

Rutherford Public School

Weekly Newsletter

WEEK 7 TERM 1 2017



Respect

At Rutherford Public School we:

- ✓ follow instructions
- ✓ have good manners
- ✓ encourage others



Responsibility

At Rutherford Public School we:

- ✓ are organised
- ✓ are always safe
- ✓ own our choices
- ✓ allow others to learn and play



Personal Best

At Rutherford Public School we:

- ✓ always strive to do quality work
- ✓ are learners
- ✓ always strive to do our best



School Calendar

	Day	Events
Week 7	CLASS OF THE WEEK FOR CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS:	
	6/3/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School Expressions of Interest will go home this week 3:30pm Aboriginal Ed Meeting - Community Room
	7/3/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AECG Meeting 4:00pm @ Branxton PS
	8/3/17	•
	9/3/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am to 1:30pm Year 7 Selective High School Test for 2018 @ Maitland Grossmann High School
Week 8	10/3/17	•
	CLASS OF THE WEEK FOR CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS:	
	13/3/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:15pm P&C Canteen & Fundraising Meeting
	14/3/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm P&C Meeting
	15/3/17	•
Week 9	16/3/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am P-K Parent Information Session
	17/3/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Athletics Carnival @ Max McMahon Oval Years 3-6 and eight-year-old Year 2 students 9:45am Kinder Athletics Fun Hour High School EOI's must be returned by today Year 6 Canberra Excursion Deposits due by today Book Club Orders and Payment Due by today
	20/3/17	•
	21/3/17	•
	22/3/17	•
Week 9	23/3/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zone Touch Football Trials
	24/3/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purple Day - Epilepsy Awareness Day Hunter Rugby League Trials

What's on & What's coming up?

ALL STUDENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24/3/17 Epilepsy Awareness Day - Wear purple! Week 10 & 11 PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS 3/04/17 Visiting Performance: Brainstorm Anti Bullying Show, The Human Race Friday 7/4/17 Term 1 concludes School Holidays 8/04/17 to 25/04/17 Wednesday 26/04/17 Term 2 Commences
ATSI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6/03/17 3:30pm Aboriginal Ed Meeting 7/03/17 AECG Meeting 4:00pm @ Branxton PS
P-K Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starts Term 2 - Registrations NOW OPEN! 16/03/17 9:30am P-K Parent Information Session
Infants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7/4/17 Easter Hat Parade
Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kindergarten Assembly Thursday 2:30pm
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 1 Assembly Monday 2:30pm
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 1 Assembly Monday 2:30pm 17/03/17 Athletics Carnival @ Max McMahon Oval for eight-year-old Year 2 students 27/03/17 UNSW Competitions close today
Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17/03/17 Athletics Carnival @ Max McMahon Oval 23/03/17 Touch Football Maitland Trials 24/03/17 Hunter Rugby League Trials 27/03/17 UNSW Competitions close today 31/03/17 Netball & Soccer Maitland Trials
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 2 Assembly Wednesday 2:30pm
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 2 Assembly Wednesday 2:30pm
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 3 Assembly Tuesday 2:30pm
Year 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage 3 Assembly Tuesday 2:30pm
Community	Next P&C Meeting 14th March @ 6:30pm

Important Reminders

- ☆ Green Student Information and Consents forms due back to teachers as soon as possible

... Together We Strive...

GREEN STUDENT BACKGROUND FORMS

Thank you to the families who have returned the green student background forms to the class teacher. We have over 90% of forms returned.

Students who have returned the note will receive a free ice block from the canteen!

SCHOOL INTERVIEWS

Have you booked an interview time yet? Spaces are filling fast!

All class teachers will be available to meet with parents and carers to discuss progress during Week 10 of Term 1 - Monday 27th March to Friday 31st March 2017. Parents can make an appointment with the teacher of their choice by making an online booking at:

<https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/>

Code: **sf2ka**

Teachers have been each allocated a certain day during Week 10 for their interviews to take place. Some teachers are also available before or after school.

We thank parents for trying to fit in with our organisation. Parents who are unavailable during the teachers assigned times should see the class teacher to make an alternative time to discuss student's work throughout Term 1.

A Term 1 Student Progress report will be issued at the interview.

MGOALS LAUNCH

Thank you to the parents who were able to come along to our MGoals launch last Wednesday afternoon.

MGoals is an online website to support Aboriginal students. Students will have been issued with a unique username and password which they can access the MGoals site to see student progress and targets being worked on in class. Mrs Johnston will oversee the program with the help of the class teachers.



GET TALKING ABOUT EPILEPSY

DRESS PURPLE FOR EPILEPSY

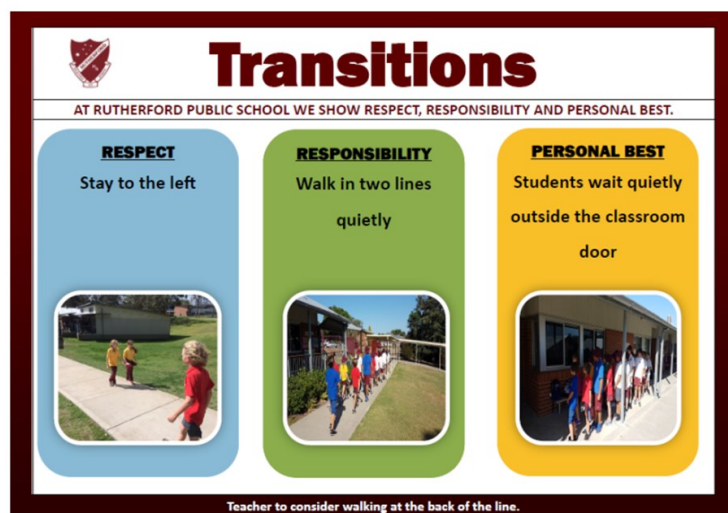
Rutherford Public School has several students who have epilepsy. On Friday 24th March, we will be holding a **Dress Purple for Epilepsy** day, to support Epilepsy Action Australia. Epilepsy Action Australia work with the community to raise awareness of epilepsy, as well as providing support to those who live with the unpredictable and sometimes debilitating effects of epilepsy.

At Rutherford Public School we would also like to show our support to those living with epilepsy by coming dressed in as much **purple** as possible on 24th March, and bringing a gold coin donation. All donations will be going to support Epilepsy Awareness Australia. Get your **purple** on!

PBL NEWS

This week we are focusing on transiting, and how we move around the school. At Rutherford Public School, moving throughout the school needs to be respectful and responsible. We must always be demonstrating our personal best.

We need to stay to the left, walk in two lines quietly, and wait outside the classroom door.



YEAR 6 TO YEAR 7 2018

All Year 6 students will soon bring home their 2018 "Expression of Interest" Forms for 2018 high school placements. It is important that ALL students return the form by the due date so High Schools can plan for their needs in 2018. All students are asked to indicate where they will be applying to attend High school - i.e. local, catholic, independent.

2018 Year 7 Selective High School Test

Good luck to our five Year 6 students who will sit the 2018 Selective High Schools test this Thursday 9th March. Students had to apply for this test in Term 4 2017. Applications for this test are now closed.

Hunter Sports High & Hunter School of Performing Arts

Students considering applying to Hunter Sports High or Hunter School of Performing Arts need to apply to each school individually. Applications and enrolment procedures can be found at each school's website below. There are strict enrolment processes and timeframes for each school.

Hunter Sports High: <http://www.huntersports.com.au/>

Hunter School of performing arts: <http://www.hspa.nsw.edu.au/>

OPPORTUNITY CLASS YEAR 5 2018

What are opportunity classes?

Rutherford Public School has a district Opportunity Class, and places for Year 5 entry are often highly sought after by many students from around the Maitland area. Opportunity classes cater for gifted and talented Year 5 and 6 students.

The high performing students unit administers the opportunity class placement process. Successful applicants enrol in a primary school with an opportunity class for Years 5 and 6. This may be at a different school to their previous schooling.

Parents apply for opportunity class placement when their child is in Year 4. It is a two-year placement program. Successful students may leave their current school at the end of Year 4 to attend a school with an opportunity class. Students cannot apply to enter for Year 6 only.

Application process

Applications for opportunity class entry are completed online.

Applications for Year 5 placement in an opportunity class in 2018 will open on **25 April 2017** and close on **12 May 2017**.

Applicants complete the following steps to apply for Year 5

opportunity class entry.

