

# STANFORD MERTHYR INFANTS SCHOOL

*Working together, making a difference with every child.*

Maitland Street, Stanford Merthyr NSW 2327

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[www.facebook.com/stanfordmerthyr](http://www.facebook.com/stanfordmerthyr)



Term 4 Week 6

Tuesday 17th November 2020

## Ms Moss's Memo

*Dear families and friends of Stanford Merthyr Infants:*

*We are all very excited for Hudson and Felix as they are finally able to travel to Canada and join their dad. We wish the Chan family safe travels and all the best for their future. Tuesday 24th November will be Hudson and Felix's last day at Stanford Merthyr Infants School. Exciting times for the family as they start a new life journey in Canada.*

**Wendy Moss,**

Principal

## School News

### Not Returning in 2021?

We will start to organise classes soon for 2021. If you are moving and will not be returning in 2021, please advise the office as soon as possible.

### Staff Development Days 2021

The Department of Education has announced that the positioning of Staff Development Days in 2021 will change. Instead of having one at the beginning of Term 1 and two at the end of Term 4, we will swap to have two at the beginning of Term 1 and one at the end of Term 4. This means that all students K-6 will return to school in 2021 on Friday 29th January. The Staff Development Days at the beginning of Terms 2 and 3 remain unchanged.

## What's happening at Stanford Merthyr Infants?

### NAIDOC Week

**'Always Was, Always Will Be'**




The students and staff enjoyed a great day of celebration and activities for NAIDOC week last Friday.

We also launched our Stanford Merthyr Aboriginal Culture/Dance video on our FB page.

Thank you to our Aboriginal families who recorded a dreamtime story for the students to listen to. This was a lovely way to involve our Aboriginal families in the day.



## Important reminders

-  Kindergarten Orientation Wednesday 18/11
-  Oakvale Farm Excursion - Kookaburra/Kangaroo Classes - Tuesday 17/11
-  Vaucluse House Incursion - Platypus/Emu Classes - Thursday 19/11

## Reports

We will be sending home student reports in Week 10 of this term. Gaining feedback from our recent parent phone survey we recognised the importance and value parents place on teacher comments for key learning areas of English and Mathematics as well as students social skills within the general comments. We have therefore made a slight modification to the report format and look forward to hearing from parents and families about the new format.

## COVID\_19

### New Guidelines

The Dept of Education has released its latest guidelines.

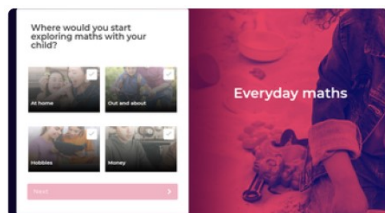
The summary is...

- ◆ P&C meetings allowed onsite after school hours with restrictions;
- ◆ Our Presentation Day Assembly and Year 2 Assembly to go ahead, but without parents. Will be streamed virtually via Face Book;
- ◆ Year 2 sleep over to go ahead;
- ◆ We can host our end of year water fun day in our school playground on Wednesday 16th December.

What's still on hold?

- ◆ P&C events, functions and fundraisers;
- ◆ Other activities with large gatherings of adults.

At a school level ensuring Department guidelines and restrictions are followed can be very challenging. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding, knowing that our students, staff and community safety is a priority.



**Maths Hub for Parents – this is an outstanding resource for parents!**

The Department has released an amazing resource for Parents. It has a wealth of resources. This website is fantastic!

Check it out! There is something for everyone. Designed to help kids at home with their parents – Everyday maths.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/campaigns/mathematics/domain>

**PBL Focus** - Thank you to our Kids Council

**Week 6 Term 4 Focus:** Be safe

*Walk on hard surfaces*

**Week 7 Term 4 Focus:** Be safe

*Right time, right place*



## School Gates

Just a reminder to parents and carers that smoking is banned within 4 metres of a school gate. This law is called the '4 metre law'. Thanks for considering the health of the students and their families.

