



Welcome!



www.riverbank-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

School Vision Statement

Riverbank Public School community has established an inclusive, innovative learning environment, focused on continual improvement through high expectations, where data informed practices are distributed through instructional leadership. Our vision is to build on our strong community partnerships, through respectful Restorative relationships, that collaboratively empowers student voice and feedback, so all students become confident, resilient, self-directed, and successful learners. This strong social and emotional foundation, combined with a clear and explicit Quality Teaching Framework and rich curriculum content, creates a powerful environment for engaged and effective learning. Our vision is underpinned by the School Excellence Framework's three domains of Learning, Teaching and Leading. Riverbank Public School plays a vital role in promoting the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, moral, spiritual, and aesthetic development and wellbeing of our students. At Riverbank Public School, all students have the opportunity to attain knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes, enabling them to be reflective life-long learners.

We achieve this by:

- Building a respectful learning culture
- Building responsible individuals with a focus on developing resilience and a love of learning
- Building strong relationships with students, staff, parents, and the wider community

The school's motto, 'Learning to Live, Living to Learn', reinforces a broad and enriched curriculum which not only focuses on the development of Literacy and Numeracy skills, but also on the social and emotional wellbeing of students, whilst respecting a culturally diverse community.

School Information

Riverbank Public School opened in Term 1, 2015 and is located in the suburb of The Ponds in the north-west of Sydney. The school shares a site with The Ponds High School and is part of an innovative and challenging approach to teaching and learning. The school has a strong emphasis on high expectations, outstanding teaching and learning programs supported by ongoing professional learning of staff. Our Quality Teaching Framework and rich curriculum content, creates an excellent environment for engaged and effective learning. Collaborative planning and decision-making, together with distributed instructional leadership practices are features of the school. Our school is a member of The Ponds Learning Community. Focus is placed on the development of quality Literacy and Numeracy programs and the use of technology to support and engage students. Extra-curricular opportunities in Sport, Science, Technology, and Creative and Performing Arts, enable our students to excel through a range of different experiences. Our student population is 2100, 86% of whom have a language background other than English. The school has three Multi Categorical support classes and encourages a holistic and inclusive approach, supported by strong student wellbeing programs. Our Restorative Practice Framework provides a common language and practice to build respectful relationships, and foster effective communication with students, staff, parents and the wider community. The school has strong partnerships with the P&C, parents and local community. Dedicated staff, whose student-centred approach, supports the school's Strategic Improvement Plan, to allow for every student, every teacher and every leader to improve every year.



School Times

	Yrs K - 2	Stage 2	Stage 3
Morning lessons commence	8:45am	8:45am	8:45am
Recess	9:45am	10:15am	10:45am
Mid-morning lessons	10:15am	10:45am	11:15am
Lunch eating time	12:00pm	12:30pm	1:00pm
Lunch play time	12:15pm	12:45pm	1:15pm
Afternoon lessons	12:45pm	1:15pm	1:45pm
Dismissal	2:45pm	2:45pm	2:45pm

Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 8:15am – 3:00pm

School phone: 02 9626 7511

School website: <https://riverbank-p.schools.nsw.gov.au>

School email: riverbank-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Arrival And Departure From School

As teachers do not commence supervision duty until 8:15am, students are not to arrive at school before this time. Students are required to be at school before the morning bell and in their class lines by 8:45am. We encourage students to be in the gate by half-past eight.

In the morning, parents are to drop their children off at either school gate. In the afternoon, our school gates are opened from 2:40pm, with K-2 parents and carers only on site to pick up their children. Parents and carers should wait in the playground. We request that you do not go into classrooms. We ask that our 3-6 parents and carers meet their children outside the school gates.

Late Arrival And Early Departures

All students should be at school before the bell rings at 8:45am. Students who arrive at their classroom any time after the 8:45am bell are required to collect a 'late pass' from the office. As part of our school policy, parents/ carers are required to sign their child in at the school office should they arrive after this time.

Students will not be released at any time during the school day unless their parent or carer collects an 'early release pass' from the school office or provides written advice that the student is to be released into the care of another adult. Under no circumstances will students be released into the care of a person under the age of 18 years.



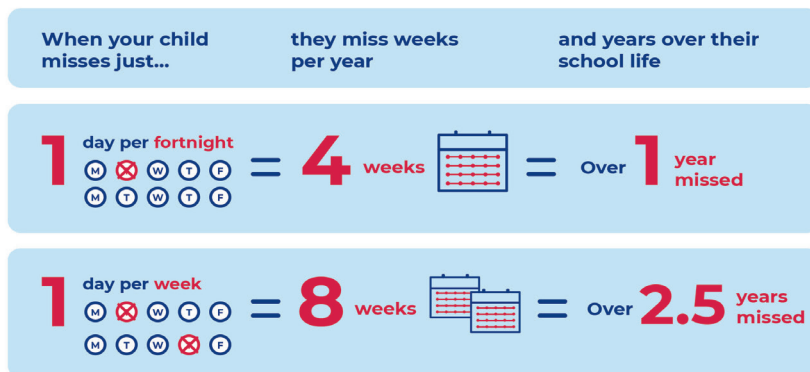
Attendance

Parents or carers must ensure that their child attends school every day unless illness or exceptional circumstances prevent this from happening. Any absence from school should be explained within seven days of the first day of any period of absence. The seven-day timeframe for explaining absences is a requirement of the Education Act 1990. For convenience, a SMS is sent to parents and carers who have a child absent and can be used to explain an absence. Absent notes can also be completed and submitted through our app. Similarly, the school is required to inform parents and carers of unexplained absences.

