

Moss Vale

Public School

Parent/ Carer Information



Responsibility • Excellence • Respect

Welcome to Moss Vale Public School

Our school was built on a one acre grant of land given by John Morrice of "Browley" in 1868 and officially named Moss Vale Public School in 1872. The school has since grown to just under 500 students with many third and fourth generation families and even a number of ex-students returning to work and teach here.

Moss Vale Public School is committed to providing high quality teaching and learning, a strong sense of community and a wide array of opportunities for our students to succeed and thrive. Students in all grade levels, from Kindergarten to Year 6, are afforded outstanding educational experiences to enrich their learning both within classrooms and in our unique outdoor play areas.

Moss Vale Public School is immensely proud to be the host school for the Opportunity Class for high potential and gifted students from across the Southern Highlands, and is also proudly one of the sites for The NSW Government's 100 new public preschools to open in 2027.

Inclusion is embedded in all aspects of school life, providing improved learning and wellbeing for all students, including those with a disability in a mainstream class, in one of our six smaller support classes or our pre-Kindergarten Early Intervention support class, Acorn Cottage, which provides a specialised, inclusive preschool

program to support academic and social development.

Our dedicated team of teachers and support staff ensure each student is known, valued and cared for in nurturing and engaging classroom environments that improve student academic outcomes and social and emotional wellbeing.

Our school motto Excellence in Education, Inclusion and Community reflects the school's vision and high expectations of all students. This motto guides the school's commitment to providing students with a stimulating, exciting and challenging environment in which individual uniqueness and achievement is celebrated.

One of the most distinctive things about Moss Vale Public School is the generosity of our wonderful community. The school is incredibly grateful for the ongoing commitment by our Parents and Citizens (P&C) to support our students and work in partnership with the school to ensure our school provides the best quality educational outcomes for our students. We look forward to working in partnership with you and watching your child grow and succeed in academic, social and emotional growth.

Katherine Hurst - Principal



Key learning areas

As a parent of a primary school student, you will want to know what your child is learning so you can support them at home. Working together, you and your child's teachers will be the most important influences on your child's education.

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) is responsible for setting and monitoring quality teaching, learning, assessment and school standards across all NSW schools, including developing Kindergarten to Year 12 syllabuses which form the overall curriculum.

The curriculum is broken into the following stages of learning:

Early Stage 1 - Kindergarten

Stage 1 - Years 1 & 2

Stage 2 - Years 3 & 4

Stage 3 - Years 5 & 6

Syllabuses identify:

- knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes
- what students are expected to know and do at each educational stage
- cross-curriculum priorities, such as developing knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and general capabilities including information and communication technologies.

The syllabuses comprise the following key learning areas:

English & Mathematics

The NSW school curriculum has undergone the first comprehensive reform in 30 years after an extensive curriculum review and consultation. Reform recommendations include the priority of building strong foundations for future learning with new english and mathematics syllabuses for Kindergarten to Year 6. The reformed English and Mathematics K–2 and 3-6 syllabuses highlight foundational literacy and numeracy skills to develop competence in oral language, reading, writing and mathematics.

Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)

History and Geography

Science and Technology

Living World, Material World, Physical World, Earth and Space, and Digital Technologies.

Creative Arts

Music, Visual Arts, Drama and Dance

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)

Health and Physical Education



Other learning opportunities

Excursions, incursions, celebrations and extra-curricular opportunities

Various activities to extend learning are offered and may include excursions or incursions, overnight camps for older students, dance, choir, gardening, chess and debating. Celebrations such as NAIDOC, Book Week and Education Week are also observed by the wider school community.

Sporting Opportunities

All children participate in weekly sport and physical education lessons taught by class teachers. Specialist teachers are engaged for a biannual gymnastics program. K-2 students enjoy a fun run and athletics carnival while students who are 8 years and above participate in annual swimming, athletics and cross-country carnivals where they compete to progress to district level. Children in the upper grades are also offered opportunities to participate in sporting gala days, inclusive sports days and PSSA sporting opportunities.

Outdoor education

Moss Vale Public School is proud of the natural environment which fosters children to use their mind, body and imagination. The vast spaces offer play equipment, an Indigenous Garden, natural ropes course, a loose parts play area, a bike and scooter program, kitchen garden area, basketball courts and large grassy fields to run and play ball games.