Steps

- Public school applicants may be asked to complete an 'Intention to apply' form by the current primary school so the school knows who intends to apply.
- Go to the 'opportunity class placement application' online – available from mid-April to mid-May and follow instructions for registration.
- Parents must register prior to applying by providing a valid email address – do not use a student's email address. You will receive an email with your password for the online application.
- Return to the application and log in using your email address and password.
- Complete your contact details. Fields marked with an asterisk (*) must be completed prior to proceeding to the next page by selecting 'Next'. To return to the previous page click the 'Previous' button.
- When your contact details are complete, click the 'Next' button.
- Follow the steps on each page to complete the opportunity class placement application.
- Enter information about any special test provisions, if required.
- To leave the application before it is finished select 'Log off' and close your browser. You will need to log in again when you return.
- When you have completed your application click 'Submit'. Make a note of the student application number shown on the screen.
- Changes cannot be made to applications online once submitted. Any changes must be provided to the High Performing Students Unit in writing.
- Use the internet at a public library if you do not have access at home. In 'contact details', select 'by mail only' for future communication to be sent by post. Email confirmation of submitted applications is automatically generated.
- Contact the high performing students unit for assistance if you have a disability that prevents you from using a computer.
- Add ssu@det.nsw.edu.au to your email contacts to ensure you receive correspondence from the High Performing Students Unit. Also check your spam or junk folder regularly.

More information will be sent home to all Year 4 students nearer to the registration dates. Parents can find more information also at: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes> and the 2017 Application Information Booklet is available at <https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/49795d1c-b339-43e9-aa48-02e496d165f1/1/oc-applicpack.pdf>

It Matters!

HUNTER REGION SWIMMING CARNIVAL



Huge congratulations go out to Beau Burton and Ava Jankovic who represented Rutherford Public School proudly this week at the Hunter Region swimming carnival. The competition was fierce with students from well over 100 primary schools competing.

Beau swam the 8yrs 50m freestyle and placed 5th with a huge personal best of five seconds. Well done Beau!

Ava blitzed the field and has qualified for the State carnival in the 200m individual medley, 50m butterfly, 100m freestyle, and the 50m freestyle. What an effort!



MAITLAND ZONE RUGBY LEAGUE TRIALS

On Friday, Rutherford Public School were well represented by five of our students in the Maitland Zone Rugby League trials at Hartcher Oval, Telarah.

Cameron Goff, Tallis Tapper, Shatikka Eulo and Billy Crich trialled for positions in the U/11's team and performed extremely well against 62 students from 27 local primary schools. All four were very close to selection and unlucky to miss out.

Jake Digby trialled for a position in the Opens division, and was successful after a positive display. He will now train with the

Maitland team before the Hunter team selections on Friday 24th March at Salamander Bay.

Well done Jake!



REGULAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day and missing school puts them behind.

WHY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS SO IMPORTANT?

If a child of compulsory school age is registered at a school, it is essential that they attend their school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career. Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child to fulfil their potential. Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school:

- To learn
- To have fun
- To make new friends
- To experience new things in life
- To develop awareness of other cultures, religion, ethnicity and gender differences
- To achieve
- To gain qualifications
- To develop new skills
- To build confidence and self-esteem
- To have the best possible start in life

Must I send my child every day?

YES! It is a condition of enrolment that you send your child to school every day.

Education in New South Wales is compulsory. This means all children from six years of age, and under the minimum school leaving age, are legally required to attend school.

What should we do if our family is going on holiday in school time?

Parents and carers are encouraged not to withdraw their

children from school for family holidays. Families should try to arrange holidays during school vacations. If your family holiday is during school time, inform the school in advance and request leave from school. Depending on the circumstances and how long the leave will be, you may ask the school to provide tasks that can be completed while your child is absent.

Do not keep your child away from school for:

Birthdays, shopping, haircuts, minding other children, routine check-ups, minor family events and sleeping in.

Non-urgent medical and other health appointments for your child should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays if possible.

What should I do if my child has to stay away from school?

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. To explain an absence, parents and carers may send a note, return school sms, telephone the school, or inform in person. All absences must be explained to the school, and a doctor's certificate provided in case of multiple sick days. The principal of the school has the right to question parents' or carers' requests for their child to be absent from school. The principal may also question any explanation given for a child's absence from school.

Dragon's Nest Breakfast Club

Donation from Kellogg's has arrived! They have donated six big boxes full of Sultana Bran, Corn Flakes & Rice Bubbles.

Children can enjoy these cereals every morning to give them a healthy start to the day!



Bakers Delight
We're for real.

**CAN YOU
HELP?**

We are looking for Parent Volunteers to run our Breakfast Club. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Rasna Gandhi (CLO) in the office.

**THANK
YOU!**

A big thank you to our admin staff Mrs Gebbard, Mrs Saxby & our Aboriginal Support Officer Mr O'Sullivan for their donations to the breakfast club this week.

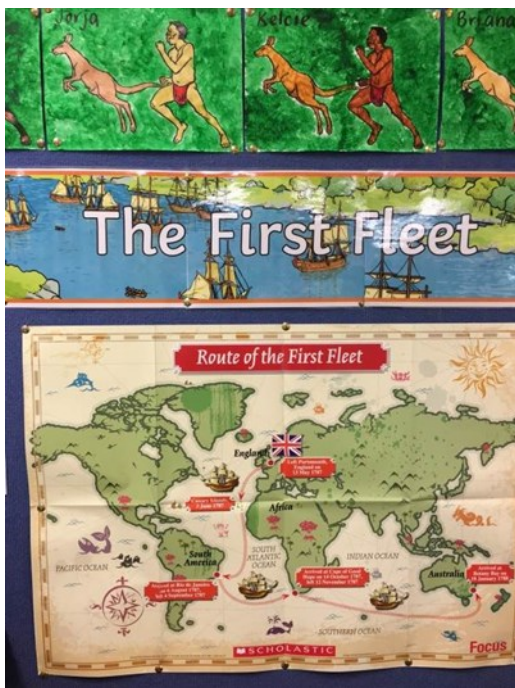
We would also like to thank Brayden Hickey and his family's business, BJ Carpentry & Maintenance Services, for their very generous donation late last year, of two \$100 gift cards for the breakfast club, to buy supplies for our students.



Class in focus... 3/4B

3/4B have had an exciting start to the new year with Mrs Barnett.

In class, they have been learning about the unit 'First Contacts', which discusses Aboriginal history and the arrival of the First Fleet.

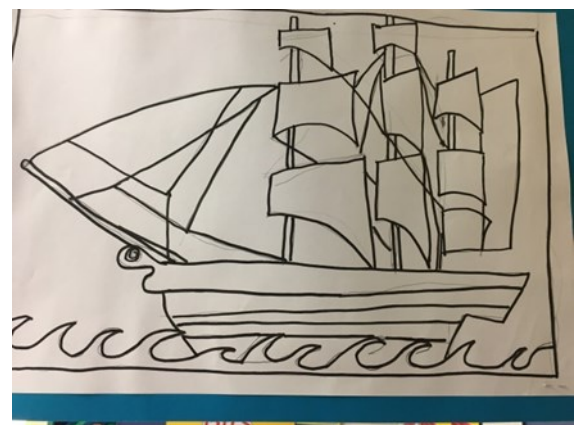
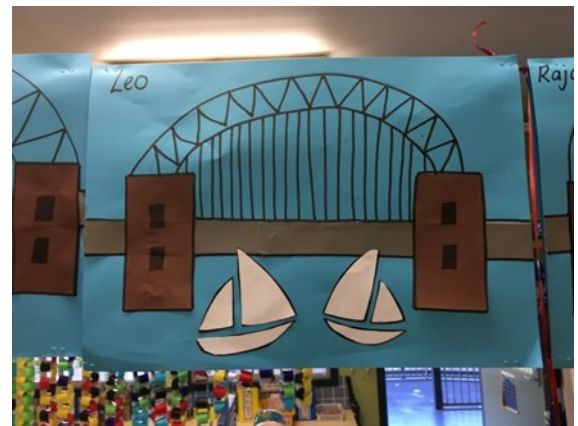


3/4B have been having some incredible conversations and shared stories about what life was like in the past and how things are different now. 3/4B have happily shared their wonderful artworks and classroom displays for us all to see.

It has been fantastic to see some of the shared work coming out of 3/4B, and the smiles on the student's faces at the end of each day.



The students of 3/4B have done an amazing job already this year and the teachers of Rutherford Public School are all excited to see what the next learning adventure for Mrs Barnett and her students will be.



Well done 3/4B!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN KINDERGARTEN?

As we reach the half way mark for this term, I look back fondly and reflect on how far our new kindergarten students have come. There are less tears in the mornings (from students and parents), and students have become more settled and independent learners.

Over the past four weeks I have had the pleasure of visiting and working with all kindergarten classes, and I am impressed by what I am seeing in the rooms. Students are already showing steady progress in reading, writing and math, displaying developing independent learning skills - listening to students in kindergarten read is by far the best part of my day.

