



St Margaret Mary's School

Listen Share Act

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Newsletter No 1

Bulletin

Wednesday, 5th February, 2020

Diary Dates

Thursday, 6th February

Friday, 7th February

- P&F Meet & Greet Morning Tea 9am in the LARC.

Monday, 10th February

- 8:40am Whole School and Prayer Service.

Wednesday, 11th February

- Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival for Selected Students.

Wednesday, 12th February

Meet & Greet

St Margaret Mary's P&F would like to invite all parents of St Margaret Mary's to a Meet & Greet Morning Tea to be held in the LARC on Friday 7th February from 9am - 10am. We look forward to seeing and meeting you there.

Welcome

Opening School Mass and Commissioning of 2020 School Leaders.

Parents, Grandparents, and Friends of St Margaret Mary's are invited to join us at our Opening School Mass and Commissioning of our 2020 Student Leaders, on Friday, 14th February at 9:00am in the Church.

Principal's Message



A Challenging start to 2020!!

Dear Parents, Boys and Girls,

The news coverage over the holidays of the bushfires has had an impact all over our country, and we can all feel

the start of 2020 has been a very different beginning to the school year. A number of school communities losing everything in the wake of the fires and are now struggling to start the school year off in a positive manner. At the end of 2019 the students of StMM's raised \$2 500 and sent it off to Mt St John's Catholic School in Dorrig, who had been suffering from weeks of fires and smoke. The principal called me and passed on his thanks and indicated the school was going to hire a bus to take the students down the coast to have a day without smoke or fire. StMM's will keep this community and others in our prayers along with the challenges associated with the outbreak of the Coronavirus. Please be assured we are following every aspect of CEDP's instructions regarding the handling of this situation.

Welcome to all our students and families to a busy and fulfilling year ahead. A special StMM's welcome to all our new students, especially our new Kinders, who I must say have had an extremely happy start to their learning journey. We also welcome Miss Sarah Abraham Yr 1 Mrs Jessica Thompson Yr 2 and Ms Maria La Rocca to our Learning Support Team. Our staff are always available for interviews and student/parent conferences, with time being coordinated via the school office.

StMM's first bulletin of the year has always contained basic information for parents and students on the "ins and outs" of our school here at Merrylands. While the headings may be the same as past years, please take a moment to read and familiarise yourself, as there are some minor changes.

God Bless.

Mr Kevin Mills
Principal

Skoolbag App

All parents are encouraged to have the Skoolbag App, as this will be the main preference for communication to all parents. Our School Name for Skoolbag App is SMMPM.



Administration

School Hours

Parents are reminded that lessons begin at 8:40am and finish at 3:00pm. Children should be at school by 8:30am.

There is no supervision in the mornings before the 8:15am bell. From 8:15am until 8:30am is walk and talk time only. Students are reminded that there is to be NO running or ball games in the playground in the mornings. If you are dropping your child/ren off or picking them up from the Parish car park, please remind your child/ren about the safety around cars and the dangers of running in this area.

Parents are also reminded that they need to collect their child/ren from school at 3:00pm. If you are running late please contact the school office. The school office is open from 8:15am to 3:15pm every day.

School Uniforms - Lowes

Lowes is our only school supplier for all uniforms.

All uniforms must be worn neatly and correctly. It is expected that children have suitable hairstyles appropriate to their age and school expectations. Long hair must be tied back. Our Sun Safe programs require students to wear our school cap or hat when outside. No Hat No Play. These hats and caps are available at the school office. Sleepers earrings and stud earrings may be worn. Simple signet rings may also be worn. No expensive jewellery is to be worn at school.

Photo Permission

From time to time photos and / or video footage of your child will be taken at school and school events.

These photos and video footage may be used in the school newsletter, diocesan newsletter, in newspapers, brochures, advertising, websites or in publications.

If you do not wish for photos or videos of your child to be published or shown on the website please notify the school office in writing by Friday, 14th February, 2020.



Student Medical Information

If your child/ren suffer from asthma or have a medical condition and you have not informed the school office, could you please do so as soon as possible.

For example, if your child suffers from asthma, please supply an updated Asthma Action Plan from your child's doctor.

All medication must be brought to the school office by a parent and a medication form needs to be completed by the parent.

Allergies

As you may or may not be aware there are a number of children attending our school who have severe allergies to many different foods. This means that if these children come in contact with any food products they will have a severe allergic reaction.

We also ask that you remind your child/ren not to share their lunch or any other food with another child.

