



Minchinbury Public School

23 June 2020

202 McFarlane Drive

Minchinbury, 2770

Principal: Miss Webster

<https://www.facebook.com/minchinburyps>

www.minchinbur-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/

Principal's Message

To say that 2020 has been a year like no other is a huge understatement. With bushfires, floods and COVID, we have had a significant shift away from normal routines. However, it is nice to see some of those routines slowly returning. The sight of our students playing happily together in the playground is one that always brings a huge smile to my face. Hearing the children reflect on the learning and support that they have experienced over this period is another. The incredible response from staff and families in our amazing community has helped maintain a sense of calm. The needs of our students have been at the heart of every decision we have made and I am truly grateful for the care, support, patience and open communication between home and school. Together, we have made a huge team effort to support our students. Thank you.

Over the coming weeks, we will continue to reintroduce some of the normal routines. However, a number of restrictions are still in place at the direction of the Department of Education and NSW Health. We will communicate these to you as the guidelines change.

Kindergarten 2021 Enrolments

We are very excited to be receiving enrolment applications for kindergarten students for 2021. If you have a child who will be commencing school next year at Minchinbury Public School, please call the school office on 9832 1488 as soon as possible to arrange electronic enrolment. We are looking forward to providing a virtual tour next term for our future Minchinbury students!

Student Drop Off and Pick Up- Important Changes for Term 3

From Term 3, Week 1, parents will continue to drop off and pick up students at the school gate. Teachers will be on duty to support this process. Currently, this process is working very well and we appreciate your patience and support. From Week 1, the following arrangements will be in place:

Morning Drop Off:

- **8.30-8.55am:** Please drop your children at the school gate.

Afternoon Pick Up: Please note the changes of times for K-2 release

- **2.40pm:** Kindergarten students and siblings will be released from the front gates as a parent/carer arrives to collect them.
- **2.50pm:** Year 1 & 2 students and siblings will be released from the front gates as a parent/carer arrives to collect them.
- **3.00pm:** Remaining Year 3-6 students will be released from classrooms to leave the school via the front gates. Any students who attend Out Of School Hours Care will be picked up by OOSHC employees. Students catching the bus or who have not been picked up to stay with the teacher on Bus Duty.

Visitors To School Grounds

Under Department of Education guidelines, only essential visitors are allowed on school grounds at this stage. Gates are locked after the morning bell rings. If you have an essential reason to visit the school, please contact the school office on 9832 1488 so that we can make arrangements.

Student Reports

We acknowledge the many adjustments that students, parents and the school have made in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. To reflect the impact of learning from home and at school during Term 1 and 2, our Semester 1 reports have been adjusted. Students will not be graded using the usual achievement scale of Outstanding, High, Sound, Basic or Limited in this report.

Your child's report will focus on assessment of his or her progress and suggested next steps in learning in English and mathematics. **These reports will be sent home to families in Week 1, Term 3.**

Student Absences

Thank you to our families for following the Department of Education and NSW Health guidelines in keeping your children home when they are unwell. Please understand that we will need to contact parents to collect their child immediately if they show any cold or flu symptoms.

If your child is absent, please notify us via the Skoolbag App. You do not need to call or send a note if you submit an absence note on Skoolbag. It is simple to do and you don't risk your child forgetting to hand in a sick note!

Student Lateness

As the mornings are getting colder, we are experiencing an increase in the number of students who are late arriving at school. While it might only seem like 5, 10 or 15 minutes, this is having a significant impact on the learning of all students and on students' ability to start the day in a settled way. Teachers are often having to interrupt lessons to settle in late students and to catch them up on what they have missed. Please try to have your children at school in plenty of time before the school bell rings at 8.55am, so that we can avoid this. Any child who arrives after the bell must go to the office for a late note before going to class.

Student Lunches, Hats, Drink Bottle, Change of Clothes

Please make sure your child has packed their bag with lunch, drink bottle and hat for school each day. We have had a number of students coming to school without these items. **Parents of kindergarten students are also asked to pack a change of clothes in their child's bag.** Accidents sometimes happen and it is important that we are able to give the child clean clothes to change into, without waiting for clothes to be delivered to school.

Birthday Celebrations

We love a good birthday celebration here at MPS and we love joining your child in celebrating their very exciting day. If you would like to send a treat to school so that your child can celebrate with their class, please make sure that it is an individually wrapped item, such as a Freddo Frog or similar chocolate. Unfortunately, we need to ask you not to send cakes as we are unable to share "communal" food items at this stage. We will still enjoy wishing your beautiful children happy birthday and making their day special, regardless!

New Kindergarten class- KP

We have been so happy to see our new class, KP, settle in to their new learning environment. We are thrilled to know that the youngest members of our school, who have been so highly impacted by the disruptions to schooling this year, have been provided with this opportunity for smaller classes and highly targeted support. A huge thanks goes to Miss Dimond, Miss Somi, Mrs Fisher, Mrs Vasek and Mrs Pajak for all of their hard work to make this happen. What a fantastic team!



Dates for your diary

Term 2 Week 9

Thursday 25 June: Jersey Day Mufti day

Term 2 Week 10

Friday 3 July: Last day of Term 2

Term 3 Week 1- school reports coming home

Monday 20 July: Staff Development Day- no students attending MPS

Tuesday 21 July: Students return to school for Term 3; newsletter

Term 3 Week 2

Friday 31 July: PSSA Gala Day- information to come

Term 3 Week 3- Education Week "Learning Together"



How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

For iPhone and iPad users:

1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. You will see your school appear, click "Get" then "install".
4. The app is FREE to download.
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.



For Android users:

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you by tapping the on/off switch.



Please Note: Some brands of Android phones need the setting in "Notification Manager" changed to "Allow" instead of "Notify" in order for the push notifications to work. The phone must also be running at least version 4 system software to run the app.

For Windows 81 Phone and Windows 81 or 10 device users:

1. Go to the Windows Store on your 81 Windows Phone or Windows 81/10 Device
2. Search for "Skoolbag" in the keyword app search
3. Install the Skoolbag app
4. Find your school either by using the keyword search or location service.
5. Click the "Pin" icon to pin the school tile to your Windows Phone home screen.
6. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup"
7. Toggle the Push Categories that are applicable to you by tapping the on/off switch.

Please Note: The Skoolbag Windows App is for 81 version Windows Phones, or Windows 81 and 10 devices.

