



# Thurgoona Public School

*Learning for life, in an inclusive, engaging and supportive environment*

## 2024 Information for parents and carers



**Where...**

**TOGETHER we LEARN TO LIVE and LIVE TO LEARN**

**Est. 1862**

✉ 11 Bottlebrush Street, THURGOONA NSW 2640

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🌐 <https://thurgoona-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/> 📺 Sentral 📘 @thurgoonapublicschool

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## INTRODUCTION

Thurgoona Public School is an inclusive Kindergarten to Year 6 school that caters for the wide variety of student academic, social, emotional and cultural needs. The school, established in 1862, has an outstanding reputation in the local and wider community. We provide quality education in a caring and supportive environment.

Our students take pride in their excellent achievements in all academic areas, sport and the arts. These programs are supported by committed, enthusiastic staff who welcome parents/carers as partners in the education of their children.

This booklet has been produced to provide families – especially those enrolling for the first time, with information about our school, its organisation, our facilities and activities relating to our school.

***“The staff and students at Thurgoona Public School extend a warm welcome to you and your family”.***



Jessica Brooker, **Relieving Principal**

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Learning for life, in an inclusive, engaging and supportive environment

### **At Thurgoona Public School, we:**

- provide the foundations for life-long learning;
- have valued partnerships with parents and the wider community;
- are proud of our highly experienced and passionate teaching and support staff;
- have successful sporting teams with a focus on healthy life-style; and
- develop leadership skills and social responsibility.

## SCHOOL INFORMATION

### Executive Staff

Relieving Principal	Miss Jessica Brooker
Relieving Deputy Principal	Mrs Kerry N Nolan
Assistant Principals	Miss Carly Margosis (Early Stage 1 AP), Mrs Amber Marcus (Stage 1 AP), Mrs Julie Clancy (Stage 2 AP), Mr Blake Maxworthy (Stage 3 AP)
Administrative Managers	Mrs Karin Mackay Mrs Tania Wettern

### Contact Us

Our office hours are from 8.30am until 3.30pm.

<b>Address:</b>	11 Bottlebrush Street Thurgoona NSW 2640
<b>Telephone:</b>	02 6043 1244 02 6043 1620
<b>Facsimile:</b>	02 6043 2045
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:thurgoona-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au">thurgoona-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au</a>
<b>School app:</b>	<a href="https://www.central.com.au/getting-started">https://www.central.com.au/getting-started</a>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="https://thurgoona-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/">https://thurgoona-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/</a>

### School Hours

The following shows the breakdown of our daily times. On Mondays after lunch a whole school assembly is held in the quadrangle for student messages.

Morning Play	8:30 to 8:55 a.m.
<b>Roll marked</b>	<b>8:55 a.m.</b>
<b>Session 1:</b>	<b>8:55 to 11:00 a.m.</b>
Lunch:	11:00 to 11:45 a.m. Students eat in year groups for 15 minutes prior to play starting at 11:15 a.m. (If they haven't finished eating, students move to seats in the playground)
<b>Session 2:</b>	<b>11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.</b>
Recess:	1:15 to 1:45 p.m. Students are supervised for 10 minutes seated eating time. (If they haven't finished eating, students move to seats in the playground)
<b>Session 3:</b>	<b>1:45 to 2:55 p.m.</b>

Playground duty and formal supervision commences at 8:30 a.m. The school office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. Students should not arrive in the playground before 8:30 a.m. or remain in the grounds after 3:00 p.m. as teacher supervision cannot be provided outside normal school hours.

## 2024 School Terms and Holidays

<b>Term 1</b>	Tuesday, 30 January Wednesday, 31 January Thursday, 1 February Wednesday, 7 February Friday, 12 April	School Development Day <b>(No students)</b> School Development Day <b>(No students)</b> Year 1-6 students commence Kindergarten students commence Term 1 ends
<b>Term 2</b>	Monday, 29 April Tuesday, 30 April Friday, 5 July	School Development Day <b>(No students)</b> Students commence Term 2 ends
<b>Term 3</b>	Monday, 22 July Tuesday, 23 July Friday, 27 September	School Development Day <b>(No students)</b> Students commence Term 3 ends
<b>Term 4</b>	Monday, 14 October Wednesday, 18 December Thursday, 19 December Friday, 20 December	Staff and students commence Term 4 ends School Development Day <b>(No students)</b> School Development Day <b>(No students)</b>

## 2025 School Terms and Holidays

<b>Term 1</b>	Wednesday, 29 January Thursday, 30 January Friday, 31 January Friday, 11 April	School Development Day <b>(No students)</b> School Development Day <b>(No students)</b> Year 1-6 students commence Term 1 ends
<b>Term 2</b>	Monday, 28 April Tuesday, 29 April Friday, 4 July	School Development Day <b>(No students)</b> Students commence Term 2 ends
<b>Term 3</b>	Monday, 21 July Tuesday, 22 July Friday, 26 September	School Development Day <b>(No students)</b> Students commence Term 3 ends
<b>Term 4</b>	Monday, 13 October Friday, 19 December	Staff and students commence Students finish

## Thurgoona Public School, School Song

**Verse 1:** We come from Thurgoona, the school on the hill,  
Midst wattles and gum trees, we work with a will.  
In classrooms and on sports fields,  
For the best we all yearn.

**Chorus:** *As we all learn to live, let us all live to learn.*

**Verse 2:** As we form our friendships and plan out our lives,  
We establish the values that will last all our lives.  
Truth, honour and virtue,  
To these we will turn.

**Chorus:** *As we all learn to live, let us all live to learn.*

## School Expectations and Core Values

My responsibility as a student at Thurgoona Public School is to:

**Be Safe**

**Be Respectful**

**Be a Learner**





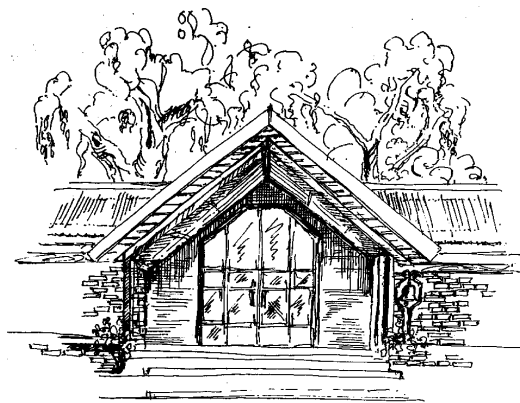
## SCHOOL BACKGROUND

### History

Thurgoona Public School has a long and colourful history. The first school started in 1860 and served an area which was a thriving community of fruit growers, wine makers and graziers. The school began in a slab and bark room twenty feet long and fifteen feet wide and was used for church services on Sundays and for school lessons during the week. It was situated beside St John's Anglican Church on the spot where the present Sunday School stands. The first teacher was Reverend Potter, Vicar of Albury.

In October 1862 the school began to function as a public school and in 1869 a new school building with residence attached was constructed by Mr R Owen at a cost of £390. This was built on a piece of land behind the cricket oval on a spot where there are now two netball courts. Two large pine trees which were originally planted in front of the school still remain today.

The enrolment fluctuated between 38 and 85 students until the 1900's when enrolment declined to reach the low 20's in 1938. In 1952 the school moved to a new position on higher ground in Bowna Road.



By 1977 the enrolment had dropped to 12 and the school was in danger of closing. However, with the development of Thurgoona as part of the Albury-Wodonga Growth Centre, enrolments began to climb and the new buildings were completed in 1987 providing seven classrooms, an administration block, library, food service unit and communal space for the 191 children enrolled.

