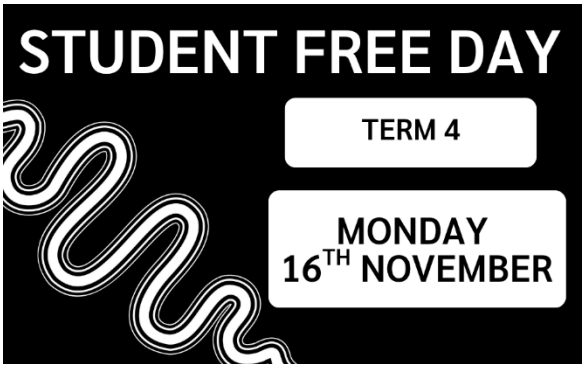
Meningie Area School News

Friday 18th September 2026



TERM 3 – DIARY DATES

SEPTEMBER

Mon 21st	Choir - Murray Bridge
Wed 23rd	Whole School Assembly
Fri 25th	Last day of Term Early Dismissal 2.05pm Buses depart 2.15pm

TERM 4

OCTOBER

Mon 12th	1st Day of Term 4
Wed 21st	Choir – Murray Bridge Town Hall
Tues 27th & Wed 28th	Year 7 Aquatics

NOVEMBER

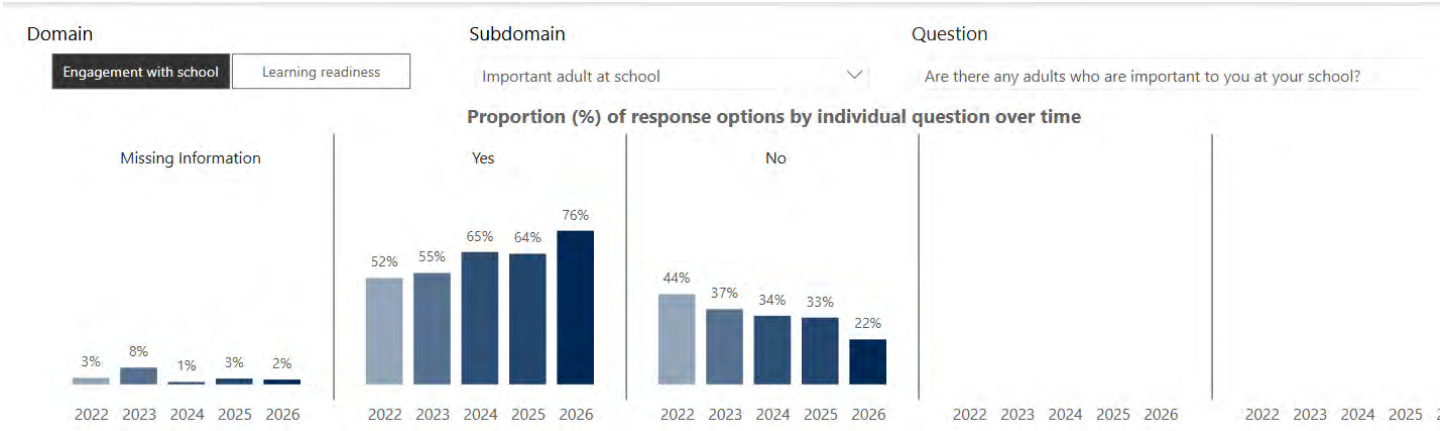
Tues 3rd	Partnership SRC – AFL Max Excursion
Thurs 5th	Children's University Graduation
Fri 6th	Year 12 Farewell
Thurs 12th	Beginner Band @ Murray Bridge
Mon 16th	**Student Free Day**

DECEMBER

Tues 1st	Achieving our Way Celebration
Wed 9th	Swimming Carnival
Fri 11th	SRC BBQ & Colour Run Last day of 2026 Early Dismissal 2.05pm Buses depart 2.15pm

We began training staff in the Berry Street Education Model [Berry Street Education Model – Learning and Resources | Berry Street] in 2022 and have embedded the practices of "consistent, predictable routines", lesson structures, check in's, identifying "zones" students may be in and explicitly guiding students in regulation. The BSEM is founded on "unconditional positive regard" where we separate student from the behaviour and support restorative processes. Each year, in Term 2 students complete the "Wellbeing and Engagement" survey. This survey provides ongoing data for our progress and where we need to continue to work. I wanted to share a few results with our school community:

We can see a trend of students having "an important adult at school" increasing over time.