Initially, where there is a problem in maintaining regular attendance, the school's student welfare and counselling services will be used. When school personnel have difficulty restoring the regular attendance of students, the Principal or Deputy Principal will request the assistance of Home School Liaison Officers to support the school's attendance program. The Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) visits our school on a regular basis to check rolls for any high absentee rates. If this occurs without reasonable explanation, then the officer visits the home for further consultation.

Days missed = years lost

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



Extended/Holiday Leave

The Department of Education does not accept family holidays and travel as reasons for exemption from school. An application for a Certificate of Extended Leave for Travel must be applied for through the school office for leave of more than 5 days and approved by the Principal. The application needs to be made a minimum of ten school days before travel and documents such as air/ship/train tickets, accommodation confirmation or a travel itinerary for domestic and/or international travel must be provided.

Emergency Contact Details

It is vital that the school is kept informed of your current home, work and mobile numbers and address. Please ensure that the school office has an updated record of the name and phone number of two emergency contacts that we can reach if parents or carers are not available. This person could be another family member or friend over the age of 18 years who is willing to collect your child in case of accident or illness. The person nominated by you needs to be agreeable to being contacted in an emergency.



Before And After School Care

Riverbank Public School has 2 Before and/or After School Care providers:

Northwest Community Childcare (NWCC)

Phone: 8678 0279
Email: nwcc@northwestcbc.com.au
Mail: PO Box 67
Quakers Hill NSW 2763

The Island OOSH

Phone: 9836 1700
Email: admin@TheIslandOOSH.com

All providers are registered with NSW Community Services and are accredited providers of before and/or after school care. Rebates may be available through Centrelink depending on family income. Parents and carers need to liaise with and enrol their child directly with the care provider.

Term Dates

Please refer to the Department website for Term and Public Holiday dates.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/calendars>

School Development Days

Our school has five School Development Days per year. On these days, the staff undertake professional learning on new policy and curriculum development. It is Department of Education policy that our school runs these days each year. The days are usually held on the first two days of Term 1, first Monday of Terms 2 & 3 and the last day of Term 4.



Communication Between Parents & School

Parents are encouraged to maintain regular contact with the school, especially when you have any questions or concerns. In general, the first point of contact should be with your child's classroom teacher. Due to the various duties and commitments teachers have, it is advisable to arrange a time to talk or meet via the classroom teacher's email, which is provided at the beginning of the school year. Any matters involving a major concern can be referred to the Principal or a member of the Executive Team via the school email riverbank-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephoning the school office on 9626 7511.

Community Parent Engagement Calendar

A Community Engagement Calendar is distributed at the beginning of the year and updated throughout the year in our School Newsletter. This calendar highlights all school events and incorporates all key workshops, interviews and events that parents and carers are welcome to attend, whether by Zoom or on site.

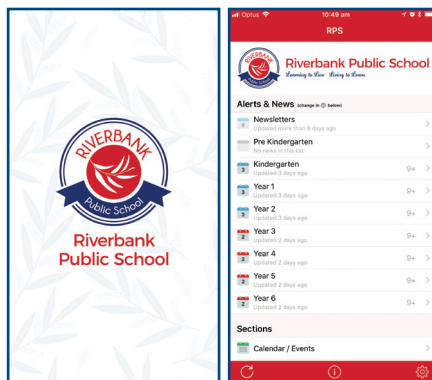
Community Engagement Videos

Please visit the school website to view our amazing Community Engagement Videos.

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

School Enews App

The Riverbank Public School mobile app is custom built to serve the needs of our school community. By improving communication between the school and its families, it eases the need for paper sick notes and printed school newsletters. Important notifications are posted and emailed via the School Enews App. School Enews is a free app available for all mobile devices. Just download the app from the App Store or Play Store by searching for Riverbank Public School.



Website

Riverbank Public School has its own website where information is updated weekly. The Canteen Price List, Uniform Shop link and our newsletter are all available online.