Significant major capital works in 1995/6 added four classrooms and expanded the library, hall and administration facilities. A community funded student technology annex was constructed in 1997 and equipped with a modern computer network and internet access. A further three classrooms were added as a result of BER funds in 2010.

### Grounds

The school is surrounded by lawns with extensive tree plantings. The natural bush setting to the side and rear of the school was left untouched during the construction of the buildings and is a favourite area for the children as well as the many different bird species which frequent the area. The Regent Honey-Eater (an endangered species) is a frequent visitor to our area.

Further development, planning and planting to enhance our natural environment is an on-going commitment from students, staff and parents.



# SCHOOL ORGANISATION

## Class Organisation

In any single year level class there is a wide age range, students with diverse learning styles, varying maturity and academic levels. At similar ages, students learn at different rates and in different ways.

## Interviews

Parents are encouraged to meet with their child's teacher to discuss any matters relating to their child(ren). Teachers can often be seen before or after school, but please bear in mind that if they have duties, meetings or the bell has gone, they will be unable to stop and talk. Parents can contact the school office to arrange an interview time which is suitable to both parent and teacher.

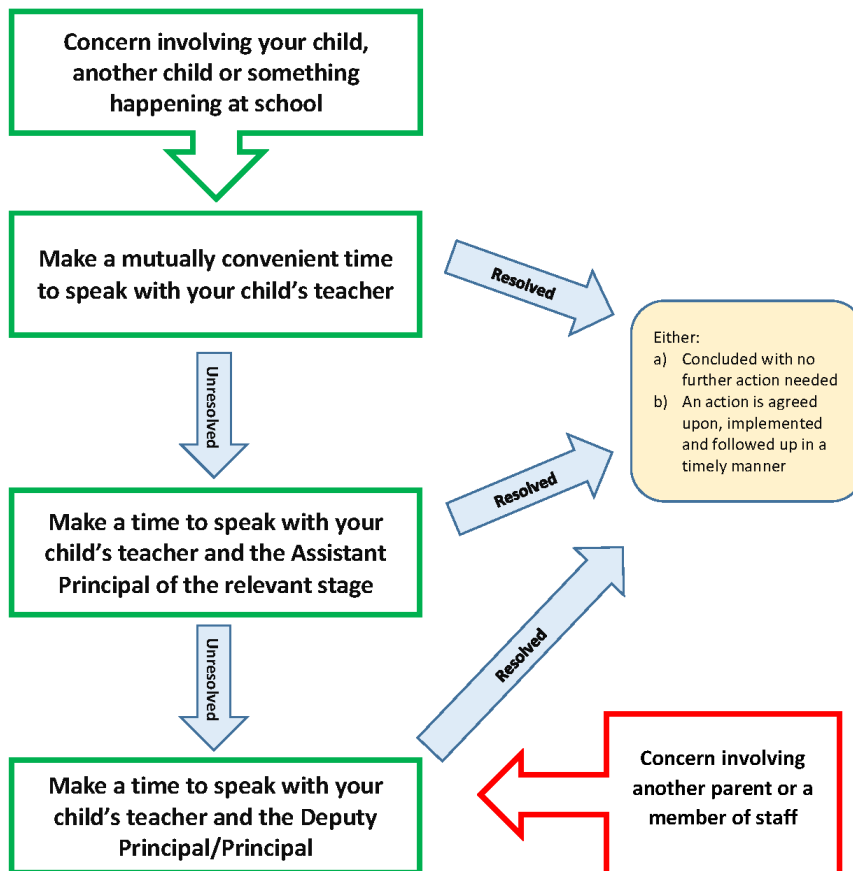
Formal interviews are held throughout the year. Bookings are made electronically and information will be forwarded to all parents at the time.

The Executive is always available to discuss any matters of concern.

## Point of Contact Procedures at Thurgoona Public School



Our school values timely, polite and informative communication between home and school. The following flowchart is a guide for parents/carers when raising a concern. Our staff will find a time to talk to you when they can give you their full attention. Please remember that while our staff are in class or dealing with other matters, they may not be available to answer your questions immediately.



Collaborative. Respectful. Communication.

## ENROLMENT PROCEDURES

As with all NSW public schools we have a defined local enrolment area. This means that your child is designated to a school based on the permanent residential address of the primary caregiver. Every public school reserves enough places within their school for students in their local enrolment area. To verify that the student being presented for enrolment lives within the intake area, we will require a **100-point residential address check at the time of enrolment**.

Parents may apply to enrol their child at a school outside their enrolment area. Non-local applications may be considered by the school's enrolment panel, according to the department's policy and subject to selection criteria such as availability of appropriate staff and classroom accommodation. Contact us to find out more about our out-of-area selection criteria. Parents are asked to contact the principal of their designated school to ensure an out-of-zone application can be considered.

**Kindergarten:** Children are eligible to enrol in Kindergarten if they turn five years of age before 1 August in the year of enrolment. All eligible children are encouraged to commence school at the beginning of the year. We ask you to complete your enrolment by August of the previous year so that you don't miss out on our information evening at the end of Term 3 or our transition days in Term 4.

**To enrol your child, visit: <https://thurgoona-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/> and select Enrolment. Proof of age and immunisation status will be required before children commence school.**

## CURRICULUM

The Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards NSW (BOSTES) is responsible for developing syllabuses to be taught in New South Wales schools, from Kindergarten through to Year 12.

The following is an overview of the rationale and aims of each key learning area to meet the needs of students across Early Stage 1 to Stage 3.

### English

Through responding to and composing a wide range of texts and through the close study of texts, students will develop understanding, knowledge and skills in order to:

- communicate through speaking, listening, reading, writing, viewing and representing;
- use language to shape and make meaning according to purpose, audience and context;
- think in ways that are imaginative, creative, interpretive and critical;
- express themselves and their relationships with others and their world;
- learn and reflect on their learning through their study of English;
- read widely with understanding and enjoyment;
- spell accurately;
- write grammatically in a variety of forms and a range of purposes;
- listen and speak effectively in a variety of situations and
- appreciate literature.

A variety of extension and support programs are implemented to assist students to reach their potential.

## Mathematics

Mathematics provides students with knowledge, skills and understanding in number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability. It focuses on developing increasingly sophisticated and refined mathematical understanding, fluency, communication, logical reasoning, analytical thought and problem-solving skills. These capabilities enable students to respond to familiar and unfamiliar situations by employing strategies to make informed decisions and solve problems relevant to their further education and everyday lives.



Extension programs and support programs are implemented to assist student academic development.

## Science and Technology

Science and technology are of increasing importance and integral to our rapidly changing world. A student's sense of wonder and curiosity about the natural and made world is fostered through actively engaging in the processes of working scientifically and working technologically.

Through questioning and seeking solutions to problems, students develop an understanding of the relationships between science and technology, and the significance of their contribution to and influence on society.

## Computer Education

The school has a well-equipped computer laboratory to which students have regular access. Structured computing lessons are incorporated into the school program.

Laptops are available in all Year 1 to 6 rooms. All classes have interactive boards.

## Environmental Education

Students understand, appreciate and demonstrate a commitment to maintaining and improving their school and community environment through recycling programs, tree planting and community environmental activities.

## History

History is a disciplined process of inquiry into the past that helps to explain how people, events and forces from the past have shaped our world. It allows students to locate and understand themselves and others in the continuum of human experience up to the present. History provides opportunities for students to explore human actions and achievements in a range of historical contexts. Students become aware that history is all around us and that historical information may be drawn from the physical remains of the past as well as written, visual and oral sources of evidence.

## Geography

Geography is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments. It is a rich and complex discipline that integrates knowledge from natural sciences, social sciences and humanities to build a holistic understanding of the world. Students learn to question why the world is the way it is, reflect on their relationships with and responsibilities for the world and propose actions designed to shape a socially just and sustainable future.