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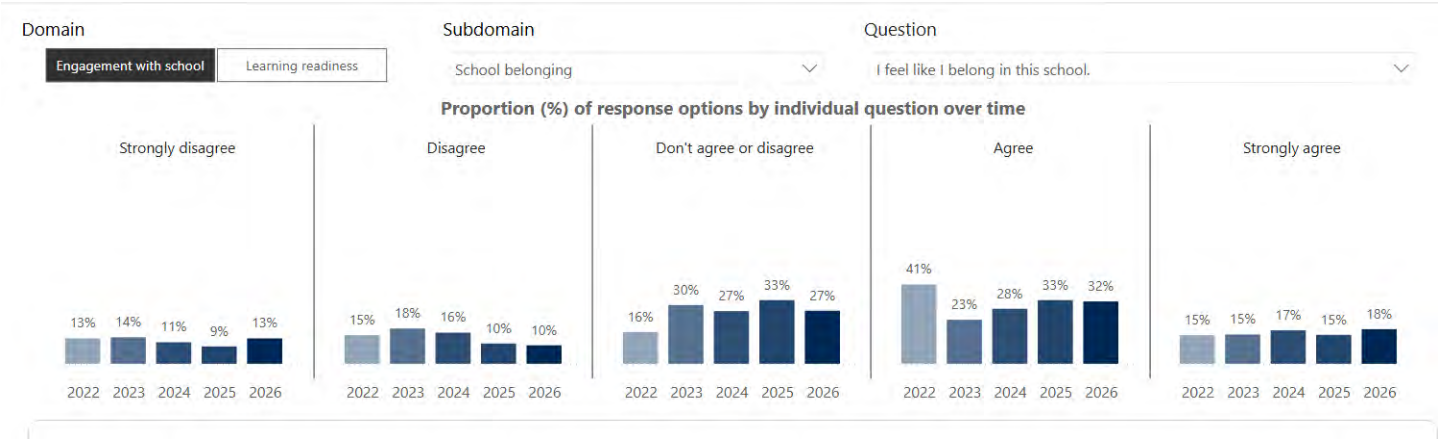
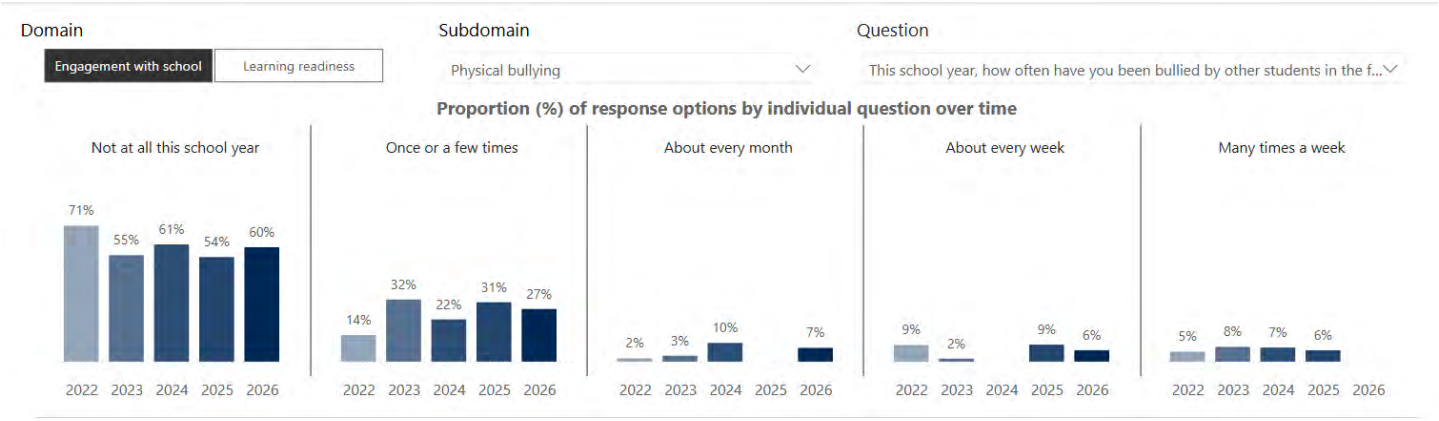
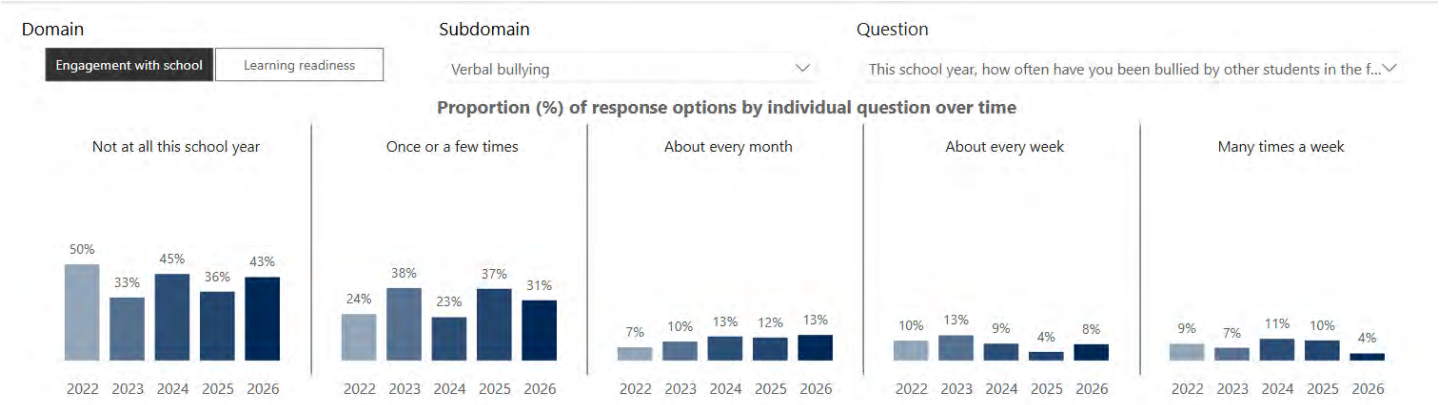
School belonging – half our students feel a sense of belonging but half our students have neutral or negative responses – this is an area to focus on.



