



MERRIWA CENTRAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Valuing individual potential - achieving personal best

Term 3 Week 2, 2023

Principal's Report

Welcome back to a very cold Term 3. The recent cold snap has tested our resolve this week. Please ensure students have plenty of layers to protect them from the early morning cold weather. If you are experiencing trouble securing uniform, or require assistance please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or Miss Smith Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing. Student assistance is available for parents experiencing financial difficulty, and all enquiries are dealt with confidentially.

Construction

The construction of our new ag shed is finally complete, and a new fence has been erected along Hayes Street thanks to Welderup. This new facility will provide a badly needed upgrade to the facilities on our ag plot.



In addition after considerable delays work has recommenced this week on construction of our new school hall on the secondary campus. Students and visitors are reminded not to enter this fenced construction site in accordance with WHS concerns.

NAPLAN Assessment

NAPLAN assesses aspects to literacy including reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, as well as numeracy for students in Years 3,5,7 and 9. Changes have been made to the assessment now that it is completed online. Parents will receive a factsheet explaining these changes with student results.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are banned at school. If a student needs to bring a phone to school it must be held at the office and collected in the afternoon. Students who fail to follow this rule will receive a warning and be directed to hand in their phone to the office.

If a student continues to breach the mobile phone policy they may be suspended. If parents need to contact their children during the day please ring the office.

Ready to learn

We expect all students to arrive at school ready to learn. That means having the right equipment, uniform and attitude for the job. Without these essentials it is difficult to learn and stay on task.

Each year we publish an equipment list for secondary students outlining the resources they will need for each subject. Protective foot wear (leather uppers on shoes or joggers) is needed in several of the practical subjects. The list includes student workbooks, calculators, pens, pencils rulers, pencil case etc.

Please ensure your child has these necessary items for school, and once again if you need assistance please let us know how we can help.

Excursion Deadlines

Excursions provide a wonderful opportunity for children to experience a whole range of exciting learning experiences. Our teachers are keen to provide these opportunities, and they can take considerable time organising and time away from home for staff. The school subsidises all excursions to keep the costs down to ensure all students can participate.

Parents can assist by returning notes and payment by the published deadline. If payment is the problem return the permission note by the deadline and talk to your child's teacher.

Students cannot arrive on the day of an excursion with a permission note and expect to participate on the excursion. In recent months this has caused significant issues for the organising teacher in regard to supervision and places on buses.

As a result we will no longer be accepting permission notes after the deadline. Students will be added to a waitlist and advised if a spot becomes available due to a cancellation.

Variety Night Concert

Our one big night of the year is about to arrive - Variety Night 2023. Always a favourite on the school calendar for students, staff and parents. As usual the concert will take place at the School of Arts Hall. Parents are asked to be seated for a 6.00pm start.

Darren Noonan
Principal

Primary News

Kindergarten Transition 2024

We are now asking for expressions of interest for Kindergarten 2024 students. If you are interested in sending your child to Merriwa Central School for Kindergarten, please contact the school on 6548 2119, or visit the Primary office to pick up an information pack.

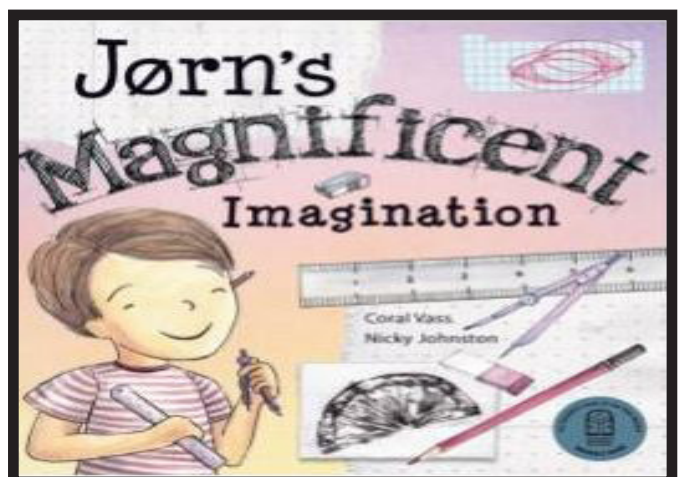
We will be holding a parent information session at 10.00am on Tuesday, 19 September at the primary library, all carers are invited to attend. Please ensure completed enrolment forms and birth certificates are provided to the primary office prior to the information session.

