

Merriwa Central School

Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best



Kindergarten Information, 2021



Merriwa Central School

“Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best”

Merriwa Central School – a school that values its students, staff and community

History

The school began as a ‘National School’ in 1850 on a site near the Merriwa River. It is therefore one of the oldest schools in NSW!

In 1878, the school moved to Mackenzie Street, and in 1920 to its present site. The secondary department moved up the hill on Bow Street in 1959. The school has been on two sites since then.

We believe that students should become life long learners through: development of respect for themselves and others; effective teaching and learning; development of self-discipline and a school welfare and discipline system that is fair and supportive.

We believe that teachers need to be informed learners and effective communicators who promote the education and well-being of all students.

We believe that the school is an integral part of the community and value the interaction between the community and the school in the development in students of citizenship and pride in their community.

Mission Statement

At Merriwa Central, we aim to prepare students for their future role in a world of rapid technological and social change and encourage them to strive for personal excellence so that they will:

- competently demonstrate literacy, numeracy, communication, problem-solving, technology and information services
- work cooperatively with others as a member of a team
- willingly accept responsibility for their own learning and actions
- care about and value the environment and have a strong sense of social responsibility
- contribute positively to school life with pride in their own achievements and those of others
- have a committed and critical approach to their own learning which they see as a lifelong process



Welcome to Merriwa Central School

It is an exciting and overwhelming experience seeing your child commence school. At Merriwa Central School, it is the start of a thirteen year journey from Kindergarten to Year 12: a journey that provides the best educational experience, from highly qualified teachers, in a supportive, caring, friendly environment, with strong involvement from our families and local community.

Our goal is to ensure that all our students achieve academically and socially, having opportunities to develop skills in leadership, sport, citizenship and the ability to take on the challenges of a constantly changing world.

Students at our school are valued, and have access to a broad curriculum, that is being delivered with the support of ever improving technology. Classes are small, allowing for the needs of your children to be quickly identified and supported from within the school and from the range of personnel provided by the Department of Education and Communities.

Our school is part of a community that fosters our young people. We look forward to developing our partnership with you and your child — welcome.



Kindergarten Teacher 2021
Miss Emma Garbellini

Contacting the School

Primary office is open from
8:30am – 3:30pm

The phone/fax numbers are:

Office	6548 2119
Fax	6548 2797

School Hours

8:55am	Bell rings for Assembly
9:00am	Start of Lessons
11:00 - 11:30am	Morning Recess
1:00 - 1:35pm	Lunch
2:55	Bell rings for assembly
3:00pm	Home time
	Town children go home
	Bus children supervised
3:25pm	Buses arrive

Activities to try with your child before starting school

These activities are suggestions of things to do with children before they start school to make school a little easier for them.

Language Skills

- sing songs together
- tell each other jokes and rhymes
- give your child simple instructions to follow, eg how to pack a bag
- use books for enjoyment, eg looking at pictures
- identify pictures in books, magazines, on television or the internet
- Encourage your child to join in conversations

Writing Skills

- give your child pencils, markers, crayons, paintbrushes and sticks in the sand to draw, scribble or write
- Write numbers and letters
- encourage your child to use a capital letter to start their name, eg Jack

Physical Skills

- provide practise using scissors
- provide opportunities to play with building blocks and other puzzles
- play hopping and skipping games



Mathematics Skills

- encourage your child to recognise numbers using words such as many, a lot, more, less
- help your child to find things in a group that are different, such as differences in shapes
- talk about opposites - up and down, under and over, in front and behind, day and night

Personal/Social Skills

- organise times for your child to play with other children so that they can learn to share and take turns
- encourage your child to tidy up after playing
- help your child to learn to say their full name and their address
- make your child aware of rules and the reasons for having them



Some signs of readiness for starting school

A child who **listens**

- to directions without interrupting
- to stories for about ten minutes without restlessness

A child who **hears**

- words that rhyme
- words that begin with the same sound or different sounds

A child who **sees**

- likenesses and differences in pictures and designs
- letters and words that match

A child who **understands**

- the relationship inherent in such words as up and down, top and bottom, over and under, little and big
-

A child who **thinks** and can

- give the main idea of a story
- give unique and important details
- give reasons for their opinion

A child who **works**

- without being easily distracted
- and follows directions
- and completes each task
- and takes pride in their work

A child who **adjusts**

- to changes in routine and to new situations without fears
- to opposition or defeat without crying or sulking
- to the necessity of asking for help when needed

A child who **obeys**

- classroom rules as established by the teacher
- safety rules in the playground and on the school bus
- fire drill rules quickly and quietly

A child who **plays**

- cooperatively with other children
- shares, takes turns, assumes responsibility and can run, jump, skip and bounce a ball with ease



Preparing with your child for school

It's almost time - your child is about to start the first the day of a new and exciting experience. You may be wondering where to begin in getting your child prepared.