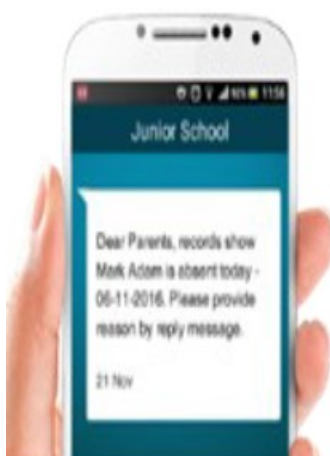
## School attendance matters

### Has your child been absent from school?

We are aiming to improve the number of students who are absent from school and have no explanation for their absence/s.

### How can we do that?

Each day we send a SMS text to the primary contact, indicating that your child is not at school on this day. If you **reply to the text with a reason for the absence**, we update our records and there is no more action required. If you are unable to text on the day, you can call the office and explain over the phone, contact the class teacher via Seesaw or write a letter to the class teacher, **signed and dated**, when your child returns to school. If you are aware that your child will be away in advance, you may contact the school and we can record this so that you do not receive a SMS on the day of absence.



## What we will do if you do not reply or inform us of your child's absence?

If a reply to the SMS is not received within the first 48 hours, or the parent has not contacted the school, the class teacher will contact the primary contact and discuss this absence over the phone.

## Why it is important to inform us of your child's absence?

Our teachers are extremely busy *teaching, planning and assessing our students* at Stanford Merthyr Infants School and your quick response to any absence allows our teachers to do our core business of teaching and learning. Also, our office administration will not have to generate a letter to inform you of any unexplained absences. We understand that if your child is unwell that they need to be at home while recovering, however, if you are able to reply to the initial SMS text, this will be the most effective way to deal with any absence. We appreciate your understanding regarding this matter.

## Unwell students

The guidelines remain in place that require students absent due to flu-like symptoms to:

- Provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 test result
- Not return until symptoms have gone.

Thank you to all the families who are working with us to navigate these guidelines.

## Term 4 Calendar

### Week 6

Tues 17 Nov. - Oakvale Farm Excursion  
Wed 18th Nov. - Kinder Orientation 9.15am at school  
Thurs 19th Nov. - Vaucluse Virtual Excursion

### Week 8

Thurs 3rd Dec. - Year 2 sleepover

### Week 9

Thurs 10th Dec. - Year 2 Assembly

### Week 10

Mon 14th Dec. - Presentation Day / Reports home  
Tues 15th Dec. - Party Day  
Wed 16th Dec. - Water Fun Day/Last day of term for students/Year 2 Clap out  
Thurs 17th Dec. - Staff Development Day



The Kookaburra and Kangaroo classes wrote some very persuasive letters to me last week. The students persuaded me to allow them to fund raise within their classrooms to adopt a koala from the Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary! Here is a sample of some of their wonderful letters. *Maybe you could be persuaded to also adopt a koala!*

Dear Miss Moss,

We have been learning about koalas. Koalas are endangered because of feral cats and bush fires. Also eagles pick them up there is a local koala hospital in port Stephens we would like to raise money so we can adopt a koala from the sanctuary could we please have a fund raising day next week? The money we send the hospital will help them to make the koalas better.

We hope you will let us save the koalas!

From Zane.



Dear Miss Moss,

We have been learning about koalas. They are endangered because of bush fires. There is an East coast koala hospital in Port Stephens that helps koalas when they are sick.

The kangaroos want to have an event for koalas. We want to adopt a koala. Can we have a fundraising day? Can we please save a koala please, please! The money we give the hospital will help the koalas survive.

From Penny



Dear Miss Moss,

We learned all about koalas last week. We would like to save a koala. They are endangered because of the bushfires. Did you know there is a koala hospital? The hospital helps koalas get better. The hospital is in Port Stephens. So can we have a fundraising day? We would like to adopt a koala. They money we raise will save a koala! Please let us help them.