Parking

Parents, there is no parking before or after school (between signs) in Henson Street and Davies Street. These are drop-off and Car pick up only.

When driving around the school, please obey all road rules especially No U-turn in the school zone and No Parking across the neighbours driveways.

Who can I go home with?

If the occasion arises that you are unable to pick up your child/ren from school, please contact the school office advising who will be picking up your child/ren.

Also a letter advising your child/rens class teacher if you know in advanced as who will be picking up your child.

Skoolbag App

All parents are encouraged to have the Skoolbag App, as this will be the main preference for communication to all parents.

This app also allows parents to notify the school if your child is sick by completing the online Eform Absentee.

Our School Name for Skoolbag App is SMMPM. Please see later in this newsletter on how to download the App on your phone.

School Website

The school newsletter is available online, via the school website or the Skoolbag App. There will be copies available from the school office if required. The school website is

www.stmmerrylands.catholic.edu.au

School Fees

Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta will be generating all Invoice/Statements for the 2020 year. Statements should be received by all families by the end of February.

Please contact the school office should you not receive a statement.

Any queries with regards to your 2020 Statement or arrangements, please contact Maria Pagano on 8633 8400.

Parish Car Park

The parish car park is for parishioners who attend weekday masses. The parking spaces at the church end of the car park are for the parish office staff and parishioners, this includes the disable spots near the parish office.

If possible, please avoid parking in the Parish Carpark. If you wish to attend Mondays' Assembly please do not park in the carpark.

Codes of Conduct

At our school we have three Codes of Conduct for our students. In our behaviour management policy we show the following:

"The whole school community of St Margaret Mary's continues to provide an environment that enhances our Christian values and embraces the diversity of people and cultures. The members contribute to ensure that each individual receives their basic needs of Love, Belonging, Importance, Freedom and Fun. This is achieved by members knowing they have the.....

Right

- ◆ to be happy and feel safe
- ◆ to learn
- ◆ to be respected

and the *Responsibility*

- ◆ to allow others to feel happy and safe
- ◆ to allow learning to occur
- ◆ to show respect for everyone.

Therefore, the school maintains a Code of Conduct that states:

- ◆ Everyone has the right to Teach and Learn
- ◆ Everyone has the right to feel Valued and Respected
- ◆ Everyone has the right to feel Safe and Secure.

We ask that you speak with your children about our three Codes of Conduct. We have high expectations that our students will be consistent with their behaviour and learning.

Crunch and Sip

Just a reminder that Crunch and Sip is a break during class when students can refuel on fruit or vegetables and rehydrate on water. The break assists students with physical and mental performance, and concentration in the classroom.

StMM's 2020 Student Attendance

Fact Sheet for Parents and Caregivers - Explanation of Absences

CEDP promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. If your child is sick or absent you are required to notify their school on the first day of absence if at all possible. All explanations to the school must be provided within **7 days** from the first day of any period of absence. Absences can be explained using one of the following methods:

1. Online: log the absence directly using *[Skool Bag App / Parent Portal]*
2. Email: the school at *[email address]*
3. Note sent with your child

Why do I need to notify the school if my child is absent?

Parents of children aged 6 to 17 years are legally required to ensure their children attend school every day or provide an explanation if they are absent. Notifying the school and providing an explanation for your child's absence will fulfil this legal responsibility. The safety and wellbeing of students are the highest priorities for schools. Parents need to know if their child isn't at school, and schools need to know when and why a child is absent. Notifying the school of your child's absence helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children in school.

What is your responsibility?

- Ensure your child attends school every day
- Notify the school immediately if your child is absent
- Provide an explanation for any absences within 7 days
- Make sure the school has your correct contact details so that you can receive attendance information about your child

Where an explanation has not been received within the 7 day timeframe or the explanation has not been accepted, the school will record the absence as unexplained or unjustified on the student's record. The school will not be able to accept explanations which are not received within the 7 day timeframe.

Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstances e.g. attending a funeral

Fact Sheet for Schools & Principals - Explanation of Absences

StMM's Attendance Protocols:

StMM's has always had above average student attendance data. We wish to maintain this for 2020 and beyond. The following paragraphs are copied directly from the Catholic Education Office Parramatta's 2020 instructions to school principals. Please take note.