Special Religious Education (SRE) / Special Education in Ethics (SEE)

We provide specialised classes in SRE across all grades. SEE is available to children in Years 3-6. Non-scripture is also available.

Creative arts

Students enjoy weekly creative and performing arts lessons with a dedicated CAPA teacher incorporating music, dance and drama. Visual arts is taught in classrooms. Moss Vale Public School has a long history of participating in public performances showcasing dance, drama and music performed to a live orchestra by students across the southern region.

Moss Vale Public School is committed to creating a culture of high expectations and excellence by enabling diverse opportunities in Creative and Performing Arts. These initiatives develop confidence, resilience, nurture talents and explore areas of interest. It's also a great way for the broader school community to connect and engage with students in a positive and rewarding way.



Dramatic productions & musicals

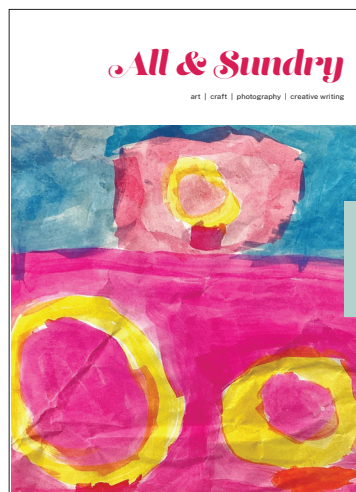
At the end of year, the school stages 2 major performances encompassing all students K-6. This creates opportunity to develop confidence, resilience, discipline, and commitment. Students also access hands-on knowledge about musical composition and performance, choreography, artistic and technical production.

All & Sundry Magazine

Every year students are invited to submit a creative piece for entry into the All & Sundry magazine. Since its first print edition back in 2021, the release of this art and literature book, affectionately known as the A&S has become a highly anticipated event adored by all students. The school produces enough copies to sell to school families at minimal cost and students love being able to purchase their very own copy to keep.

The Band Program

Bandemonium is delivered by professional musicians and consists of a training band and concert band. It aims to make band accessible to as many students as possible and attempts to keep costs to a minimum. To sign up or find out more visit bandemonium.com.au



Mossy Meadows Kitchen Garden

In 2023, with the support of a NSW Government Sustainable Schools Grant, Moss Vale Public School reestablished a wonderful 'Paddock to Plate' garden named Mossy Meadows. This garden space gives students the opportunity to explore how food is grown sustainably, with over 24 garden beds, a compost station and chicken coop, students are learning how we can use the produce to make healthy, delicious meals and snacks.

With the support of The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation 'Kitchen Garden Kickstart Grant' we are focusing on upgrading the existing indoor kitchen facilities and are looking to develop an outdoor kitchen to further enable the garden to be used as a teaching resource for class lessons and as a space for students and staff to enjoy nature and the wonders of gardening.

Enrolment Requirements



If you are an Australian or New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, you are eligible to complete the online application form (scan QR code).

You will need:

- Your child's Medicare and medical details
- Parent contact details
- Emergency contact details

You will then need to finalise the application at the school.

If you are not eligible or prefer not to enrol online, please download the PDF copy of the enrolment form or contact the school office to collect a form.

Opportunity Class (OC)

Moss Vale Public School is the host school for the Southern Highlands Opportunity Class (OC) as of the commencement of Term 1, 2025. Opportunity classes are a regional support that cater for high potential and intellectually gifted students in Years 5 and 6, where students from surrounding schools can apply for entry into the class.

An important feature of the OC class is that it provides the opportunity for like-minded, like-ability students to work together on challenging learning or skills development in an environment that celebrates their success.

Applications for opportunity class entry in 2026 (Year 5) will be open from 7 November 2024 to 21 February 2025.

Selective High School

Students who are transitioning to high school have the opportunity to apply for a Selective High School option while enrolled in Year 5. For the Southern Highlands, the Selective High School model is delivered via the Virtual Class, Aurora College. Communications will be shared with Year 5 families when the application process opens in Term 4 for 2026.



Travel to and from school



Buses

Berrima Buslines operates bus services to and from our school, arriving and departing from the Browley St gate, supervised by teachers. K-2 students may be eligible for free bus passes from the NSW Government.

Driving

There is a dedicated 'Kiss and Ride' Zone at the Browley St gate which is designed to minimise congestion and risk. Alternatively many parents use the Argyle Street gate to meet children.