From Adonis



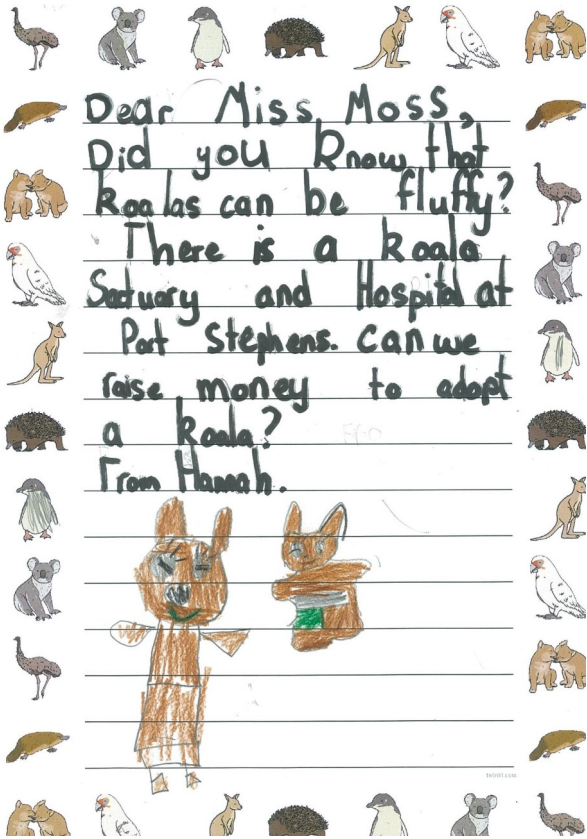
Dear Miss Moss,

Last week we learnt all about koalas. They are endangered because of car accidents. The koala hospital helps koalas get better but they need money. We want to raise money to adopt a koala to help them! Will you say yes?

From Max







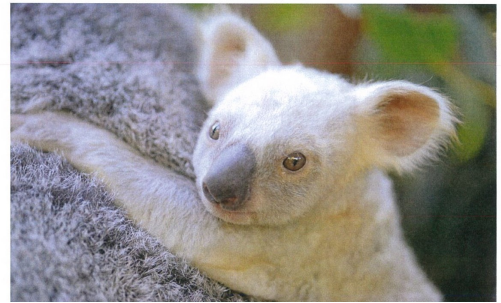
Dear Miss Moss,  
Did you know that  
Koalas can be fluffy?  
There is a Koala  
Sanctuary and Hospital at  
Port Stephens. Can we  
raise money to adopt  
a Koala?  
From Hannah.

Dear Miss Moss,

We have been learning all about koalas and I know that koalas are endangered. There is a Koala Sanctuary at Port Stephens. If there was no sanctuary the koalas will die.

Can we please have a fundraising day so we can adopt a koala? The money will go to the hospital to help to save the koalas.

From Ayla



Dear Miss Moss,  
Do you know that Koalas  
are endangered  
because they die in  
the fires and they eat  
gum leaves? The Rodia trees  
are burnt and the leaves  
are burnt and they can't  
eat the gum leaves.

Elliott

Dear Miss Moss,  
Did you know Koalas  
are Marsupials? They  
have little black noses.  
There is a Koala Sanctuary  
and Hospital at Port  
Stephens.

Can we fundraise to adopt  
a Koala?

The money will buy  
trees, medicine and food.  
Can you help?

Love Abel



Dear Miss Moss,  
Did you know koalas  
are fluffy? They eat gum  
leaves.  
Can we raise money  
to adopt a koala?  
From Amelia