Our Kindergarten Transition program will commence in Term 4.



Books to Life Performance

In the lead up to book week, our primary students will be lucky enough to enjoy a live show around the Notable Listed Picture Book of the Year 'Jorn's Magnificent Imagination'. Tony Bones Appleby will act out the book with a humorous and musical performance. Students from Kindergarten to Year Six will walk up to the Great Hall on Tuesday, 8 August at 9.00am and then return to school following the performance.



Little Sprouts is Back!!

It's nearly that time of year again! Our Community Reading Day Little Sprouts will be on Friday, 25 August and all students from primary will be attending. This Year's theme is Read. Grow. Inspire and students are encouraged to dress up as an inspiring character or their favourite book character. There will be prizes for Best Dressed! Recess and lunch will be provided on the day.



Keirra Hourn
Assistant Principal-Infants

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Primary

To acknowledge the wonderful effort and behaviour of primary students we have introduced some new reward systems this term (in addition to our blueys, merits and student of the week awards).

Fast and frequent tokens are being handed out regularly to recognise students who are following the school rules. These tokens are placed in a barrel which will be drawn at the end of each school term. One lucky student will have their name drawn from the barrel and will receive a \$50 gift card.

We are also excited to introduce 'Sheldon's Snap'. Each week three students will be rewarded for being safe, respectful, learners. Each student will have a write up for their positive behaviour, which will be published weekly on our school Audiri app. These students will also each receive a \$5 canteen voucher.

We acknowledge all of the wonderful work that our students are displaying and it is wonderful

that we can reward their positive behaviour.

Who is Sheldon, I hear you say?

Sheldon is our school mascot for PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning). You may have even seen him in photos for class of the week. He oversees our rewards system and is published on our blueys and tokens that students receive when acknowledging their achievements. He may even be seen peeking out of the staffroom window, closely monitoring students and reporting back to teachers.



**Kindergarten
Transition
2024
Parent
Information
Session
Tuesday 19 September
10.00am
Primary library**

Gymnastics

Kindergarten to Year 6 started gymnastics yesterday to support their learning in physical education. Each class participated in a 30 minute session filled with tumble rolls, cartwheels, bear walks, the springboard and many more activities. Gymnastics helps to build fundamental movement skills associated with movement and performance from our Personal Development, Health and Physical Education curriculum. We look forward to the next 4 weeks of progressing our gymnastic abilities.



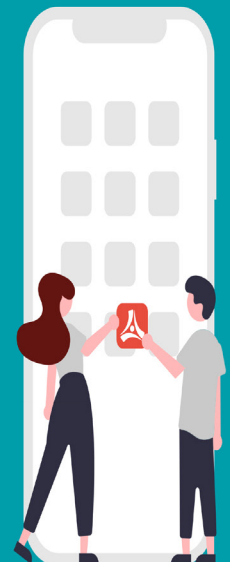
Sarah Roberts
Assistant Principal-Primary

Install the App in 4 easy steps!



The free Audiri school app offers parents a convenient way to stay up-to-date with the school calendar, last-minute forms, newsletters, all school communications, and even make cashless payments. With Audiri, you can get started in just a few minutes by following these simple steps:

1. Open the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store and search for 'Audiri'. Install the app.
2. Create an account and follow the prompts. Click 'Sign up'. Enter your email address, create a password and click on 'Sign up'. A confirmation email will be sent to confirm your account. Open the confirmation email and confirm your account.
3. Open the app, and click 'Add/Remove'. Type your school's name and press enter.
4. Tap the + icon to add. Now you can see your school, under My Schools & Services.



Search Audiri in the app store



audiri.com.au



Merriwa Central School

Proudly Presents



Wednesday 2nd August
6pm
School of Arts Hall
Variety Night 2023



Ticket to be purchased at the door

from 5.30pm

\$5 per person or \$10 per family



Merriwa Central School

presents

Little Sprouts 2023

Community Reading Day

Friday 25 August



Merriwa School of Arts from 10am



*Our theme this year is
"Read. Grow. Inspire."*

Join us for a fun day to
celebrate the joy of reading!

Come dressed as an
inspiring character or your
favourite book character.