Support carpark

For safer school access we have a dedicated carpark for students with a disability who are in our early intervention and support classes. Please contact the school if your child will require use of the support carpark.

Before and after school care

Country Kids Club Moss Vale provide onsite before and after school and vacation care.

Staff carpark

Parents are not to park in the staff carpark when collecting children from school or Country Kids Club. Parents and children should also use the main gates when accessing the school grounds and not walk through the staff carpark to ensure the safety of all.

Bike & scooter safety

Our school encourages safe travelling for the whole community on their way to and from school. This guide lists our expectations for students as bicycle riders and their parents/carers.

Transport for NSW says:

- Children under 10 years of age should be actively supervised by an adult when riding a bicycle.
- All children under 12 years of age should cycle in a safe place off the road, such as a footpath or bicycle path, and away from vehicles.
- Any person under 16 years of age can cycle on footpaths, as well as people over 16 if they are supervising bike riders under 12 years of age.
- It is recommended children cycle away from busy roads.
- All bicycle riders must obey the bicycle road rules.
- Students who ride bicycles/scooters to school are responsible for their own equipment.
- Correctly wearing an Australian Standards approved helmet every time they ride a bicycle.



School routines

Regular School Hours

School hours are 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday. The playground is supervised from 8.30am. We request that students do not arrive before this time unless they are registered to attend Out of School Hours (OOSH) Care. The school day is split across three learning sessions.

Break Times

9.00am-10.50am	Morning learning session with in-class Crunch & Sip
10:50am-11:30am	Break 1 with 10 minutes in-class eating time
11:30am-1.25pm	Middle learning session
1.25pm-2.00pm	Break 2 with 5 minutes in-class eating time
2.00pm-3.00pm	Afternoon learning session



Assemblies

Regular opportunities for students to come together are provided to build a sense of belonging and a positive school culture. Each week on a Friday all students gather under the COLA after the morning bell for a short assembly to hear about the following week's PBL focus and any whole school messages. Each class is also presented with a Values Award, to acknowledge a student who has demonstrated one of the school's core values of respect, responsibility, or excellence.

K-2 and 3-6 assemblies take place each term as an opportunity to celebrate student achievements through the presentation of Merit Awards.

K-2 assemblies take place on Friday 2pm in Weeks 2, 5 and 8.

3-6 assemblies take place on Friday 2pm in Weeks 3, 6 and 9.

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is an evidence-based framework that brings together the whole-school community to contribute to developing a positive, safe and supportive learning culture. The framework assists schools to improve social, emotional, behavioural and academic outcomes for children and young people.

Moss Vale Public School consistently uses a PBL system ensuring teachers and students have more time to focus on relationships and classroom instruction.

Moss Vale Public School Award System

To support the PBL process, the school Award system provides opportunities to recognise student achievement, contribution to the school community, demonstration of school values and participation in extracurricular activities.

The award system has been reviewed and now includes regular rewards in the classroom as well as certificates under an accumulative system to encourage children to work towards a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award which includes a badge to wear with pride. It is intended that students keep their awards to progress to the next level.

Fliers with a detailed flow chart of the behaviour management process and award system are included in the parent pack.



Wellbeing and inclusion

Moss Vale Public School has a whole school approach to creating a positive, safe and learning framework endorsed by the NSW Department of Education as an evidence-based process to improve behavioural and learning outcomes for all students. Our core values of respect, responsibility and excellence guide our interactions and merit processes.

To further support students and their families, we have a range of learning and emotional support options:

- Learning and Support Teachers (LaST) work collaboratively with students, families, the school counsellor, itinerant support services and classroom teachers to provide specialist assistance for students that require additional support with literacy and numeracy and to identify targeted support for high potential and gifted students. Our LaST team runs a Breakfast Club service which provides a nutritious meal to children who may not be able to access this at home.
- School Learning Support Officers (SLSOs) provide one-to-one assistance to students with disabilities or learning difficulties in conjunction with the classroom teacher.
- The school counsellor is highly experienced in both teaching and psychology. They support students and families to access local supports and administer assessments for students with additional learning needs including high potential students.

