and discovering how matter changes form. Year 3 and 4 are becoming re-acquainted with developing their cursive handwriting after all the typing practice they had during online learning. The teachers are looking forward to spending the rest of term in class with our amazing students.



## **STAGE 1 NEWS**

Stage 1 are excited to be back at school and have gotten straight back into fun, engaging learning. We have loved seeing our teachers and friends again! Some of the things we have been doing include art, learning about fractions and reading some wonderful picture books.

We have particularly enjoyed seeing the new classroom being built down near the bus shelters. It was interesting to watch the trucks bringing in the pieces of the new classrooms and seeing how they put them together!



## **EARLY STAGE 1 NEWS**

It has been wonderful to see all the students dive back into Kindergarten with such lively enthusiasm. They have settled into the school routine and are engaging in a range of hands-on activities in various learning spaces. Multiple classes have been using the Gulyangarri Garden, as well as the library and artificial turf to do fitness and mathematics groups. Beginning reading and writing is flourishing in each class, with teachers engaging students in daily literacy groups. Students have enjoyed participating in Creative Arts in the classroom and have even painted portraits of the book character *Mr McGee*! K Orange and K Red have begun a STEAM challenge in which they have to design a shelter for an animal that hibernates during winter. The kindergarten teachers look forward to watching the students continued growth throughout the rest of the year.













# **MATHLETICS**

Teachers use Mathletics as part of their mathematics program at school. Mathletics is a targeted, rewarding and captivating online learning resource, which is aligned to curriculum standards. Your child has take-home access to Mathletics – they simply sign in with their school username and password using any compatible computer or mobile device. The extra Mathletics practice at home can support your child's progress. Encourage them to achieve a weekly target of 1000 points to earn a certificate, building through bronze, silver and gold across the school year. Go for gold!

Sign up for FREE progress updates in 3 easy steps:

- 1. Visit www.mathletics.com/parent
- 2. Complete the form and click "Submit"
- 3. Look out for a weekly progress email in your inbox at the beginning of each week

# **SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Face-to-face Special Religious Education (SRE) and Special Education in Ethics (SEE) are currently not available. SRE and SEE providers have made available their curriculum to all students.

There are five live portal entry points to lesson content:

· Approved providers for All Faiths SRE (Islamic, Jewish, Buddhist, Bahai, Hindu)

https://www.betterbalancedfutures.org.au/learningfromhome

· Anglican SRE

https://cepconnect.com.au/learningathome/

· Catholic SRE

https://www.ccress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/

 $\cdot$  Approved providers for Christian based faith SRE

https://www.ccress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/

· Primary Ethics for SEE

https://www.ccress.org.au/learning-from-home-sre-lessons/

# **HEALTH AND SAFETY**



For safety and hygiene reasons we ask that all students bring their own water bottle school, rather than using the bubblers.

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S WELLBEING

# Tips for helping your child adjust to changes:

- Talk about the upcoming changes and give advanced warning where possible. Be open and honest and encourage your child to ask any questions they may have.
- Try to keep as much routine and consistency as possible reduce other changes in your child's life where you can so as not to overwhelm them.
- Be accepting of the feelings and emotions your child might experience. It is normal to experience some grief when big changes happen your child might be grieving the loss of spending extra time with you, or the freedom to stay at home all the time.

#### Returning to "normal" following COVID-19

Everybody has different feelings about school returning to "normal". It is okay to feel excited, relieved, nervous, scared, anxious or a combination of things! Some children may find returning to "normal" more challenging than others. It is common for children and young people to experience some anxiety when returning to school and "normal" life following big changes.

## Tips for supporting your child make the transition back to fulltime school:

- Create a plan around transitioning talk to your child openly about returning to school and how they feel about it. Make a plan for the first day and week back.
- Normalise and validate their feelings Listen to them and acknowledge how they are feeling. Let them know that what they are feeling is normal and okay.
- Get back into routine routines are safe and familiar which helps to reduce feelings of anxiety.
- Focus on the positives talk about what is positive about returning to school. For example; seeing their friends and teachers again, playing outside, it means things are improving and it is safe to return to school
- Focus on what you can control help your child to focus on what they can control and practical things they can do to reduce their stress and anxiety.
- Provide reassurance
- Revisit good hygiene practices

Encourage your child to try some of these strategies if they are having difficulty expressing their emotions:

♣ Taking some deep breathes

acting it out

- Finding a different way to do things
- Saying what they feel instead of
- Asking for help or support
- Spending time with a loved one or asking for a hug
- Talking with a grown-up about what is happening

#### **Helpful Resources**

#### The BRAVE Program

The BRAVE program is a FREE, online self-help program that contains both resources and information for children, teenagers and their parents. It is designed specifically to

help young people with anxiety overcome their worries and improve the quality of their lives.

https://brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au/child-program

The NSW government website Resourcing Parents:
www.resourcingparents.nsw.gov.au has a section called
"Parenting Events" which allows parents to search for
local courses to help support them in managing their
child's behaviour, social and/or emotional needs. Many of
them are free and are currently being offered online.

