



Principal's Message

Planning Meetings

If you haven't already been contacted, families will be contacted shortly to organise Individual Planning meetings (ILP's). Your participation in these meetings ensures the goals set for your child reflect home and school needs. If you are unable to attend in person please organise a meeting over the phone. Staff is expected to have completed ILP's for the students in their class by the end of Week 6 for continuing students and end of Week 8 for new students. Please contact your child's class teacher if you have any questions. Thanks for your support.

Attendance

I have attached the DEC information sheet regarding attendance for your information. It is important in our new business systems to ensure you contact the school as soon as possible to inform them if your child will not be coming into school or will be in late / going home early. If you have any concerns around attendance please contact me at school.

Mosquitoes

Due to an increasing amount of mosquitoes recently could families please send in repellent for their child. The school does have a small supply but if your child has sensitivity to mosquitoes or repellent it's best if they bring their own.

Regards

Belinda Ryan
Principal

School Leaders Induction Assembly

School Leaders will have their induction at our assembly on Friday 13th February at 1.30pm under the COLA.

Driveway / Drop Off

Drop off and pick up times are always very busy and I am seeking your co-operation to ensure our driveway operates as safely as possible.

Drivers should take time to read the signage which has guidelines for driveway operations. Drivers are NOT to leave students unsupervised in vehicles or outside of vehicles. Drivers should remain in their vehicles until students have been received by staff and checked off.

Parents who bring their child are encouraged to park outside and walk in with their child. Please hold onto your child as you enter/exit the driveway and remain with your child until active supervision commences.

Morning bell is 8.45am, parents are very welcome to arrive after 8.30am and wait (on the seat outside or under the COLA) until the bell goes.

Please let us know if there are any issues. The driveway duty officer wears a yellow hi-vis vest.

Thank you for helping us keep our kids safe!

Diary Dates

Week 3

Thursday, February 12th	Drivers/ATSO's morning tea
Friday, February 13th	School Leaders Induction

Office News

School Uniforms

School uniforms will be ordered in Week 5.

Now is the time to start thinking of the cooler weather. If your child requires uniforms please ask for an order form to be sent home or call in at the office to collect one.

School Fees

\$100 per year or \$25 per term.

The office has the facility to accept payments by eftpos, Mastercard or VISA. If this option suits your lifestyle then please ring details through or send details in with your child. (These will be shredded once payment has been made). Find a credit card payment slip attached.

School Newsletters

If you would like to have our school newsletters emailed to you please fill out the attached note and send back to school.

As a school we are trying to reduce our environmental footprint.

Regards
Susan and Kristy

School Canteen

Class 6 will be running canteen this year starting Thursday 12th February. The menu selection this year includes three different types of burgers, chicken nuggets, chocolate milk and poppers.

Order forms will be sent home each Friday to be returned with payment no later than Wednesday.

Regards
Peta Drews
Class 6 Teacher

School Newsletters

We do / do not want the school newsletter emailed.

Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Email address: _____

Please return this slip back to school.

Credit Card Payment Slip

Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Payment for: _____

Amount: \$ _____

☐ VISA

☐ Mastercard

(✓Please Tick)

Card Number: ____|____|____|____ - ____|____|____|____ - ____|____|____|____ - ____|____|____|____ - ____|____|____|____

Expiry Date: ____|____ - ____|____

CVC: ____|____|____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____





Education &
Communities

Public Schools NSW

Compulsory school attendance

Information for parents



Did you know that if a student misses as little as eight days in a school term, by the end of primary school they will have missed over a year of education?

The compulsory years of schooling

In New South Wales, all children from six years of age are legally required to attend school or be registered for home schooling. After they complete Year 10 and until they turn 17 years of age, students then have the following options. They may also be in:

- full-time further education and training (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship);
- full-time, paid employment of an average of 25 hours per week; or
- a combination of both of the above.

Children are expected to attend all school activities, on time. Regular attendance helps your child:

- develop the skills needed to access the world of work and other opportunities
- to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- make and keep friendships.

What if my child has to be away from school?

If your child has to be absent from school, you must tell the school and provide a reason for your child's absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may be required to:

- send a note to the school, or contact the school via electronic means such as SMS text message, fax or email, or

- telephone the school, or
- visit the school.

A small number of absences may be accepted by the principal. For example, if your child:

- has to go to a special religious ceremony
- is required to attend a serious or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
- is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness.

What are school Principals responsible for?

Principals help to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of your child. Principals have to keep accurate records of student attendance and the reasons for any absences. Principals are responsible for accepting or not accepting a parent's explanations for their child's absences. Principals may request further information from parents for long or frequent absences, even where they are explained by parents as being due to illness.

When absences are unexplained by parents, or the explanations are not accepted by the principal, the school will work with parents to help address the issue. The main aim is to sort out what is preventing the child from getting to school and putting strategies in place to help. Sometimes, the school will ask support staff and other agencies to assist.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department may take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unacceptable absences from school. Some of the following actions may be undertaken.

■ Attendance meetings and compulsory attendance conferences

Parents (and sometimes their child) can be asked to go to a meeting with school personnel and other regional officers. The aim of the meeting is to help identify strategies to support the child and family. Other agencies may also be invited along to help, if parents agree.

If the school and other regional officers have tried to help improve a child's attendance, without success, parents (and sometimes their child) can be asked to go to a compulsory attendance conference. The conference will be run by a trained conference convenor. The aim of the conference is for the school, parents (and sometimes their child) and other identified agencies ("the parties") to further identify the issues which are impacting on a child's attendance.

The outcome of a compulsory attendance conference is for the parties to agree to undertake certain actions to improve the child's attendance. These actions are written in the form of undertakings.

■ Applications to the Children's Court – A Compulsory Schooling Order

Legal compliance can be sought through an application to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The aim is to assist a family and/or child to address the issues which are preventing satisfactory school attendance but has the added enforcement of a Court's powers.

■ Prosecution in the Local Court

If all attempts by schools and regional support staff fail to improve a student's attendance, action can be taken in the Local Court and the result can be fines up to a maximum of \$11,000.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites

Policy, information and brochures:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/attendance.php>

The school leaving age:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/leavingschool/index.php>

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are provided, where possible, for parents/carers who do not speak or understand English well and for Deaf parents/carers who use sign language. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at the telephone number: 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

See the website address:

http://www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/help-with-english/help_with_translating/