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

MAKE A PAYMENT | ENROLMENT | NEWS | NEWSLETTER | EVENTS | GALLERY



Riverbank Public School

Learning to live - living to learn

T: 02 9626 7511

E: riverbank-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

About our school

Supporting our students

Learning at our school

Uniform orders

Newsletters and notes

Parent information

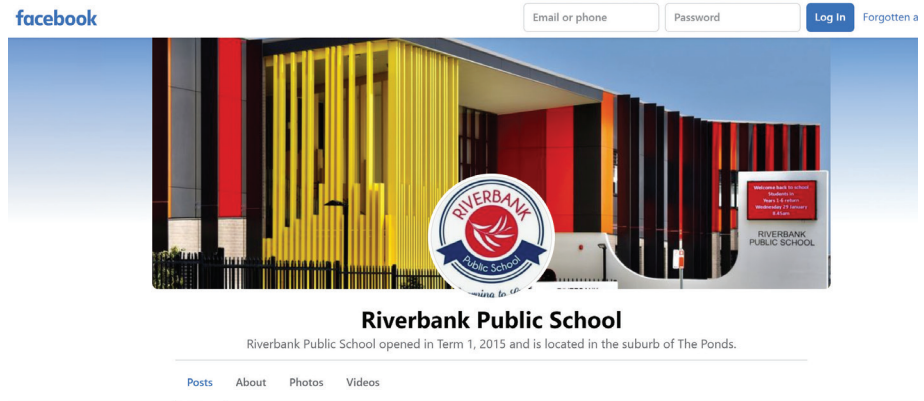
Community Engagement Videos





Facebook

Riverbank Public School's Facebook page celebrates our students' achievements. Parents are unable to post any news items, however, are welcome to comment on posts and photos. The page is designed to keep the community up to date regarding the wonderful activities and learning opportunities that occur every day at Riverbank Public School.



Twitter

In addition to Facebook, Riverbank Public School uses Twitter to share events as they happen throughout the school. You can follow us on Twitter @RiverbankPublic.

Newsletter And Notes

The school newsletter is available every second Wednesday (even weeks), through the School Enews App and website. We distribute notes regularly regarding various events through the school app. Our newsletter and school notes provide parents with essential information.

<https://riverbank-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/newsletter.html>

School Invoices

Each term, a Statement of Account for all students in each family will be emailed home. This account covers costs of foreseeable excursions, performances, and activities throughout the term as well as teaching and learning expenses.

Preferred payment method is via the Parent Online Portal which is accessible via the school website.

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

A signed permission note is required for student participation in all activities.

Parents And Citizens Association

Riverbank Public School P&C works collaboratively with the Principal and teachers to provide additional opportunities, support, and funding to enrich the lives of our children at Riverbank Public School.

Parents and carers are encouraged to take an active part in their child's education. Assistance in areas such as class helpers, sport carnivals, P&C, library, excursions and performing arts activities is often sought, particularly in the early years of schooling.

The P&C meets once per term in the evening. Dates and times are published in the fortnightly school newsletter. Everyone is welcome to attend. A nominal membership fee applies which enables parents to vote on issues raised.



School Uniform

Riverbank Public School's uniform was designed in consultation with the school community. As a rule, the summer uniform is worn in Terms 1 and 4, whilst the winter uniform is worn in Terms 2 and 3. These times may alter if extreme temperature changes occur close to the changeover period. Advice of changeover dates will always be published in the newsletter and on the school app.


Sports uniform is only to be worn on the designated sport days unless otherwise specified. Hats are expected to be worn as part of the uniform each day. The broad-brimmed school hat is an essential part of our school uniform. In keeping with departmental sun safe policies, students who do not wear their broad-brimmed school hat will not be permitted to play or participate in sporting or other activities in the sun. Students are also expected to purchase and use the Riverbank Public School bag. Black leather school shoes must be worn for the purposes of safety. Sport shoes are only to be worn with the sports uniform. For any queries regarding uniform, please contact the school office.

<https://cowanlewis.com.au/product-category/riverbank-public-school/>



RIVERBANK PUBLIC SCHOOL

Riverbank Public School uniform consists of:

Girls Summer		Boys Summer	
Dress	Red and navy checkered dress	Shorts	Navy tailored shorts. Students are not permitted to wear cargo shorts or shorts that sit below the knee
Shorts	Navy blue pleated shorts		
Blouse	White, short sleeve, Peter Pan collar blouse bearing school emblem	Shirt	White short sleeve school shirt bearing school emblem
Jacket	Zipped red jacket bearing school emblem	Jacket	Zipped red jacket bearing school emblem
Hat	Red broad-brimmed hat bearing school emblem	Hat	Red broad-brimmed hat bearing school emblem
Socks	Plain white ankle socks with fold over top (not anklets)	Socks	Plain white ankle socks with fold over top (not anklets)
Shoes	Black polishable shoes	Shoes	Black polishable shoes
Girls Winter		Boys Winter	
Tunic	Navy and red checkered tunic	Pants	Navy tailored trousers – students are not permitted to wear cargo style trousers or track pants
Pants	Navy blue winter pants		
Blouse	White, long sleeve, Peter Pan collar blouse bearing school emblem	Shirt	White school shirt bearing school emblem (same as summer – boys may wear a white skivvy under their shirt in cooler weather)
Tie	Red tag tie	Tie	Years 5 and 6 only – Red school tie
Jacket	Zipped red jacket bearing school emblem	Jacket	Zipped red jacket bearing school emblem
Hat	Red broad-brimmed hat bearing school emblem	Hat	Red broad-brimmed hat bearing school emblem
Socks/ Tights	Navy tights or plain white ankle socks with fold over top (not anklets)	Socks	Plain white ankle socks with fold over top (not anklets)
Shoes	Black polishable shoes	Shoes	Black polishable shoes
Girls and Boys Sports			
Polo Shirt	Red and navy bearing school emblem	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px;"> <p>School bag is part of the school uniform</p>  </div>	
Shorts (Summer)	Navy blue with RPS embroidered		
Tracksuit Pants	Navy blue		
Jacket	Red and blue tracksuit jacket bearing school emblem		
Socks	Plain white ankle socks with fold over top (not anklets)		
Shoes	White joggers		



Canteen

Our canteen is leased by a private contractor, Classroom Catering. They began operation on 17 March 2003 and include 21 schools within Greater Western Sydney. Their main objective is to provide a healthy, nutritional, well-balanced, and affordable menu for students in line with the 'Healthy School Canteen' Strategy. A copy of the menu and ordering procedures are available on the school website and on the Spriggy Schools app.