## Creative and Practical Arts

Students use their imagination, express their thoughts and feelings and develop understanding of themselves and their culture through dance, drama, music and visual arts. They understand the way their bodies work and act in ways that will promote their all-round health.

## Music

Music is a component of all classroom learning. Opportunities are offered through audition to participate in our school choir. Students also have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument in Years 2 to 6 from a visiting specialist teacher (Keyboard) on a user pays basis.

## Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) is concerned with supporting the development of the student as a whole person.

Students participate in a structured program to develop healthy minds and bodies. They participate in regular sport and physical education activities.



## Sport

Thurgoona Public School participates in the Albury Primary Schools Sports Association (P.S.S.A.) competitions. This includes Gala Days, Knockouts and specific carnivals.

Children in Years K to 2 participate in sport activities each week.

Children in Kindergarten and Stage 1 participate in a one term gymnastics program.

Learn to swim programs are offered to non-swimmers in Year 2 towards the end of the year.

## Sports Houses

Children are organised into a sporting house for school carnivals and house competitions:

<b>BANJORAS</b> Koala	<b>Red</b>	<b>WAREENS</b> Wombat	<b>Green</b>
<b>TAMAROOS</b> Possum	<b>Blue</b>	<b>BOOLGANAS</b> Kangaroo	<b>Yellow</b>

## Across Curriculum Policies

Through its policies, programs and practices the school promotes anti-racism, non-sexist and non-violent attitudes within the school community to ensure an equitable and just education for all students.

## Assessment and Reporting

During the year children are continuously evaluated in all areas of the school's curriculum. This evaluation includes the academic, social and personal aspects of the child's development.

Evaluation is carried out using a variety of methods including tests, work samples, observation and standardised measurement.



Early Stage 1 children complete a Best Start assessment prior to starting school. Parents receive this information during Term 1 and follow-up information during the year. Year 3 and Year 5 students participate in National Program Assessing of Literacy and Numeracy skills (NAPLAN).

Reports are sent home at the end of Semesters 1 and 2. Parents are encouraged to ask for an interview with their child's teacher to discuss progress.

## Excursions and Visits

School excursions and visits are arranged to complement and support educational programs and provide first-hand information that is important to learning.

Permission notes are sent home for special activities at school and for all activities outside the school environment. A specific parent/carer permission note is always required for students to take part in any excursion which takes the student away from school and normal classroom activities. **Unfortunately, students without signed, written consent may not participate in these activities.**

Parents are asked to sign and return permission notes prior to closing dates. **Permission notes will not be accepted after that date.**

**All money goes to the school office.** Students place envelopes with payment and permission notes in the money slot at the school office. Receipts are sent home via students. EFTPOS facilities are available at the school office and parents also have the option of paying online by visiting the school website at <https://thurgoona-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/> and selecting Make a Payment.

Where **only** a permission note is needed, students return signed notes to class teachers.

Excursions are a privilege. Students demonstrating poor behaviour may be excluded from excursions.

### Privacy advice information regarding permission notes

The NSW Department of Education collects information on permission notes. The information is being obtained for the purpose of ascertaining relevant medical information, requirements and other health care related needs about your child who is currently enrolled at the school and who may participate in school excursions, sporting activities or other educational or school activities conducted by or in conjunction with Thurgoona Public School.

The school will use this information to plan, support students, and minimise risks when conducting the school excursions or other related school activities.

Other persons or agencies that may be provided with this information include, but are not limited to, volunteers and members of external organisations who join with the school or are otherwise involved in planning or delivering the excursion, sporting or other school activity; and persons that may be called on to provide health care treatment or other assistance during or as a consequence of such excursions or activities.

Provision of this information is voluntary, however, if you do not provide all or any of the information requested, your child cannot participate in the excursion. In such circumstances, the school will make available a sound alternative educational experience.

Provision of this information will significantly assist the school in planning a safer educational activity. It will be stored securely. If you have any concerns about provision of this information, please contact the school principal to discuss further.

You may correct any personal information provided at any time by contacting the school office on 02 60 431 244.

## Home Learning

Any task set by a teacher for students to carry out during non-school hours is home learning.

Students are encouraged to also participate in a range of activities and have diverse experiences outside of school hours that will enhance their learning.

Home learning should:

- be manageable (for both students and teachers);
- consider students' access to resources and technology;
- be clearly communicated to students;
- provide some flexibility and options to allow for different student circumstances;
- consider students' other commitments, such as sport, cultural activities, tuition outside of school hours, part-time employment and home responsibilities.

### **The quality of the home learning assigned is more important than the quantity.**

Quality home learning is well-planned, and on completion, feedback is provided by teachers to students.

Parents can help children at home by:

1. discussing what learning challenges and strategies students have attempted during the day;
2. encouraging children to read daily;
3. listening to their child read and ask questions that require children to infer - e.g.
  - ▶ Why did that happen?
  - ▶ What would you have done?
  - ▶ Why do you think...?
  - ▶ What is the problem?
  - ▶ Why did the character...?
  - ▶ How would you feel if...?
4. sharing an interest in whatever they are doing and providing a quiet place for them to complete written tasks;
5. setting a good example by following routines and being positive about their own responsibilities;
6. remaining calm (being anxious may lead to a stressful situation which can only be harmful to both you and your child);
7. arranging to see your child's teacher if you need clarification on any points concerning either the school or class home learning policy.

The following link is available on the NSW Department of Education's website. It is designed to assist parents to *help* with children's homework, their wellbeing and other growing needs and understanding technology.

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au>

At Thurgoona Public School, our home learning experiences for all stages consists of:

- shared reading with a focus on comprehension (I understand what I read), accuracy (I can read the words), fluency (I can read accurately with expression, and understand what I read), and expression (I know, find, and use interesting words in my writing);
- comprehension activities from reading which develop inferential comprehension skills;
- project-based learning throughout the year relating to class learning.

## Library

Children are asked to bring a library bag labelled with their name to school to enable them to protect the books they borrow from the library. Library bags can be purchased from the canteen.



## STAFF

During their time at school, children will come into contact with a number of different teachers and support staff.

### Class Teachers

At the commencement of the school year, teachers are appointed to a class. Classes are identified by the stage level and Australian flora that begins with the first letter of the teacher's surname.



### Itinerant Teachers

Schools have access to specialist teachers for students with vision and hearing impairments.

### Learning and Support Teachers

Our support teachers work with children requiring additional assistance with their learning in English or maths. Our support teachers support groups and individuals both within the classroom setting and/or by withdrawing from the classroom – usually in a small group situation.

### School Learning and Support Officers

School Learning and Support Officers (SLSOs), under the supervision and direction of a teacher, assist in classroom activities, school routines, and the care and management of students with special needs. Generally, their role includes assisting teachers in school to implement individual education programs, provide opportunities for students to develop personal, social and independent skills, attend to the personal care needs of identified students and clerical duties.

### School Administrative Staff

The School Administrative Officers (SAOs), Mrs Janine Owen, Mrs Cassandra Gardiner, Mrs Melinda Andrews and Mrs Simone Feuerherdt may be the first people to greet you when you arrive at our school. School Administrative Officers support the principal and the School Administrative Managers (SAMs), Mrs Karin Mackay and Mrs Tania Wettern (relieving), to maintain school routines.

Their duties include assisting in the school library and undertaking an administrative role in the school office. After appropriate training, a SAO can also volunteer to administer first aid or prescribed medications to students.