Recording explanations for student absences - 7 day rule

- Explanations for student absence received need to be recorded within 7 days of the first day of any absence period in the electronic attendance register. If an explanation for absence is not received within 7 days of the first day of absence the school will record the absence as unexplained on the student's record. No further attempts to elicit an explanation are required by the school.
- Explanations that are received after the 7 day timeframe should be retained on the student record. Note: The attendance code should not be amended. After 7 days only the Principal or a delegated attendance officer can amend the attendance register. Explanation of the annotation should be documented. Principals may decline to accept an explanation for an absence and record the absence as unjustified. The parent should be advised that the explanation has not been accepted.

Managing extended Leave

Parents or carers may approach the school to seek permission for extended leave for their child to travel during school term. Extended leave is considered to be 5 or more days during the school term for the purpose of a family holiday, family business, bereavement or other reasons.

- Parents/carer must complete and submit the Application for Extended Leave form prior to commencing leave OR apply for extended leave in writing to the principal directly.
- The principal should not accept a reason for travel during school term if it is not in the best interests of the student. Educational, social and participation reasons should be considered.

Administration

Important Dates for Term 1 2020

Friday, 7 th February	P&F Meet & Greet morning tea in the LARC 9am.
Wednesday, 12 th February	Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival for selected students.
Friday, 14 th February	Whole School Opening Mass and Commissioning of the 2020 Student Leaders.
Tuesday, 18 th February	St Paul's Visiting Year 6 Boys
Friday, 21 st February	Diocesan Swimming Carnival.
Wednesday, 26 th February	Ash Wednesday, Whole School Mass 9am.
Monday, 2 nd March	Catholic Schools Week Commences. Year 3 Incursion
Tuesday, 3 rd March	School Cross Country for Years 3-6.
Tuesday, 11 th March	Open Morning for New Families for K2021.
Tuesday, 17 th March	St Patrick's Day
Thursday, 19 th March	St Joseph's Feast Day
Wednesday, 25 th March	Feast of the Annunciation.
Thursday, 9 th April	Holy Thursday. School Closes for Term 1.
Monday, 27 th April	School Returns for Term 2. Students return in Winter Uniform.

Library Borrowing

Each grade is allocated a time and day for the children to borrow books from the school library. Each child must have a library bag. This bag cannot be a plastic shopping bag but it can be an old pillow slip. The school office has library bags available for \$15.00 each. All students can borrow before school Monday to Friday between 8:15am -8:40am.

Kindy	Wednesday	Year 4	Tuesday
Year 1	Friday	Year 5	Thursday
Year 2	Monday	Year 6	Wednesday
Year 3	Thursday		

Sports Day

Children are required to wear their sports uniform on their allocated days. Correct sports uniform must be worn along with appropriate shoes. Hats must be worn at all times when outside.

Kindy	Tuesday and Thursday	Year 4	Monday and Thursday
Year 1	Tuesday and Friday	Year 5	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 2	Tuesday and Thursday	Year 6	Monday and Friday
Year 3	Wednesday and Friday		

2020 STAFF PERSONNEL

THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

Principal	Kevin Mills
Assistant Principal Religious Education	Jennifer Veness
Co-ordinator	Dale Yearsley
Co-ordinators	Diane Antonucci Melissa Fardella Francine Attard Sue Yanz

THE OFFICE STAFF

Maria Pagano
Annmaree McGuirk
Domenica Yenco
Simone Dore
Fr Janusz Pawlicha
Fr Joseph Maria Buckley

THE TEACHING TEAM

Kindergarten Teaching Team	
KBlue	Melissa Fardella
KRed	Anna Tan
KYellow	Melissa Hanna

Year One Teaching Team

1Blue	Jacinta Iau
1Red	Dale Yearsley
1Yellow	Sarah Abraham

Year Two Teaching Team

2Blue	Jessica Azar
2Red	Karen El-Zakhem
2Yellow	Jessica Thompson

Year Three Teaching Team

3Blue	Chris Tenido
3Red	Helen Golack
3Yellow	Emma Swanson

Year Four Teaching Team

4Blue	Francine Attard
4Red	Vanessa Del Monte
4Yellow	Marina Toma

Year Five Teaching Team

5Blue	Diane Antonucci
5Red	Cara Essey
5Yellow	Melina Laguzza

Year Six Teaching Team

6Blue	Pauline McFarlane
6Red	Daniel Maunick
6Yellow	Amanda Mekdessi

Librarian	Michele Balogh-Caristo
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Instructional Coach

Sue Yanz

Learning Support Team

Kellie Foley
Georgette Attard
Marie Debes
Michele Balogh-Carito
Belinda Martino
Maria La Rocca
Nancy Kubti
Sophie Ryan

Speech

Jill Tate

IT

Noah Afarian

RFF (Tues/Wed/Thu)

Julie Loftus-Wilton
Nancy Gaid
Mary Chetty

Executive Release

Rawa Simhairi
Pina Amond
Nancy Kubti

Teacher Aides

Paulette Albertin
Haifa Rizk
Mish Wehbe

School Counsellor

Brian Melocco

School Maintenance

Joe Culican
Paul Bartolo

Cleaner

Annette Zeaiter

Personal Growth

Student Leaders for 2020

Congratulations to the following students on achieving their new positions and we look forward to their enhanced participation and representation in our school community in 2020.