Medication

If your child requires short-term access to medication at school, you must complete a Medication Request form and Deed of Indemnity form available from the school office. Parents are requested to bring medication to be given on a day-to-day basis to the office each morning, clearly labelled in the original packaging with child's name, class, dosage and time. Please include a medicine cup or medicine spoon for correct dosage to be given. Please note only prescription medication can be given to students.

For students who require the use of an EpiPen or access to other medications (including Asthma medication), you must provide a current and appropriate Action Plan together with the required medication. For medication given on a regular basis please ensure that an adequate, in-date supply is maintained in the office at all times. If possible, it would be appreciated if parents could supply a spare Asthma puffer to remain at the school office. If you have any queries, please speak to our office staff.

Immunisation

The Department of Health recommends that children entering school should be immunised against infectious childhood diseases. This is especially important as students come into contact with other students and infections can easily spread. Immunisation is available from your family doctor. A complete vaccination certificate must be submitted for filing at the school when a student enters Kindergarten (Government Legislation 1993). If this is not presented, the student will need to be kept at home during the outbreak of any communicable diseases.

Will my child have to stay home if there is a disease outbreak at school?

If a student has one of the childhood diseases, then he/she will need to stay at home until well again. Unimmunised children who have been in contact with the sick child must stay at home during the outbreak. This will help to prevent the disease spreading to other children in the school community.

Too sick for school?



Generally if your child feels unwell, keep them home from school and consult your doctor. This chart and the information it contains is not intended to take the place of a consultation with your doctor.

Bronchitis	Symptoms are coughing, a runny nose, sore throat and mild fever. The cough is often dry at first, becoming moist after a couple of days. There may be a slight wheeze and shortness of breath. A higher fever (typically above 39°C) may indicate pneumonia.	... until they are feeling better. Antibiotics may be needed.
Chickenpox (Varicella)	Slight fever, runny nose, and a rash that begins as raised pink spots that blister and scab.	... for 5 days from the onset of the rash and the blisters have dried.
Conjunctivitis	The eye feels 'scratchy', is red and may water. Lids may stick together on waking.	... while there is discharge from the eye unless a doctor has diagnosed a non-infectious cause.
Diarrhoea (no organism identified)	Two or more consecutive bowel motions that are looser and more frequent than normal and possibly stomach cramps.	... for at least 24 hours after diarrhoea stops.
Fever	A temperature of 38.5°C or more in older infants and children.	... until temperature is normal.
Gastroenteritis	A combination of frequent loose or watery stools (diarrhoea), vomiting, fever, stomach cramps, headaches.	... for at least 24 hours after diarrhoea and/or vomiting stops.
German measles (Rubella)	Often mild or no symptoms: mild fever, runny nose, swollen nodes, pink blotchy rash that lasts a short time.	... for at least 4 days after the rash appears.
Glandular Fever (Mononucleosis, EBV infection)	Symptoms include fever, headache, sore throat, tiredness, swollen nodes.	... unless they're feeling unwell.
Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD)	Generally a mild illness caused by a virus, perhaps with a fever, blisters around the mouth, on the hands and feet, and perhaps the nappy area in babies.	... until all blisters have dried.
Hayfever (Allergic rhinitis) caused by allergy to pollen (from grasses, flowers and trees), dust mites, animal fur or hair, mould spores, cigarette smoke	Sneezing, a blocked or runny nose (rhinitis), itchy eyes, nose and throat, headaches.	... unless they feel unwell or are taking a medication which makes them sleepy.
Head lice or nits* (Pediculosis)	Itchy scalp, white specks stuck near the base of the hairs; lice may be found on the scalp.	... while continuing to treat head lice each night. Tell the school.

