## 2017- SCHOOL EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term 1 2017</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 31/1/17-31/3/17</strong> 9wk term 2wk sch holidays</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prep Try Out Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 7/2</strong></td>
<td>9 – 11.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prep Parent Information Night</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 7/2</strong></td>
<td>7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Class 1 Parent Information Night</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday 8/2</strong></td>
<td>7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EC Bracks Bridge Picnic All MS &amp; RM families</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thursday 9/2</strong></td>
<td>details to be advised</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Steiner Book Stall (Immortal Books)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday 10/2</strong></td>
<td>9am – 3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Swimming Prep – 8</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday 10/2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>School Bracks Bridge After school picnic/BBQ</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday 10/2</strong></td>
<td>3.30pm onwards</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Steiner Q&amp;A evening</strong></td>
<td><strong>Monday 13/2</strong></td>
<td>Melliodora Hall 7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Class 2 Parent Information Night</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 14/2</strong></td>
<td>7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RM Bindaree Visit</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thursday 16/2</strong></td>
<td>10.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Swimming Prep – 8</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday 17/2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SEYMOUR FARMING EXPO</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Governance Meeting</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mon 20/2</strong></td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Morning Star Parent Information Night</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 21/2</strong></td>
<td>7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Class 3 Parent Information Night</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday 22/2</strong></td>
<td>7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Swim Carnival</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday 24/2</strong></td>
<td>Time to be advised</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Indigenous Workshops for students</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mon 27/2</strong></td>
<td>throughout the day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Class 4 Parent Information Night</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 28/2</strong></td>
<td>7pm</td>
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<td><strong>Class 3 Strings Information night</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday 1/3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RM Bindaree Visit</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thursday 2/3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Class 5 Parent Information Night</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday 8/3</strong></td>
<td>7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LABOUR DAY – PUBLIC HOLIDAY</strong></td>
<td><strong>M0N 13/3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Class 6 Parent Information Night</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 14/3</strong></td>
<td>7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Music students perform at Merrijig Fun Day</strong></td>
<td><strong>Saturday 18th</strong></td>
<td>March details to be advised</td>
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<td><strong>Class 6 Camp – McCormacks Horseriding</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tuesday 21- to Thursday 23/3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Class 7&amp;8 Parent Information Night</strong></td>
<td><strong>Wednesday 22/3</strong></td>
<td>7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Harvest Dance – with The Ants</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday 24/3</strong></td>
<td>ALL WELCOME further details to come</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>RM Bindaree Visit</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thursday 30/3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Class 3 Play – HIAWATHA</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thursday 30/3</strong></td>
<td>Matinee and Evening Performance</td>
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<td><strong>END OF TERM 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Friday 31/3</strong></td>
<td>EARLY DEPARTURE 2.20pm</td>
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The 2017 school year opened last week with a short assembly in the Melliodora Hall. There was a simple ceremony welcoming Class 1’s to the “big school”, Class 7 presented their Class 1 buddies with the gift of a single flower acknowledging their step up in the school as well as acknowledging that the Class 7s have now become Secondary School students, and with this advancement comes responsibility.

Every child has the right to feel safe and valued at school. The day before the students started, all staff attended a professional development day at the school. The day was on Restorative Practices and was facilitated by Dave Vinegrad from Behaviour Matters. The aim of the day was to look at the restorative philosophy and processes and the implications for our own practice and for the school. Restorative practices focus on relationships and repairing them when damage has been done to them. Over the years most schools have tended towards a punitive form of discipline; if a rule is broken punishment must be inflicted as retribution for the crime. In restorative practices, a conversation is held with the “Wrong Doer” to fix the problem and restore the damaged relationship. The victim is often involved. Through negotiation and by accepting accountability a solution is agreed upon by all parties affected by the misdoing. It is a method that endeavours to transform the negative emotions that drive conflict into positive emotions that will promote cooperation. Dave also talked about how brain function is impaired by stress particularly in young children. A child does not learn to regulate emotions when living in a state of constant stress. The overarching principle of Restorative Practices is that people are more engaged and satisfied, are more cooperative and productive, and more likely to make positive changes in their behaviour when those in positions of authority do things with them rather than to them or for them – getting relationships right in the beginning is critical to maximising student outcomes. He spoke about the conversations an adult may have when a school value has been challenged or when damage has been inflicted upon the community – whether it is the Class, the school or the family. The conversation follows the script – and adapted depending on the stage of development of the child:

Understand -Teach -Fix

What happened?
What were you thinking/feeling?
Who has been affected?
What have you thought about since?
How can you make things right?