## STUDENT WELLBEING

### Student Wellbeing:

#### Our shared understanding of wellbeing:

- is that it is dynamic and integral to learning
- focuses on attributes and strengths that teach and support children and young people to grow and learn from challenges and complexities
- recognises the importance of developing and shaping the character of the individual
- is multidimensional and interrelated





- takes into account the context of children's and young people's lives and uses both objective and subjective measures
- incorporates the views and perspectives of children and young people themselves throughout the different stages of development
- considers the wellbeing of children and young people in the present as well as focussing on long-term outcomes
- acknowledges the diversity of contributors to and influences on the wellbeing of children and young people, and recognises our obligations and responsibilities.

[\(The Wellbeing Framework for Schools, NSW Department of Education, 2022\)](#)

Schools provide effective learning and teaching within secure, well-managed environments, in partnership with parents and the wider school community.

Through its Student Wellbeing Policy, Thurgoona Public School aims to establish a climate in which its pupils will develop:

- a caring attitude towards others;
- a sense of dignity and worth of each individual;
- respect for others, honesty and fair play;
- a sense of enjoyment and satisfaction from learning in a safe and happy environment;
- a sense of personal and social responsibility for their actions and decisions; and
- team spirit.

Our school works towards the realisation of these aims through a combination of programs in three major areas:

- Effective learning and teaching;
- Positive climate and engaged students;
- Community participation.

### **Student Leaders**

Student Councillors and Captains are elected annually by staff members and students in Years 2 to 6. The elected students' tasks involve representing the school at community functions, organising and leading assemblies, caring for visitors, leading and being responsible for a variety of school based activities.

**Captains and Councillors provide positive and supportive role models for younger students.**

### **Student Representative Council (SRC)**

Class representatives are elected from Years 2 to 6 to represent their class at SRC meetings.

These groups of students meet regularly to discuss school and student issues. They assist in charitable, social and fundraising activities.

### **School Counsellor**

A school counselling service is maintained by the NSW Department of Education. In 2022, the school counsellor visits one and a half days each week. Referrals can be made to the Learning Support Team by class teachers and parents.

The school counsellor helps with assessing needs of students, accessing additional support and providing counselling services.

They are also available by appointment, to assist parents with educational progress and management of children.

## **Home School Liaison Program**

The Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO), Mr Ken Mansell, is a contact person between the home and school when there are attendance issues.

In the first instance, the school will work with parents to overcome any attendance concerns. If attendance issues persist, the HSLO finds out why the child is not attending school and implements a program to ensure the regular attendance of students.

The Home School Liaison Program is a supportive resource to students, parents and schools and is conducted by the NSW Department of Education with support from the Department of Community Services.

## **Religious Instruction Times**

Every Friday, lessons are conducted of an ecumenical or Catholic nature. These are instructed by volunteer community members trained in the delivery of these. The ecumenical material is provided by the Joint Board of Christian Education and is not affiliated with any particular church, but presents a general Christian education. Scripture lessons are held on Fridays at the following times – Kindergarten to Year 2: 12:25 to 12:55 p.m. and Years 3 to 6: 11:50 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

## School Uniforms

One of the most effective ways of developing school pride and a feeling of belonging is to encourage the wearing of school uniform. The school uniform is a practical solution to the school clothing problem which allows active participation in school activities while at the same time encouraging positive self-image on visits away from school. Our school community considers the wearing of a uniform to be highly desirable and strongly encourages the uniform to be worn on a daily basis. We believe that the wearing of a uniform encourages inclusiveness, belonging and pride in our school.

Thongs, T-shirts or jumpers with slogans, jewellery, nail polish and colourful hair ribbons/accessories are not part of our uniform and are discouraged. Students with pierced ears should wear appropriate sleepers or studs.

Riverina representative clothing is only to be worn on Fridays. This is to ensure a balance between our traditional school uniform and the special attire that signifies a student's representation of our school.

On all other school days, we expect our students to adhere to our standard school uniform. This consistent attire helps foster a sense of belonging and equality among all students, regardless of their roles as representatives.

We believe that this balanced approach will encourage students to celebrate their achievements and contributions to our school community while still maintaining the professional and respectful atmosphere that our school uniform promotes.



**GIRLS SUMMER UNIFORM**

**A.** School dress

**OR**

**B.** Short-sleeved royal blue polo shirt with school emblem and navy blue tailored, gabardine skirt

**AND**

Black enclosed shoes with white socks or brown/black sandals with enclosed toes

**AND**

Thurgoona Public School hat (wide brimmed or bucket)



**A**



**B**

**GIRLS WINTER UNIFORM**

**A.** Long-sleeved royal blue polo shirt with school emblem and navy blue tailored skirt

**OR**

**B.** Long-sleeved royal blue polo shirt with school emblem and navy blue tailored trousers

**AND**

Navy blue stockings (with skirt)

White socks (with trousers)

**AND**

Black enclosed shoes



**B**

**GIRLS SPORTS UNIFORM**

**A.** Thurgoona Public School sports polo shirt and navy blue sports short (summer)

**B.** Thurgoona Public School sports polo shirt and navy blue lycra skirt (summer)

**C.** Thurgoona Public School sports polo shirt and navy track pants (winter)

**AND**

Sports shoes with white socks








**A**



**C**



<b>BOYS SUMMER UNIFORM</b>	
<p>Short-sleeved royal blue polo shirt with school emblem and grey school shorts</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p>Black enclosed shoes with grey socks or brown/black sandals with enclosed toes</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p>Thurgoona Public School hat (wide brimmed or bucket)</p>	
<b>BOYS WINTER UNIFORM</b>	
<p>Long-sleeved royal blue polo shirt with school emblem and grey school trousers</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p>Black enclosed shoes with grey socks</p>	
<b>BOYS SPORTS UNIFORM</b>	
<p><b>A.</b> Thurgoona Public School sports polo shirt and navy blue sport shorts (summer)</p> <p><b>B.</b> Thurgoona Public School Sports Polo Shirt and navy blue track pants (winter)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>AND</b></p> <p>Sports shoes with white socks</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>A</b>                      <b>B</b></p>
<b>UNISEX JACKETS, JUMPERS AND VESTS</b>	
<p>Navy blue Jumper with embroidered school emblem</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>	<p>Navy blue polar fleece jacket with embroidered school emblem</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>
<p>Navy blue polar fleece vest with embroidered school emblem</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>	<p>Taslon navy blue and white jacket with polar fleece lining with embroidered school emblem</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  </p>
<b>HATS AND HAIR ACCESSORIES</b>	<b>SCHOOL BAGS</b>
<p>Navy wide brimmed or bucket hat with school emblem (only available at the school canteen)</p> <p>Hair ties of plain white or navy or school check</p>	<p>Navy bag (can be purchased at Lowes)</p> <p>Library bag and reader bag (only available at the school canteen)</p>
<b>SECOND HAND UNIFORMS</b>	

Quality second-hand items are available from the school uniform shop which is open as advertised in our newsletter.

Lowes Albury is the main supplier of our school uniforms. Current prices are available from the school office or at [Lowes Albury Price List](#)

## Sun Protection

Although it isn't **compulsory** to wear school hats during Terms 2 and 3, as the weather can still be warm, please ensure that your child has a hat packed every day.

Our school supports a **NO HAT, STAY IN THE SHADE POLICY**, which aims to make students aware of the severe damage that can be caused to the skin without adequate protection.

This policy is enforced during Terms 1 and 4 when the weather is warm and encouraged during Terms 2 and 3.

## SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY

The community shares with the school and the home the responsibility for providing educational experiences for the child. The school maintains close links with its community so that the best attitudes and values of that community are reflected within the school.

In seeking an involvement with our community, we wish to provide opportunities for two-way communication to be maintained.