Hepatitis A	Often none in young children; sudden onset of fever, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), dark urine, pale stools.	 ... for 2 weeks after first symptoms (or 1 week after onset of jaundice). Contact your doctor before returning to school.
Hepatitis B	Often no symptoms in young children. When they do occur, they can include fever, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), dark urine.	 ... if they have symptoms. Contact your doctor before returning to school.  ... if they have a chronic infection (not the first outbreak) and no symptoms.
Impetigo (School sores)	Small red spots change into blisters that fill up with pus and become crusted; usually on the face, hands or scalp.	 ... until antibiotic treatment starts. Sores should be covered with watertight dressings.
Influenza	Sudden onset fever, runny nose, sore throat, cough, muscle aches and headaches.	 ... until well.
Measles	Fever, tiredness, runny nose, cough and sore red eyes for a few days followed by a red blotchy rash that starts on the face and spreads down the body and lasts 4 to 7 days.	 ... for at least 4 days after the rash appears.
Meningococcal Disease	Sudden onset of fever and a combination of headache, neck, stiffness, nausea, vomiting, drowsiness or rash.	Seek medical attention immediately. Patient will need hospital treatment. Close contacts receive antibiotics.
Molluscum Contagiosum	Multiple small lumps (2–5mm) on the skin that are smooth, firm and round, with dimples in the middle. In children, occur mostly on the face, trunk, upper arms and legs. Symptoms can last 6 months to 2 years.	
Mumps	Fever, swollen and tender glands around the jaw.	 ... for 9 days after onset of swelling.
Ringworm* (tinea corporis)	Small scaly patch on the skin surrounded by a pink ring.	 ... for 24 hours after fungal treatment has begun.
Runny nose or common cold		 ... unless there are other symptoms such as fever, sore throat, cough, rash or headache. Check with school.
Scabies*	Itchy skin, worse at night. Worse around wrists, armpits, buttocks, groin and between fingers and toes.	 ... until 24 hours after treatment has begun.
Shigella	Diarrhoea (which may contain blood, mucus and pus), fever, stomach cramps, nausea and vomiting.	 ... until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours. Antibiotics may be needed.
Slapped Cheek Syndrome (Parvovirus B19 infection, fifth disease, erythema infectiosum)	Mild fever, red cheeks, itchy lace-like rash, and possibly cough, sore throat or runny nose.	 ... as it is most infectious before the rash appears.
Whooping Cough (Pertussis)	Starts with a running nose, followed by persistent cough that comes in bouts. Bouts may be followed by vomiting and a whooping sound as the child gasps for air.	 ... until the first 5 days of an antibiotic course has been completed. Unimmunised siblings may need to stay home too until treated with an antibiotic.
Worms (Threadworms, pinworms)	The main sign of threadworms is an itchy bottom. Sometimes children feel 'out of sorts' and do not want to eat much. They may also have trouble sleeping, due to itching at night.	 ... and tell the school as other parents will need to know to check their kids.

*It is important that the rest of the family is checked for head lice, scabies and ringworm



Information provided by NSW Health.

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Curriculum Based Programs

Teaching and learning programs are designed around NESA syllabus documents. The syllabus is mandated by the State Government of the day. Primary learning includes whole-class, group and individual activities designed to develop an inquiring mind and teach basic learning skills needed for schooling and later life. Literacy and Numeracy are the building blocks of learning and that is why English and Mathematics take up half of students' learning time in primary school.

Kindergarten to Year 6 focus on six key learning areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Human Society and its Environment – History and Geography
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
- Creative Arts

Primary school in NSW follows a curriculum based on stages of learning. Each stage is equivalent to two school years. For each learning stage there are skills, knowledge and a level of understanding that each student should develop.

Early Stage 1 refers to Kindergarten

Stage 1 includes Years 1 and 2

Stage 2 includes Years 3 and 4

Stage 3 includes Years 5 and 6

STEAM

Our Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics (STEAM) programs inspire creativity and develop critical inquiry approaches for learning and thinking. STEAM programs are essential areas of study that foster students' skills and prepare them to participate in a rapidly changing world.

When students learn within the context of authentic projects, they can see clear connections between syllabus outcomes and real-world application. Through STEAM, students apply skills, knowledge and understanding the way they would be applied in the workforce and in their daily lives.

Co-Teaching

Co-teaching involves two or more teachers working together – sharing the planning, organisation, delivery, and assessment of instruction, as well as physical and virtual spaces. Riverbank Public School has flexible, innovative learning spaces where educators work collaboratively to deliver the curriculum to our students. The co-teaching model is based on extensive research that aims to promote a student-centred pedagogy. All staff are trained in using the innovative learning spaces to promote student achievement and engagement.

Assessment And Reporting

Reports are focused on individual achievement and progress and reflect student performance measured against a set of specific criteria as set by the school. Reports are available on the Parent Portal at the end of each semester (June and December). Reports are not printed; parents are encouraged to download the PDF copy from the Parent Portal and save them to their own computer for future reference.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN is an annual assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It tests the types of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. The tests cover skills in reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation and Numeracy. The assessments are undertaken every year in the second full week in May.

NAPLAN results allow parents, carers and educators to see how students are progressing in Literacy and Numeracy over time – individually, as part of their school community, and against national standards. NAPLAN tests are one aspect of each school's assessment and reporting process and do not replace the extensive, ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student's performance. Each teacher will have the best insight into their students' educational progress. Parents and carers can use NAPLAN reports, along with other school assessment reports, to discuss their child's strengths and areas for improvement with their teacher.



Parent/Teacher Information Evening

Early in Term 1, you are invited to attend Parent/Teacher Information Evenings, at which class expectations and routines are explained.

Interview With Teachers

Interviews – Three-Way Conferences (Student-Parent-Teacher) are held at the end of Term 1 and then again in Term 3 by request of the parent, however, parents are welcome to meet with their teacher at any time throughout the school year.

Student Goal Sharing

Parents and carers are invited to visit their child's classroom twice per year for their child to share their learning goals. Students will reflect on their learning with their parents and carers, highlight their achievements and discuss the next steps in their learning.