We recognise that it's a big step for everybody. Developing a positive relationship with you to support your child's learning is vital to us. Our team of highly qualified teachers and support staff is here to give your child the best possible start.

Your first contact with the school may be with the school administrative staff. They are the friendly faces at the school office. They help by giving you guidance on general information you may need. They also make appointments for you with the Principal, teachers or other school staff, if you need to speak with one of them.

Common Behaviours of the New Kindergarten Child

Your child may:

- be very tired, especially in the first few weeks of school
- be more grizzly and fractious towards the end of the week, and at the end of term
- be fretful—may regress to more childish behaviour at times, or need more reassuring
- be more aggressive because they are feeling threatened
- use 'baby talk'
- wet the bed or 'have accidents' at school
- not eat all the food you send OR want more!
- have sleep disturbances for a while
- fall asleep at the dinner table
- want to 'give up' school after a few weeks
- tell you they've done NOTHING at school
- get very dirty
- have frequently shifting or changing friendship groups
- be jealous of younger siblings who are left at home with you and enjoy your company when they are not able to, and
- need lots of reassurance that you still love and care for them deeply.



Reading is Important

- Be confident that your child will learn to read.
- Show that you enjoy reading by having lots of different material at home and by giving books as special presents.
- Visit your local library and borrow books for yourself and your child.
- Encourage your child to read anytime, anywhere.
- Talk to your child's classroom or literacy teacher, or the principal for further help.
- Take part in our annual 'Little Sprouts' Community Reading Day, an initiative of Merriwa Central School. Little Sprouts Day highlights the importance of reading and talking to your child from birth. Everyone is welcome!



What your child will learn at school

Most time in Kindergarten is spent developing children's literacy and numeracy skills. There are six subjects (known as Key Learning Areas) studied throughout primary school.

These are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Creative Arts
- History and Geography
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE).

Best Start Kindergarten Assessment

Children enter Kindergarten with different skills and experiences. The Best Start Kindergarten Assessment is a tool to help teachers find out each child's skills and tailor teaching to their individual needs. Teachers will sit with your child early in the school year to assess your child's early literacy and early numeracy skills so that they can develop an appropriate teaching program catered for your child.

“What did you do at school today?”

If your child answers this question by saying “Nothing”, try asking a different question: “What words did you learn today?”, “Who did you play with at lunch time?”, “What did you enjoy most about school today?”

A Team Approach — your child, you and school

Children love to see their parents and carers at school, whether helping out in the classroom, canteen or involved in other ways. Research shows that students perform better at school when their parents or carers take an active interest in their schoolwork. Your contribution is valued.