## Parent Line (NSW)

Trained counsellors offer advice, information and support for parents around issues including behavioural and emotional problems, discipline, family relationships, school programs etc. <a href="http://www.parentline.org.au/">http://www.parentline.org.au/</a>
1300 130 052 (Mon-Fri: 9am – 9pm, Sat-Sun: 4pm – 9pm) Online counselling available Mon & Tues 9am – 11am

# Beyond Blue

The Beyond Blue website is easy to navigate and has a number of resources aimed at assisting parents to support their children.

https://healthyfamilies.beyondblue.org.au/age-6-12/ They also have online chat and 24/7 telephone support available 1300 224 636.

# Youth Beyond Blue 1300 224 636



THE BRAVE PROGRAM
ANXIOUS? IT CAN GET
BETTER.

THE CHECK-IN APP
HELP SOMEONE YOU
KNOW

E YOU CONNECT WITH OTHERS

If you are a young person who would like holp managing your anxiety, The BRAVE Program is a free interactive, online program you should check out. »

about. Knowing how to talk to their can be the hard part. The Check-in helps you plan your conversation s know how you're going to go about Our forums are a place where you can share your experience of dealing with tough times, help others work out the hard stuff and learn ways to get better.

**OUR FORUMS** 

Need to talk to someone?

(24 hours)

chat online

#### Kids Helpline

The Kids Helpline is a 24/7 confidential support and counselling service specifically for young people 5 to 25 years. Visit their website for lots of helpful resources and tools - <a href="https://kidshelpline.com.au/parents">https://kidshelpline.com.au/parents</a>



Kids Helpline
For ages 5 - 25

Free 24/7 phone and online counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25.

**\ 1800 55 1800**Available 24/7

Chat with us online Available 8am - 12am AEST

Visit kidshelpline.com.au

## **ANTI-BULLYING**

At Quakers Hill Public School all students have the right to feel safe and be respected as equals. We are proactive in our approach to building a happy, safe, friendly climate where all students work towards this common goal of learning and tolerance in a safe environment. This is reflected in the school's Behaviour Management Plan and PBL expectations that are embedded across K-6. Our approach to anti-bullying focuses on 4 key strategies:

#### 1. Establishing school-wide anti bullying policies

At Quakers Hill Public School we have developed, reviewed and refined targeted anti-bully programs which link to our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Framework, including our school expectations of Proud, Safe, Responsible Learners. Key stakeholders, including our school psychologist, Learning and Support Teacher and School Executive Team were consulted in the development of the school's Anti Bullying Plan.

#### 2. Preventing bullying in key areas

- · Active classroom management is used in all classrooms
- Teachers creating classroom environments which is inhibitive to bullying
- School wide PBL expectations and displayed in classrooms and different areas of the playground. All expectations are explicitly taught and embedded
- Positive relationships between students and staff are encouraged and developed
- Students can identify staff members who they can seek help from bullying situations

## 3. Promoting a culture of reporting

- Clear steps are in place for students to report bulling incidences to class teacher/Stage Assistant Principal
- Positive relationships between students and staff are encouraged and developed
- Students can identify staff members who they can seek help from bullying situations
- Schools promotes positive behaviour and social skills in the classroom and on the playground through resilience groups for Stage 2 and 3 and Social Skills groups for K-6 at lunchtimes

## 4. Positive Partnerships with parents and carers

- Regular communication to parents of the school's PBL expectations, promotion of a common language between home and school.
- School behaviour system is visible and communicated with all school community.
- Parents are encouraged to contact class teacher with any issues in the first instance. They would then contact Stage Assistant Principal, Deputy Principal and Principal in the last instance with and wellbeing/ behaviour issues.
- Parents are contacted when any issues of bullying are reported to school staff members to discuss.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

To join our growing social media family download the app at your relevant app store on your smartphone or device.



#### Website

Visit our website:

https://quakershil-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/



#### **Twitter**

Follow us on twitter! Create a twitter account (<a href="https://twitter.com/">https://twitter.com/</a>) and then follow @QuakersHPS.



#### Instagram

Follow us at quakershilp.school.



#### **Facebook**

Follow the Quakers Hill Public School Facebook page for the latest news and photos.

#### **School Stream App**

FREE SCHOOL STREAM app can be downloaded onto your mobile phone. This will enable our school to send out important notifications at a much faster rate, all at the convenience of your mobile device. School Stream is available via each platform's App Store.