Sport And Physical Education

All students, Kindergarten through to Year 6, are involved in a Physical Education Program in which they will learn to acquire skills through natural movements and develop physical fitness through endurance, flexibility and strengthening activities. Students in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 participate in a school sports program that promotes modified sports creating the appropriate environment for children to learn basic sports skill.

For the more proficient students in Years 3-6, the school provides the opportunity to represent the school in the Interschool District PSSA sports competition. The sports may include T-Ball, Softball, Cricket, Netball, Soccer, Newcombe Ball, NRL Tag, Rugby League and AFL.

The school holds Swimming, Cross Country, and Athletics Carnivals during the year for students in Years 3-6 and competitive Year 2 students who are turning 8 in the year. Students of high ability have the opportunity to be selected for Zone, Regional and State level Primary School Representative teams. Students in K-2 attend a Cross Country Carnival in Term 1 and an Athletics Carnival in Term 2.

Our Four Sport Houses reflect the wonderful view the school has of the Blue Mountains:

- Piddington
- York
- Tomah
- Boyce



Homework

Homework provides purposeful learning experiences, which consolidate, extend, and enrich the school's programs. Homework is valuable training for the development of good study habits and effective use of leisure time.

Homework is given weekly. Application of these guidelines may vary from time to time, depending on class programs, activities, and the needs and abilities of the student. Homework activities are set more frequently and regularly as children move into the senior years. Homework is optional.

The recommended time a student should spend on homework is:

Kindergarten	10-20 minutes/day
Stage 1	20-30 minutes/day
Stage 2	30-40 minutes/day
Stage 3	40-60 minutes/day

You can help by:

- supporting students in completing homework
- providing, if possible, a set time and dedicated area for homework and study
- communicating with teachers about any concerns with homework or your child's approach to it

School Library

The library is an integral part of our educational program. It has a wide range of texts, resources, and technology. Every class in the school has an allocated library borrowing session. All students are encouraged to borrow books on a regular basis. As books are costly items, students must have a library bag to protect the library book between home and school. The library is also open before and after school for borrowing.

Support, Kindergarten, Year 1 – borrow weekly

Years 2-6 – borrow fortnightly

Maria Locke

Our Innovation and Inquiry Hub was named after a significant Darug Leader, Bolongaia Maria Locke (1808-1878). The naming of the hub after Maria aims to further connect our school community with the Darug history and culture of our local area. The hub, together with our innovative flexible learning classrooms, allows students to work collaboratively on a variety of tasks and projects.

Technology

Technology plays a vital role in every classroom's educational program and students are expected to develop a range of technological skills in each stage of schooling. Students are expected to abide by a Code of Conduct for appropriate use of technology at school. Once parental permission to go online is obtained, students are allocated a username and password. Every classroom has access to the Wi-Fi network, a digital screen, laptops, and iPads. These devices are used across all curriculum areas.

There is a 1:2 device ratio across K-4.

Students in Years 5 and 6 are required to bring in their own device (BYOD) to use in the classroom.



Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

We run a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program and all students in Stage 3 are required to bring a device. The BYOD strategy provides the opportunity for our students to enter a new world of curriculum possibilities, allowing engagement and involvement in their learning. Learning experiences across the school are purposefully designed to develop the attributes of life-long learners. In this way, each student learns to develop and demonstrate the knowledge, skills, practices, and attitudes necessary to be engaged, robust, learners.

Learning results from continuous dynamic interaction among students, educators, parents, and the extended community. Technology immersion does not diminish the vital role of the teacher. On the contrary, it transforms the teacher from a director of learning to a facilitator of learning. Effective teaching and learning integrates technology into the curriculum anytime, anywhere.

Students are not expected to purchase new devices, as long as their present device meets the specifications outlined in the BYOD policy. The specifications are updated annually and are the same as The Ponds High School.





Google Classroom

Google Classroom is an online learning platform used to deliver curriculum content and resources in Years 3-6. Homework is also allocated using this platform and students submit their homework weekly.

Stage 2 and 3 use Google Classroom in many ways to support learning within the classroom. Teachers use it in Literacy to provide differentiated learning activities and build students' publishing skills; in Mathematics, Google Classroom is used for accessing digital learning spaces, and in Geography and History for developing their inquiry and research skills. Students master skills in editing, manipulating images, creating presentations and for understanding the impact Visual Literacy has on its audience.

Google Classroom provides a link between home and school where students have access to their digital classroom in both settings, as well as the opportunity to build their skills as they prepare to enter high school where online platforms are used.

Seesaw

Seesaw is an online tool used at Riverbank Public School to create a personalised learning journal for each student. It captures aspects of students' learning progress that happens throughout the school year. It gives students a voice, makes their thinking visible and encourages self-reflection and ownership of their education.

Seesaw empowers students to independently document what they are learning. This app supports the development capabilities in communication, collaboration, creative thinking, problem solving, digital Literacy and citizenship. It strengthens the link between home and school and provides students with an authentic audience, as parents are able to access the app to keep up to date with class events, activities, and learning. Seesaw's platform allows families to celebrate their child's learning development, progress, and achievements, as they occur. Teachers and students K – 2 will use school iPads to post work samples, photos, videos, and voice recordings to personalise student portfolios.