Children and their carers are
invited to attend. School
aged students will attend
with their school.

- +Readings at Local
Businesses
- +Book Fair
- +Character Parade
- +Craft Activities

***Little Sprouts is a community literacy initiative of
Merriwa Central School***

For further enquiries please ring 6548 2119

Secondary News

Mobile phone policy

Parents and students are reminded that we have a NO mobile phone at school policy. Recently the Department of Education announced that this will be extended State-wide to include all schools in NSW. Students are expected to hand their mobile phone and earbuds into the front office at the beginning of the day and collect them at the end of the day. All phones will be stored safely. If parents need to contact students during the day, please ring the front office and we will get a message to your child.



Lisa Zielinski
Deputy Principal

Liddell Power Station Art Mural

Students from Years 5, 6 and 7 came together at the Merriwa School of Arts to complete a community mural.

The Liddell WORKS project involves the participation of schools around the area to acknowledge the closing of Liddell Power station through the creation of a mural. Thank you Create NSW for First Nations projects, as well as the Upper Hunter Shire Council for the Merriwa workshop and for facilitating the program.

On completion the mural will be hung at Lake Liddell Recreation Ground.



Breaky Club

Breaky club is now up and running at

secondary. A nice hot milo and a couple of pieces of toast should get the cockles warmed up ready for a day of learning. Breaky club is free for all students in secondary and opens on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday running out of the canteen.



Rewards Day Secondary students

We are shaking up eligibility for Rewards Day. Students have the opportunity to gain a Golden Ticket for Rewards Day. It will be invite only. In the lead up to Rewards Day Miss Smith and her Year Advisers will discuss each student in the school. Students who have not received a suspension, warning of suspension or red card and have at least 80% attendance will be gifted a Golden Ticket. Term 3 will see us heading to the coast to see if we can spot any whales on their migration.



Narelle Smith
Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing

Secondary Studies Faculty Profile

Head Teacher (Teaching English & Human Society and its Environment): Miss Emma Piper

English : Ms Laura Wenzel

Human Society and its Environment: Mrs Laura Fulwood

About me: I arrived at Merriwa Central School on a new grad scholarship in 2019 and have called Merriwa home ever since. In my time here, I have taken on a range of roles including teaching English, Human Society and its Environment and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, Girls Adviser, ROAR Coordinator and relieving in the position of Head Teacher Teaching and Learning, Head Teacher Mentor and now Head Teacher Secondary Studies.

Although my life in Merriwa is very different to what my life was like on the coast, I love working and living in such a beautiful country town. My faculty and I have a passion for what we do and are committed to promoting a culture of life-long learning and wellbeing within our students.

If you have concerns about any of the areas I supervise (English, Human Society and its Environment Commerce and Languages Other Than English) please don't hesitate to contact



Emma Piper
Relieving Head Teacher Secondary Studies
Girls Adviser
Year 12 Year Adviser

Support Faculty Profile

Head Teacher: Elizabeth La Trobe

Gold Teacher: Cheryl Ham

Gold SLSO: Wendy Johnson

Silver Teacher: Elizabeth La Trobe

Silver SLSO: Jill Muelemann

QuickSmart SLSO: Melissa Swan

SLSO: Nyssa Caban and Sheena Geale

What I love about my role: I have three values as a teacher; relationships, acceptance and progress; in this role I get to work on each of these values. I work on building strong relationships with students, understanding how they see the world and how best to support them at school. I want to see progress, in each and every student, in their confidence, connection to school and ability to engage in school and their learning. I value acceptance and supporting students and staff to understand each other and work towards having an inclusive and supportive environment.

If you have concerns about any support students please don't hesitate to contact me.



Elizabeth La Trobe
Head Teacher Support

Work Experience

Senior students have been completing a range of work experiences at school and in the community. We would like to thank Merriwa Central School Canteen and Merriwa IGA for supporting our students and congratulate our

students for working hard and having a positive attitude to work. Jack London - IGA, Sanita Turner and Christian Cropper - Merriwa Central School Canteen.

Pyjama Day Secondary

On Friday, 21 July we hosted a fundraiser for the Pyjama Foundation to support kids in foster care. We set ourselves the goal of raising \$200 and we reached our goal!! We raised \$242.60. Thank you to all the students who contributed and participated. Congratulations to Year 11 who raised the most and earnt themselves some yummy cupcakes which they kindly shared with Year 12.



