



Newsletter

Issue 1 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back to Riverside ESC – 2026

It is with great pride and genuine enthusiasm that I welcome you back to another school year at Riverside Education Support Centre.

Each new year brings fresh opportunities – opportunities for growth, learning, connection, and success. At Riverside ESC, we remain deeply committed to our core belief that every student, every classroom, every day deserves high-quality teaching, strong relationships, and a safe, supportive environment in which to thrive.

Our dedicated staff have returned energised and focused on ensuring that every child's individual learning pathway is carefully supported. Through personalised planning, structured routines, and strong collaboration with families and external agencies, we continue to build a school culture grounded in care, respect and high expectations.

In 2026, we will further strengthen:

- Individualised learning programs
- Student wellbeing supports
- Clear communication with families
- Consistent and structured classroom practices
- Strong partnerships with our community

We know that when school and home work together, students flourish. Your trust, support and collaboration are valued deeply, and we look forward to working alongside you throughout the year.

Thank you for being part of our Riverside ESC community. I am excited for the journey ahead and confident that together we will continue to create meaningful, positive outcomes for our students.

Parent Representatives Urgently Required – Riverside ESC School Board

Riverside Education Support Centre currently has vacancies on our School Board and we urgently require additional 2 parent representatives to

ensure the Board can continue to operate effectively.

The School Board plays an important governance role in supporting the strategic direction, policy oversight and long-term planning of our school. Parent representation is essential to ensure our community voice is reflected in decision-making.

No special qualifications are required – only a willingness to contribute constructively and attend approximately two meetings per term.

Without sufficient parent representation, the Board cannot fulfil its responsibilities as intended.

If you are able to support the school in this capacity, or would like further information before deciding, please contact the school office or speak with me directly at your earliest convenience.

Your involvement is both valued and needed.

Working Together to Support Positive Behaviour

At Riverside Education Support Centre, we understand that many of our students experience complex challenges that can sometimes impact their emotional regulation and behaviour.

Our staff are deeply committed to creating calm, structured and nurturing classroom environments where students feel safe, understood and supported. We use proactive strategies, clear routines and individualised behaviour plans to help students build confidence and positive coping skills.

There are occasions, however, when a student may become highly distressed or dysregulated. When behaviour escalates to a point where safety or wellbeing is significantly impacted, we may contact families to seek support. This can sometimes include a request for a student to be collected from school so they can regulate in a familiar environment and return when ready.

This is never about blame or punishment. It is about care, safety and ensuring that every child – and every staff member – feels secure and supported.

We greatly value our partnership with families. When school and home work together consistently and compassionately, students are better able to develop the skills they need to succeed.

If you would ever like to discuss behaviour supports or strategies for your child, please know our doors are always open. We are here to work alongside you.

Thank you for your trust, understanding and ongoing collaboration

Warm regards,

Jim Douglas
Principal
Riverside Education Support Centr

SWIMMING LESSONS

Swimming lessons for Years 4-6 will take place for 2 weeks starting Monday 23 February 2026. These will be held at Doddi's Beach.

Students will leave and return by bus. Lesson time is 9.20am and **Students will need to be at school by 8.50am to catch the bus to the beach.**

2026 VOLUNTARY SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION

Each year, families and carers are invited to pay a voluntary contribution that assists our school acquire additional classroom resources. Your contribution is important: the higher the number of contributions received the more effectively can the acquisition program benefit all ESC students.

For ease of payment, cash can be paid directly to the front office or speak with us about EFT transactions. **We extend our thanks to families who have already paid**

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES

- Feb 20 – Assembly
- Feb 23 – Swimming Lessons for Years 4-6 for 2 weeks (weeks 4 and 5)
- Mar 16 – Board Meeting 4-5.30pm
- Apr 2nd (Thurs) – Last day of term 1
- Apr 20th (Mon) – Staff Development Day (pupil free)
- Apr 21st (Tues) – First Day of Term 2 for students

On Site Therapy Appointments

Our staff are committed to promoting success for all students and helping them aspire toward developing personal and social attributes that form the basis for future wellbeing.

To ensure our students have access to the best possible programs and services we work collaboratively with outside providers, including therapists, under the NDIS arrangement. Therapists can come on site to conduct therapy sessions from week 6, term 1 2026 onwards. This gives the students and staff some time to get to know each other and settle into their new classes.

Parents and/or carers who wish external providers (therapists) to work with their child during school hours are to make an appointment with Mrs Ketziyah Naisbitt, Deputy Principal, to formally request on-site therapy sessions. Thank you to the parents and/or carers who have already contacted the school to complete a request form.

Staff Development Day

Please note that **Mainstream** has a Staff Development on Tuesday 3rd March – this is NOT a staff development day in Ed Support and our side of the school will be open for business as usual.

IEP Meetings

Our teachers are in the process of arranging IEP Meetings for your students over the next week or so

Medication

Please ensure ALL medication is clearly labelled and handed to the teacher. If you require ANY medication to be administered at school, you need to complete authority forms. See the office.

Contact Details and Emergency Contacts

Please remember to advise the school if your contact details change. We may need to contact you in an emergency, so it is important that we have your up-to-date phone numbers. Please also ensure that your emergency contact person's details are also up to date.