Anti-Bullying is on the national agenda, and Abbey Gibbs has been working with our SRC to develop the DfE policy for our context. There are some positive results: physical bullying – “many times a week” decreased to 0 in 2026, verbal and social also decreased.





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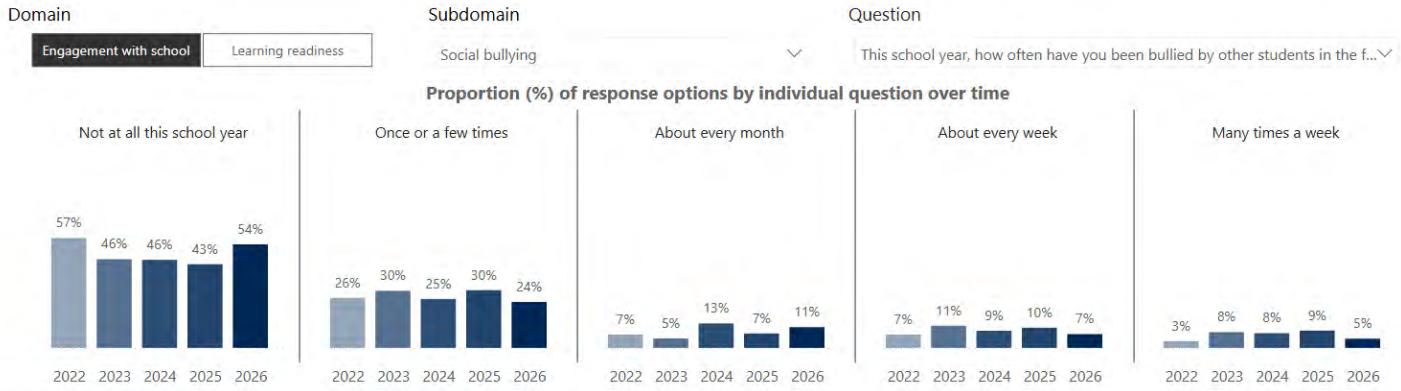
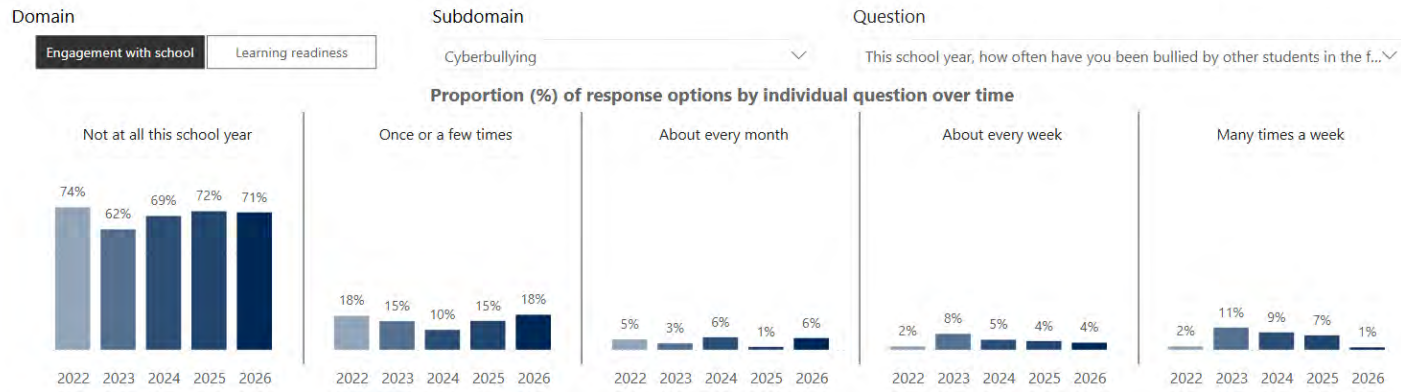


Interestingly cyber bullying "many times a week" decreased to 1%, is this related to the social media ban?



We look forward to finalising the Anti-Bullying policy this year and sharing the policy with students and our school community in 2027. We are committed to reducing all forms of bullying and helping all our students to feel like they belong at Meningie Area School and are strongly connected to the school community.

Canberra 2027!

We are excited to announce we have confirmed our booking for the 2027 Canberra tour. Students from Year 7-12 are invited to join the camp. The 2024 camp was a huge success, and staff are looking forward to sharing this camp with students.

Dates:
Sunday 20 June – Friday 25 June 2027

The camp will be significantly subsidised by both government grants and Meningie Area School to ensure it is affordable for all families. We will provide details in early 2027 and offer payment options.

Fiona Haselgrove, Principal

2027 Planning

If your child(ren) will not be returning to Meningie Area School in 2027, please advise us:

- R-6 please advise Jessica Hankin Jessica.Hankin45@schools.sa.edu.au
- 7-11 please advise Jacqui Street Jacqui.Street482@schools.sa.edu.au

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Welcome Mr Casey!