## iPhone / iPad iOS

- From your mobile device go to the App Store search for School Stream
- Tap the FREE/GET button to the right of the School Stream listing
- 3. Tap the INSTALL buttor
- 4. Enter your Apple ID and password & tap OK
- 5. Wait for the install icon to change to **OPEN**
- 6. Tap the **OPEN** button
- 7. You will be prompted to accept push notifications, you will need to select **OK**
- 8. Start typing **your school** into the search then **SELECT your school**







#### Android / Tablet

- From your mobile device go to the Play Store search for School Stream
- 2. Tap the School Stream listing
- 3. Tap the INSTALL button
- 4. Tap the ACCEPT button
- 5. Wait for the app to install then tap the **OPEN** button
- 6. Start typing **your school** into the search then **SELECT your school**
- 7. Tap the DONE button in the top left



If you are viewing this page on your mobile device, visit the store links below.





# **UPDATE CONTACT DETAILS**

To ensure there is clear communication between school and home it is extremely important that parents/carers notify the school of any changes to their contact details. The most common reason for school staff to contact parents/carers is to discuss a matter concerning your child. However, there are a number of emergency situations when we may need to contact a parent/carer, including when a child is ill/injured and needs to be collected from school. Please notify the school office of changes to your contact details, including mailing and email addresses, phone numbers and emergency contacts.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

Quakers Hill Public School is proud of its reputation in the community and our attractive uniform contributes to the school's identity and spirit. The school uniform promotes our school as a centre of excellence and creates a sense of belonging for students and a positive identity for the school community. School uniforms contribute to the personal safety of students by allowing easier recognition of students inside the school and in the community. It is expected that our students wear full school uniform daily and that it is neat, clean, well-maintained and clearly labelled with the student's name.

#### Responsibilities

- The school will set uniform requirements that are affordable, comfortable, made from easy-care fabrics, appropriate for activity and suitable for all body shapes
- Parents and carers will support the school by providing their child/children with a school uniform that meets the school's uniform requirements
- Students will wear the full school uniform during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when engaged in school activities out of school hours
- Staff will positively encourage students to wear the correct school uniform at all times
- The school will ensure support is available for families needing assistance to obtain a school uniform. The school also has an inexpensive clothing pool with good quality second hand items.

#### WINTER UNIFORM

#### Unisex

Jacket Royal blue microfibre jacket with yellow trim and school logo
Jumper Royal blue fleece bomber style jacket with school logo

Beanie Royal blue QHPS beanie

#### **Boys**

Shirt Long or short sleeve royal blue polo shirt with yellow trim

and school logo

Pants Plain grey shorts or pants Socks Plain white above ankle

socks

#### Girls

Option 1

Dress A blue, yellow and white checked dress

Stockings Navy stockings

Option 2

Culottes Two tone blue check with fine yellow stripe dress shorts

Shirt Long or short sleeve royal blue polo shirt with yellow trim

and school logo

Stockings Navy stockings

#### Option 3

Tunic Two tone blue check tunic with fine yellow stripe

Skivvy Royal blue skivvy Stockings Navy stockings

#### Option 4

Shirt Long or short sleeve royal blue polo shirt with yellow trim

and school logo

Pants Royal blue slacks

Socks Plain white above ankle socks

## **SPORTS UNIFORM**

Unisex

Shoes White fully enclosed joggers
Socks Plain white above ankle socks

Tracksuit Royal blue microfibre jacket and pants with yellow trim and

school logo

Shirt Short sleeve gold polo shirt with school logo or royal blue

school representative shirt

Shorts Blue sports shorts with school logo

#### **HAIR**

Hair should be neat and tidy and natural in colour. Hair restraints/accessories should be discreet and in school colours.

# **JEWELLERY**

The wearing of jewellery is not encouraged. Medical alert bracelets, items of religious significance, small studs or sleepers and a wrist watch are permitted. No necklaces. Jewellery can pose a safety risk.

## MAKEUP

Makeup is not appropriate for school and is not to be worn. No nail polish is to be worn.

For more information about the QHPS uniform please see the <u>School Uniform Implementation Statement</u>.



# **UNIFORM SHOP**

The school uniform shop will remain closed for the rest of Term 2. School uniform can be ordered through the school office. Download and view <u>Quakers Hill Public School uniform price list</u>.

## SCHOOL CANTEEN

With our morning kiss and drop procedures, please remember online lunch orders must be submitted prior to 9 am. Students are able to place lunch orders at the canteen before the 9:07 bell, however parents/carers are asked not to enter the school grounds of a morning.





As part of our campaign against fare evasion, and our on-going commitment to provide the level of service needed to transport students to and from your school, Busways conducts regular checks of School Opal card.

All students must be in possession of a valid Opal card or pay a fare.

Students in possession of an Opal card must also tap on/off with their card when boarding our buses.

This is important, because the Opal data collected determines the level of service we are able to provide to your school. If students don't tap on and off, the services will appear under utilised and may be considered for cancellation based on low passenger numbers.

To apply for a School Opal card or to report a lost or stolen card, go online to <a href="www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students/">www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students/</a>

Students who are ineligible for School Opal will need to purchase a Child/Youth Opal card or pay a fare to travel on our buses.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and support.