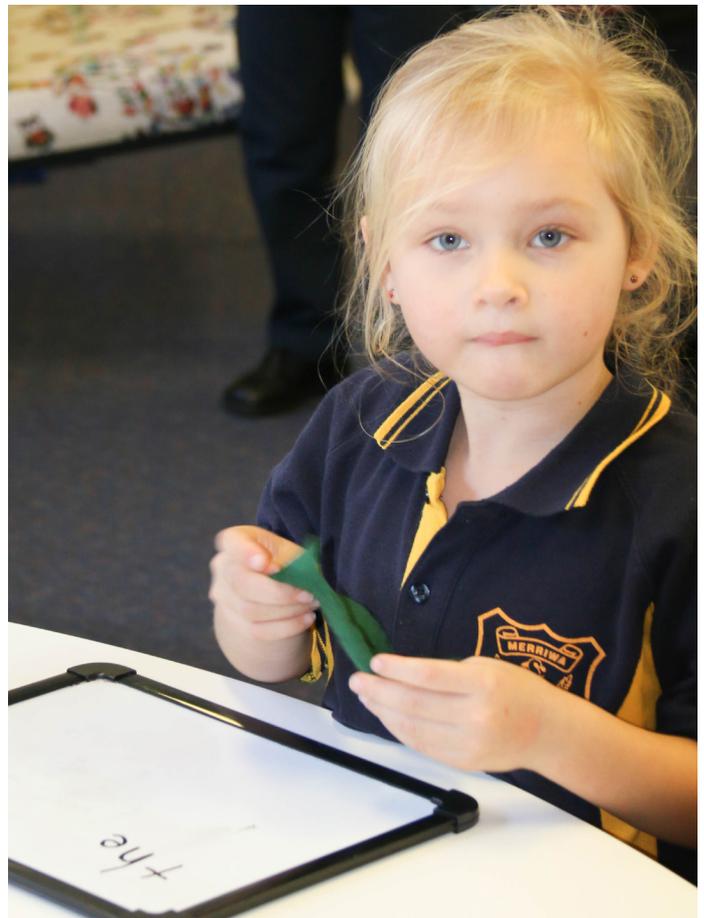
Get involved in your child's school

Ways you might get involved:

- help in the classroom
- listen to children read
- help children on computers
- help with school excursions
- serve at the canteen
- coach a team

Join a Committee

The Parents' and Citizens' Association (P&C) at each school is involved in making decisions about the school and how it spends funds. If you can't get involved in the P&C meetings, you can get involved in the things they organise for the school, such as social events and fundraising.



Life at School

School is Compulsory

The law states that all children of compulsory school age must go to school. When children miss school they miss out on vital information, their learning routine is broken and they can lose confidence. They also miss out on building their friendships. All of these factors can affect their attitude towards school and their achievement.



If your child is late or away

If your child arrives late you will have to sign them into school in the office; this is the same process if you are taking your child out of school early for any reason.

If your child has been away from school you will need to provide an explanation for the absence. This is usually done by writing a note explaining why they were away from school and your child can give this to their teacher when they return to school. It may also be done by telephoning the school or by using the school app by searching 'Merriwa Central School' and downloading our App.

Picking up children at the end of the day

Make sure your child and their teacher know who will be collecting them each afternoon. Children can get upset if you or someone else picking them up comes late. Check with their teacher about the best time to arrive in the afternoon.

Keep Routines

Kindergarten children can get very tired at night because they are doing so many new and exciting things. For this reason it helps if you keep routines like bath time, meals and reading time as regular as possible. A good sleep each night is important.

Reports

You will receive at least two written reports on your child's progress each year, usually at the end of terms 2 and 4. Parent-teacher interviews allow you to discuss your child's progress with their teacher in a formal setting, but if you have concerns throughout the year, make an appointment with the teacher to discuss these.



Life at School

What happens if your child is sick?

At School

If your child gets sick or is injured at school, the school will contact you and provide the necessary medical attention. If your child is mildly ill, they will go to sick bay, near the school office, where they can lie down and be monitored. You will be called to come and collect your child from school if they are too sick to go back to the classroom. For this reason you should always keep your current contact details on file with the school.

At Home

Keep your child away from school and see your doctor if your child has:

- a fever of 38°C or above
- vomiting or diarrhoea
- severe cold or flu symptoms
- rashes of an unknown origin.
- Medical Issues

If your child has any medical conditions, allergies, is at risk of anaphylaxis or requires the administration of prescribed medications, the school must be informed. This information will usually be provided as part of the enrolment process, however it is also important that you inform the school of any changes to your child's health.

It is also important to keep the school informed of any changes in address or contact details. You can do this in writing, by phoning the school or by using the school App.

Allergies

Anaphylaxis is a severe and sudden allergic reaction to foods such as nuts or shellfish, or insect bites. If your child is diagnosed with a severe allergy to a particular food it is important to inform the Principal as early as possible so that strategies can be put in place to minimise exposure to the known allergen. You may be asked to assist the school canteen manager in a review of the canteen menu for example.

Students with Special Needs

If your child has a disability or any special needs, please inform the Principal as early as possible. The Department of Education provides a range of specialist services to support students with a disability.

www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/programs/disability.php



Healthy Days

Your child needs healthy food for energy and concentration at school. The food your child eats for breakfast will need to sustain them through the morning until recess and then they need a range of healthy foods for recess and lunch to get them through the school day.