Educational Support

The Educational Support team at Riverbank Public School is a whole-school planning and support mechanism. It is formed with the purpose of addressing the learning needs of all students, but specifically those who have English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D) and those with additional Literacy and Numeracy needs. The Educational Support team develops and implements targeted programs, monitors student growth, and evaluates the effectiveness of teaching programs. It also addresses the professional learning needs of teachers, as well as making recommendations regarding the allocation of available and appropriate resources. A prime function of the Educational Support team is to ensure that the needs of students in the school are being met.

Support is offered in a variety of ways. Specialist language classes for students with limited English proficiency are conducted in small groups and are designed to develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Educational Support teachers also team teach with classroom teachers and provide in class support. Specialist reading programs, such as MultiLit, Language for Learning and Early Literacy Intervention are run in small groups concurrently with classroom reading programs.

School Counsellors

Riverbank Public School has a team of school counsellors to support students in mainstream and support classes. Students are referred to the counselling team through the learning and support referral process. The school counsellors also assist in the process of supporting families local to Riverbank Public School to access Department of Education support services.



High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE)

The High Potential and Gifted Education Policy promotes engagement and challenge for every student, regardless of background, in every school across intellectual, creative, social-emotional, and physical domains. It supports every student to achieve their educational potential, through talent development opportunities and differentiated teaching and learning practices to ensure that their specific learning and wellbeing needs are met. At Riverbank Public School, we began implementing this new policy in 2021 and have embedded it in our four-year Strategic Improvement Plan.

Aboriginal Education

Riverbank Public School is committed to improving the educational outcomes and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to ensure they excel and achieve in every aspect of their education. We are committed to increasing knowledge and understanding of the histories, cultures, and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First Peoples of Australia. We work closely with the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) and implement the new Partnership Agreement 'Walking Together, Working Together' to strengthen collaboration between Aboriginal communities and our school. Riverbank Public School works towards common goals in Aboriginal Education and celebrate the successes of our students and communities.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Riverbank Public School offers students the opportunity to engage in a variety of extra-curricular activities, including drama, debating, public speaking, STEAM, gardening, dance groups, art and choir. We encourage your child's participation in these extra-curricular activities and new learning opportunities.

After School Activities

After school activities, including music lessons, chess, robotics, Mandarin and sports programs, are provided by a variety of external providers. These opportunities are published in our school newsletter and app.

School Parliament – Student Voice

An important aspect of modern schools is the establishment of student ownership in the day to day operations within the school, be it roles and responsibilities within the classroom, jobs out in the playground and having a say in ways to improve the school. Mrs Brown established a student parliament in 2015. The parliament is run by Year 6 leaders who take on the roles of Prime Minister in Federal Parliament and Premier in State Parliament, Ministers of Sport, Environment, Events, Transport, Education, Arts and Technology. There is a Treasurer, Speaker, Serjeant-At-Arms and a Leader of the Opposition.

During parliament, all students in Years 3-6 have the opportunity to address the parliament and move a motion, outlining new initiatives for the school to undertake. The students then vote on the motion. If passed, the item is brought to the attention of the minister in charge of that area. They then take action on the issue, under the guidance of the Principal and school staff. Due to the significant increase in student enrolments, in 2019, our school parliament split into two sessions. Stage 2 became State Parliament and Stage 3 became Federal Parliament. The Federal Parliament is given a budget from the Principal to work with throughout the year and they designate half of the funds to be given to State Parliament. Our parliament sessions provide a forum for all students to have a 'voice' regarding how the school operates since its foundation.





Assemblies

Grade assemblies are held fortnightly on a Friday. Please refer to the school newsletter for further information.

Parents of the class presenting the assembly are invited to attend. An invitation is also extended to attend special assemblies throughout the year such as the ANZAC Ceremony. Notice of all assemblies is provided in the newsletter.

Our Annual School Excellence Assemblies are held in December of each year to recognise outstanding student achievement. School leaders for the following year are announced and other major awards are presented.

Excursions

To extend students' knowledge, opportunities are provided to participate in educational excursions that relate to work being completed in the classroom. Some excursions involve walks within our local community, whilst others take children further afield to activities not available at school. Overnight camps may also be organised for students in particular stages ranging from one to four nights. Excursion costs will appear on your Statement of Account and must be paid prior to the excursion. Signed permission notes are also required for student participation. Please contact the Principal via the school's email or by letter if you wish to discuss terms of payment.

Road Safety

Parents are requested to be most particular about observing the parking regulations. You are requested not to double park and to follow the directions of the signs outside our school, which are there for the safety of our children. Local council rangers and highway patrol officers regularly conduct operations outside the school to support safe practices. Parents and children are also requested to use the marked pedestrian crossings, as this teaches children essential road safety messages. Riverbank Public School participates annually in 'Walk Safely to School Day' and 'Ride2School Day'.

ROAD SAFETY INFORMATION

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY WHEN THEY ARE TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL.

Drive and park safely near schools

The beginning and end of the school day are busy times for pedestrians and drivers outside schools.

