



MEPS MAIL

Term 1 Week 4 — 17th February

Key Dates

School Dates for Students and the start of classes 2022.

Term 1

1 February to 8 April 2022

Term 2

27 April to 1 July 2022

Term 3

19 July—23 September 2022

Term 4

10 October—19 December 2022

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Principal's report

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

A belated welcome back to all our families, especially to Kindergarten and new families joining our school community for the first time. It is heart warming to see the children enter our school each day with a sense of enthusiasm for learning.

This week, Kindergarten are undertaking a Best Start Assessment. This is a common one on one assessment throughout the state to benchmark children and their skill levels. The results help teachers plan for student learning. In the month of March, our school will be implementing the Department of Education Check in Assessment for Years 4 and 6. Again, this is a statewide assessment to gather information about students' learning.

The school has commenced with 13 classes based on our total enrolment of 323 students. This is down by about 50 students due to International Travel limitations over the past two years. The enrolments will grow as flights resumes.

Covid 19 will continue to pose significant challenges for all schools across the nation. Our school is working within COVID-19 safe guidelines to provide every opportunity possible for our students. As restrictions change we will adjust our Covid safe plans accordingly, always ensuring the safety of our students and staff remain a priority.

Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits have been provided to all parents to help monitor their child's health and minimise transmission of COVID-19 across our school. The continuation of the RATS beyond 4 weeks is a decision of the Government.

- Wearing of surgical masks indoors is required for all staff and strongly recommended for all primary students.
- Only fully vaccinated visitors essential to delivering and supporting learning or wellbeing can come on a school site.
- Students will be kept in their year or stage groups on school grounds, with specific grade exit points in the afternoon to avoid congestion.
- Enhanced cleaning, good air flow and ventilation in learning spaces, as well as physical distancing practices.
- Installation of air purifiers in the Library, Office and the single storey building classrooms (where the windows do not fully open).

Masks are strongly recommended for primary students but not mandatory. The school has masks to supply to students, if required.

STAFFING 2022

Principal

Mr John Goh

Deputy Principal

Ms Jenn Greig

Assistant Principal

Mrs Solange Cruz

Mrs Lisa Vizard

Mrs Kathy Fernandopulle (Relieving)

Mrs Sima Mirzaee-Farjad (Relieving)

Assistant Principal Curriculum Instruction

Ms Nguyen (Relieving)

Ms Bev Byrne (Relieving)

Early Stage 1

Miss Erica Nguyen K

Mrs Kayla Stone K

Mrs Mitzy Camilo K

Stage 1

Mrs Alyssa Melacrinis 1

Miss Kelly Huynh 1/2

Mrs Elle Gonzalez / Mrs Lisa Johnson 2

Miss Tatyana Babic 2

Stage 2

Mrs Solange Cruz 2/3

Ms Amelia Asquith 3/4

Mrs Diane Healy 4

Stage 3

Mrs Carol Hitti 5

Mrs Kacie Speechley 5/6

Mrs Sima Mirzaee-Fayjad 6

EALD (Vi Nguyen)

Mrs Annie Park

Mr Jonathan Atkin

Learning and Support

Mrs Kathy Fernandopulle

Teacher-Librarian / RFF

Miss Danielle Hughes

SLSO

Mrs Dianne Ghosn

Mrs Rim Aljrab

Ms Marlee Booth

RFF

Mr Syed Rizvi

Mrs Sajah Naboulsi

Covid Intensive Support Program

Ms Thea Hopkins

Mrs Lisa Vizard

School Administration Manager

Ms Tiina Barber (Relieving)

School Administration Officer

Miss Jaime Linnell

General Assistant

Mr Nick Charalambous

School Psychologist (Monday / Wednesday)

Mrs Lomov

Parents NSW Vouchers

The NSW Government has launched Parents NSW vouchers to reward and thank eligible NSW households for their efforts to support learning from home in 2021.

Each [eligible household](#) can apply for 5 x \$50 vouchers, worth \$250 in total on the Services NSW App.