SRC Report

On Tuesday, 18 July we held our Formal Assembly, we would like to thank all the students who stood up and spoke about school activities they have been involved in:

Sanita Turner - Community Access

Makayla Mobberley - Work Experience

Rylan Neale and Ashton Marchese - Uni Steps

Torah Coles and Cadance Tudor - Up & Up

Kaylee Ballantyne, Damien Constable and

Tiana Gleeson - Where there's a Will

Dakota Turner - The Young Endeavour

We would also like to recognise all the merit and bronze award winners:

Merit Award Winners

Gordie Anderson, Hunter Copland, Alyssa Hudson, Thomas Kneeves, Ashton Marchese, Madyson Sait, Paige Walker, Jase Whitby,

Jai Wright, Justin Alley, Lara Ballantyne (2), Katana Magnus, Montana Peel, Isabelle Pike, Kaelyn Rondel, Shawn Smith, Matilda-Rose Whitby, Harry Cook, Christian Cropper, Kane Jackson, Sanita Tuner, Zye Saillard, Kaylee Ballentyne, Mia Jacobs (3) & Jack London.

Bronze Award Winners

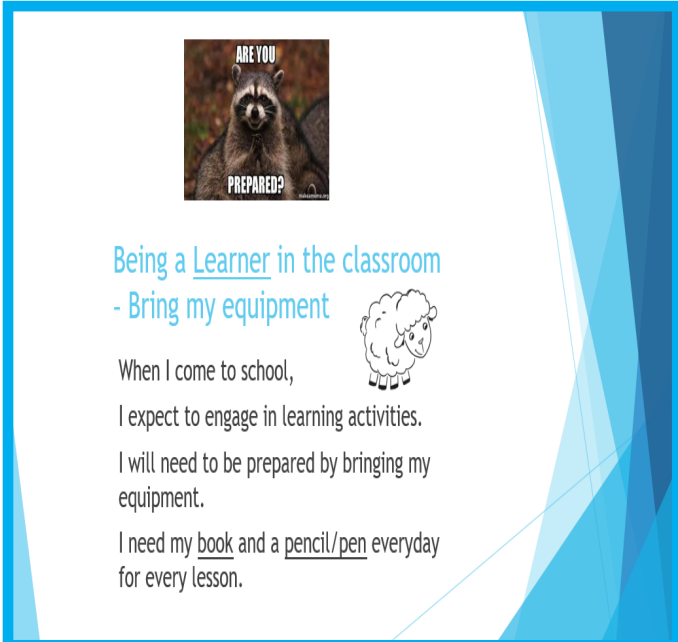
Montana Peel & Zye Saillard

Little Sprouts Day

The SRC looks forward to supporting primary with Little Sprouts Day (see if you can work out which "Little People, Big Dreams" book we each chose!). Hearing more from students through our "Student Voice Survey" and preparing to hand over to the 2024 SRC.

Postive Behaviour for Learning Secondary

Secondary have been focusing on bringing equipment to class, please check in with your student if there are any items needed for their pencil case and support them to be a learner at Merriwa Central School. Students need a book for each subject, blue, black and red pens, lead pencil, ruler, scissors, glue and an eraser for every lesson. They will also need subject specific items such as a calculator and safety glasses.



ARE YOU PREPARED?

Being a Learner in the classroom
- Bring my equipment

When I come to school,
I expect to engage in learning activities.
I will need to be prepared by bringing my equipment.
I need my book and a pencil/pen everyday for every lesson.

Elizabeth La Trobe
Head Teacher Support

Teaching and Learning Faculty Profile

I supervise Mathematics, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education, Visual Arts, Physical Activity Sports Studies, Sport Lifestyle and Recreation Studies, Photographic and Digital Media and Community and Family Studies.

Head Teacher (Teaching Personal Development, Health and Physical Education & Community and Family Studies): Ms Kelly Millevoi

Mathematics: Miss Elizabeth Sinclair

Mathematics: Mr Harley Hannon

Visual Arts and Photographic and Digital Media: Miss Hannah Waters

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and Physical Activity Sports Studies: Mr Ethan Burns

What I love about my role: Working in a small community I value working collaboratively with parents and carers, students and the wider community the school is situated in to get positive results for students across a range of areas, including academics, wellbeing and attendance.