As a way of showcasing the talented teachers and students in kindergarten, each week a different kindergarten class will share some of their adventures in the newsletter.

Mrs Kate Slaven

Relieving Assistant Principal ES1



KC was very excited to perform at the ES1 assembly last Thursday.

They worked hard to learn the new song and dance.



During independent learning groups, the students did some directed drawing with one of our wonderful parent helpers. We have also been leaning to follow instructions, as well as how to use the water colour paints correctly.

The students have produced some great artwork.



Mrs Ann-Maree Campbell
KC Class Teacher



KE have had an amazing start to school.

We have been busy learning all about our new school and learning our classroom routines. One of our favourite parts of the school day is our morning literacy groups. We have been completing lots of activities to help us with our reading and writing. We love to complete puzzles, make words with play dough, write on our whiteboards and listen to our sounds on the iPads.

KE have also been busy creating a dance, which we performed at our Stage Assembly. We had lots of fun pretending to be monkeys, elephants and tigers. Our first performance was a success and we are looking forward to our next one.

Emily Collins

KE Class Teacher



LOCAL MANAGEMENT BUSINESS REFORM (LMBR)

Our school will be part of the LMBR process during this year. The Department of Education is in the process of updating their computer software for student management and financial controls. This is a mandatory change for our school, and there is a significant amount of work needed to prepare to change the system. The current system has been in place for over 20 years!

Students and parents will not notice many changes to the day-to-day operations of the school, but parents and carers will need to be on the lookout for periods where we cannot process any payments (cash, cheques, EFTPOS or online POP payments).

Thank you for support in managing this change in our school.

SCHOOL FEES

All students will be invoiced for our 2017 school fees. The fee covers some of the costs associated with exercise books, copying costs and online Matific subscriptions.

2017 fees are:

\$45 per student or \$90 per family.

Thank you for paying your fees promptly and contributing to our school operations.

FROM THE OFFICE

Office Hours:

8:30am - 3:30pm Monday to Friday

Visiting Parents:

Reminder to parents to report to the office when visiting the school.

Payments:

PARENTS ONLINE PAYMENTS (POP) - POP can be made to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac.

Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card.

The payment page is accessed from the front page of the schools website by selecting \$ Make a payment.

Minimum payment is \$10, and you can only pay for one child on each transaction.

EFTPOS:

EFTPOS operational times are 8:00am until 12:00pm.

No over the phone, fax or email transactions can be accepted
No P&C transactions (hats, skorts, socks, stockings, fete, etc)
No cash refunds or withdrawals.

Minimum transaction amount of \$10.00

CRUNCH AND SIP

Rutherford Public School is a Crunch & Sip school. The program gives children the opportunity to have a short break to have fruit or vegetables and/or water. Water can be on a child's desk to have during the school day.

Permitted Food/Drinks:

All fresh fruit

Small serves of dried fruit eg. sultanas, 4 dried apricots (not every day)

Fresh vegetables eg. carrot sticks, celery, cherry tomatoes, cucumber sticks

Only plain water

Not Permitted:

Leathers, bars, rollups, jellies or canned fruit

Chips, cakes, popcorn snacks

Fruit & vegetable juices

Please assist your child by sending suitable fruit/vegetable each day for them to participate in Crunch & Sip.

NO DOGS IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

The New South Wales Companion Animals Act was introduced in September 1998 and is about the welfare of animals, their owners and the broader community. Councils enforce the Act, promote responsible pet ownership and maintain a state wide identification and registration system, the NSW Companion Animals Register.

Under the Companion Animals Act, owners of dogs and cats must:

Be 18 years of age or over

Leash their dog when in a public place

Ensure their dog wears a collar and identification tag when in a public place

Ensure their dog or cat does not enter a food consumption area or wild life protection area

Ensure their dog does not enter a school or child care playground and any other place declared prohibited to dogs by Council (unless with permission from the principal).

P&C NEWS

P&C MEETING

The next meeting of the P&C will be held on 14th March 2017. It was great to see a few new faces at the first meeting for 2017. The P&C are planning lots of events to support the school and help ensure the student's education at Rutherford is the best it can be! Our P&C executive will be ratified at our next meeting. Most office bearing positions have been filled. The position of president will be finalised at the next meeting.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS: 8/4/2017 to 25/4/2017

TERM 2 COMMENCES: WEDNESDAY 26TH APRIL 2017

Weekly Events:

Assemblies:

Stage 1	2:30 pm	Monday	School Hall
Stage 3	2:30 pm	Tuesday	School Hall
Stage 2	2:30 pm	Wednesday	School Hall
Kindergarten	2:30 pm	Thursday	School Hall

Second Hand Uniform Stall

Monday 2:30pm to 3:00pm
P&C Shed behind the hall

School Band

Wednesday 8:30am
Community Room

P-K Program for Kindergarten 2018

Starts In Term 2

Term 1 Financial Planner...

Activity	Stage/Year	Costs
School Contribution	Yr 1-6	\$45 student, family \$90
Anti-Bullying Show	All Years	\$5 Per student
Kindergarten Packs	Kindergarten	\$40
Canberra Excursion	Year 6	\$50 deposit \$395 Balance
Rugby Jersey	Year 6	\$38.50



Place lunch orders from your phone, tablet or home PC!

For help call
1300 361 769

flexischools

ONLINE ORDERING



- Available 24/7
- Convenient for parents
- Removes paper orders and cash
- FREE registration

Online ordering is more convenient, providing a 24/7 payment and ordering system that can be accessed from home, work or a mobile device.

No more fumbling around for coins in the morning or sending kids to school with excess cash, online orders are faster and more accurate giving parents peace of mind that their order and payment is received accurately at the school.

Registration is free and only takes a few minutes.

EASY, ONLINE REGISTRATION

- Go to www.flexischools.com.au
- Click REGISTER
- Enter your email
- You will be emailed a link to an online form - follow the link
- Choose a username and password and complete the form
- Add each student and their class
- Top-up the account - VISA or Mastercard preferred.

Click here for the summer canteen menu:

CLICK HERE



Builders Club



Lego Club is held at Rutherford Public School during lunchtimes, and offers students an alternative to the playground. If any

families have any Lego at home they no longer have a use for, we could definitely put it to great use in our Lego Club.



Moved address?
New email address?
Have a new mobile phone?

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

Respect

At Rutherford Public School we:

- follow instructions
- have good manners
- encourage others

Responsibility

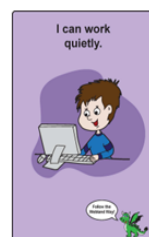
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- are always safe
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Personal Best

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2017 Contribution fees are
First Child: \$45
Second Child: \$45
Additional children: Free

HARMONY DAY



EVERYONE BELONGS
www.harmony.gov.au

The Maitland community invites you to

Maitland Harmony Day

Date: Sunday 19th March 2017

Time: 11am- 2pm

12 noon- shared picnic

Venue: Maitland Park, Elgin St Maitland

Picnic will be held on the grass on your right as you enter the main gates. Opposite the cenotaph.

Info: Please bring a plate of food (representing your culture) to share. Bring a picnic rug, chair to sit on and utensils to eat with!

Maitland Harmony Day is a family friendly, free community led event to celebrate Maitland's growing multicultural and diverse community. There will be games and activities for children and grown-ups to participate in, and lots of time to share cultural stories, and make new connections and friends.

Facebook: Maitland Community Harmony Day



Queries: Elicia Krisenthal 0411 812009



Dear Parents,

As you may be aware, your child is currently using Matific, an online maths program in their classroom. The program has recently launched its latest feature, *Game Mode*, on both Android and iOS devices.

To ensure that your child has the latest app version available on their tablet, please visit the **App Store** to update Matific to version 4.2.2 or **Google Play** for Matific version 4.2.0.2.

Matific's Game Mode has already proven to be a hit in classrooms – 90% of teachers who have introduced it report an increase in their student's engagement.

If you have any questions, please speak to your child's teacher or email us at australia@matific.com



This is what the new app icon should look like.

If yours is different, it's time to update.



THE EASY WAY TO BOOK SCHOOL INTERVIEWS



Dear Parents and Carers

Parent/Teacher interviews will be held from 27th March to 31st March (Week 10). All class teachers will be available on certain days. Bookings must be finalised before 17th March at 4:00pm, when bookings for this event will close.

Please see your child's teacher if you are not able to make the teacher's assigned times.

Now you can book school interviews for the times that suit *your family*.
Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow these simple instructions.

Enter code...	sf2ka	Go
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Simply enter the code **sf2ka** and press "Go"



Enter your details



Select the teachers you wish to see



Select the appointment times that suit your family best

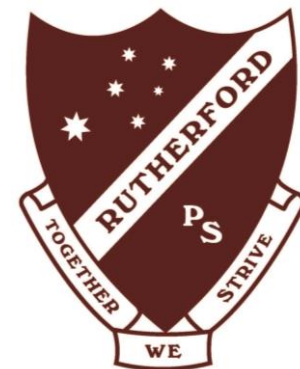


When you click **FINISH**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically. If you do not receive your email immediately –

Check your junk mail folder AND make sure you have spelled your email address correctly

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until the bookings close on 21st February at 4pm

You may change your bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the event code. Remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on: 4932 5900



***Tell Them From Me* student survey:
Information and consent form for
parents and carers**

Dear Parents and Carers

In Term 1 2017, our school is taking part in the *Tell Them From Me* student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help them improve. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, **The Learning Bar**, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will **not** be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes 30 minutes or less to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), has access to data from across NSW and is running a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research is looking at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students will **not** be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students' personal information will not be disclosed by the Department to any other person or body other than as required by law.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable, he/she can choose to stop the survey at any time. The majority of questions in the survey can be skipped.

If you **do not want your child to take part** in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to the school by Friday 10th March 2017.

More information about the survey and the research is available in English on the CESE website: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

Mr Andrew Brown
Principal
Rutherford Public School

Dr Jenny Donovan
Executive Director
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

***Tell Them From Me* Student Feedback Survey non-consent form**

If you **do not want** your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to the school by Friday 10th March 2017.

I DO NOT give consent for my child/children to participate in the ***Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey**.

Name of student 1

Roll class of student 1

.....

.....

Name of student 2

Roll class of student 2

.....

.....

Name of student 3

Roll class of student 3

.....

.....

Name of student 4

Roll class of student 4

.....

.....

Name of parent/carer

Signature of parent/carer

Date



Rutherford Public School

Respect, Responsibility, Personal Best



Education

PO Box 312
Weblands Street
Rutherford NSW 2320
Phone 4932 5900
rutherford-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

22nd February 2017

WHOLE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE BRAINSTORM PRODUCTIONS – THE HUMAN RACE

Dear Parents/Carers

Our first production of the year will be presented by Brainstorm Productions, titled "The Human Race". The production will take place on **Monday 3rd April 2017**.

The "The Human Race" challenges children to find out what qualities we need to create positive relationships at school and in the community. It gives simple strategies for building skills in conflict resolution, problem solving, assertiveness and having empathy for others.

We would like all children from Kindergarten to Year 6 to attend, as this will support our values education program.

The cost of the performance is \$5.00 each. The school will absorb the cost of the GST.

There will be three sessions: Kindergarten to Year 2 at 10:00am, Years 3 & 4 at 12:00pm, and Years 5 & 6 at 2:05pm.

Please return the completed permission slip and the money in an envelope with your child's details clearly written on the front by Wednesday 29th March 2017.

NO MONEY WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE.

MRS R BRIDGE
Visiting Performance Coordinator

MR A BROWN
Principal



TO: THE CLASSROOM TEACHER

PERMISSION NOTE WHOLE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE BRAINSTORM PRODUCTIONS – THE HUMAN RACE

I give permission for my child _____ of class _____
to attend the production of "The Human Race" to be held at Rutherford Public School on Monday 3rd April
2017. I have included \$5 payment for my child.

Parent/Carer Signature _____ Date _____



Rutherford Public School

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Education

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Rutherford NSW 2320
Phone 4932 5900
rutherford-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

15th February 2017

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS

YEAR 2

Entry forms and money must be received at the front office by

9:00am on Monday 27th March 2017

No entries will be accepted through the school after this date under any circumstances.

All competitions will be held at 8:00am on the dates listed below.

If your child wishes to participate, please tick (✓) the competition/s your child wishes to take part in and return the completed entry form and fee/s in an envelope with your child's details clearly printed on the front.

The Australian Schools' Science Competition
Tuesday 30th May 2017
\$8.00

(✓)

(\$)

--	--

The Australian Schools' Spelling Competition
Wednesday 14th June 2017
\$11.00

--	--

The Australian Schools' English Competition
Tuesday 1st August 2017
\$8.00

--	--

The Australian Schools' Mathematics Competition
Tuesday 15th August 2017
\$8.00

--	--

Student Name: _____ Class: _____ Year: _____

Signature Parent / Carer _____ Date _____



Rutherford Public School

Respect, Responsibility, Personal Best



Education

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Rutherford NSW 2320
Phone 4932 5900
rutherford-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

7th February 2017

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS
YEARS 3 - 6

Entry forms and money must be received at the front office by

9:00am on Monday 27th March 2017

No entries will be accepted through the school after this date under any circumstances.

All competitions will be held at 8:00am on the dates listed below.

If your child wishes to participate, please tick (✓) the competition/s your child wishes to take part in and return the completed entry form and fee/s in an envelope with your child's details clearly printed on the front.

The Australian Schools' Digital Technologies Competition
Tuesday 23rd May 2017
\$8.00

(✓)

(\$)

--	--

The Australian Schools' Science Competition
Tuesday 30th May 2017
\$8.00

--	--

The Australian Schools' Writing Competition
Monday 12th to Friday 16th June 2017
\$17.00

--	--

The Australian Schools' Spelling Competition
Wednesday 14th June 2017
\$11.00

--	--

The Australian Schools' English Competition
Tuesday 1st August 2017
\$8.00

--	--

The Australian Schools' Mathematics Competition
Tuesday 15th August 2017
\$8.00

--	--

Student Name: _____ Class: _____ Year: _____

Signature Parent / Carer _____ Date _____



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20th February 2017

Stage 3 - "The School Magazine"

Dear Parents

As a focus for their Reading and Comprehension during the year, Year 5 and Year 6 students are required to purchase a subscription to *The School Magazine*. (5/6D and 5/6C are not required to purchase *The School Magazine*).

In essence, this is the 'text book' the children are required to have for their studies this year.

The School Magazine is Australia's leading literary magazine for young readers. It is published by the NSW Department of Education. Each month of the school year, *The School Magazine* provides a diverse mix of short stories, poems, plays, Indigenous tales, fables, non-fiction articles, puzzles, cartoons, graphic novels and activities, all lavishly illustrated by leading Australian artists.

The cost of this subscription is \$12 per child (for 10 magazines). Please send your child's payment to school in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name, class and *The School Magazine*.

Please return this payment to school as soon as possible, but not later than Friday 10th March 2017.

Stage 3 Classroom Teachers

ANDREW BROWN
Principal



Stage 3 - "The School Magazine"

Child's name _____ Class _____

- ☐ Please find enclosed \$12 for 'The School Magazine' for my child; OR
- ☐ I have paid by POP and my receipt number is _____



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20th February 2017

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Stage 3 Classroom Teachers

ANDREW BROWN
Principal



Stage 3 - "The School Magazine"

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13th February 2017

2017 CANBERRA EXCURSION

Dear Parents/Caregivers

This year, Year 6 will be given the opportunity to visit Canberra during Term 3, from Monday 11th September to Thursday 14th September 2017. The excursion supports and enhances our History unit, 'Australia as a Nation', which focuses heavily on Federation.

The following information is for your benefit, to decide whether your child/children will be able to attend the excursion.

**To secure a place, students are required to pay a non-refundable deposit of \$50.00.
Deposit must be paid by 12:30pm on Friday 17th March 2017.**

EXCURSION GROUP: 110 children and 4 staff. Parent helpers will be considered subject to availability of places. This will be decided once student numbers are established.

APPROXIMATE COST: Students - \$445.00 (approximately)
Parents – \$475.00 (approximately)
This includes: luxury air-conditioned, seat-belt equipped coach travel, motel accommodation, 3 meals daily from dinner on the first day to lunch on the last day, and admission to venues and attractions.

DATES: Monday 11th September to Thursday 14th September 2017.

VENUES: We anticipate visiting the following venues:

- High Court – guided tour
- National Capital Exhibition (Regatta Point)
- National Gallery of Australia – guided tour
- Embassies
- Dinosaur Museum by night
- Australian War Memorial
- Questacon by night
- Australian Institute of Sport – participating in a tour and sporting activities
- Old Parliament House
- Australian Electoral Education Centre
- Telstra Tower
- Royal Australian Mint
- CSIRO Discovery
- Parliament House
- Museum of Australian Democracy (Old Parliament House)

A full itinerary will be sent home closer to the excursion date. Please note that this itinerary is still subject to change.