Hello, my name is Casey, and I am very excited to be joining the team at Meningie Area School in 2027. I am currently completing the final semester of my Master of Teaching (Primary) at Flinders University after previously working in accounting and finance. This included living in the Snowy Mountains for two years, where I worked closely with farmers and other rural clients. Through my teaching placements and work in OSHC, I have enjoyed working with students from Reception to Year 6 and creating inclusive, supportive learning environments where students feel confident, engaged and able to succeed. I am looking forward to building on these experiences as I work across primary and secondary year levels.

Outside of school, I enjoy keeping fit, reading, art and spending time with my partner, family and friends.

I was drawn to Meningie Area School by its welcoming, close-knit community and strong focus on relationships, wellbeing and student growth. I am particularly looking forward to getting to know the students and families, supporting learners across the middle years and becoming involved in school life. I can't wait to begin this new chapter and meet everyone next year!

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS WANTED – MENINGIE AREA SCHOOL

Could you help keep our students moving?

Meningie Area School is seeking expressions of interest from parents, local residents and community members who may be interested in becoming a Department for Education School Bus Driver.

We're looking to strengthen our local pool of qualified drivers so that our school bus services can continue to operate reliably when regular drivers are unavailable due to leave, illness or other circumstances.

Having additional qualified drivers available at Meningie Area School could also provide the school with greater flexibility to support excursions, camps and other approved school activities.

What does being a school bus driver involve?

School Bus Drivers play an important role in our school community and are responsible for:

- Safely transporting students to and from school
- Following approved school bus routes
- Ensuring students enter, travel on and exit the bus safely
- Completing required pre-journey safety checks
- Conducting a full check of the bus at the end of every journey
- Helping maintain a clean and safe school bus
- Providing a reliable service to students and families in our local community

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Opportunities may be suitable for someone interested in regular school bus driving or providing backup and relief coverage when required.

Don't have a heavy vehicle licence or accreditation?
You can still express your interest!
The Department for Education may be able to provide financial assistance towards obtaining the qualifications required to become a school bus driver, subject to the relevant approvals.
This may include assistance towards:
Obtaining the required Heavy Vehicle Driver's Licence

- Large Passenger Vehicle Driver Accreditation
- Required medical assessment and screening costs

Where possible, driver training may also be able to be arranged locally using a departmental yellow school bus, reducing the need to travel elsewhere to complete practical training.

What qualifications would I need?
A Department for Education School Bus Driver is generally required to hold:

- Minimum MR Driver's Licence
- Large Passenger Vehicle Driver Accreditation
- Working with Children Check
- Required police screening

If you don't currently have these qualifications, don't let that stop you from getting in touch. We can discuss the requirements and what assistance may be available to help you become qualified.

Why become a school bus driver?
It's an opportunity to:

- Make a difference to students and families in your local community
- Work around school hours and school terms
- Become part of Meningie Area School's local driver network
- Provide valuable backup when another driver is unavailable
- Potentially assist the school with excursions, camps and other approved activities

Interested in finding out more?
At this stage, we're looking to hear from people who may be interested in becoming a school bus driver – there is no obligation in simply getting in touch.

To express your interest, please contact:
Meningie Area School
Catherine.burnett557@schools.sa.edu.au
For further information about becoming a Department for Education School Bus Driver, contact: 8575 1106

Mathew Stagg,
Bus Driver Liaison Officer, Department for Education
Transport Services Mathew.stagg@sa.gov.au 8226 1716

Your interest could help us build a stronger local driver network and keep Meningie Area School students moving safely.

Year 1/2 Captain's Cottage Museum

On Tuesday 8 September, our Year 1/2 students enjoyed an exciting excursion to Captain's Cottage Museum in Murray Bridge as part of our Humanities and Social Sciences learning about history – past and present.

Students had the opportunity to explore the museum and discover what life was like in the past. They investigated how daily life, technology, work and communities have changed over time, while also considering some of the things that have stayed the same. The visit provided a wonderful opportunity for students to ask questions, make observations and connect their classroom learning with real objects, stories and places from the past.