If you have any concerns in regard to the subjects I supervise please don't hesitate to contact me.



Kelly Millevoi
Head Teacher Teaching and Learning
PDHPE

VET Faculty Profile

I supervise Science, Technological and Applied Studies (Industrial Technology Wood and Metal, Food Technology, Technology Mandatory) and Careers

Head Teacher (Teaching Hospitality & Food Technology): Natasha Freeth

Science: Miss Grayson Tilse

Biology & Support Science: Miss Tarnika Wood

Agriculture & Primary Industries: Mrs Tara Hogan

Science: Miss Dee De Almieda

Industrial Technology Metal & Timber & Technology Mandatory: Mr Sean Cleary

Careers: Miss Hannah Waters

A little bit about me: I grew up on a property near Collie NSW and first became a primary teacher teaching in Dubbo and Trangie before being asked to take Secondary classes at Trangie and to teach an adult cooking class there. I realised how much I loved teaching young adults new skills, trying new food etc that I then retrained into Food Technology/Hospitality and moved to Yeoval prior to coming here to Merriwa last year.

My favourite things about my job: I love working with a range of people and seeing them succeed to their highest potential. Some of my most favourite moments are when students hear the recipe we are cooking that week and think it will be gross, then they try it and actually love it. It makes it even more special when they come and say they made it for their family at home and they've loved it too.



If you have any concerns in regard to the subjects I supervise please don't hesitate to contact me.

Natasha Freeth
Head Teacher VET

Careers News

Upcoming Dates

- Thursday, 10 August - Year 7 Uni Steps
- Wednesday, 16 August - Year 9 Uni Steps
- Tuesday, 29 August - Year 8 Unit Steps
- Tuesday, 15 August - Year 10 Subject Selection Night
- Friday, 29 September - Year 12 Early bird deadline for UAC Applications. Early bird cost \$78.00 and after 29 September, \$215.00.