School Captains	Felicity Roach Joseph Doueihy
Vice Captains	Yasmine Abraham Yak Majock
Faith Community:	Rhos Shi Wang Jayden Othman
Teaching & Learning:	Sophia Tannous Isabella Blandon Cano
Personal Growth:	Angellica Langi Nicole Bahi
Partnership:	Keisha Manalansan Isaac Zoumpoulis
Tosi (Yellow)	Angelina Putrus Charbel El Ghoussian
Maur (Green)	Mikayla Gadd Isabella Tilbrook
Kosta (Red)	Cheska Mendoza Jagger Cunningham
McGovern (Blue)	Angelique Baaini Leonardo Beos

Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to the following students, who will represent St Margaret Mary's at the Cumberland Zone Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 12th February at Mt Druitt Swimming Centre.

Ruby Shrestha	Joab Hada	Isabella Haddad
Chadi Haouchab	Jacinta Pickering	May Derbas
Cooper Smith	Leeroy Tautu	Mikayla Gadd
Shirley Lou	Charlie Tilbrook	Xavier Tautu
Jayden Othman	Havana Smith	Isabella Blandon Cano
David Choi	Avani Pradhan	Lisa Shrestha
Angelique Baaini		

We wish you all the best of luck!

Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials Registration Reminder

This is a reminder for students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2020 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during 2020. It is important to note that these trials are generally for those children who display an above average ability and/or have representative experience in their chosen sport. To be eligible for selection for these trials an Online Team Registration Form must be completed that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au ~ Click on "REP SELECTIONS" tab and scroll down to the SPORT you wish to register for and click on the "REGISTER" button below the heading "PDCPSSC Expression of Interest Registration Form". Each sport has a different registration criteria. Registration close Thursday 6th February and students will be notified one week prior to the trial date.

Our Four Pillars of Learning

The Four Pillars of StMM's are directly linked to our Award system. Mr Mills holds Principal's Morning Tea with students who have received an award for each Pillar and thus a Principal's Award. These morning tea's are held once a term.

Faith Community

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe our Faith Community encourages us to live our Catholic Faith. We practise our faith by participating in Liturgies, prayer and lessons. We want to follow our School Motto "Love the Truth" by listening, sharing and acting on the words of God.

Teaching & Learning

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe Teaching and Learning is working to the best of our ability in all Key Learning Areas. We work with other students, teachers and staff to ensure quality work and our best efforts. We want to work together, listening, sharing and helping others at all times.

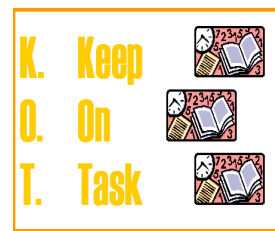
Partnership

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe that Partnership is communication, interacting and co-operating with others. Partnership is having a connection with others to have a go, it is agreeing on an idea and completing it together.

Personal Growth

At St Margaret Mary's School we believe Personal Growth allows us to set our individual goals and strive to achieve them. We use our gifts and talents when working towards our goals in the areas of learning and attitude. We want to show respect and be more like Jesus.