You can help keep children safe by remembering the following:

- drop off and pick up children on the school side of the road
- never call out to children from across the road – it is very dangerous
- always take extra care when driving in 40km school zones
- follow all parking signs – these help keep children as safe as possible
- park responsibly even if this means you have to walk further to the school gate
- never double park – it is illegal and puts children at risk
- never do a U-turn or three-point turn outside the school as it puts children at risk of harm
- model safe and considerate pedestrian and driver behaviours to your children.

For further support

Go to the department's Road Safety Education program at education.nsw.gov.au/road-safety-education or visit education.nsw.gov.au and search for road safety education.

When travelling in a car ensure your children:

- use a booster seat if they are aged between 4 and 7 years old – it's the law
- are correctly buckled up in their seatbelts
- always get in and out of the car through the 'safety door' – the rear door on the footpath side of the car
- are never left alone in the car.



Up to 6 months
Approved rear-facing child car seat



6 months to 4 years
Approved rear- or forward-facing child car seat



4+ years
Approved forward-facing child car seat or booster seat



145cm or taller
Suggested minimum height to use adult lap-sash seatbelt

Walk Safety

Walking to and from school is a great way for you and your children to stay healthy and active. Walking together is a great way to:

- be physically active
- talk and spend time with your child
- reinforce safe pedestrian behaviours
- reduce traffic congestion
- reduce your carbon footprint

ROAD SAFETY INFORMATION

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY WHEN THEY ARE TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL.

Walk safely

Always hold your children's hands – when walking on the footpath, in the car park and when crossing the road – until they are at least 8 years old.

When your children are between 8 and 10 years old, supervise them very closely when they are near traffic and crossing the road.

When you decide to let your children over 10 years old walk to and from school by themselves, plan the journey together. Practise being a safe pedestrian by:

- keeping to the left of the footpath
- being aware of vehicles coming in and out of driveways
- not being distracted by mobile devices or by other people
- using a safe, alternative way home in wet weather
- showing respect to other pedestrians.

STOP! one step back from the kerb.

LOOK! continuously look both ways.

LISTEN! for the sounds of approaching traffic.

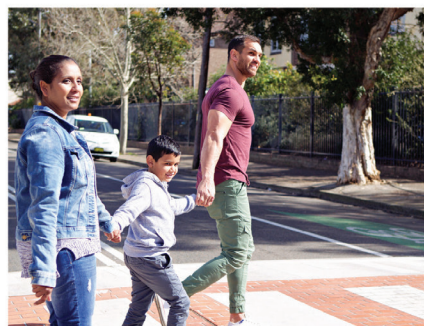
THINK! is it safe to cross?

For further support

Go to the department's Road Safety Education program at education.nsw.gov.au/road-safety-education or visit education.nsw.gov.au and search for road safety education.

Encourage your children:

- to always use a safe place to cross the road such as a pedestrian crossing, traffic lights or a school crossing, if available
- to check for turning vehicles before they cross the road and driveways
- never to assume that a driver can see them or will stop for them
- to make eye contact with a driver so they know the driver has seen them
- to wait till the driver has completely stopped their vehicle before they cross the road or driveway.



Restorative Practice Wellbeing Framework

Restorative Practices form the relational basis for Quality Teaching and Learning at Riverbank Public School. Our Restorative Practice Framework, because of its explicit nature, offers a common language and practice capable of fostering healthy relationships. Student achievement is enhanced through Restorative values which are embedded as a way of being and learning together. Our approach fosters individual responsibility and helps develop empathy. Mistakes can be viewed as an opportunity for insight, learning and development in both the academic and social domains.

The Help Increase the Peace Keys Program offers a whole school approach to building relationships through communication, cooperation, trust building and conflict resolution.

Values And Expectations

Our School Values are:

- We share the voice space by listening actively to others and expressing ourselves confidently.
- We follow instructions by being in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing.
- We use build ups by saying encouraging, affirming things to others.
- We keep our hands, feet and objects to ourselves so that everyone is safe.
- We own our behaviour because we choose how we behave.

For additional information please refer to our website.

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



GREEN KEY
Think Before
Reacting
by:

- playing safely
- playing in bounds
- walking in the classrooms and school building
- thinking before saying or doing something
- showing independence and initiative



BLUE KEY
Respect
Yourself
by:

- telling the truth consistently (integrity)
- handing in property you find
- using appropriate language
- caring for the school
- being polite
- caring for your own things
- caring for your classroom
- being accountable for your actions



YELLOW KEY
Care for Others
by:

- being kind, considerate and helpful
- sharing
- being friendly
- using build ups
- listening, speaking in turn
- speaking quietly
- inviting others to play



RED KEY
Work Together for
a Non Violent Way
by:

- listening to others' points of view
- being a responsible bystander
- using build ups
- keeping hands, feet, objects to yourself
- using positive body language
- actively engaging in learning
- cooperating in a team environment
- creating a safe positive climate
- making things right after harm has been done



BLACK KEY
Expect
the Best
by:

- making an effort with school work
- completing homework
- asking for help when you don't understand
- following instructions
- knowing you will be listened to
- looking at situations in a positive way
- having a go, taking a risk
- knowing a mistake is just a 'muck-up' and we learn from it
- striving for excellence
- being committed to lifelong learning

Learning to Live

Living to Learn



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