Year 10
Subject Selection
Night
Tuesday 15 August
6.30pm
Great Hall

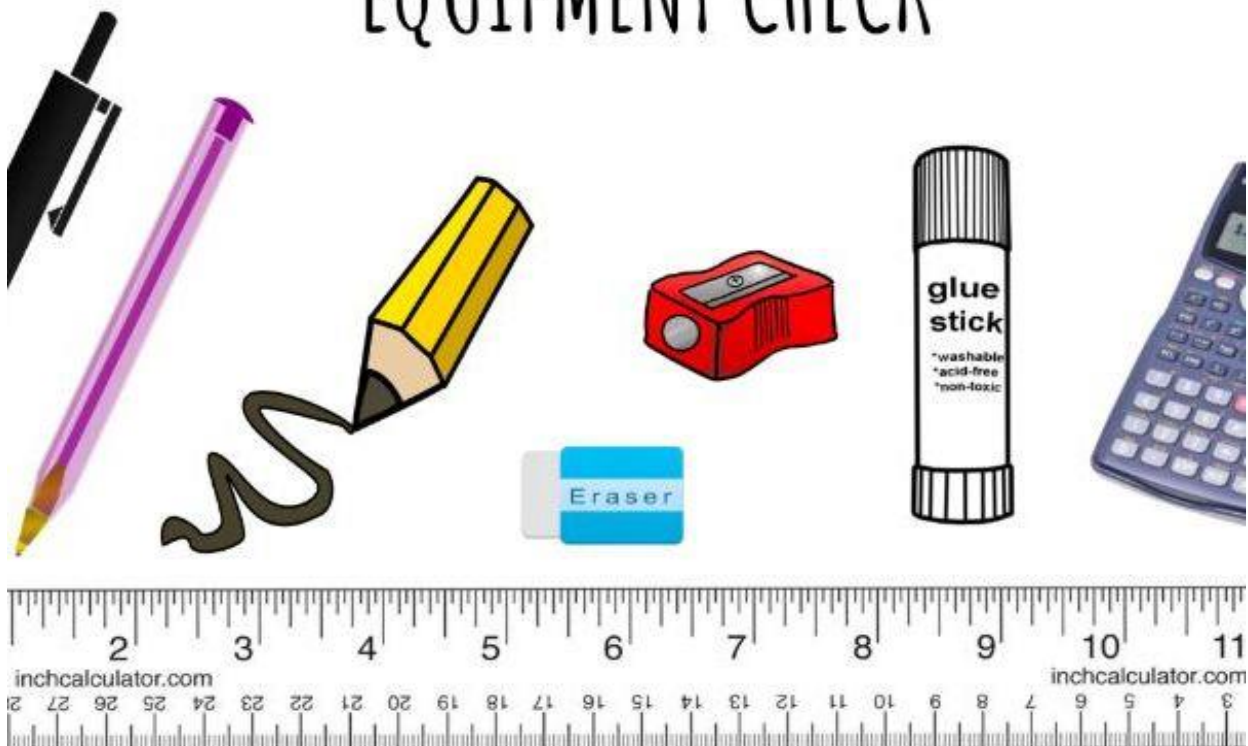
Essential Equipment

Secondary

All students should have their own pencil case that includes the following:

- Red, black and blue pens
- Lead pencil
- Eraser
- Plastic or wooden ruler
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Pencil sharpener
- Safety glasses
- Calculator

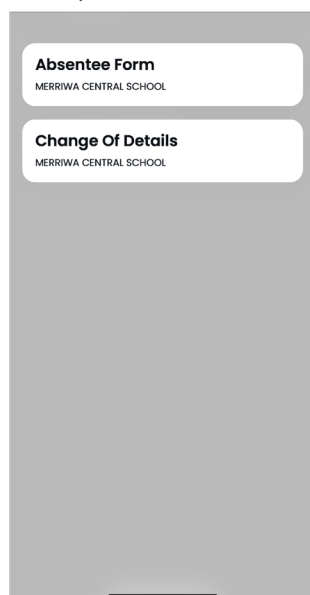
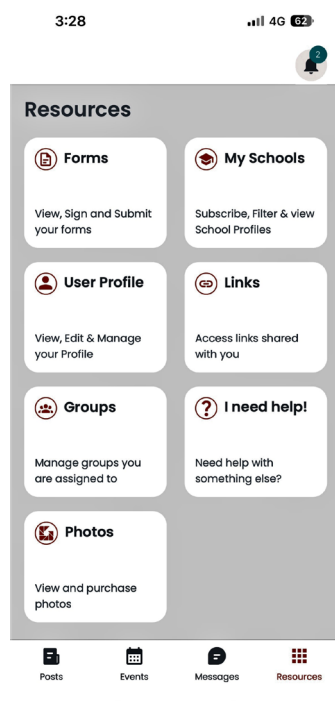
EQUIPMENT CHECK





How to enter an absentee form:

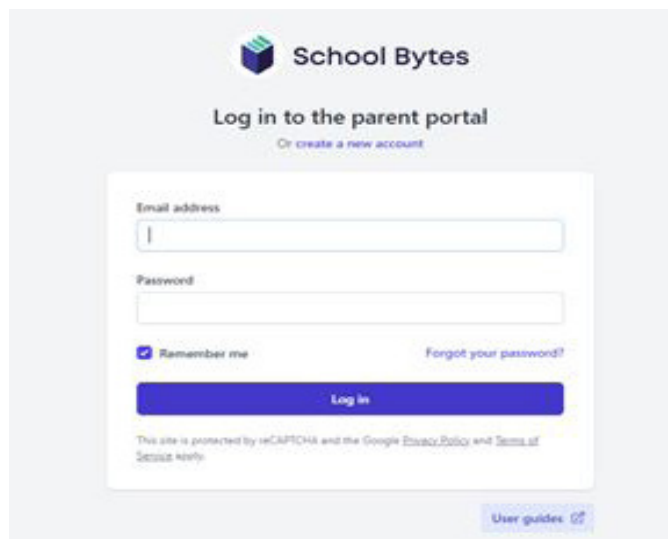
- Resources Tab
- Forms
- Absentee Form



School Bytes

As we have moved over to the School Bytes Finance and Parent Portal system, we need parents to create a School Bytes account.

To access our new School Bytes Parent Portal, please Create a New Account for the Parent Portal via the following link: <https://portal.schoolbytes.education>



Audiri is still our preferred method of communication and you will be able to access our “Make a Payment” option.

