



# LEADING WITH LEARNING

*Excellence, Innovation & Success  
at Harrisdale Primary School*

17th February 2025 ~ Every Student Successful

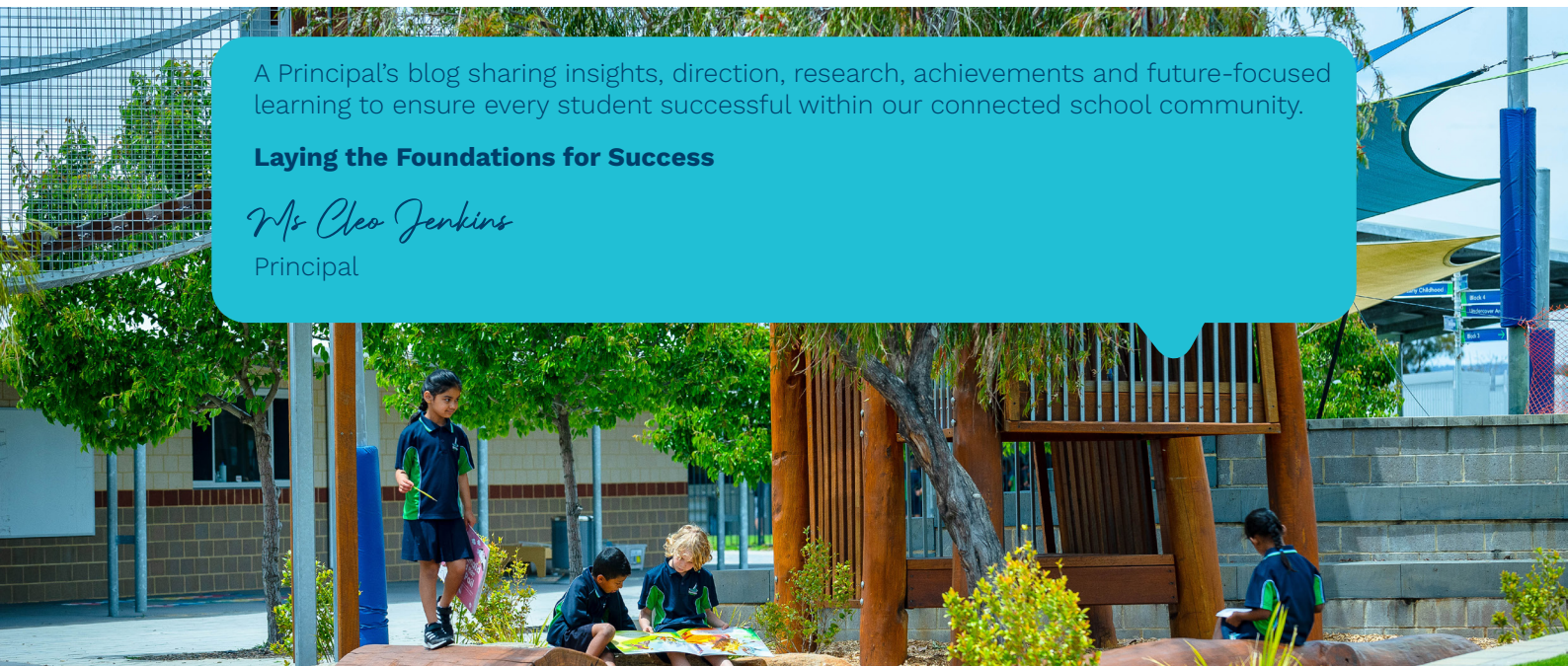


A Principal's blog sharing insights, direction, research, achievements and future-focused learning to ensure every student successful within our connected school community.

## Laying the Foundations for Success

*Mrs Cleo Jenkins*

Principal



As we settle into another exciting school year at Harrisdale PS, it's a great time to reflect on the small but powerful ways we can support our children's learning and wellbeing. Our core focus over the next few weeks is to create a learning environment that empowers every child to succeed. Our dedicated staff is working hard to cultivate a class and playground environment where students feel safe, known, and nurtured. When these elements are established through high expectations, care, and routines, our students build positive relationships, feel valued, and develop a sense of belonging.

I have noticed that our students look fantastic in their complete school uniform, and we encourage them to wear it with pride to set the right mindset for learning and to help reinforce our school values of respect, safety, and responsibility. Research from the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER, 2020) suggests that wearing a school uniform fosters a sense of belonging, reduces social pressures, and contributes to a more focused learning environment. When students feel connected to their school community, they are more likely to engage positively with their learning and peers. Please check our school website for the required uniform. If you are seeking additional uniforms, second-hand items, or need support, please contact the front office. We are here to help you.

We are pleased to note that our whole-school attendance improved from 91.6% in 2023 to 92.7% in 2024. We know that attendance is a collaborative effort between home and school. Poor attendance can lead to academic struggles, reduced engagement, social isolation, and issues with self-esteem and confidence. Mr. Julian Thrupp and Mr. Jason Tate, Deputy Principals, will support you and your child if you are having difficulties with this.

Returning to school is an opportunity to re-establish positive daily routines at home. Research by the Sleep Health Foundation (2019) suggests that children aged 5–12 need 9–11 hours of sleep per night for optimal cognitive function and emotional resilience. Consistent bedtimes, screen-free wind-down time, and a calm morning routine can all contribute to a smoother school day. If your child is still adjusting from an overload of screen time during the break, small incremental changes—such as bringing bedtime forward by 10 minutes each night can ease the transition.







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Perhaps one of the most powerful factors in a child's success at school is parental involvement. Decades of research, including studies from the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS, 2021), have shown that when parents actively engage with their child's education—whether by reading together, volunteering to assist, discussing school activities, or simply showing interest in their day—children perform better academically and develop greater resilience. Even small actions, such as asking open-ended questions like “What was something interesting you learned today?” or setting aside time for a chat about their daily highlight, can help children feel supported and motivated in their learning journey. If you wish to volunteer in your child's class, please let their classroom teacher know. Ms. Ashley Smith, Deputy Principal, is leading parent engagement for our community this year, so please feel free to be in touch with any queries, ideas, or contributions.

Eighty percent of parents requested that assemblies return in 2025. Mr. Jason Tate, Deputy Principal, is working hard behind the scenes to review and incorporate community, staff, and student feedback to revitalize our assemblies for 2025. Our first assembly for the year is scheduled for Week 5—please keep an eye out for further details.

I'm currently liaising with WA Cricket to explore a partnership that would provide this sport for our students before and after school. Look out for an EOI this term, as your voice and engagement matter! If we receive strong interest, we are likely to be successful in establishing sessions, securing additional funding for programs, and forming links with Harrisdale Senior High School.

As we embark on 2025, small but meaningful habits can set a strong foundation for a positive and successful school year. Thank you for your continued support in valuing your child's education and making our school community a place where everyone can thrive.

*Ms Cleo Jenkins*

Principal