Our Four Pointers of Learning



Teaching & Learning

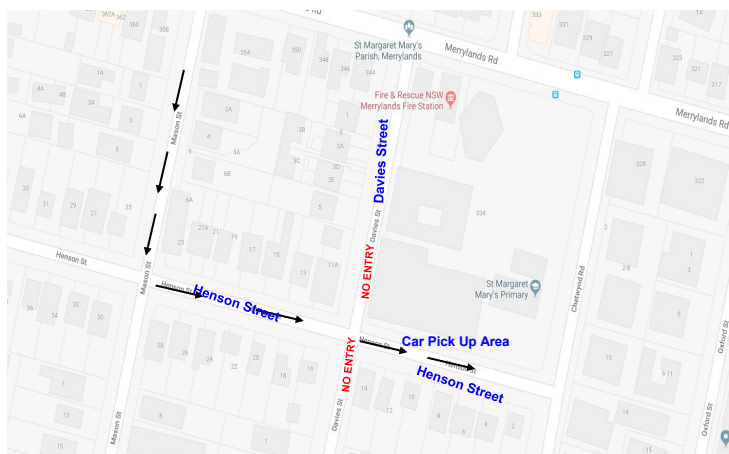
Reading Diary

Every student at StMM's is expected to read each night and record their efforts in the Reading Diary. Setting aside a time to read each night at home is an excellent routine to establish before students enter high school. If parents feel their child is responsible (Yrs 5 & 6) the student may do the recording and sign off.

Partnership

Car Pick Up

Any parent wishing to join Car Pick Up will need to see the office to complete a form and be issued with a car number to be displayed on their front windscreen. Children will be given a corresponding number to attach to their bag. It is important that all parents involved in this service are attentive to the rules of the road.



Student Banking

St Margaret Mary's participates in the student banking program which is run by the Commonwealth Bank. If your child is in years 1-6 and has a student banking account, they can participate in this program.

Student banking day is on **Tuesdays** and will commence on **Tuesday 3rd March**. Students need to bring their bank books to school on this day and hand it to their class teacher. If your child would like to open a bank account, you can open an account through the Commonwealth Bank online. Information packs are available from the school office.

For more information regarding student banking, please contact the school office.




Merrylands Maulers JRLFC
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

**BOYS AND GIRLS
AGES 4-11 Years Old**

**Training Friday Nights @ Nemesia Park Greystanes
Games played on Sunday**

**COST: \$120
This Includes
Training Shirt
Shorts
Socks**

**Need More Information contact
Tony 0414 351 221 or Eddy 0414 777 815**

You can follow us on 



Parents and Friends

Second hand Uniform Shop

Our Second Hand Uniform Shop is open on the first Monday of the month after the morning assembly from 9:00am - 9:30am.

If your child/ren have out grown their uniforms and you would like to donate them to the uniform shop, you can leave them at the school office.

We are in need of girls summer and winter uniforms and sports shorts and shirts for all sizes.

St Margaret Mary's Primary School Second Hand Uniform Shop Price List 2020

Boys Summer Uniform

Boys Grey School Shorts	\$5.00
Boys Blue Summer Shirts	\$5.00

Boys Winter Uniform

Boys Grey Trousers	\$8.00
Boys Long Sleeve Shirts	\$5.00
Boys Winter Tie	\$3.00

Unisex Summer Sports Uniform

Microfibre Sports Shorts	\$5.00
Short Sleeve Sports Polo Shirts	\$7.00

Girls Summer Uniform

Girls Summer Dress	\$10.00
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Girls Winter Uniform

Girls winter Tunic.Dress	\$15.00
Girls Long Sleeve Blouse	\$5.00
Girls Neck Tie	\$2.00

Unisex Winter Sports Uniform

Microfibre Zip Jacket	\$15.00
Microfibre Track Pants	\$8.00
Long Sleeve Sports Polo Shirt	\$7.00
V Neck Jumper	\$10.00
School Shoes	\$10.00
School Hats	\$3.00

Please Note: Prices are subject to change at any time.

Strive for Higher Things at Catherine McAuley Westmead



Enrolling now for 2021 - Applications close 27th March 2020

OPEN EVENING Wednesday 4th March 2020 4pm - 7pm

Catherine McAuley Westmead, 2 Darcy Rd, Westmead | www.mcauley.nsw.edu.au



Stay informed with the SkoolBag App



The SkoolBag app is the easiest way to stay up-to-date with school events, last minutes notices, newsletters and **all** school communications.

1

Download the app

Search for the free SkoolBag app in the Apple App or Google Play Store

2

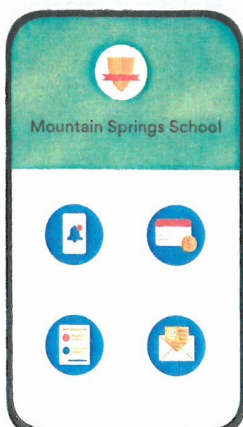
Create an account

Sign up in seconds with your email address

3

Add your school

Search for your school and add your subscription groups



SkoolBag 

St Margaret Mary's School Canteen

St Margaret Mary's School Canteen is run by a private company.

All lunch orders must be ordered via the "Flexi-Schools" ordering system by 9am each morning. Details of how to order via Flexi-Schools are listed below. A canteen price list is available on flexischool.