From the website landing page you can access the School Bytes Parent Portal to make a payment or to register.

The Parent Portal System lets you

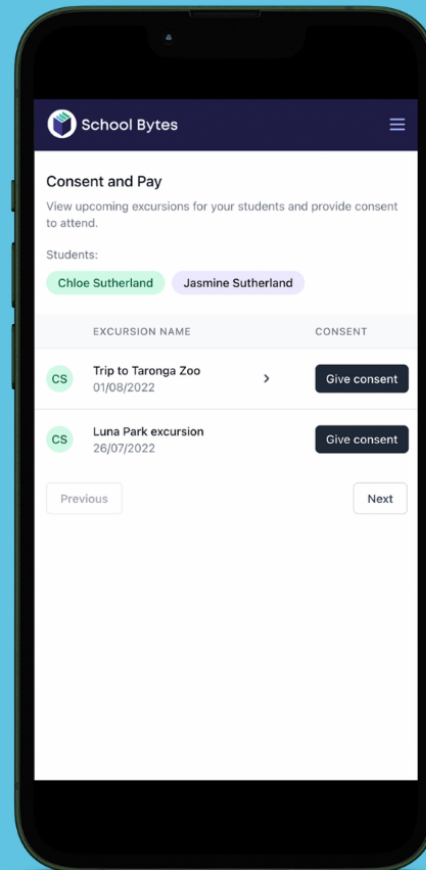
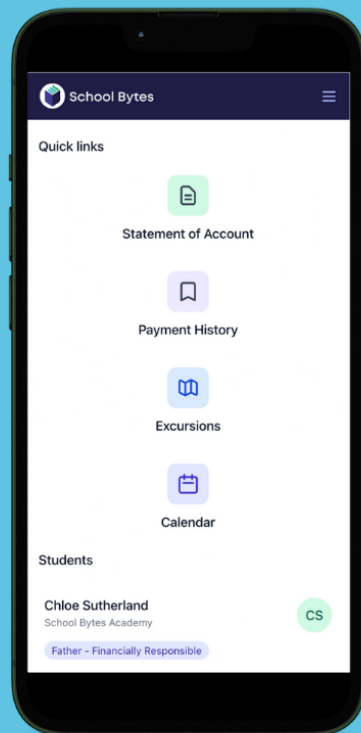
- view all payments made
- complete and submit digital permission notes
- request a refund if required
- download receipts
- view statement of accounts

Please see the ‘Parent Portal Set Up’ Guide for your convenience. There are a range of Parent User Guides to help you through the process. You will find them in the bottom right corner under the login button when you open the link above.

If you are having any difficulty with this process, please don’t hesitate to call the office on 02 65482119. We will organise a code to link you to your child.

AVAILABLE NOW!

We are excited to announce our school offers a flexible and simplified way parent/carers can make payments



The Parent Portal

- Easily make a payment online
- Download your receipt
- Sign and return permission notes digitally
- Use any credits on your account to make payment
- View your complete payment history
- Request a refund



School Bytes

Register for the Parent Portal via the
QR Code or visit
<https://portal.schoolbytes.education>





July	2	24	25	26	Parent Teacher Interviews 27	28	29/30
July/August	3	31	P&C Meeting RSL 6.30pm Art Express Visual Arts	Variety Night School of Arts 6.00pm		Primary Assembly 2.15pm	
August	4	7	Rocks to Life Performance K-6 Great Hall 9.00am	Whale Watching Excursion Primary 6am	3	4	5/6
August	5	14	Trial HSC Exams Premier's Spelling Bee Regional Finals	Trial HSC Exams Year 10 Subject Selection Night 6.30pm	Trial HSC Exams	Trial HSC Exams	12/13
August	6	21	Secondary Formal Assembly 9.00am		10	11	19/20
August/September	7	28	Subject Selection Interviews	Subject Selection Interviews	17	18	26/27
September	8	4	P&C Meeting RSL 6.30pm		24	25	2/3
September	9	11	Preliminary Yearly Exams	Preliminary Yearly Exams	31	1	9/10
		12			Forensic Workshop Secondary		
		13			7	8	
		14			Preliminary Yearly Exams Rewards Day	Preliminary Yearly Exams Primary Assembly 2.15pm Teach your dinosaurs Science performance primary	16/17