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09/09/2021

R U OK? DAY

Dear parents/carers,

My name is Natalie Shamir and I am the School Counsellor at Concord West Public School.



As we know, the world we currently live in is unpredictable and presents us with uncertainties about the future. It is important to remind ourselves to remain in the present moment, especially when thinking about future plans, as this can be both overwhelming and stressful. Reminding ourselves to take one day at a time and check in with each other, our friends, family, colleagues and anyone else that comes to mind is more important now than ever.

As some of you may be aware, today is **R U OK? Day**. R U OK? Day is all about starting conversations to check in and their website offers this simple guide on how to go about that:

- 1. Ask
- 2. Listen
- 3. Encourage action
- 4. Check in

They even have a role play on how to go about having such a conversation which is available on their website (see link below).

While this day comes around each year and is a wonderful reminder for us to check in with others and offer our time to listen, provide empathy for and support those closest to us, I encourage you all to check in as often as you like, as we are not limited to checking with others simply on this day. You may even want to check in with yourself and ask...R U OK?

Attached is a Self-care September guide which I encourage you all to, where possible, print out and stick on the fridge as a daily reminder to check in with yourself and prioritise your mental health and wellbeing as often as you can. For more child-friendly versions of the monthly released calendars please visit the following link <a href="https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendars">https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendars</a>

For more information and resources on **R U OK? Day** please see the following link <u>https://www.ruok.org.au/</u>

Warm regards,

Natalie Shamir School Counsellor