Dave will return in June and will run a workshop for parents, more details will follow.

The school year has started very smoothly with all classes settling quickly into routines and adapting to changes after the long holidays. There have been many disturbing events, particularly the horrendous incident in Melbourne CBD. Young children need to know the world is a beautiful place. We urge that children are not exposed to news reporting on screen or radio or adult conversations about tragic world events. Unguarded adult conversations around children can promote misunderstanding and produce anxiety. One filtering out mantra I have heard: before you say anything in front of your child (or perhaps anyone) ask these 3 questions:

Is it true?
Is it kind?
Is it necessary?

Please feel free to make a time to discuss anything about the school with me; if it relates to your child, speak to your class teacher first.

Fran Cummins
Principal
**CHANGE TO NUT POLICY**

We have a child in the school who has a severe allergy (Anaphylaxis) to nuts. The main allergen is peanuts. Over the past number of years, we have asked that no nuts are to be brought to school or used at school events. We are altering this policy slightly and allowing only **Almonds (and almond products)** to be included in lunchboxes and at events. This has come about because testing has shown almonds are not an allergen to the child. However, we still ask that no mixed nuts, commercial muesli bars or any other nuts be included in lunches or food at school events. Muesli bars often contain peanuts as a cheap filler and their high sugar content makes their nutritional value questionable. Please clearly label ingredients of any food sent to school events. Thank you for your cooperation and support in this matter. We strongly discourage children sharing food from their lunchboxes to reduce risk of contamination.

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**MORNING STAR and ROSA MUNDI GROUPS**

**ALL PLAYGROUP, KINDERGARTEN AND PREP FAMILIES** Family picnic day – Thursday 9th February. Preschool staff will send out a notice regarding details.

**CLASS ASSEMBLY PERFORMANCE**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 6/2/17</td>
<td>Class 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 20/2/17</td>
<td>Class 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 6/3/17</td>
<td>Class 2</td>
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<td>Monday 20/3/17</td>
<td>Class 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 13/2/17</td>
<td>Class 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 27/2/17</td>
<td>Class 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 14/3/17</td>
<td>Class 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 27/3/17</td>
<td>Class 6</td>
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**PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS**

**EARLY IN THE YEAR** the class teachers welcome the opportunity to discuss the year ahead with parents. Discussion nights are planned as follows and all parents are expected to attend.

- Prep Parent Information Night: Tuesday 7/2 7pm in the Rosa Mundi room
- Class 1 Parent Information Night: Wednesday 8/2 7pm in the classroom
- Class 2 Parent Information Night: Tuesday 14/2 7pm in the classroom
- Morning Star Parent Information Night: Tuesday 21/2 7pm in the classroom
- Class 3 Parent Information Night: Wednesday 22/2 7pm in the classroom
- Class 4 Parent Information Night: Tuesday 28/2 7pm in the classroom
- Class 5 Parent Information Night: Wednesday 8/3 7pm in the classroom
- Class 6 Parent Information Night: Tuesday 14/3 7pm in the classroom
- Class 7&8 Parent Information Night: Wednesday 22/3 7pm in the classroom

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**CLASS 1 – 8 SWIMMING**

**THE SWIMMING PROGRAMME** – EACH Friday for FOUR weeks. Commencing this week on Friday 3rd February. Swim carnival on Friday 24th February.

**PARENT HELPERS REQUIRED, PLEASE LET YOUR CLASS TEACHER KNOW IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ASSIST WITH THE SWIM PROGRAM, THANK YOU!**

- **9.30 – 10.30** Class 7&8
- **10.30 – 11.30** Classes 3&4
- **11.30 – 12.30** Class Prep
- **1 – 2pm** Classes 1&2
- **2 – 3pm** Classes 5 & 6

Your child will need bathers, towel, sunhat, sunscreen, water bottle. Please note: the children must take a spare t-shirt or rash vest as they are at the pool for 1 hour in the hot sun.

**5&6 PARENTS: All students will return to school** in the last session of the day unless a note from parent is received at the beginning of the school day giving permission for them to stay at the pool unsupervised. Phone calls from the office to make this arrangement during the school day will not be made available.
THANKS FOR THE BOOK RETURNS towards the end of last year. Any overdues will still be accepted this week. Library sessions: TUESDAYS Class 3, 2, 1 and Prep WEDNESDAYS Class 5, 6 and 4;

2017 BUS USERS UPDATE

WEEKLY BUS SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS. Please complete and return the weekly bus schedule form to Sally as soon as possible. The first weeks of term can be a little confusing for the younger students and therefore ishe at bus time. Your prompt action herein will help prevent misunderstandings after school. Thank you!

