

Bonnyrigg Heights Primary School

Dedicated to quality and teaching and learning

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<https://bonnyriggh-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>



Phone : 9823 7000

Term 1, Week 9

24th March 2021

A Message from Mr McKay

Wrap Up Term 1 2021

A huge thank you to all of our amazing parents for supporting the school in Term 1. We have had a great start to the year and look forward to maintaining a positive approach in having our parents back into the school. Thankfully, COVID is not impacting upon us too much, but we still need to follow the general rules of standing 1.5 metres from each other. As we move towards the end of the term, information will be coming to you outlining the events happening during Term 2. Please ensure that you take the time to access the newsletters and also the Parent Portal for more information. Preparation is occurring this term in readiness for aspects of NAPLAN online. NAPLAN for 2021 will be held across weeks 4 and 5 of Term 2.

A reminder to parents that all students from K-6 and support, return back to school on Tuesday the 20th April for the start of Term 2. Have a fantastic and safe holiday.

ENJOY!

Mr McKay

Principal



Coming events for Term 1 & 2

Date	Events
Wednesday 31st March	Cross Country Carnival
Thursday 1st April	Last Day of Term 1
Monday 19th April	Staff Development Day
Tuesday 20th April	Term 2 starts for all students K-6
Friday 23rd April	ANZAC Day Ceremony
Tuesday 27th April	School Photo Day
Tuesday 4th May	GVPSSA Cross Country
Tuesday 11th May - Friday 21st May	NAPLAN Testing Years 3 & 5

School Photos

School photos will be taken on Tuesday 27th April 2021. Our preference for ordering packages is online using our school's unique 9 digit Online Order Code. All orders must be placed online no later than the **day before the photo day**.

If you would like to order a photo package using the envelope system, these will be available from the office closer to the date, **please do not send in the envelopes before school photo day**.

A note was sent out this week with more information about the day. Students need to wear full summer school uniform.

ORDER NOW go to www.advancedlife.com.au and enter the code
Y49 N2W 9PJ



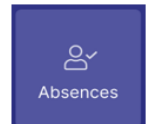
New Student Absence Notifications

Student Absence Notifications via SMS

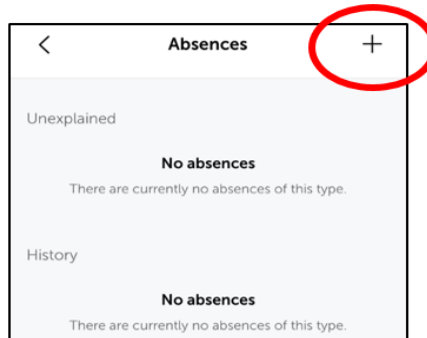
As of the 15th of March we have been sending out **SMS messages** to inform you if your child is absent from school. This message will be sent only to the preferred or nominated contact on our school system. Please respond to the SMS to inform the school of the reason for your child's absence.

Zahra was marked absent from Bonnyrigg Heights Primary School on 10/03/2021. Please provide reason by reply SMS or note to the class teacher.

You can also notify the school of your child's absence through the **Parent Portal** by clicking on the **Absences** tile (Step 1). If you do this before 11:00 am then you should not receive an SMS.



Step 2: Click on the + sign in the top right corner



Step 3: Select your child from the drop-down menu

Step 4: Select a reason

- Family Holiday
- Religious/Cultural Observance
- Medical

Step 5: Provide an additional comment

Eg. Unwell with a head cold

Step 6: Press submit

New Absence

Students
Select students

Reason
Please provide a reason

Start Date
10/03/2021

End Date
10/03/2021

Comment
Please provide any additional information

Submit

Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss days per year

5 mins
per day



=

3 days

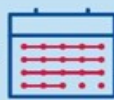


30 mins
per day



=

18 days



Patterns of lateness
can have a serious
impact on your child's
education.

education.nsw.gov.au

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

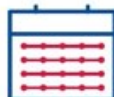
and years over their school life

1 day per fortnight



=

4 weeks



=

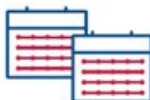
Over **1** year missed

1 day per week



=

8 weeks



=

Over **2.5** years missed

education.nsw.gov.au

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

education.nsw.gov.au

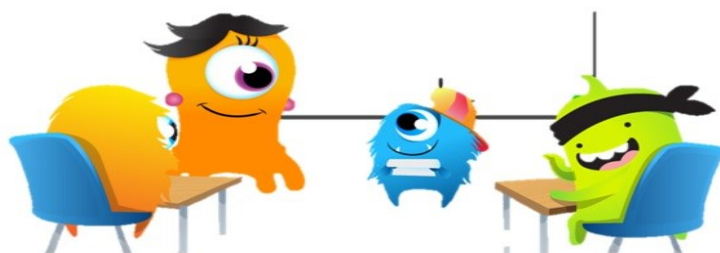


Week 9 & 10 School Value

OUR SCHOOL VALUES



Be Respectful



New Uniform Shop Hours

Our Uniform shop has re-opened this week with new hours. Our opening hours are as follows:

Tuesday: 1.30pm-2.30pm

Thursday: 9.00am-10.00am

If you are unable to attend during these times, you can complete an order form and leave it together with the money in an envelope at the front office. The order will then be processed when the uniform shop is open again. The order will be sent to your child's class. **Please note: there will be no more phone orders taken.**



Cross Country Carnival

Our cross country carnival is being held at school on Wednesday 31st March 2021 for students 8 years and older. Students must wear full sports uniform with running shoes. Please make sure you pack an extra water bottle. If students require an asthma puffer, make sure they have one with them.



Easter Hat Parade

It is that time of the year for our Annual Easter Hat Parade. Students from K-4 are able to join in the fun. We ask that they make a hat at home and decorate it in a colourful Easter theme. The hat parade will be held on Thursday 1st April in the Active area. A note will be sent home outlining the times for the parades and restrictions inline with COVID.



Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning* website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities