



# St Marys North Public School

A COMMUNITY WITH EXPECTATIONS OF ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Dear Parents/Carers,

Regular attendance is one of the most important factors that contributes to your child's success at school. The benefits of attending school regularly support your child with both their academic progress, as well as developing their social skills and emotional intelligence.

Our school has an attendance target that is set by the Department of Education, where all children need to attend school more than 90% of the time. As a school, we are determined to achieve this target and we need your support. This year we are offering incentives to both students and families.

These include:

Student Incentives	Parent/Carer Incentives
<p><u>Each week:</u> On Mondays and Fridays at 9am, one ticket will be drawn from each class to receive a canteen voucher.</p> <p><u>Each term:</u> By the end of each term, if your child has achieved a percentage of 90% or more, they will be invited to participate in an end of term reward provided by the school.</p> <p><u>Each term:</u> If your child achieves 100% attendance for the term, they will be invited to a very special morning tea with Mrs Parrello.</p>	<p><u>Each semester:</u> If your child maintains a percentage of 90% or more, you will receive a reward for each semester:</p> <p><u>Semester 1-</u> \$20 of school credit to be used towards a school excursion or uniforms.</p> <p><u>Semester 2-</u> A school t-shirt and hat.</p> <p>These rewards apply to each child in your family that achieves the target.</p>

This term's reward will be a very exciting performance (incursion). The monitoring for this award will start on Tuesday 9 February. If your child is absent for 4 days this term, their percentage will drop below 90%.

A reminder that all absences require an explanation. Along with the regular methods that you can use to explain absences, we have now introduced our SMS texting system. Please ensure your mobile phone number is always kept current on our school system, so that you can benefit from using this option. Other methods for explaining absences still include a letter, a phone call, a verbal explanation to a staff member and the SkoolBag app.

Please remember that all absences must be explained within 7 days of an absence.



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## Be on time...at 9!

It is also important that your child arrives on time each day at 9am, as they miss valuable learning opportunities when they are late. The disruption of students arriving late also interrupts the lesson for the teacher and other students. Partial absences (late arrivals or early departures) must be recorded and explained at the front office.

## What if I can't get my child to go to school?

We are here to help! Please contact the school if you have any concerns regarding your child's attendance. Student attendance is monitored weekly by the school, and procedures are in place to work with you to resolve attendance issues. Further action may be taken by the Home School Liaison Team if your child becomes an ongoing attendance concern.

## Attendance Meetings

Parents/carers of students with poor attendance from 2020, will be required to attend a meeting early in Term 1 to commit to improving your child's attendance in 2021. A separate note will be sent home informing you of a meeting, if required.

Attached to this note is some further information regarding attendance provided by the Department of Education and a page of absentee notices for your use.

Yours sincerely,

Lee-Anne Bishop  
Deputy Principal  
8 February 2021

Lisa Parrello  
Principal