KINDER & SCHOOL HANDBOOKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED SHORTLY for your information. Please read and make yourself familiar with the general housekeeping information in this booklet.

SCHOOL LUNCHES – All classes will continue with the preparation of wholesome vegetarian cooked lunches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
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<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 3</td>
<td>Classes 1&amp;2</td>
<td>Class 6</td>
<td>Class 4</td>
<td>Class 5</td>
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PLEASE NOTE: This year Class 7&8 will EAT each Wednesday with Class 6. Class 7&8 will participate in the school cooking program in the last week of each term during the WHOLE SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK.

CAR PARKING this year there will be a lot of heavy traffic in and out of the school, delivery vehicles and tradesmen working on the new building project will need clear access to the driveway and turning circles – thank you.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PARK ONLY in the parking bays not along side of the drive and NOT IN THE TURNING CIRCLES as this stops the flow of traffic for other vehicles particularly large delivery vans.

Move your vehicle very slowly. Be alert for children – remember the younger they are, the less predictable they are and the harder they are to see. Parents, please watch your children. Make sure they walk along the path – and not through the driveway.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

ALL VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL including parent helpers must sign in at reception.

ALL VISITORS will receive a numbered visitor’s tag which is to be returned to reception at the time of signing out, thank you. CHILD SAFE – Visitors to the school who do not have a current Working With Children check will be escorted to the area of the campus concerning their visit.

ALL STUDENTS LEAVING EARLY OR ARRIVING LATE must also be signed in / out at reception. This allows staff to be aware of who is on the school grounds if an emergency should occur.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student will be: $125 for primary school students $225 for secondary school students.

If you received this benefit last year it will continue automatically, otherwise contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE: If you live more than 4.8Km from a school bus stop you may be eligible for a subsidy for car travel. If you have received this before and are still at the same address you do not need to re-apply. If you have not applied please contact Andrew in the office by the 24th of February, thank you.

GARDEN & GROUNDS

A REQUEST FROM PAT for any egg cartons, please drop them into the office, thank you.
THE GRAPEVINE:
MORNING STAR:
What a wonderful beginning to the year. The old and new faces at Morning Star have been getting tossed about in boats on the sea, discovering frogs in the sandpit, painting outside under the oak tree and forming new friendships.

ROSA MUNDI:
The Rosa Mundi children enjoyed an exciting start to the term. Some highlights were winding wool to make different coloured fruit in craft and going swimming. The children have also enjoyed making morning tea each morning. There have already been requests from children for muffin recipes to take home. Yummo muffins made with zucchini form the class vegetable patch!

CLASS 1:
Class have settled in very quickly and are enjoying their new room in the school and we welcome Regan Watts to our class. We have begun the year with a form drawing main lesson discovering the straight and curved line. Our swimming session was a welcome relief on a hot Friday afternoon. We are all looking forward to our school picnic gathering at Bracks Bridge Friday 10th after school, hope to see you all there.

CLASS 2:
Class Two are excited to be back together and it has been a pleasure to welcome Jarom, Addison and Jemma to our class. We are embarking on our Animal Fable main lesson and will be hearing many stories with moral elements to them. We will begin handing out readers next week and I would like to encourage parents read these with the children each night. I will encourage students to keep their readers for a couple of nights and become comfortable with them before changing them. There will be a reading log in their reader cover which I ask you to fill in. Parents play a crucial role in this area of learning and I welcome feedback from you about your child’s progress and level of the readers they have.

CLASS 3:
Class 3 launched into the new school year with creation stories and in particular the Hebrew mythology of the Genesis story in the Old Testament. As Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden and had to fend for themselves, we too began our gardening sessions tending our pumpkins with Pat. Another first was meeting our new music teacher, Lucy, who inspired the class with an impromptu violin performance? Our cello and violin tasting lessons begin next week! We also welcomed Charlie Watts into our class and his parents Peter and Sarah with brothers Regan in Class 1 and Jasper in Morning Star.

CLASS 4:
It was lovely to welcome the students back last Tuesday and start Class 4 with familiar faces. We have started an Indigenous Main Lesson, which entails listening to dreamtime stories and discussing Aboriginal culture. Some of the stories we re-wrote practicing the use of quotation marks. In the afternoons we have been tackling the weeds in our vegetable gardens and washing the wool that was shorn off Lambie. We are hoping to die the wool and use if for felting or spinning.