The 5 x \$50 Parents NSW vouchers can be used:

- 7 days a week, including public holidays
- at [Discover NSW businesses](#) for entertainment and recreation activities
- at [Stay NSW businesses](#) for accommodation bookings



Asthma / Allergies / Anaphylaxis

Allergic reactions are common in students and happens when the immune system reacts to something in the environment such as food proteins, pollens or dust mites. Allergic reactions can be triggered by an allergen coming into contact with the eyes, nose, skin, lungs, stomach or bowel. Some allergic reactions become severe. Anaphylaxis is a severe form of an allergic reaction and is life threatening.

Each year, all staff undertake training in allergies, asthma and anaphylaxis to mitigate the risk for students. All staff are equipped in the administration of prescribed medications and the Department's Administration of Medication in Schools.

Students with allergies, asthma and anaphylaxis requires an action plan to be signed by their doctor each year and presented to our school.

Due to students with food allergies, parents are asked **NOT** to bring birthday cakes to school or have their child share food.

Student Absences

The Department of education expects all student to have a good attendance record. The State's attendance average for primary schools is around 94%. This means no more 2-3 days absences per term.

Parents are required to provide a reason for their child's absences within 7 days of returning to school.

Teachers will contact parents if no reasons have been provided or your child has been absent for 2 days or more.

NSW Health—Covid testing

The NSW Department of Education requires any child with a sore throat, runny nose or any other flu like symptoms to stay at home until clear of symptoms.

Under the new close contact rules, schools are no longer included in contact tracing. I will inform the school class when there is a positive case in our school and advise families on public health advice, including monitoring for symptoms.



Health



LEARNING FROM HOME

Children that are required to self isolate at home for 7 days (family member testing positive for Covid 19) may require school work to maintain continuity in learning. The NSW Department of Education recognises the challenges faced for students by producing wonderful online resources to support students. Lessons have been developed for each grade across a range of curriculum areas.

The link for the lessons is below.. Alternatively, you can go to our school website and click on the link in our home page.

<https://merrylandseast.schools.nsw.gov.au>

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/learning-from-home/learning-at-home>

PARKING

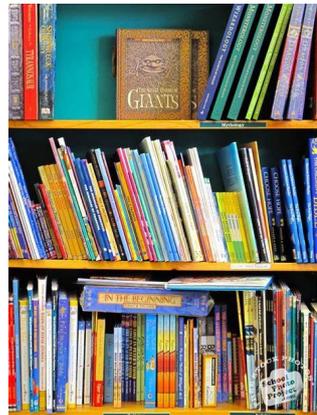
The Cumberland Council rangers are regularly patrolling our streets to ensure the safety of students and parents. Do not to park in the “No Standing” Zone in York Street or the “Bus Zone” on Myee Street. Please avoid double parking and parking in front of driveways as these offences do attract fines and penalty points.

Safety is a collective responsibility.



Library Borrowing

Ms Danielle Hughes has joined our school staff as the new Teacher Librarian and literacy teacher. Ms Hughes was at Auburn West Public School Ms Hughes brings to our school a wealth of experience in the teaching and learning of literacy.



Students will have the opportunity to borrow from our Library each week.

Homework

All children have Homework except for Kindergarten (they will commence in Term 2).

Home Reading is the main homework for all students across our school. Teachers supplement home reading with other work relevant to their class.

While we recognise parents and students may have commitments in the afternoon and evenings, it is important that children do take some time out to read.

Borrowing from class home Reading Kits will recommence within the next week.

Just a reminder students in years 1-3 have access to PM readers online and students in years 3-6 have access to Mathletics. Teachers will provide parents with codes in the next week.

PSSA

Due to Covid 19 Guidelines and the need to cohort students in their grade groups, PSSA will not take place in Term 1 except for the Swimming Carnival.

It is anticipated that PSSA will recommence in Term 2.

Lost Property

Your Name

Avoid lost property (hats /lunch boxes / drink bottles / jumpers etc). It is important to label items with your child's name. Missing items with names can easily be returned to students.