Through a fortnightly school newsletter, we seek to inform parents of the activities of the school and its policies. Parents are encouraged to participate in the whole range of school activities wherever and whenever they are able to do so.

The school newsletter is sent home on Thursday in odd weeks via email, Facebook, and the school app. This is our major means of communication between school and parents.

Our school also uses the following means of electronic communication:

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

**School app:** <https://www.sentral.com.au/getting-started>

**School Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/thurgoonapublicschool/>

## Contact with the School

As a parent or carer, you are an important part of our school community. We know that you play a crucial role in helping your child become a motivated learner. Communication between our school and our community is critical for us to partner together.

To give our teachers the opportunity to recharge, spend time with their families and bring their best creative selves to work, we are setting clear expectations for when and how they respond to communication outside school operating hours (8:30am to 3:30pm). This means teachers may not reply to non-emergency messages or emails outside of school operating hours.

Please use the school's email address for non-emergencies in the first instance or a message via the Sentral Portal. Our staff will respond to your queries within 2 school days under normal circumstances.

For longer discussions or complex matters, we ask parents and carers to make an appointment to speak to teachers directly, at a time that works best for everyone.

For urgent matters, contact our Front Office between school operating hours (8:30am to 3:30pm) on 02 6043 1244.

Our staff will always stay in touch because open communication is what's best for your child and their education. We don't want you to stop communicating with your teachers – we still

want to hear from you if you have any questions or need to discuss a matter about your child. We know it's often easier to send emails or messages after work. We will make sure we read and respond in school operating hours.

### **Change of Address and Phone Number**

Please notify the school immediately if a change of telephone number or address occurs. Please email the school or call into the office to fill out a 'change of details form'

The school office maintains a computerised information system which is dependent on accurate information from home. In the event of sickness or an emergency it is extremely important that we have current information available.

### **Emergency Contact Information**

Parents are asked to advise the school of any changes to emergency contacts in the event the primary caregiver cannot be contacted. Please email the school to advise or call into the office and fill out a 'change of details form'

### **Changed Family Circumstances**

Changing family circumstances in the form of marriages, deaths, births and separations are of course personal, however, often cause changes to student behaviour patterns and affect learning. We ask that in these circumstances you advise your child's class teacher so that the best interests of the student can be better served.

In some cases, it may be necessary for the principal to sight court orders concerning custody or other family circumstances. Parents are requested to inform the principal of any such orders.

In the absence of notification to the contrary, it will be assumed that both parents retain shared and equal parental responsibility for their children. This means that the school will recognise that each parent has equal duties, obligations, responsibilities and opportunities in relation to matters involving the school.

Please inform the school if the following details change throughout the year:

- Name, address and phone number - home and/or business and/or mobile.
- Name and phone number of people to be contacted if you are unavailable (maximum 2)
- Doctor's name and phone number

### **Parents and Citizens Association (P&C)**

There is a well-established branch of the P&C Association within the school which provides a forum for parent involvement in the school as well as contributing significantly to the school's resources.

Parents also assist with classroom activities such as reading, story writing, craft, sporting activities, managing the canteen and maintaining and improving the grounds.

Special events are organised throughout each year and this brings teachers, parents and children together, sharing in the enjoyment and responsibility of school life.



P&C meetings, which are notified in the weekly newsletter, are held on Mondays in Weeks 2 and 7 of each term at 7:00 p.m. and parents are invited to attend.

## Canteen

Our school canteen is run by our P&C. It operates as a result of parents volunteering their time to provide reasonably priced and nutritious lunches for our students.

QuickCliq is the **preferred on-line ordering system** used by the canteen. To register, visit: [www.quickcliq.com.au](http://www.quickcliq.com.au). If you have any difficulties with ordering online, contact the QuickCliq helpline on 1300 11 66 37. The cut-off time for placing an online order is 8:30 a.m.

Students can place their lunch orders in the red box at the office prior to 9:00 a.m. Orders should be written on a paper bag or a re-useable lunch wallet (available from the canteen) clearly showing the child's name, class, order and with the correct money enclosed.

The canteen is open on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

## Pre-Loved Uniform Shop

The school P&C operates a pre-loved uniform shop, selling pre-loved school uniforms at extremely competitive prices. Please contact the office to make an appointment.

## Respectful Dress Code for Visitors

We extend a warm welcome to all those who visit our school, whether you're parents, guardians, community members, or volunteers. We greatly appreciate your interest in being part of our learning community. As we strive to maintain a safe and nurturing environment for our students, we kindly request your cooperation in adhering to our dress code guidelines.

### Respecting our School's Atmosphere:

Our school takes great pride in fostering a positive and respectful atmosphere that supports the growth and well-being of our students. The clothing choices we make significantly contribute to this atmosphere. To ensure a comfortable and appropriate environment for all, we kindly ask that visitors adhere to the following guidelines:

**Substance-Related Advertising:** Please refrain from wearing clothing that advertises substances such as alcohol or cigarettes. These items can send conflicting messages to our students, especially as they are in the process of developing their understanding of healthy lifestyle choices.

**Inappropriate Imagery or Language:** We request that visitors avoid wearing clothing with words, images, or symbols that carry sexual innuendos or promote inappropriate topics. We are committed to providing a learning environment where children can focus on their studies and interact with a sense of security and respect.

### Setting a Positive Example:

Visitors are important role models for our students, and your behaviour and attire serve as examples for them to follow. By adhering to our dress code guidelines, you play a part in demonstrating the values of respect, responsibility, and consideration that we aim to instil in our students.

### Partnering for a Positive Experience:

We believe that by working together, we can provide the best possible experience for our students and visitors alike. We sincerely appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us create an environment that reflects our commitment to the well-being of all members of our school community.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to maintain a respectful and inclusive school environment. Your partnership is invaluable in our mission to provide a safe and enriching educational experience for every student.

## School sport/event spectator guide

**Respect for Staff and Volunteers:** Our dedicated teachers generously volunteer their time to organise and facilitate extra-curricular activities such as PSSA competitions. Their commitment



and hard work contribute significantly to the holistic development of our students. Let's show our appreciation by treating them with the respect they deserve.

**Setting a Positive Example:** Our students learn from the behaviour they observe around them. When attending school events, we kindly request all parents, carers, and attendees to model positive behaviour, including courtesy, sportsmanship, and respect for everyone present.

**Supporting Each Other:** Cheers and encouragement are encouraged during sports events, but let's ensure that our cheers remain positive and supportive. Negative remarks or behaviour towards participants, teachers, or other attendees have no place in our school community.

**Respecting Differences:** Our school community is diverse, with a range of backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Let's celebrate these differences by interacting with understanding and empathy.

**Being Attentive:** Please be mindful of the event rules and guidelines provided by the school and event organisers. Being attentive and adhering to these guidelines ensures the safety and enjoyment of everyone present.

**Encouraging Positive Team Spirit:** When supporting our school teams, let's focus on building a positive team spirit rather than excessive competitiveness. The aim is to create an environment where all students feel valued, regardless of the outcome.

### Voluntary School Contribution

At the commencement of each school year, parents are encouraged to pay the voluntary school contribution, which will be set by the P&C at their February meeting.

This money directly assists the school to purchase essential classroom items and supplies.

**It is only through the regular contributions of these funds by parents that we are able to maintain the variety and quality of our programs.**

### Volunteering at school

We welcome parent/carer volunteers at school to assist with carnivals, reading in the classroom, helping in the canteen etc. You will need to fill out a WWCC Declaration Form available from the front office before commencing any volunteer role within the school.

## OUTLINES AND PROCEDURES

### Accidents

In case of a sudden illness or accident at school, we endeavour to contact parents immediately, using the information on your child's enrolment forms/emergency contact records.