How to register for Flexi-Schools

- Either go to the App Store and search flexischools – it is free to download or log in via your computer www.flexischools.com.au and register



Parents ▾ Schools & Suppliers ▾ My Account: Register Q

Connecting School Life

The only app that combines school communications, online ordering and payments in one easy location

Download the app

Order now



The registration form is titled 'flexischools Simplify your day'. It contains the following elements:

- A heading: 'Enter your email address below and click Register. We will then send you an email to complete the registration process.'
- Two input fields: 'Email Address' and 'Confirm Email Address', each preceded by an envelope icon.
- A 'Register' button.
- A link: 'Forgot your details? >'.

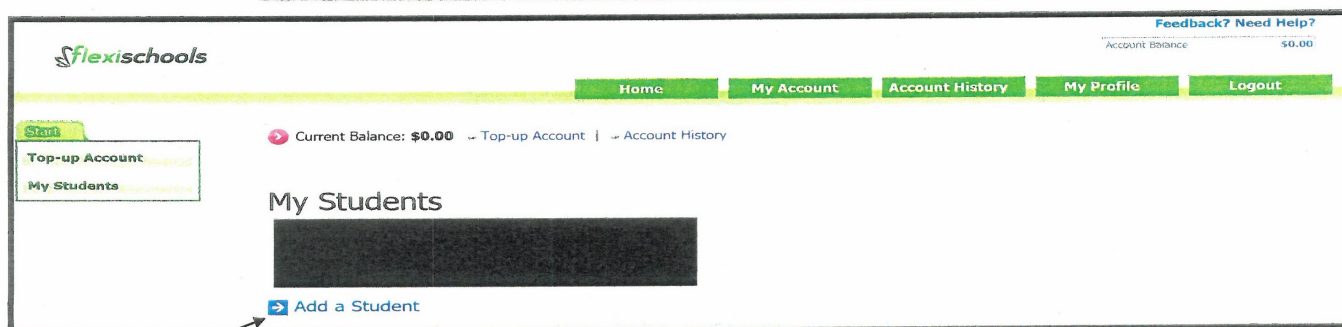
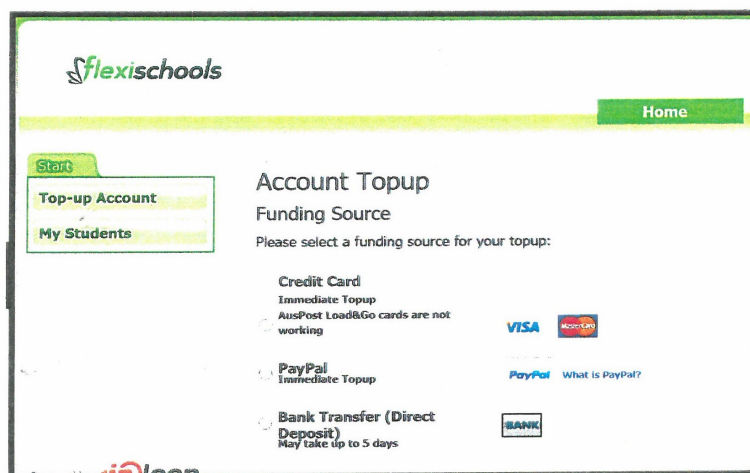
How do I register for a Flexischools account?

You can register by following these steps:

- You can access the service at by clicking the "Register Now" button below
- Submit your email address to create an account.
- Go to your Inbox and open the registration email from Flexischools.
- Click on the link provided (or copy and paste the link in a new internet browser window).
- Follow the registration process, creating a password and completing your personal details.
- Add users to your account. This could be your students or yourself if you are a staff member, Alumni or friend of the school.

Helpful Hints: If you have a Senior Student and you would like them to be able to login to see their balance or place online orders for the canteen, please enter their email address during the setup process and they will be sent a registration email.

Flexi schools will then ask you to set up your students and put some money into your account.



Flexi schools will then ask you to select St Margaret Mary's School and nominate your child/children's class(es).

Once this is done you will be able to make your order.

Ordering is simple and you may order in advance. **Warning: All orders must be in before 9.00am**

We have simplified our ordering process and would like you to login first so we can customise your ordering experience.

To see the services at your school, go to **My Account** or **Order now** to login and access all the services available to your student.

If you don't have an account with us click "**register**"

If you are a friend of the school or guest you can still **register** and add yourself as your student at the school you are ordering at.