After our visit to Captain's Cottage Museum, we travelled to Sturt Reserve Children's Playground, where students enjoyed lunch and some time to play before returning to Meningie Area School.

It was a fantastic day of hands-on learning, exploring and discovering history beyond the classroom. A big thank you to the staff at Captain's Cottage Museum for helping bring our learning about the past to life!

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Our amazing Year 5 and 6 choir students took to the stage tonight at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre as part of the Festival of Music!
We are incredibly proud of you all — you enjoyed every moment, met lots of other students and had an AMAZING and memorable night!

We look forward to the Murray Mallee Music Event next term in Murray Bridge.

Many thanks to Kellie Martin and Bec Henke for your support in choir this year. An especially BIG thank you to Bec who was on the stage with the choir !!

Anne Wright

Year 7/8 HPE – Exploring the Coorong

Our Year 7/8 students had a fantastic day exploring the beautiful Coorong as part of Health and Physical Education. We were fortunate to enjoy a glorious day while learning about self-management, risk and safety in the natural environment. Students explored off-track areas alongside the Coorong, navigating soft sand, slippery and loose rocks and boggy sections. It was a great opportunity for students to challenge themselves, make safe decisions and look out for one another.
It was a great day of learning, exploring and enjoying the Coorong together.

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SACE English

As a follow-up of our book and movie study, students in the SACE English class have been writing speeches relating to capturing a sense of people, themes or concept, and then communicating this idea through written, visual and oral responses. Below are some short excerpts from our longer pieces of work.

Chris: Take Control Today

Entrepreneur Jim Rohn famously said: "We must all suffer one of two pains: the pain of discipline or the pain of regret. Difference is discipline weighs ounces while regret weighs tons."

Which pain will you choose?

My challenge to you today is simple: Do not leave this room without defining your one non-negotiable hour for tomorrow. Lock it in your calendar. Protect it fiercely. Build the discipline today so you can own your success tomorrow. Take back your time, and take back your life. Thank you.

Millie: Summarising What Believing In Yourself Means

Believing in yourself is the result of having confidence in your abilities, strengths and encouraging yourself to overcome challenges. It doesn't mean believing everything will be easy but it's the mindset to keep trying even when things become difficult.

When we develop self-belief; we set goals, take every opportunity and learn from mistakes. After all, if you don't believe in yourself or put in the hard work too, how can you expect to achieve your dreams? We are our biggest supporters and often our self-doubt is what stands between us and our dreams, so I challenge you to believe in yourself.

Leyah: AI in Art - When you type up a prompt in Generative AI for picture models, it will scrape the internet for images that have designs that you are looking for. It will take bits and pieces from art, and puzzle together an image that you may like or choose to regenerate.

This does save time and effort in drawing the image, but it loses its thought, soul, and effort, stripping away anything that makes it 'art'. This is not to mention that it's classed as stealing since it's taking snippets of other people's property without permission- it's like stealing something from a shop and justifying it by saying it was on display. It just can't be justified.

Shayla:- The Power of Teamwork: Building Success Through Collaboration, Respect, and teamwork

Collaboration within a team is the secret to unlocking greatness. When every member comes together sharing ideas, supporting each other, and staying united the team becomes unstoppable.

Through collaboration and perseverance, we achieve remarkable things, demonstrating that our combined strength is always greater than individual talent. By embracing teamwork, we build winning teams, strong friendships, and memories that last a lifetime. As basketball legend Michael Jordan once said, *"Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships."*

Luke: Rising above adversity does not mean avoiding hardship.

It means refusing to let hardship decide who you become.

The Happiest Refugee and The Shawshank Redemption present different experiences, but both value hope, resilience and determination. Anh Do and Andy Dufresne demonstrate that difficult circumstances can be overcome when people continue to believe in a better future and take steps toward it.