If we are unable to contact you directly, a message will be left for you and necessary steps taken to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your child.

Children at school are covered by the school's ambulance policy.

Please contact the school IMMEDIATELY if the information given at the time of enrolment changes, so the accuracy of our records can be maintained.

### Assemblies

Assemblies are held fortnightly on Wednesdays in **even weeks** for all classes. These are enjoyable sessions for the children to show their work, receive credit for their achievements and report on school activities.

Parents/carers (and grandparents) are very welcome to attend assemblies.



Times are:

- Kinder to Year 2: 12.00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Years 3 and 4: 12.40 p.m. to 1.10 p.m.
- Years 5 and 6: 1.50 p.m. to 2.20 p.m.

The times and classes providing the item are advertised in our newsletter.

### Attendances and Absences

Under the Education and Public Instruction Act 1990, parents have a legal responsibility to ensure the regular school attendance of their children aged between 6 and 17 years. Once children are enrolled, parents are legally required to send them to school every day that the school is open for instruction and participation in school activities, such as sports days.

Encouraging a pattern of regular attendance is essential from the time your child begins school in Kindergarten. Arriving at school on time ensures that your child doesn't miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when they are most alert, and gives your child time to greet their friends before class. It helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine.

Leaving the school grounds during school time is not permitted, unless approved by the school principal. If you wish your child to go home for lunch each day the school must be notified in writing.

If your child has to be absent from school, it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for your child's absence within seven days. To explain an absence, parents and carers may advise the school via note, email, school app, telephone or in person. All absences must be explained to the school.

Failure to explain an absence within this time will be recorded as an unjustified absence on a student's record. The school will inform parents via an SMS message on the day of the absence and then follow up with a letter, if the absence remains unexplained after 7 days.

Please be aware that 'My child was away' or 'My child was sick' are not satisfactory explanations and more detail of the absence/illness is required.

If you know in advance that your child will be absent, a phone call or letter beforehand is recommended.

Families planning to take holidays in the school term should see the office staff for an application for extended leave prior to the holiday.

Unsatisfactory attendance patterns by students are referred to the Home School Liaison Officer for follow-up.

### Late Arrivals and Early Departures

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence. Children arriving after the 8:55 a.m. bell are classed as late.

Students arriving to school after 8:55 a.m. **must report to the office** to receive a late note. Arrival time is recorded on the computer system and a pass printed to give to the class teacher.

Parents collecting students early from school **must** also **report to the office** and complete sign-out procedures. A pass will be printed for you to give to the class teacher on collection of your child.





## Scholastic Book Club and Book Fair

Each year, children have the opportunity to purchase good books at reasonable prices through Scholastic Book Club and the school receives bonus books for each order. Order forms containing information about each book and instructions for placing an order are sent home twice each term. Orders are placed in the money slot at the school office.

A Book Fair is held once a year.

## Carnivals

Years 3 to 6 participate in school athletics, cross country and swimming carnivals. Students in Year 2 who turn 8 in that year and show prowess in the sport are invited to participate in school carnivals.

Successful competitors at these events then have the opportunity to represent the school through the Albury P.S.S.A at district, regional and state carnivals.

Kindergarten to Year 2 students have a Picnic Sports Day.

## Complaints Handling Procedure

Always contact the school first to talk about your concerns. They can solve most problems. It's best if you let someone know about your concerns as early as possible. Make a time to meet with a staff member or contact the school and ask for an appointment. If you are unsure who to speak to, the school's office staff may be able to help find the best person.

The student's teacher is generally the best person to handle routine concerns about matters within their classroom and/ or area of responsibility. Before you approach your child's teacher or other school staff, be clear about the issues you want to discuss and think about how the matter could be resolved.

If you have raised your concerns with your child's teacher and are dissatisfied, you can escalate your complaint to the Assistant Principal.

If the issue is not resolved, you can escalate the matter to the Deputy Principal or Principal. If your complaint cannot be resolved straight away, we may ask you to put the complaint in writing. Include specific details and tell us what you would like to happen as a result of the complaint.

Complaints may be made in person, by phone, by email or letter, or through the department's online complaint form.

Albury Education Office

Address: 521 Macauley St, Albury NSW 2640

Phone: (02) 6042 2400

AlburyEO@det.nsw.edu.au

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/your-feedback/complaint-compliment-suggestion-form>

In each case, a decision is made about the best person or place to manage the complaint. The department will delegate most complaints to the school, as the school is often best placed to find out what happened and fix the issue. In some situations, a complaint or feedback may be provided to the Director Educational Leadership responsible for the school, so they can decide the best approach to resolve the issue.

## Charitable Collections

During the year, various charities are supported by activities held at the school. Stewart House is supported each year.

## Lost Property

**PLEASE label all belongings CLEARLY.**

Every effort is made to return clearly named articles to the owner. Unnamed and unclaimed articles are washed and recycled through the P&C clothing shop.

Lost property can be located in the lost property basket outside the school office. Children are encouraged to look there for lost items. It is also a good idea to check in the classroom for lost property.

The lost property basket is emptied on a regular basis.

## Medication

If your child requires special medication or treatment, you must notify the school office. The NSW Department of Education requires that the medication is supplied in its original packaging or a Webster pack (dosette boxes are not acceptable), clearly labelled with the child's name, dosage, method of administration and time of administration. These details must also be provided on the form supplied by the office. All medication is kept in a secure cabinet in the sick bay.

Written authority must accompany both prescription and non-prescription medications.

**No medication will be given by class teachers or stored in classrooms.**

**\*Exception: Students may, on doctor's advice carry personal asthma or anaphylaxis medication. Please inform the school in writing if your child needs to do so.**

## Mobile Phones

Parents may feel students need to bring mobile phones to school for safety purposes before and after school. Students are required to hand their phones into the office on arrival and collect them at 3:00 p.m. All student phones are clearly labelled with the student's name and held in the school office. Students do not need to have access to their phones during the school day.

Should these procedures not be followed, the student's phone will be confiscated and returned on either receipt of a note from the student's parent or in person to the student's parent.

Please see the [Use of Digital Devices \(including mobile phones\) and Online Services Policy](#) for more information.

## Out-Of-School-Hours Care (OOSH)

Albury City's OOSH program provides after school care for primary school aged children. The program provides parents with the security of knowing their children are being cared for in a safe, friendly and relaxed environment after school each day. Nutritious snacks, based on the Eat Smart, Play Smart Program and drinks are offered to the children, together with a wide variety of interesting play and recreational experiences.

Albury City's OOSH program is located at Albury North Public School and Albury Public School. Students are bussed to either of these centres.

This is one of a few services utilised by parents. Please ask at the school office for other alternatives like 'Goodstart' Thurgoona and 'Family Friend'.

## Parking

It is extremely important that parents observe road signs and are considerate to neighbours and pedestrians when picking up students. Double parking is illegal.

A car park at the end of Bottlebrush Street (Ernest Grant Oval) is available for parents dropping off and collecting students from school. There are selected zones for parking in Bottlebrush Street and side streets. The car park at the **front** of the school is for staff and visitors.

A reduced speed limit of 40 kph is in effect around all schools and is enforced between 8:00 and 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 and 4:00 p.m. **These are regularly policed.**

If collecting children from the pick-up zone, our procedure is that children wait on the seats until they see their parent/carer arrive. They then walk to the **yellow-lined zone** in the pick-up drop-off zone to meet you. This is the only area they are allowed to get into cars unless you are with them. Staff are on duty in this area until 3.20pm. If students have not been collected, they will be taken to the front office to await their parent/carer.

Parents are requested to keep the drop-off zone free and not park or wait for children to arrive from class. We try hard to maintain a constant flow of traffic to avoid traffic jams which prevent buses, parents, local residents, businesses and other community members from leaving the school vicinity.

