



Blackheath Public School

Leichhardt Street Blackheath NSW 2785

Phone (02) 4787 8253 **Fax** (02) 4787 8320
Email blackheath-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web <https://blackheathp.schools.nsw.edu.au>



26/03/2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

In the last week of this term, we will hold our biennial Autism Awareness Week.

This will be our third Autism week at BPS in which we hope to, again, educate the entire community about autism and the impact it has on the lives of those students (and adults) who are on the autism spectrum.

Many of our students are on the autism spectrum and this impacts them in many ways. We will be exploring some of the positive gifts that autism gives by learning about famous figures with Autism, as well as watching a children's news show in which young people talk about their own experiences of autism.

We also aim to educate our children about differences autism brings that create difficulties for students on the spectrum. This supports children to understand the frustrations, sensory overloads and social difficulties that can cause people with autism to react and act in ways that others don't always understand.

We will not be referring to autism as a disability, but rather as a condition. Whilst it can in many ways impact negatively on some aspects of a person's life, it is important not to overlook the many gifts it can also bring.

Each time that we have celebrated Autism Awareness Week, we have found that it has had a positive impact across the school and a profound impact on some of our students. It allows us to open up the children's eyes to the range of neurodiversity in the community and normalises all of our quirks and differences – we are one community made up of entirely unique individuals.

During the week we will have an assembly, a number of classroom activities and some empathy tasks for the older students to try out. We will end our week (Friday 12th April) with a wear blue for autism mufti day where a gold coin donation will help us to build a bank of resources for all of our students with conditions that impact on their mental health and emotional well-being.

I thank you in anticipation of your support for this week.

Regards

Ms. Louise Bishop

Learning and Support Teacher