CLASS 5:
Class 5 have started the year with an Ancient India main lesson. We are looking at the main stories of the Indian culture as well as songs, poems, and culture of the Indian peoples. This main lesson has an English focus and we are looking at indirect and direct speech as well as punctuation. We are getting used to our new ‘blue’ room and are enjoying playing some new musical instruments to accompany our Indian songs.

CLASS 6:
Class 6 has had a wonderful and exciting start of the year. We welcome three new students to the class who are settling in well. The class has started the year on a Geology Main Lesson, focusing on our local region. There are plans in motion to take an excursion to Merrijig area next week to put what we are learning in class into practice. This year is going to be a great and rewarding year and I am excited to be part of it.

CLASS 7&8:
Year 7 and 8 had a wonderful start to the year. During Main Lesson the students engaged intently in the magical world of King Arthur and there was a genuine excitement about the year ahead. It was fantastic to see all students actively participating in swimming, P.E and Drama. I look forward to another positive week as the students hear of all the adventures of King Arthur’s knights.
PARENTS & FRIENDS

ALL PARENTS AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN the craft group now held in the evening on Thursdays.
Our first meeting will be at Sarah Lieber’s house 20 Baldry Street, next to IGA at the back.
Please call Sarah if you have any queries on 0401 016 198.

Date: 9th February 2017
Time: 7-9pm
Material will be supplied but please bring your spectacles, scissors and needles if you have any.

There will be a range of craft available - needlework, knitting and crochet. Anyone welcome. No experience required.
Eileen Wettenhall  (Craft Group Coordinator)

CRAFT GROUP would like any donations of wool that you can offer, thank you.

PONDERING STEINER

HELLO TO PARENTS 'OLD AND NEW'. We will read Rudolf Steiner’s Lectures about 'The Gospel of St. John'. You need no prior experience to join us in pondering these lectures. We meet on Tuesdays at Shop5/12 High St. at 7.30pm. Enquiries to Janina on 0421 812 881 or 5779 1911 or speak to Ishe.

STEINER BOOK STALL

David from Immortal books will be setting up a Steiner book stall with a wide range of both child and adult books at the school this FRIDAY 10th February 9am – 3pm in the Courtyard (near the admin area).

All parents and friends are welcome to come and browse these fine resources related to Steiner education.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE NEXT ........

STEINER Q&A

Monday 13/2/17 7pm

Janina Papas & Fran Cummins together with a panel of experts; discussing how we could bring greater understanding of Steiner Education to the community. This is a trial a Q&A evening, based on the same principles as the ABC programme of the same name.
Family Counselling & Parent Support

It’s free and it’s confidential

Do you wonder about the relationship you have with your child? The quality, time spent with them, connection & behaviour?

If you would like to discuss this or any other aspect of parenting please come and talk to one of our family counsellors at:

Mansfield Family & Children’s Centre
10 Davies Street, Mansfield
Phone 5775 8601

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS VICTORIA NOTICE

The impact of pornography on young people has been described as an emerging public health crisis. What can parents do? The issue will be addressed in a free seminar for parents hosted by Independent Schools Victoria on Wednesday 15 March 2017, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Hugh Martin, a psychotherapist and founder of the Man Enough program, will provide expert advice and lead the discussion.

The seminar - the first of The Parent Seminars at ISV program - will be held at the ISV offices at 40 Rosslyn Street, West Melbourne, and light refreshments will be served. ISV is close to public transport, and there is plenty of parking. To register, send your name to Student.Services@is.vic.edu.au with the words ‘Parent Seminar’ in the subject line.
Skoolbag is a mobile App for your school to communicate directly to both parents and students. It works through both smart phones and smart devices (such as iPads and Android Tablets). Ideal for:

- School, free push notification alerts
- School events
- School newsletters
- School documents
- School RSS feeds
- School social media (Facebook, Twitter)

Skoolbag delivers school notices directly to parents and students

How To Install Skoolbag On Your Smartphone

**iPhone & iPad Users**

1. Click the “App Store” icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click “Free” then “install”.
4. If iPad, change the drop list to “iPhone Apps”, your school will then be visible, click “Free” then “install”.
5. When installed click “Open”
6. Select “OK” to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the “More” button on the bottom right of the App, then “Setup”.
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

**Android Users**

You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.

1. Click the “Play Store” button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the “Install” button.
5. Click “Accept” for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click “Open” when installed.
7. Click the “More” button on the bottom right of the App, then “Setup”.
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

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Find out more at www.skoolbag.com.au