If you are parking and collecting your child, please discuss with your child exactly where you will meet them and what to do if you are late. If you are running late, please ask children to go to the office to wait until you arrive. No child should be waiting for parents out of the school grounds.

## Travel To and From School

If you know that you are going to be late collecting your child(ren) from school, please phone the school office **to allow time** for a message to be given to your child. Children will be asked to wait in the office for you.



### Bikes

Children under the age of 10 years are not encouraged to ride bikes to school unless accompanied by an adult. All children riding bikes or scooters **must wear a helmet**. Students are to walk their bikes to the footpath.

Bicycle racks are provided for children during the day. Children need to chain their bike or scooter to the racks. While we endeavour to safe guard bicycles when left in the rack, the overall security and responsibility rests with the owner. The school accepts no responsibility, should bikes be taken during the day.

## Bus Travel

All children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for free bus travel. Bus passes are issued on the understanding that they are used regularly. A new application for travel is required when students move into Year 3. Primary children (Years 3-6) must live in excess of 1.6 km from the school by nearest practicable walking route to receive free travel.



Applications for bus passes are available online at:

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-school-travel-pass>.

Students are expected to follow the Code of Conduct displayed on the bus application.



Buses service this school both morning and afternoon. A bell rings at 2:55 p.m. to remind those students catching Martin's buses to make their way to the bus bay. Staggering bus departures helps to relieve the traffic congestion in Bottlebrush Street in the afternoons. Children catching the bus in the afternoon assemble in bus lines and are escorted to the various buses by the teacher on duty. The bus bay, located on Bottlebrush Street **is for buses only**.

### Photographs

Each year, the school chooses a firm to take students' photographs. Information and orders for photographs are provided to the school by the photographers and sent home in advance of the photo day.

### Special Weeks and Commemorative Days

The school participates in community, state, national and world events. ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day are two special events commemorated each year.

### Morning Supervision

Our staff are on duty in the morning from 8:30am. For the safety of your children, we ask that students do not arrive prior to 8:30am as staff are not available to provide supervision.

### Moving Schools

When a child is transferring to another school, parents should notify the school office. All library books and classroom readers must be returned prior to leaving. You may wish to donate uniforms to the P&C clothing pool.

### Visiting Performances

Approved performing arts groups present live performances to school children during the year. Permission notes and information about the performance are sent prior to the event. Notes and money need to be returned to the office prior to or by the closing date on the permission note.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF CHILDHOOD

If your child is too sick for school (or absent for any other reason, including arriving late or leaving early), please let the teacher or school office staff know by phone, email, school app, written note or in person as soon as possible, and within seven days.

### COVID-19

#### Symptoms

Fever (37.5 ° or higher), cough, sore throat, shortness of breath (difficulty breathing, runny nose, loss of taste, loss of smell. Other reported symptoms of COVID-19 include fatigue, acute blocked nose (congestion), muscle pain, joint pain, headache, diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting and loss of appetite. Unexplained chest pain and conjunctivitis have also been reported as symptoms of COVID-19. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia with severe acute respiratory distress.

#### Home or school?

Please continue to test for COVID-19 even if your child has the mildest symptoms. Please notify the school if your child tests positive to COVID-19 and register your result with Service NSW. Students must stay at home whilst they have any COVID-19 symptoms.

#### How can I help prevent spread?

Clean your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand rub/sanitiser, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing and sneezing or use your elbow, not your hands, avoid close contact with people unwell with cold or flu-like symptoms, and stay home if you have these symptoms, avoid touching your face and eyes, greet people

with a wave and a smile, maintain a physical distance of 1.5 metres from others as much as possible, and avoid crowded places, wear a mask.

## **Bronchitis**

### **Symptoms**

Cough is the main symptom of bronchitis. Other symptoms are 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 a feeling of shortness of breath. A higher fever (typically above 39°C) may indicate pneumonia.

### **Home or school?**

Keep home from school until they are feeling better. Antibiotics may be needed.

### **How can I help prevent spread?**

Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing or coughing and dispose of the tissue in a rubbish bin (respiratory etiquette). Careful hand washing.

## **Chicken Pox (Varicella)**

### **Symptoms**

Slight fever, runny nose, and a rash that begins as raised pink spots that blister and scab.

### **Home or school?**

Yes, for 5 days from the onset of the rash and the blisters have dried.

### **How can I help prevent spread?**

Pregnant women and anyone with a compromised immune system (e.g. due to cancer or certain treatments) may require preventive treatment and/or exclusion for their own protection. Contact your local public health unit for advice. Immunise your child at 18 months of age against chickenpox. Immunisation is recommended for children at 12 years if they are not immune.

## **Conjunctivitis**

### **Symptoms**

The eye feels scratchy, is red and may water. Lids may stick together on waking.

### **Home or school?**

Keep home from school while there is discharge from the eye unless a doctor has diagnosed a non-infectious cause.

### **How can I help prevent spread?**

Careful hand washing; avoid sharing towels. Antibiotics may be needed.

## **Diarrhoea (no organism identified)**

### **Symptoms**

Two or more consecutive bowel motions that are looser and more frequent than normal and possibly stomach cramps.

### **Home or school?**

Keep home from school until diarrhoea stops. (Wait 24 hours for little kids who may have trouble toileting.)

### **How can I help prevent spread?**

Careful hand washing after going to the toilet, before handling food and after handling soiled clothing or linen.

## **Fever**

### **Symptoms**

A temperature of 38.5°C or more in school-aged children.

### **Home or school?**

Keep home from school until temperature returns to normal.

## Gastroenteritis (not shigella)

### Symptoms

A combination of frequent loose or watery stools, vomiting, fever, stomach cramps, headaches.

### Home or school?

Keep home from school until diarrhoea/vomiting stops (wait 24 hours for little kids who may have trouble toileting).

### How can I help prevent spread?

Careful hand washing with soap and water after using the toilet or handling nappies and before touching food.

## German Measles (Rubella)

### Symptoms

Often mild or no symptoms: mild fever, runny nose, swollen nodes, pink blotchy rash that lasts a short time. Can cause birth defects if pregnant women are infected.

### Home or school?

Keep home from school for at least 4 days after the rash appears.

### How can I help prevent spread?

Pregnant women who may have been exposed to rubella should contact their doctor regarding the need for a blood test to confirm immunity. Immunise your child with MMR vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella at 12 months and 4 years of age.

## Glandular Fever (Mononucleosis, EBV infection)

### Symptoms

Fever, headache, sore throat, tiredness, swollen nodes.

### Home or school?

They can go to school unless feeling sick.

### How can I help prevent spread?

Careful hand washing, avoid sharing drinks, food and utensils, and kissing.

## Hand Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD)

### Symptoms

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.

### Home or school?

Keep home from school until all the blisters have dried.

### How can I help prevent spread?

Careful hand washing especially after wiping the nose and using the toilet and respiratory etiquette (covering a cough or sneeze and disposing of tissues in a rubbish bin).

## Hay Fever

(Allergic rhinitis) caused by allergy to pollen (from grasses, flowers and trees), dust mites, animal fur or hair, mould spores, cigarette smoke.

### Symptoms

Sneezing, a blocked or runny nose (rhinitis), itchy eyes, nose and throat, headaches.

### Home or school?

They can go to school unless they feel unwell or are taking a medication which makes them sleepy.

### How can I help prevent spread?

Hay fever is not infectious. However, good hygiene standards (hand washing and respiratory etiquette) are always recommended when coughing and sneezing.



## Head Lice or Nits (Pediculosis)

### Symptoms

Itchy scalp (sometimes), white specks stuck near the base of the hairs; lice may be found on the scalp.