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Greta: Shawshank redemption – Graphic Design

I chose the part where he was rejoicing when he finally made his way out of the tunnel. He had dug the tunnel out of the wall that was covered up with the poster… I chose the quote where he said that, "fear can hold you prisoner, hope can set you free". I thought that it was an amazing quote because it's telling you not to be afraid to try new things and keep going… Fear is something most people have and some people don't do the things they really want to do because they fear of what's going to happen… but when believing in hope and yourself, you'll achieve so many things.

Meningie Area School

ATTENDANCE EVERY DAY COUNTS!

DID YOU KNOW?

1 day absent each fortnight = 20 days each year OR 4 weeks of learning missed.

1 day absent each week = 40 days each year OR 8 weeks of learning missed, nearly 1 term!

2 days absent each week = 80 days each year OR 16 weeks of learning missed, nearly 1 semester!

WHY REGULAR ATTENDANCE MATTERS

When children attend school regularly, they are more likely to:

- keep up with learning
- feel confident in class
- build strong friendships
- stay connected to school
- develop positive routines

FREQUENT ABSENCE CAN AFFECT

- learning progress
- participation in class
- friendships and social connection
- confidence and wellbeing
- sense of belonging at school

HOW CAN FAMILIES HELP?

Families can support strong attendance by:

- making school attendance a priority
- setting regular bedtime and morning routines
- booking appointments outside school hours where possible
- encouraging children to attend unless they are unwell
- talking positively about school
- contacting the school if support is needed

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Sometimes absence is unavoidable. If your child is unwell, they should stay home and recover.

If attendance is becoming difficult for any reason, please contact the school.

Working together helps children stay connected, engaged and successful.

Gabrielle: Believing in Yourself

Ultimately, believing in yourself does not mean knowing that you will succeed. It means having the courage to try, the resilience to learn from failure, and the determination to keep moving forward.

So the next time you think you are not good enough, remember: you don't have to be certain that you will succeed. You just have to believe that you are capable of trying.

WINNER!!

Jess Hankin won a Lenovo Tablet at the SAASLA Conference

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School Holidays Activities Ideas

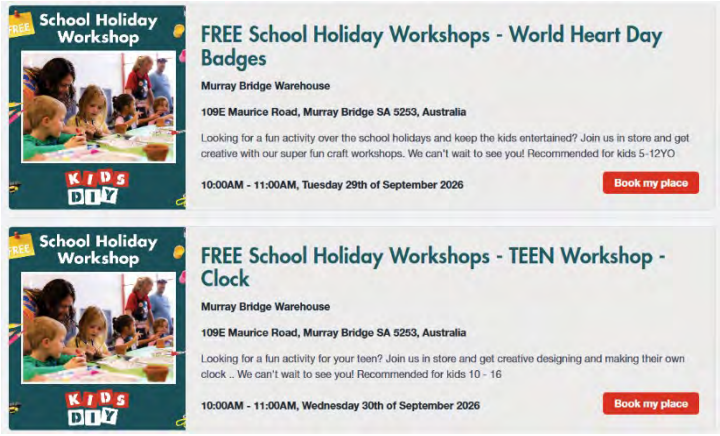
play&go ADELAIDE

[Adelaide School Holiday Guide | Top Things to do with Kids During the Holidays - Play & Go Adelaide]

THE STATION Live Music

The Station in Murray Bridge has a variety of free activities for teens! Find out more here

Bunnings in Murray Bridge has a variety of free school holiday activities Click Here



Growing for Gold!

[Growing for Gold | Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing]

ADELAIDE 36ERS SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

[| Holiday Clinics | Adelaide 36ers]

Walking SA

[Find a free walk here]

[Holiday Sports Clinics | Marion Leisure & Fitness Centre]

[Visit Victor Harbour] and walk around Granite Island or go Whale Spotting

Free Garden visits

[Adelaide Himeji Garden | City of Adelaide]

[Pangarinda Botanic Garden | Coorong District Council]

[Wittunga Botanic Garden | Botanic Gardens]

[Visit Adelaide Hills I Gardens | Visit Adelaide Hills]

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