2017 Canberra Excursion (Continued)

SPENDING MONEY:

Students **will** be able to purchase souvenirs from some venues during the excursion, depending on available time. Spending money of \$40 to \$50 will be sufficient for the excursion.

No responsibility will be taken if money is stolen, lost or borrowed.

DIET/FOOD ALLERGIES:

If your child has particular dietary requirements, please fill in the form on the back of the payment contract and return it to school as soon as possible so appropriate arrangements can be made.

MEDICATION:

If your child is on long-term medication, (e.g. Asthma, ADD etc) you will need a LONG TERM MEDICATION PLAN from your doctor.

Medication forms will be provided at a later date and must be returned by Monday 4th September 2017.

PAYMENT:

The cost of the excursion is approximately \$445.00. This amount includes your deposit of \$50.00, so, having paid a \$50.00 deposit, you now owe \$395.00.

Our school will transition to LMBR, a new software management program, in July. This will mean that parents are asked to not use our online payment system (POP) during the transition period, which will be from Friday 23rd June to Monday 31st July 2017. EFTPOS will also be unavailable. Cash payments cannot be accepted at the office during this period. Please save your weekly instalments and send them to school with 'Instalment 16'.

Any payments made through POP during this time, will not show up on our finance system. Please ensure you do not pay by POP during the above mentioned dates.

All payments must be sent to school in an envelope or clip-lock bag with your child's name, class, Canberra and amount enclosed clearly written on the front. Please include one of the payment vouchers attached to this note with each amount of money that you send to school.

Payments can also be made by EFTPOS any school day between 8:00am and 12:00pm.

Any parents experiencing financial difficulty with payment for the excursion should contact the office as soon as possible to discuss Student Assistance. All discussions are private and confidential. *Please do not leave this until the last moment!*

The balance of \$395.00 must be paid by 12:30pm on:

MONDAY 4th SEPTEMBER 2017

PARENT HELPERS:

The inclusion of parent helpers for the excursion will depend on the number of students wishing to attend. Interested parents will be notified after all student deposits have been received and numbers established. The cost to parents will be approx. \$475.00 and successful parents will be notified as soon as possible after numbers are finalised so that they can begin to make payments.

**Please send the following notes to school
with your deposit payment**

**All money must be paid by
Monday 4th September 2017**

2017 CANBERRA EXCURSION CONTRACT

My child _____ of class _____

will be attending the Canberra Excursion from Monday 11th September 2017 to Thursday 14th September 2017.

I understand that travel to and from Canberra will be by coach.

- ☐ I have paid/included the \$50.00 non-refundable deposit by Friday 17th March 2017
- ☐ I will continue to send regular weekly payments to the school, using the payment vouchers supplied, until the balance payment of \$395.00 has been paid in full.

POP Receipt Number _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Should you wish to pay by instalments,

**19 weekly payments of \$20 & one payment of \$15 will need to be paid in order to finalise
payments by Monday 4th September 2017.**

✂-----

**Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion
*Deposit – Due Friday 17th March 2017***

Child's Name _____ **Class** _____

- ☐ \$50 Deposit
- ☐ Other Amount \$ _____
- ☐ POP Receipt _____

<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 20 – Friday 1st September 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Final Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>	<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 19 – Friday 25th August 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>
<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 18 – Friday 18th August 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>	<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 17 – Friday 11th August 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>
<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 16 – Friday 4th August 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>	<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 15 – Friday 28th July 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p>LMBR Transition Period NO POP, EFTPOS OR CASH ACCEPTED THIS WEEK Please hold on to your payments and send them all to school with 'Instalment 16'</p>
<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 14 – Friday 21st July 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p>LMBR Transition Period NO POP, EFTPOS & CASH ACCEPTED THIS WEEK Please hold on to your payments and send them all to school with 'Instalment 16'</p>	<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 13 – Friday 30th June 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p>LMBR Transition Period NO POP, EFTPOS & CASH ACCEPTED THIS WEEK Please hold on to your payments and send them all to school with 'Instalment 16'</p>
<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 12 – Friday 23rd June 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>	<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 11 – Friday 16th June 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>

<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 10 – Friday 9th June 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>	<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 9 – Friday 2nd June 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>
<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 8 – Friday 26th May 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>	<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 7 – Friday 19th May 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>
<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 6 – Friday 12th May 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>	<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 5 – Friday 5th May 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>
<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 4 – Friday 28th April 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>	<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 3 – Friday 7th April 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>
<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 2 – Friday 31st March 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>	<p>Rutherford Public School Canberra Excursion <i>Instalment 1 – Friday 24th March 2017</i></p> <p>Child's Name _____ Class _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Payment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other Amount \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POP Receipt _____</p>



Certificate of Appreciation



This certificate is awarded
Rutherford Public School

in recognition of valuable contributions to
The Maitland Hospital Paediatric Ward

Tracy Thomas

Signature

13/12/2016

Date





~~~~~

# Rutherford Public School

For your support of  
the Maitland Hospital Paediatric Unit

~~~~~



HNEkidshealth
Children, Young People & Families



New players will receive FREE socks and shorts.

Under 6 and 7 will receive FREE shin pads and a ball.

\$10 discount will apply to each family member after the first full fee paying player.

<http://lochinvafc.com.au/2017-season/2017-registration/>

We are excited to announce we have ALL GIRLS TEAMS who will be playing in ALL GIRLS COMPETITIONS!

Please contact us ASAP if your daughter would like to play!

She will not need to have played before, they will be taught the skills!

2017 Player Fees:

5yr – 7yr \$120

8yr – 11yr \$140

12yr – 18yr \$180

Senior \$290

Bettina Chandler (Registrar) : 0408 411 550

Lisa Duhig (Secretary) : 0418 743 642

Email: lochinvarroversfc@huntervalleyfootball.net.au

Information about applying for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in

2017

Thinking of applying for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2017?

You must apply online at
www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement



Key dates

Tuesday 26 April 2016

Application website opens

Friday 13 May 2016

Application website closes
Late applications will not be accepted

Wednesday 13 July 2016

Test authority letter by mail and email

Wednesday 27 July 2016

Opportunity Class Placement Test

Mid-October 2016

Placement outcome information

**Please read this booklet carefully
before applying.**

There is more information at:
www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement

The opportunity class placement process for Year 5 entry is administered by the High Performing Students Unit.

Contact details

High Performing Students Unit

NSW Department of Education

Email: ssu@det.nsw.edu.au **Telephone:** 1300 880 367 **Fax:** 02 9266 8435

Postal address: Locked Bag 53, DARLINGHURST NSW 1300

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com.au/Opportunityclassplacement>

'Parent' is defined under the *Education Act 1990* as 'a guardian or other person having custody or care of a child'.

A list of the primary schools with opportunity classes is shown on page 2 of this document.

Public schools with Year 5 opportunity classes in 2017

You may choose up to two opportunity classes in order of preference.