Eating at school

Eating at school will be a different experience for your child compared with eating at home or at preschool. There are no places to keep food hot or cold. Children often sit on the grass or benches and balance their food on their knees. They will also need to be able to open anything that their food is wrapped in and they won't want to spend so much time eating that they miss out on playing.

Tips to help your child

- Pack food that is easy to open, easy to eat and not messy
- Write their name on their lunch box, water bottle and any other containers
- Include a frozen drink bottle to keep food cold
- Use insulated lunch boxes or cooler bags
- Avoid using plastic wrap because children find it hard to pull apart
- Pack tissues or paper around fruit so it won't bruise
- Remind your child to wash their hands before eating and to use the toilet at recess and lunch
- Pack a water bottle for your child each day and remind them that they can also get water from the taps or bubblers throughout the day



Fruit Break - Classes have fruit break every morning. Please pack your child 'ready to eat' fruit. (Cut up apples, peeled oranges, small fruit pieces)

Recess, lunch and fruit break ideas

- Cut fruit into pieces (squeeze a little lemon on apples, pears or bananas to stop them going brown) and put them in a small container
- Cut up vegetables such as carrots, celery and cucumber and put them in a snap-lock plastic bag. In a separate container put dips or yoghurt to dip carrots in
- Make wholemeal muffins and freeze them. Pack a muffin each day for recess or keep at home for an afternoon snack
- Frozen orange quarters and pineapple rings are refreshing treats in Summer
- Try different breads, such as rolls, pita, wholegrain or tortilla wraps
- Cook a little extra dinner and save some for lunch the next day. Quiche, homemade pizza slices, vegetable patties, roast vegetables, noodles salads or sausages could be used

When lunches come home

Don't be too worried if your child doesn't eat lunch to start with. Sometimes children are too excited or too busy having fun playing with their friends at mealtimes and may not eat all their food.

If your child is very hungry after school you may want to remind them about eating their lunch. Your child's eating habits will eventually settle into a routine.

School Uniform

As part of the school's Discipline Code, students are required to wear school uniform. The school urges all parents to support this requirement.

Summer - Girls

- Blue and white check dress with collar and short sleeves
- Navy skirt or navy shorts/skort
- Navy unisex polo shirt with emblem
- Short white or navy socks
- Black leather shoes or black joggers (no flats)
- Navy jumper or school jersey
- School cap, bucket hat or broad brimmed hat

Summer - Boys

- Navy shorts or long trousers
- Navy unisex polo shirt with emblem
- Short white or navy socks
- Black leather shoes or boots, black joggers (no skate shoes)
- Navy jumper or school jersey
- School cap, bucket hat or broad brimmed hat

Winter- Girls

- Navy A-line skirt or navy pants (no stripes or logo)
- Navy unisex polo shirt with emblem
- Short white socks or navy stockings
- Black leather shoes or black joggers (no flats)
- Navy jumper, school jersey
- School spray jacket, royal jacket
- School cap, bucket hat or broad brimmed hat

Winter - Boys

- Navy trousers (no stripes or logo)
- Navy unisex polo shirt with emblem
- Short white or navy socks
- Black leather shoes or boots, black joggers (no skate shoes)
- Navy jumper, school jersey
- School spray jacket, royal jacket
- School cap, bucket hat or broad brimmed hat

Sport - Colours (gold and royal)

- Gold polo shirt with emblem
- Royal shorts, netball skirt or royal track pants
- White socks
- Sports joggers
- Royal jumper, school jersey, school spray jacket
- School cap, bucket hat or broad brimmed hat

Additional Items:

- Navy scarf
- Navy gloves
- Navy beanie
- Jewellery/accessories:
- Only one watch, necklace, bracelet, ring, gold or silver sleepers or stud earrings
- Hair accessories: white or navy



School uniforms are available from Di's Clothing Patch

Contact: 6548 3023



For more information, please contact:

Principal - Mr Darren Noonan

Merriwa Central School (Primary Department)

Mackenzie Street Merriwa 2329

Monday to Friday 8.30m—3.30pm Phone 6548 219 Fax: 6548 2797

Email: merriwa-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au