# STUDENT AWARDS

For Assembly 5th & 12th November 2020

## Kookaburras

Cleo K

*Wonderful expressive effort in writing!*

## Kangaroos

Sakura G

*Working hard to improve in all areas!*

Jacob D

*Working hard to improve his writing!*

## Platypus

Blake H

*Working flexibly with 3 digit numbers*

Jaxx G

*Working hard in maths!*

## Emu

Billie-Roze W

*Always striving for excellence!*

Braiden G

*Improved confidence in numeracy!*

## QUALITY 5 BOOKWORK

### Kookaburras

Roxen H

### Kangaroos

Austin B

Alirra B

### Platypus

Banjo B

Hudson C

### Emu

Cooper T

Evie H-E

## (PBL) POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING AWARDS

### Kookaburras

Levi K

*Use equipment safely*

### Kangaroos

Ayla C

*Using nice talk*

Zane B

*Use equipment safely*

### Platypus

Molly H

*Using nice talk*

Tyler P

*Use equipment safely*

### Emu

Evie H-E

*Using nice talk*

Ellenor J

*Use equipment safely*

## PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Alyce McD, Adelle McD

## HOME READING AWARDS



Double Silver (125 nights reading)

Evie H-E

Silver (50 nights reading)

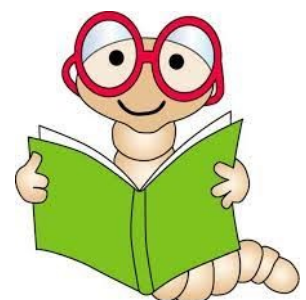
Buddy M, Sakura G, Adonis K

Double Bronze (100 nights reading)

Levi K

Bronze (25 nights reading)

Cleo K



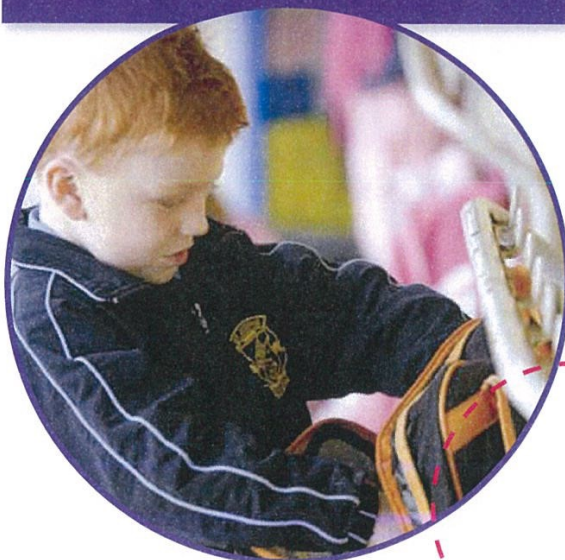


## Problem solving

Your child will face many challenges as they grow, whether it is starting school, joining a sporting team or going to their first sleepover. The ability to make decisions and solve problems develops as your child learns to cope with daily challenges. Young children are not expected to sort through every issue on their own, and it is likely that they will require lots of guidance from their family. The good news is encouraging your child to take part in problem solving will help them develop this skill over time.

The following steps are a useful guide to teaching your child about problem solving. Encourage your child to take part so that they can slowly learn to do it for themselves.

Remember, it is best to begin when your child is feeling calm and relaxed. Start with an issue where you know they are likely to experience some success. If your child is very anxious or angry, help them to calm down first (eg having some quiet time, taking some deep breaths) or leave problem solving for another day or another issue when you know your child is ready to participate.



### 1 Identify the problem

This step can be difficult as children do not always have the words to tell you how they feel or know exactly what the problem is. Finding a quiet space where your child feels comfortable and relaxed may help them to start talking about it. Using your active listening skills will also help your child to feel understood and supported in talking to you. (For more information, see the Starting School *Understanding behaviour* information sheet.) Your child will benefit from your help in trying to understand what might be happening, particularly when they are having difficulty identifying the problem. Remember to step back and not jump in to solving the problems for your child at this stage.

### 2 Find solutions and try them out

Once you have a better sense of what the problem is, you may like to generate some solutions with your child. Brainstorming two or three solutions is a good place to start as any more may seem overwhelming for a young child. They may not yet be able to generate their own solutions, but you can encourage their thinking with questions such as "what do you think you/we could do?" With practice and support from others, your child will gradually be able to come up with more of their own solutions. However, you may need to make some suggestions in the beginning.