OC code	School	OC code	School	OC code	School
ACP	ARMIDALE CITY Faulkner St, Armidale	ERM	ERMINGTON Winbourne St, West Ryde	POR	PORT MACQUARIE Grant St, Port Macquarie
ALX	ALEXANDRIA PARK + Park Rd, Alexandria	GEO	GEORGES HALL Pennington Ave, Georges Hall	QUA	QUAKERS HILL Medlow Dr, Quakers Hill
ALS	ALSTONVILLE Main St, Alstonville	GOO	GOONELLABAH Ballina Rd, Goonellabah	QUE	QUEANBEYAN SOUTH Cameron Rd, Queanbeyan
ART	ARTARMON McMillan Rd, Artarmon	GSF	GOSFORD Faunce St West, West Gosford	RIC	RICHMOND Windsor St, Richmond
ASH	ASHFIELD Liverpool Rd, Ashfield	GOU	GOULBURN WEST Combermere St, Goulburn	RUT	RUTHERFORD Weblands St, Rutherford
BGH	BALGOWLAH HEIGHTS Lewis St, Balgowlah	GRE	GREENACRE Waterloo Rd, Greenacre	RDE	RYDE Pope St, Ryde
BLM	BALMAIN Eaton St, Balmain	GRY	GREYSTANES Merrylands Rd, Greystanes	SMI	SMITHFIELD O'Connell St, Smithfield
BHW	BATHURST WEST Suttor St, Bathurst	HAR	HARRINGTON STREET Harrington St, Cabramatta	SOL	SOLDIERS POINT Cromarty Rd, Soldiers Point
BEE	BEECROFT Beecroft Rd, Beecroft	HOL	HOLSWORTHY Infantry Pde, Holsworthy	GTS	SOUTH GRAFTON Vere St, South Grafton
BIR	BIRABAN Beckley St, Toronto	HUR	HURSTVILLE Forest Rd, Hurstville	STA	ST ANDREWS Ballantrae Dr, St Andrews
BTS	BLACKTOWN SOUTH Flushcombe Rd, Blacktown	ILL	ILLAROO ROAD Illaroo Rd, Nowra	STJ	ST JOHNS PARK Sandringham St, St Johns Park
BSC	BLAXCELL STREET Blaxcell St, Granville	IBR	IRONBARK RIDGE Ironbark Ridge Rd, Rouse Hill	STU	STURT White Ave, Wagga Wagga
BXE	BLAXLAND EAST Old Bathurst Road, East Blaxland	JEW	JEWELLS Lepton Pde, Jewells	SUM	SUMMER HILL Moonbie St, Summer Hill
BRA	BRADBURY Jacaranda Ave, Bradbury	KIN	KINGSWOOD Second Ave, Kingswood	SUT	SUTHERLAND Eton St, Sutherland
CAM	CAMDEN SOUTH Old Hume Hwy, Camden	LEU	LEUMEAH Burrendong Rd, Leumeah	TAH	TAHMOOR Bronzewing St, Tahmoor
CBN	CARINGBAH NORTH Cawarra Rd, Caringbah	LIT	LITHGOW Mort St, Lithgow	TAM	TAMWORTH Napier St, Tamworth
CAS	CASULA De Meyrick Ave, Casula	MAR	MARYLAND John T Bell Dr, Maryland, Newcastle	TAS	TAMWORTH SOUTH Petra Ave, Tamworth
CES	CESSNOCK WEST Cnr Campbell Street and Wollombi Rd, Cessnock	MAT	MATTHEW PEARCE Astoria Park Rd, Baulkham Hills	TIG	TIGHES HILL Elizabeth St, Tighes Hill
CHW	CHATSWOOD Centennial Ave, Chatswood	MON	MONA VALE Waratah St, Mona Vale	TOO	TOORMINA Cavanba Rd, Toormina
COL	COLYTON Nelson St, Mount Druitt	MOR	MOREE Albert St, Moree	WAI	WAITARA Edgeworth David Ave, Wairoa
COO	COONABARABRAN Newell Hwy, Coonabarabran	NEU	NEUTRAL BAY Ben Boyd Rd, Neutral Bay	WEN	WENTWORTH FALLS Falls Rd, Wentworth Falls
CUD	CUDGEGONG VALLEY Madeira Rd, Mudgee	NEW	NEWBRIDGE HEIGHTS Lewin & Magree Cres, Chipping Norton	WIL	WILKINS Park Rd, Marrickville
DUB	DUBBO WEST East St, Dubbo	NLS	NEW LAMBTON SOUTH St James Rd, New Lambton	WOL	WOLLONGONG Church St, Wollongong
DUR	DURAL Old Northern Rd, Dural	NOR	NORTH ROCKS North Rocks Rd, North Rocks	WOO	WOOLLAHRA Forth St, Woollahra
EAR	EARLWOOD Homer St, Earlwood	PIC	PICNIC POINT Thomas St, Picnic Point	WYO	WYONG Cutler Dr, Wyong

+ Places are reserved for Aboriginal# students.

What are opportunity classes?

Opportunity classes cater for highly achieving Year 5 and Year 6 academically gifted students who may otherwise be without classmates at their own academic and social level. These classes help gifted and talented students to learn by grouping them with other gifted and talented students, teaching them in specialised ways and providing educational materials at the appropriate level.

Parents normally apply when the students are in Year 4. Students who are placed then attend the opportunity class full time in Years 5 and 6 at the primary school with an opportunity class. It is a two-year placement program. In the majority of cases, students who accept a place in an opportunity class will leave their current school to attend the school with an opportunity class. There is no provision to apply for Year 6 placement only.

For further information in other languages see:

http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/languagesupport/documents/selective_oc/shs_oc_facts.php

For an Aboriginal perspective of selective high schools and opportunity classes refer to:

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/aboriginal-ss-oc/index.htm>

What are the stages of the placement process?

1	Parents read the application information	From 26 April 2016
2	Parents register, receive a password, complete and submit the application online	From 26 April to 13 May 2016
3	Any special test provisions are organised	May to July 2016
4	Principals provide school assessment scores	From 17 May to 3 June 2016
5	Parents are sent <i>Test authority</i> letter by mail and email	By 13 July 2016
6	Students sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test for Year 5 entry in 2017	On 27 July 2016
7	Last day to change school choices	By 5 August 2016
8	Any illness/misadventure claims are submitted	By 12 August 2016
9	School selection committees meet	In September 2016
10	Parents receive placement outcome information	In Mid-October 2016
11	Any appeals are submitted to principals	By 21 October 2016
12	Parents accept or decline offers	From Mid-October 2016
13	Students who have accepted offers are withdrawn from reserve lists	At 5 pm Friday 27 January 2017
14	Parents of successful students receive <i>Authority to attend</i> letters to take to the school on the first day of term in 2017	Mid-January 2017

Cut this out and place on your fridge as a reminder.

How do I apply?

Parents apply **online** from the Unit's[^] website at the following link: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement. Read the instructions carefully. You will **register** to receive a password and then log in to **complete the application** and **submit** it. Once you have successfully submitted your application, you will receive an email with a copy of your application containing your child's student number. You must quote this number whenever you make enquiries about your application.

If you find you have made a mistake after you have submitted your application, email the Unit to change any information. Do **not** apply twice for the same student, as the selection committees can consider only one application for each student.

Some email providers such as Gmail will not accept emails with attachments sent from the Unit. If this happens we have to send all information by mail. To avoid this problem add ssu@det.nsw.edu.au to your email contacts list and check your spam or junk folders regularly.

Applying without internet access

If you have no internet access at home you may need to go to a public library where internet access is free and complete the following steps:

- set up a web-based email to use for the application, such as Yahoo, Hotmail or similar
- use that email account to register at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement
- wait to receive an email with a password and a link
- copy and paste the password to log in
- complete the application and, in the Contact information section, click '**Mail only**' for all future correspondence
- submit the application
- check your new email account for the confirmation email and print the file showing all your application details. Check the email spam/junk folder as well as the inbox.

The Unit will then send all communication to your postal address. If you have a disability that prevents you from using a computer, contact the Unit for assistance.

Attachments

You must send copies of the following supporting documents to the Unit if any of these apply to your child:

- information about a disability, medical condition or behavioural disorder such as serious vision impairment, diabetes or autism. If you believe your child needs special test provisions, you will need to provide diagnostic evidence. Further information about this can be found at: http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/oc_testinfo.php
- copy of court orders if they relate to this child's education
- explanation of why the child is older or younger than the usual age range, or not in Year 4 in 2016

[^] In this document, 'Unit' refers to the High Performing Students Unit.

- For interstate/overseas students, full WISC IV IQ report and standardised Reading and mathematics test results are required as part of a *Report of academic merit*.

If your child has an individual IQ report you may also provide it as further evidence of academic merit.

Use the cover sheet you were emailed with your application confirmation when sending attachments to the Unit.

Do not send school reports or certificates or other test results unless asked to do so.

Who can apply?

Students enrolled in government and non-government primary schools can apply.

School year and age

Students are normally in Year 4 at the time of application and are born after 31 December 2005 and before 31 July 2007. These students are aged between 9 years and 5 months and 11 years at the time they start Year 5.

If you apply when your child is out of the age range or in another school year, selection committees will examine the reasons for this. They may ask for more information or for an interview with your child. Selection committees can decide not to accept students who are older and may consider that students doing the test for the second time have gained an unfair advantage from their previous experience with the test.

Selection committees look carefully at younger students in Year 4 to determine whether there are special requirements that the school can provide. The school principal may need to interview much younger students in Year 4.

Students seeking acceleration from Year 3 to Year 5 in 2017 must gain a score which places them in the top half of the cohort of students offered placement in their school of choice.

Brothers and sisters

Parents of students who are offered a place in an opportunity class cannot assume that younger or older siblings can also enrol as an out-of-area enrolment at that school.

Residency status

You must be living in NSW at the beginning of the school year of entry.

Your child must be a citizen of Australia or New Zealand or a permanent resident of Australia to enrol in an opportunity class. If your child is not yet a permanent resident, you can apply and your child can sit the test if you expect permanent residency will be granted before mid-October when initial offers are made. You will not be offered a place in an opportunity class unless permanent residency has been granted.

Overseas or interstate applicants

You can apply while you are temporarily overseas or interstate. If possible, your child should return to NSW to sit the test. If your child cannot sit the test you must send to the Unit a *Report of academic merit* which includes a full scale WISC IV IQ report. See http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/oc_interstateoverseas.php

You must apply online by the due date but if the IQ test results are not available at the time you can send the *Report of academic merit* to the Unit before the test date of **Wednesday 27 July 2016**.

