



MEPS MAIL

Term 1 Week 6 - 3 March 2022

Key Dates

3rd March: Auburn Zone Swimming Carnival.

8th March: International Women's Day

10th March: Selective High School Test (School Hall)

16th March: Cross Country Carnival (Years 3 -6)

18th March: Yr 6 High School forms due back to school office.

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Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The wet weather has tested our resolve in the past week with students being inside during recess for most days. The Bureau of Meteorology forecasts the rain to continue this week. It is important that students bring a rain coat or pack an umbrella each day in the event of the weather changing during the day. If you require assistance due to localised flooding or storm damage (e.g. trees falling on your property), please contact the NSW State Emergency Service on 132 500 along with your insurance company.

Homework has commenced for all students in Year 1 to Year 6. Home Reading is the main homework and is supplement by other activities from class teachers. Students in Year 1 to Year 3 can access online PM Readers as part of their Homework while Year 3 to Year 6 can access online Mathletics.

Our library has books that students can borrow each week as part of Home Reading. In addition, the Premier's Reading Challenge is now open. The challenge is a great way to encourage students to read regularly and widely. The new booklist is available online:

<https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/home.html>

This week, we have 6 students representing our school at the Auburn PSSA Zone Swimming Carnival at Auburn Swimming Pool on Thursday 3rd March 2022. Congratulations to our school representatives:

Adam, Reemas, Tarek, Jana, Sara and Jovanka .

Congratulations

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support of our school and students during the pandemic. While we have experienced a number of positive cases, the overall picture has been quite positive and our school programs have commenced with minimal disruptions. The last of the Rapid Antigen Tests were distributed this week and parents can now decide when they will use them. It is important to notify our school of any positive cases (or close contacts—someone living in the same household of a positive case) and keep affected students home for 7 days.

We cannot be complacent with Covid19 even though many of the community restrictions have been lifted. From the 28th February 2022, invited visitors are allowed back on site for school events, regardless of their vaccination status. We can now plan for community events with parents attending. From the 7th March, masks will no longer be mandatory for primary school staff in indoor settings. Masks will become optional from the 7th March.

MOVING INTO YEAR 7 IN A NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOL

The moving into Year 7 in a NSW Government School in 2023 (Expression of Interest form) will be distributed shortly to enable Year 6 parents to make choices about high schools in 2023. Forms need to be returned to the school office by 18th March 2022. The form will contain the name of your child's local high school based on your residential address.

- Section A needs to be completed.
- Parents wishing for their child to attend their local school will only need to complete Section A and Section B.
- Parents wishing to select a high school outside of their local school will need to complete Section A and C and provide reasons for their choice.
- Parents sending their child to a catholic or independent school will still be required to return the form after ticking the no placement required box.
- Parents with students sitting the Selective High School Test will still need to make high school choices in the event that a Selective High School place is not offered.
- Parents wishing to apply for a Sport High School will need to contact the school directly to obtain the procedure and entry requirements.



NSW Department of Education

Moving into Year 7 in a NSW Government school in 2023

Time to start the transition of your child from Year 6 to Year 7

Your child's local school

Most NSW Government schools have designated intake areas so that all school-age children will be eligible to attend a government school – their local school.

Your child's permanent residential address determines which school is your child's local school. The School Finder tool at education.nsw.gov.au/school-finder can help you locate the local school.

Most parents and carers in NSW choose their local school to provide an education of excellence for their child.

Local schools cater for students of all ability levels, including programs to challenge high potential and gifted students and programs for students with additional learning and support needs. They also offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

Some are single-sex (boys or girls only) schools that accept students residing in their designated local enrolment area.

There are multi-campus colleges which include a number of schools or campuses, with each school or campus specialising in different areas. For example, there are junior campuses (Years 7–9 or 7–10), senior campuses (Years 10–12 or 11–12), academically selective campuses, co-educational campuses and single-sex campuses.

There are also central schools which offer many rural and isolated communities the opportunity to educate their children from Kindergarten through to Year 12 in one school setting. Many central schools use technology to link teachers and students in different schools so that a range of subjects is offered. Central schools also offer a broad range of extra-curricular activities.