Once you and your child have identified some options, you can decide together which one to try first. Work out a plan for how they will try out their solution. Do they need support from you, another child or a teacher? When will they get a chance to try it out? (eg at home or in the school playground.)

### 3 Check in: how did it go?

Once your child has tried the solution, check in with your child as soon as possible. Did it work? If not, why not? What could your child try next? Remember to give your child lots of support and encouragement if the solution didn't work out. Sometimes we have the right solution, but need to practise it many times. Other times, we may need to return to step one to see if the issue was correctly identified.



## You can help to support your child's problem solving skills

- Model your own problem solving. Next time a daily problem arises (eg losing your car keys) talk through the problem and solution out loud. This will help to show your child that everyone has problems and that we can work through them by coming up with different solutions.
- Encourage your child to utilise support people to assist them with problem solving. These could be family members, friends, educators and teachers. This will promote help-seeking behaviours in your child and enable them to feel supported when they have a problem.

Learning to negotiate solutions to everyday problems and make decisions for themselves will help your child to gradually become more independent and responsible. It also helps them feel confident and good about themselves, which is an important part of mental health and wellbeing. When their mental health is supported, children are better learners, have stronger relationships and are better able to meet life's challenges.

## For more information

If you would like more information, KidsMatter has produced a range of resources to support your child through early childhood and primary school. The following information sheets related to this topic are available online at [www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/information-sheets](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/families/information-sheets)

KidsMatter Early Childhood information sheets:

- *Helping young kids to choose wisely*
- *Learning to make good decisions and solve problems*
- *Decision-making skills: Suggestions for families and staff*

KidsMatter Primary information sheets:

- *Helping kids to choose wisely*
- *Decision-making skills: Suggestions for families*



This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Starting School information sheets for families. View them all online at [www.kidsmatter.edu.au/startingschool](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/startingschool)



# PCYC School Holiday Program

CESSNOCK

9am-4pm, For ages 5-12yrs  
\$39 per child sibling discount available  
Book Today 4991 1407  
Enrol for 3 or more days and you can  
use your creative kids voucher



## Week 1

Monday 4th January  
Multi Sports, Creative  
building, Free G

Tuesday 5th January  
Creative Craze, Multi  
Sports, Gymnastics

Wednesday 6th January  
Creative building, Multi  
Sports, Archery

Thursday 7th January  
Multi Sports, Creative  
Craze, Free G

Friday 8th January  
Rock Climbing, Free G,  
Soccer



## Week 2

Monday 11th January  
Soccer, Creative Craze,  
Gymnastics

Tuesday 12th January  
Creative building, Multi  
Sports, Free G

Wednesday 13th January  
Creative Craze, Multi  
Sports, Archery

Thursday 14th January  
Multi Sports, Rock  
Climbing, Creative  
building

Friday 15th January  
Free G, Hockey, Creative  
Craze

Monday 25th January  
Multi Sports, Creative Craze, Free G

## Week 3

Monday 18th January  
Multi Sports, Creative  
building, Free G

Tuesday 19th January  
Creative Craze, Multi  
Sports, Gymnastics

Wednesday 20th January  
Creative building, Multi  
Sports, Archery

Thursday 21st January  
Multi Sports, Creative  
Craze, Free G

Friday 22nd January  
Rock Climbing, Free G,  
Soccer



T: (02) 4991 1407

E: [cessnock@pcycnsw.org.au](mailto:cessnock@pcycnsw.org.au)  
Mills Crescent Cessnock NSW 2325



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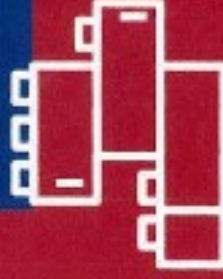


## Monday 21st December

Soccer, Creative Craze, Gymnastics

Tuesday 22nd December  
Creative Building, Multi Sports,  
Free G

Wednesday 23rd December  
Gymnastics, Creative Craze, Hockey



T: (02) 4991 1407

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