If you are living outside NSW temporarily and your child was in Year 4 in NSW and has school assessment scores, the illness/misadventure process could apply to you. Find out more at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/oc_illness.php

How should I choose an opportunity class?

You can apply for up to two primary schools with opportunity classes. Think about your choices carefully. List only the schools you would like your child to attend and in your preferred order. Offers are made on the basis of your order of choice. If your child qualifies for both schools, he or she will get an offer only to your first choice of school.

Make sure that the schools you choose are suitable for your child and that travel time is reasonable. Check the map on the Unit's website for the location of the primary schools with opportunity classes. The selection committees do not consider distances, travelling times and transport options between the student's home and chosen school.

Be aware that Maryland PS is in the Newcastle area, not in Merrylands.

Change of school choice

You can change your school choices before **Friday 5 August 2016** by writing to the Unit. You cannot usually change choices after that date unless something unexpected and outside your control occurs and you can provide documentary evidence.

You cannot normally transfer between primary schools with opportunity classes.

How are students ranked for opportunity class entry?

All students are ranked and placed in order of academic merit. Academic merit is decided mainly by combining primary school assessment scores in English and mathematics and the results of the Opportunity Class Placement Test. This combination is expressed as a calculated placement score out of 300.

For interstate/overseas applicants, other information is considered such as the *Report of academic merit*.

School assessment scores

The primary school gives English and mathematics school assessment scores to show each student's achievement on the school curriculum in Year 4. The scores are scaled (moderated) according to the performance in the Opportunity Class Placement Test of the candidates from the child's primary school.

This means the school assessment scores can be compared with those of all other applicants in NSW and gives them equal weighting with the English and mathematics test scores.

If students do not have school assessment scores that can be moderated, only their test scores will be used to calculate their final score.

Government school principals provide school assessment scores to the Unit online.

If your child is at a non-government school you will need to give the principal's page to the school and ask the principal to give school assessment scores. The principal's page will be emailed to you as soon as you submit your application online. If non-government principals will not give any of their students school assessment scores, you must write an email or letter of explanation to the Unit. Selection committees will consider whether an exemption is justified.

Find out more about scores at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/oc_markexplain.php

The Opportunity Class Placement Test

The Opportunity Class Placement Test for Year 5 entry in 2017 will be held on **Wednesday 27 July 2016** in test centres, usually at government high schools. The test is held only on this day and only in official test centres in NSW. All test materials are kept secure before, during and after the test and are not released to the public. The test measures ability rather than performance on the curriculum.

What do I need to know about the test?

By **Wednesday 13 July 2016** you will receive a *Test authority* letter that tells you where to take your child to sit the test. You will receive this information by both mail and email (if you have an email address). **Your child must bring the Test authority letter or email to the test centre to be allowed to sit the test.** You will also receive a *Test information bulletin* which explains the test and lists what your child should bring. The bulletin explains how to show the answers to the questions in the test.

If you have not received your *Test authority* letter by **Wednesday 13 July 2016** you must contact the Unit urgently.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their contact details are current throughout the placement process.

Students from the same primary school will usually attend the same test centre.

Apart from receiving an individual letter and email you will be able to see the list of test centres on the Unit's website at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/media/downloads/schoolsweb/learning/k_6assessments/oc/octestcentres.pdf

You must arrange for your child to travel to and from the test but you must not stay on the school grounds during the test unless the Unit asks you to stay for reasons of the student's health or disability.

Test components

There are two parts to the test: Parts 1 and 2. Each part consists of a mix of multiple-choice questions in English, mathematics and general ability. Answers are recorded on computer-marked answer sheets. Students are identified by test booklet numbers only. Students use black pen to show their answers. Students have half an hour to complete each part.

Important: If your child does not follow instructions and marks the answers on the question booklet instead of the answer sheet, the marks may not be counted.

Sample tests

Your child can use the sample tests on the Unit's website to practise answering the questions on the sample answer sheets. These can be found at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/oc_sampletest.php

These samples are provided only to allow students to become familiar with the test format so results obtained may not reflect the score your child will get in the actual test. Selection committees will not make any decisions based on your child's score on sample items.

Special test provisions

If your child has a disability or condition that could affect his or her performance on the test, you can ask for special test provisions when you apply. For example, the Unit can arrange provisions such as enlarged papers, specific seating or taking medications into the test room.

While the Unit will try to assist in unforeseeable emergency situations (e.g. a broken arm just prior to the test) special test provisions for existing conditions cannot be modified or added to after **Wednesday 6 July 2016**.

Students cannot normally be given extra time or a person to write for them and cannot use computers. If you explain your child's special needs in your application, the Unit may contact you or the school to discuss special test provisions. You must provide supporting documents if you are asking for special test provisions. All students with a disability, medical condition or behavioural disorder will be given individual consideration by selection committees.

Test supervisors do not have training in first aid and administration of life-saving medication so parents need to disclose this kind of information and be prepared to wait at the test centre to administer medication if required.

What happens if something goes wrong?

If some problem such as sickness or an accident stops your child from taking the test or from doing his or her best, either in the test or at school, you can make an illness/misadventure claim using the form on the Unit's website. The claim must reach the Unit by **Friday 12 August 2016**. If your child is sick or injured, you must have a medical certificate and a completed *Independent evidence of illness* form, both of which cover the day of the test. It is generally better for the student to sit the test, if possible, and make an illness/misadventure claim afterwards.

If you believe something has occurred to prevent your child from gaining higher school assessment scores, you should provide documentary evidence if possible.

School selection committees discuss the illness/misadventure claims and decide whether or not to accept them. You cannot make an appeal later claiming illness. Further information is available at: http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/oc_illness.php

How are decisions made?

All selection committees make their placement decisions using the same selection criteria, but each school selection committee makes its decisions independently. Each committee includes the principal of the school with

an opportunity class and a district guidance officer or school counsellor. The committee can also include other Departmental staff, such as Directors, Public Schools NSW. Selection committees:

- place applicants for their school in order of their profile scores
- look at the likely impact of disability and illness/misadventure claims
- decide whether to accept students outside the usual age range or school Year
- give consideration to students who are Aboriginal or who have been educated in English for less than 48 months
- look at other evidence of academic merit, if necessary
- list students for offers and reserve places according to the number of vacancies at the school
- consider any other relevant factors brought to their attention.

How do I find out the outcome?

In mid-October you will be sent your child's placement outcome, by email if you have provided a valid email address or by mail. Your child may be:

- offered a place for one school choice and/or
- placed on a reserve list for one or both school choices
- unsuccessful for one or both choices.

If your child is made an offer to the school you selected as your first choice and also has a score high enough to be offered placement at your second choice school, that second choice school will be shown as 'not applicable'.

If you receive an offer or a place on a reserve list, you will be sent an *Outcome information bulletin* explaining what each type of outcome means and what you need to do.

In most cases you will receive your child's calculated placement score out of 300.

There is no minimum fixed score required for entry to individual schools as students are placed in rank order of their placement scores to fill the available vacancies.

The Unit sends reports to public primary schools listing the outcome for all their students who applied. Non-government school principals can request information if the non-government school provided school assessment scores.

Responding to offers

If you receive an offer you must fill out the response form that you are sent with your outcome letter or email and return it by the date shown on the form. This is usually 14 days later. If you get an offer by phone you might have less than 24 hours to decide whether or not to accept. If you do not respond by the due date the Unit may assume you do not want the offer. If you accept an offer and then change your mind and want to decline it, please write to the Unit immediately so that the place can be offered to another student.

If you will be away at the time offers are made, you can advise the Unit in writing if you wish to accept any offer in advance or if you want to change contact details.

The Unit will confirm your response to an offer within 21

days. If you have not received an acknowledgement 21 days after you sent your response, please contact the Unit.

Being on a reserve list only

If your child is on a reserve list only, you will be offered a place if his or her position on a list is reached. The Unit continues to make these offers, if vacancies occur, throughout Years 5 and 6, provided that students have not already enrolled in another opportunity class.

Further offers

If your child has been offered a place at your second choice school and is also on a reserve list for your first choice school, a further offer will be sent if his or her reserve position is reached. You must accept or decline the new offer. If you accept the further offer, the Unit will consider the original offer declined. The Unit will make an offer to your first choice school even if you declined an offer to your second choice school.

If you accept an offer and are also on a reserve list, you can remain on that reserve list until 5 pm **27 January 2017**. At that time you must give up either the reserve place or the offer. After this time, students who have accepted an offer will be removed automatically from all reserve lists.