For more information:
education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/enrolment/high-school-enrolment

education.nsw.gov.au

Schools have placement criteria for out-of-area enrolments where demand for out-of-area enrolments exceeds the number of available places. Some of the reasons for applying for out-of-area may be:

- Siblings (brother or sister) already enrolled in the school
- Proximity and access to the school
- Access to a single sex school
- Medical reasons
- Safety and supervision of your child before and after school
- Availability of subjects or combinations of subjects at school
- Compassionate reasons
- The structure and organisation of the school
- Recent changes in the local intake are boundaries

Enquiries about specific high school enrolments need to be directed to the high school.

Please note that all schools have an enrolment cap and have to prioritise students living in their local enrolment area. Holroyd High School is the only out of local enrolment area school that has not reached their enrolment cap.

Merrylands Library

Merrylands Library is on the corner of Miller Street and Newman Street. The library provides a range of adult and children's reading material for borrowing and is located only 5 minutes away from our school. Membership of the library is free and available to anyone living, working or studying within the Sydney Metropolitan Area. During the school vacation, Merrylands Library will often have educational programs for children. Membership can be completed online.

<https://library.cumberland.nsw.gov.au/>

Opening Hours: 9:30am—8pm (Monday to Thursday), 9:30am to 6pm (Friday), 9:30am to 4pm (Saturday) and 2pm to 5pm (Sunday).



Parents NSW Vouchers

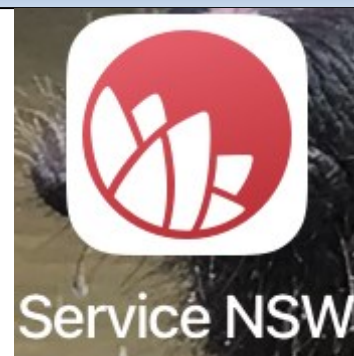
The NSW Government has launched Parents NSW vouchers to reward and thank eligible NSW households for their efforts to support learning from home in 2021. Each [eligible household](#) can apply for 5 x \$50 vouchers, worth \$250 in total on the Services NSW App.

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

Note: Only one set of Parents NSW Vouchers for each eligible household. You **do not** need to re-apply for multiple children.

Parents can also apply for the Active Kids Voucher worth \$100 to offset the costs of community sport and a Creative Kids voucher worth \$100.



Attendance

It is important for all students to attend school every day unless they are sick, are a close contact of a positive Covid 19 family member or require a specialist medical appointment that cannot be booked outside of our school hours.

Attendance is monitored closely by our school staff and followed up where there has been no reason provided within two days of an absence or within the 7 days after returning to school.

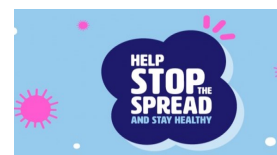
NSW Health—Covid testing

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



ASSESSMENTS

NAPLAN

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM Literacy and Numeracy

The National Assessment Program of Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) for Year 3 and Year 5 will take place from Tuesday 10th May 2022. This year, all students will complete NAPLAN online. In order to prepare for the tests, students will have a NAPLAN readiness test from the 21st March 2022. This is to test our school's wifi and provide students with an opportunity to experience an online assessment.

Year 4 and Year 6 will be undertaking a NSW Department of Education Check-in assessment to benchmark students' reading outcomes.

PARKING

Please do not park across driveways when dropping off or picking up students from school.

Please remember that Council have placed a Bus Zone on Myee Street, a No Stopping Zone in York Street and a Bus Zone on Myee Street. The large bus in the afternoon on Myee Street is for students who are currently attending the Guildford West Out of School Hours (OOSH) care. (Telephone 9721 2257 or 0419 120 575).



Justice of the Peace (JP)

A Justice of the Peace (JP) provides a service to witness a person making a statutory declaration or affidavit, and to certify original copies of documents.

Merrylands Service Centre at 16 Memorial Ave, operate a Justice of the Peace Service on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9am and 11am.

A Justice of the Peace can also be found at the Granville Member of Parliament, Ms Julia Finn MP's Office on 160 Merrylands Road, Merrylands. This service is by appointment.

Gymnastics

Year 2 students and 60 students in Years 5/6 are taking part in a gymnastics program each Friday as part of the PDHPE syllabus.

Fundamental movements and the teaching of skills in balance, agility and strength are key components of the program. In Year 2, students learn to perform a combination of simple movements. These become more challenging sequences of movement by Years 5/6.

It is planned that the program will be expanded to Year 1 by the second part of the year.



SCHOOL UPDATE APP

The NSW School Updates app allows parents and carers to receive operational status updates for NSW Public Schools.



Lost Property

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 be easily returned to students.

Your Name