### Home or school?

They can go to school as long as head lice management is ongoing.

### How can I help prevent spread?

Tell the school. Family, friends and classroom contacts should be examined and managed if infested.

## Hepatitis A

### Symptoms

Often none in young children; sudden onset of fever, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), dark urine, pale stools.

### Home or school?

Keep home from school for 2 weeks after first symptoms or 1 week after onset of jaundice. Contact your doctor before returning to school.

### How can I help prevent spread?

Careful hand washing especially before handling food, after going to the toilet and after handling soiled clothing or linen. Close contacts may need to have an injection of immunoglobulin.

## Hepatitis B

### Symptoms

Often none in young children. When symptoms and signs do occur, they can include sudden onset of fever, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes), dark urine, pale stools.

### Home or school?

They can go to school if they have chronic hepatitis B unless they are feeling unwell. If they have hepatitis B symptoms, contact your doctor before returning to school.

### How can I help prevent spread?

Hepatitis B vaccine is given at birth, 2, 4, 6 months (or at 12 years if not vaccinated as babies) alone or in combination with other vaccines as part of the standard vaccination schedule. Parents of young children with chronic hepatitis B should tell the school to ensure proper care of the child and to identify situations where there is potential for transmission.

## Impetigo (School Sores)

### Symptoms

Small red spots change into blisters that fill up with pus and become crusted; usually on the face, hands or scalp.

### Home or school?

Keep home from school until antibiotic treatment starts. Sores should be covered with watertight dressings.

### How can I help prevent spread?

Parents of children who may have had contact with impetigo should look for signs of infection and seek treatment if symptoms develop. Careful hand washing especially after changing dressings. Avoid sharing toilet articles, towels, clothing or bed linen. Consider using anti-bacterial soap for bathing for two to three weeks. Avoid scratching or touching the lesions to prevent spread to other parts of the body. Completing the recommended antibiotic course is very important

## Influenza

### Symptoms

Sudden onset fever, runny nose, sore throat, cough, muscle aches and headaches.

### Home or school?

Keep home from school until well.

### How can I help prevent spread?

Careful hand washing and respiratory etiquette (covering a cough or sneeze and disposing of tissues in a rubbish bin). People at higher risk of influenza complications are eligible for free influenza vaccine under the National Influenza Vaccination Program.

## Measles

### Symptoms

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.

### Home or school?

Yes, for at least 4 days after the rash appears.

### How can I help prevent spread?

For unvaccinated family members or people who have come in contact with your child – contact your local public health unit for specialist advice. Immunise your child with MMR vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella at 12 months and 4 years of age.

## Meningococcal Disease

### Symptoms

Sudden onset of fever and a combination of headache, neck stiffness, nausea, vomiting, drowsiness or rash.

### Home or school?

Seek medical attention immediately. Patient will need hospital treatment.

### How can I help prevent spread?

Close contacts receive antibiotics as they are most likely to be carrying the bacteria in their nose and throat. The local public health unit will provide information about the disease to contacts. All contacts should be aware of the symptoms of meningococcal disease and should see a doctor urgently if symptoms occur. Immunise your child at 12 months of age against serogroup C meningococcal disease.

## Molluscum Contagiosum

### Symptoms

Multiple small lumps (2-5mm) on the skin that are smooth, firm and round, with dimples in the middle. Lumps in children are mostly on the face, trunk, and upper arms and legs. Symptoms can last 6 months to 2 years.

### Do I need to keep my child at home?

They can go to school.

### How can I help prevent spread?

Careful hand washing. Avoid scratching or touching the lumps to prevent spread to other parts of the body. Avoid sharing towels, clothing, toys and other personal items (e.g. sporting equipment) while the lumps are present. Lumps should be covered during contact sports, and with watertight bandages when swimming.

## Mumps

### Symptoms

Fever, swollen and tender glands around the jaw.

### Home or school?

Keep home from school for 9 days after onset of swelling.

### How can I help prevent spread?

Immunise your child with MMR vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella at 12 months and 4 years of age.

### **Ringworm (tinea corporis [body])**

#### **Symptoms**

Small scaly patch on the skin surrounded by a pink ring.

#### **Home or school?**

Keep home from school for 24 hours after fungal treatment has begun.

#### **How can I help prevent spread?**

Careful hand washing and thorough cleaning of shower bases, mats and floors adjacent to showers. Treat infected household contacts and animals to prevent reinfection.

### **Runny nose**

#### **School or home?**

They can go to school unless there are other symptoms such as fever, sore throat, cough, rash or headache. Small children who have trouble wiping their own nose clean may need to stay home.

#### **How can I help prevent spread?**

Careful hand washing, especially after wiping the nose and respiratory etiquette (covering a cough or sneeze and disposing of tissues in a rubbish bin).

### **Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)**

#### **Symptoms**

Runny nose, cough, wheeze, difficulty breathing, fever, cyanosis (bluish or greyish colour of the skin)

#### **Home or school?**

Keep home from school until symptom free.

#### **How can I help prevent spread?**

Careful hand washing, especially after wiping the nose and respiratory etiquette (covering a cough or sneeze and disposing of tissues in a rubbish bin).

### **Scabies**

#### **Symptoms**

Itchy skin, worse at night. Worse around wrists, armpits, buttocks, groin and between fingers and toes.

#### **Home or school?**

Keep home from school until 24 hours after treatment has begun.

#### **How can I help prevent spread?**

Wash linen, towels and clothing worn in the past 2 days in hot water and detergent. Tell the school. Family, friends and classroom contacts should be examined and managed if infested.

### **Scarlet Fever**

#### **Symptoms**

Sudden onset sore throat, high fever and vomiting, followed by a rash in 12 to 36 hours.

#### **Home or school?**

Yes, until at least 24 hours of treatment has begun and the child is feeling better.

#### **How can I help prevent spread?**

Careful hand washing. Sick contacts should see their doctor.

## Shigella

### Symptoms

Diarrhoea (which may contain blood, mucus and pus), fever, stomach cramps, nausea and vomiting.

### Home or school?

Keep home from school until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours. Antibiotics may be needed to shorten the illness and reduce severity.

### How can I help prevent spread?

Careful hand washing especially before handling food, after going to the toilet and after handling clothing or linen soiled with diarrhoea or vomit or cleaning surfaces. Children and adults should not swim for 2 weeks after the diarrhoea has stopped.

## Slapped Cheek Syndrome (Parvovirus B19 infection, fifth disease, erythema infectiosum)

### Symptoms

Mild fever, red cheeks, itchy lace-like rash, and possibly cough, sore throat or runny nose.

### Home or school?

They can go to school as it is most infectious before the rash appears.

### How can I help prevent spread?

Pregnant women who may have been exposed to parvovirus should contact their doctor. Careful hand washing; avoid sharing drinks. Usually there are no complications for a pregnant woman or her baby following exposure to a person with parvovirus B19 infection.

## Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

### Symptoms

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.

### Home or school?

Keep home from school until the first 5 days of an antibiotic course has been completed.

### How can I help prevent spread?

Unimmunised contacts may be excluded until treated with an antibiotic. Immunise your child with DTP vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis at 2, 4, 6 months, 4 and 15 years.

## Worms (Threadworms, pinworms)

### Symptoms

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.

### Home or school?

They can go to school, but please treat.

### How can I help prevent spread?

Careful hand washing - reinfection from contaminated hands is common. A number of drugs are available for treatment. The linen of an infected person should be changed daily for several days after treatment with care to avoid dispersing the eggs into the air. Tell the school as other parents will need to know to check their kids.





**We welcome the opportunity to discuss your child's education with you.**

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