Can I find out more about my child's scores?

You can request more information about your child's scores using the online *Request for scores* form. This will show you the scores your child gained on the Opportunity Class Placement Test and the school assessment scores. You cannot use these scores to calculate the profile score. Details of scores will not be provided over the phone. Find out more about scores at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/oc_markexplain.php

How do I appeal?

You may appeal against the decision of the selection committee if you know something specific happened to prevent your child from gaining higher school assessment scores or test scores (but not both) which might not have been considered by the selection committee. All appeals must be supported by relevant documentary evidence.

You must use the official appeal form that will be available on the Unit's website. Complete the parent section of your form and hand the appeal to the principal of your child's school no later than **Friday 21 October 2016**. The principal will pass it on to the Unit by **Friday 28 October 2016**. Late appeals will not be accepted.

Anything that should have been dealt with or was dealt with by the selection committee at the time of the illness/misadventure process will not be considered valid grounds for appeal. Further details about grounds for appeal can be found at: http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/oc_appeals.php

Can my offer be taken away?

If the Unit cannot contact you to make an offer or find out your response after trying three times, the offer will no longer apply.

If your child does not satisfy all requirements, such as

permanent residency, or does not attend the school on the first day without a satisfactory explanation, the offer will be withdrawn. Offers or enrolments will be terminated if the placement was made on the basis of false or misleading information.

What do I need to do to enrol?

If you have accepted an offer you will receive an *Authority to attend* letter in January 2017. Your child must take this letter to the school on the first day of the school year as part of the enrolment process. You may also need to provide original documentation, such as proof of residency, and meet all other NSW Department of Education enrolment conditions. There are no extra fees for attending a school with an opportunity class. Schools may ask for materials and voluntary contributions as do other government schools.

If you need to delay your starting date beyond the first day of the school year you must discuss it with the principal of the school with an opportunity class (or with the Unit if it is in the school holidays) before enrolling your child. You cannot delay enrolment beyond **Friday 24 February 2017**.

Who can make enquiries or decisions about my child?

The Unit corresponds with the parents or carers that you list on the application. If you wish to let other people discuss your child's application with the Unit, you can list them as another concerned adult or as a special contact. If you want someone to make decisions on your behalf while you are away or uncontactable, you must email the Unit giving their details and authorising them to act on your behalf.

The Unit will provide information about an application to any parent or interested person who is legally entitled to it, regardless of requests for confidentiality. The Unit will not correspond with students or speak to them on the telephone.

Frequently asked questions

1. Must I list two schools?

You should list only those schools you are prepared to accept. You may list one or two choices. Consider your choices carefully.

2. Does the order in which I list my choices matter?

Yes. If your child qualifies for both of your choices, you will be offered a place only at the first choice school. However, if your child qualifies for only one of the two choices, you will be offered that place regardless of whether it was your first or second choice.

3. What provision is made for students from non-government schools?

The selection procedures are the same for all students. The only difference is that the Unit advises government school principals about the students from their school who have applied. Parents of students from non-government schools must ask their principals to complete the principal's page (emailed with their application confirmation) and then must ensure it is returned to the Unit. In circumstances where this is not possible you should submit a letter of explanation to the Unit.

4. How is the profile score derived if my child is the only one applying from his or her school?

A student who does not have school assessment scores, or who is the only candidate from his/her school, will be considered on test scores only.

5. Will my child be disadvantaged if the school cannot provide school assessment scores?

Over the entire candidature, about half of the profile scores are increased by the moderated school assessment scores while the other half are decreased. Where students are not provided with school assessment scores it is not possible to guess whether or not having school assessment scores would have increased their profile score. Students without school assessment scores who are considered exempt will be considered on their test scores only.

6. What can I do to prepare my child for the Opportunity Class Placement Test?

Encourage your child to use the sample tests on the Unit's website to practise answering the questions on the sample answer sheet. Students will also be given practice questions before the test begins. See sample tests at: <http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/learning/k-6assessments/oc-sampletest.php>

The results of practice items do not mean that your child will score the same in the test. Selection committees and appeals panels will not make any decision based on your child's score on practice test items.

The Department of Education does not endorse coaching for the Opportunity Class Placement Test.

7. What happens if my child gets sick on the day of the test?

You should immediately access the *Illness/misadventure* form from the Unit's website. You should complete the form, whether or not the student attempted the test, attach a medical certificate which covers the day of the test and the *Independent evidence of illness*, and return the completed form to the Unit by **Friday 12 August 2016**. The selection committee will then consider the student's illness/misadventure claim as part of the selection process. Remember, it is generally better to attempt the test than to miss it. You will not be able to appeal on the grounds of illness after the placement outcome is known.

8. Can I change my choice of schools after submitting the application?

Parents are advised to carefully consider their choices when submitting the application. Before **Friday 5 August 2016**, when selection committee lists are created, parents can submit a change of choice without explanation. After this date it is much more difficult. Changes are subject to approval and must be accompanied by documentary evidence of the reason for the change at this stage. In some cases, changes of choice may need to be submitted as an appeal.

9. If my placement outcome information indicates that my child is unsuccessful, can his or her name be placed on a reserve list?

No. Three terms are used in the placement outcome information: 'offer', 'reserve list' and 'unsuccessful'. Selection committees decide the students who will receive offers and those who will be placed on reserve lists. These students

have higher scores than those who are unsuccessful. Students placed on a reserve list will be given a number indicating their position on the reserve list. Progress on the reserve list varies from year to year. When offers begin to be made from the reserve list, the progress of each school's reserve list is available on the website shown on the front of this document.

10. What does the Opportunity Class Placement Test tell me about my child's performance?

The Opportunity Class Placement Test measures ability, while school assessment scores show each student's achievement on the school curriculum. The test helps to identify students for entry into opportunity classes on the basis of academic merit. It is not meant to be a diagnostic test to identify the student's strengths and weaknesses in English and mathematics. The student's primary school is most appropriate to advise you on your child's performance in these areas.

11. If my child was unsuccessful for opportunity class placement, does it mean he or she will be unsuccessful for selective high school entry?

Not necessarily. The entry requirements for opportunity classes and selective high school placement can vary quite significantly. Moreover, there is scope for improvement in the ability and performance of students over the time since they applied for opportunity class placement. Conversely, not all students from opportunity classes are successful for selective high school entry. There are more than twice as many Year 7 places in selective high schools as there are Year 5 places in opportunity classes.

12. If I receive an offer to my second choice as well as being on the reserve list for my first choice, do I have to give up the offer to stay on the reserve list?

You can accept an offer to your second choice school while remaining on the reserve list for your first choice school until 5pm on **Friday 27 January 2017**. After that time no further offers will be made to students who have already accepted placement in an opportunity class.

13. What should I do if my child does not get into an opportunity class?

Opportunity classes are only one of the initiatives provided by the Department of Education to meet the needs of gifted and talented students. As there is one place for approximately every six people applying, not all students can be placed. Be supportive and explain to your child that he or she can be very successful at a comprehensive primary school.

14. What score does a student have to gain to be successful for opportunity class placement?

There is no predetermined score that a student has to achieve to receive an offer of opportunity class placement. The minimum entry score for each school with an opportunity class depends on the scores achieved by the candidates applying for that school and can vary from school to school and from year to year. The greater the demand for the school the higher the entry score is likely to be.

15. How can I find out my child's score?

Most applicants will receive their child's profile score out of 300 at the bottom of their placement outcome information in October 2016. To receive further details of your child's scores in the opportunity class placement process, after you have received your placement outcome information, please submit an online *Request for scores* form which is available from the Unit's website. The only further details available are raw school assessment and test scores. No other score details can be provided.

16. How does the reserve list work?

If the student is on a reserve list for an opportunity class the number on the placement outcome information shows the student's position on the list. The progress of the reserve list depends on whether students accept or decline an offer and whether other students receive further offers to schools of higher choice. If a student's position is reached on the reserve list, the Unit will contact parents with an offer. From early November 2016 until 27 January 2017 you can track the progress of the reserve lists on the website. The page is updated regularly.

Where can I get further information?

The Unit updates information about opportunity class placement procedures regularly on the Unit's website at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement

The Unit's telephone system also has current information about the placement process. If you need to, contact the Unit by email ssu@det.nsw.edu.au or phone 1300 880 367 or fax (02) 9266 8435.

You will need to give the student number and other identifying information when talking about a particular student. You should use the original email address used in the application for email enquiries.

Ask your child's teacher if you want advice about whether or not your child might benefit from attending an opportunity class.

For regular updates on the placement process join Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Opportunityclassplacement>