Specialist support classes at Moss Vale Public School

Moss Vale Public School hosts seven support classes for children with disabilities from Preschool to Year 6, including our Early Intervention Unit, known as Acorn Cottage. We host classes for students with:

- Mild intellectual disability (IM class)
- Moderate/severe intellectual disability (IO/IS class)
- Multi-categorical (MC class) which includes autism spectrum disorder, physical disability and mental health

Opportunity Class

Moss Vale Public School is the host school for the Southern Highlands Opportunity Class (OC) as of the commencement of Term 1, 2025. Opportunity classes are a regional support that cater for high potential and intellectually gifted students in Years 5 and 6, where students from surrounding schools can apply for entry into the class.

These classes have a supportive environment, helping students to connect, succeed, thrive and learn. They have fewer students than regular classes. Students in specialist support classes participate in school and community activities to ensure an inclusive learning and play environment for all students.



Medications, illness & injury at school

The school is only allowed to administer medication prescribed by a doctor. If your child requires medication to be administered at school, please discuss this with our office staff, who will advise how this can be managed. All medications are kept at the office and must not be held in the student's bag. In the case of illness and injury at school, students may be sent to the sick bay and parents or nominated carers notified if serious. Please ensure your contact details are always kept up to date.

Immunisation

Immunisation is not compulsory; however, in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, students who have not been immunised may be required to remain at home for the duration of the outbreak. Consequently, it is important that the school is kept up to date with immunisation details. If you do not have the official certificate the following link will assist you obtain a copy from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register website.



Other Common infectious diseases of childhood:

Disease	Period of exclusion
Gastroenteritis (vomitting)	Excluded for 48 hours after the last symptoms ease
Influenza/COVID 19	Until symptoms are gone.
Whooping Cough (Pertussis)	5 days from commencement of a special antibiotic
Chicken Pox	5 days after the first spots appear
German Measles	7 days from appearance of rash
Scabies	Until all evidence of the disease has disappeared or a medical certificate is produced stating that treatment has been successful.
Acute Conjunctivitis	Until discharge from eyes has ceased
Impetigo (septic sores)	Exclude if on exposed surfaces such as scalp, face, hands and legs.
Pediculosis (lice in hair)	The school requests hair is completely cleared; neither nits nor lice being present before children return to school. Brochures detailing the treatment of head lice are available from the school, and appropriate preparations available from your chemist.

Students with infectious diseases should not return to school until the required number of days has elapsed.

Being healthy at school

Healthy food choices

Moss Vale Public School is a 'crunch and sip' school (www.crunchandsip.com.au). Crunch and sip is the first snack break your child will have during the morning session. All students are encouraged to bring a small container with cut-up fruit and/or vegetables and water to consume in class. This is separate to any food bought in or purchased at the canteen for breaks 1 & 2. Please ensure lunch containers and water bottles are clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

Lunch and Munch Canteen

Our Lunch and Munch canteen offers fresh and healthy food options. Orders can be made online via FlexiSchools or by writing on a lunch bag with money inside and delivering it to the canteen before school. The canteen is operated by the school and all profits go directly to the school community.

Birthday Celebrations

We encourage children not to share food with others as some children have severe food allergies that can result in discomfort, illness and anaphylaxis. A notable exception to this is when a child wishes to share food with the class on his/her birthday. Parents may choose to provide individual servings to celebrate, such as cupcakes, doughnuts or ice blocks. Whole cakes are not appropriate. Please discuss with your child's teacher in advance.

Allergy Awareness

We have a number of students who live with the risk of anaphylaxis to various foods. We can never totally eliminate the risk of an anaphylaxis, nor claim to be a nut free school, but we can all help minimise the risk by being thoughtful about the food items we bring to school. Please consider children with food allergies when packing your own child's lunch or when sending in food for any special occasion or events. We ask that you do not send

any nuts, peanut butter sandwiches or food containing peanut butter or whole nuts such as muesli bars. Foods that 'may contain traces of various foods' are fine for the non-allergic students to consume at school as long as they do not share food.

Sun safety

As a sun smart school students must wear a wide brimmed or sun safe hat each day, preferably the approved school hat. If a student does not have a hat they will need to play under the COLA. Students are encouraged to apply sunscreen before attending school and may wish to bring a small tube of sunscreen in their school bag to reapply throughout the day.



Lunch & Munch Canteen	
TERM 2 MENU	
ONLINE ORDERS	
FRESHLY MADE SANDWICHES, WRAPS & ROLLS (12)	
Assorted, plus 10 toppings (12)	\$2.00
Egg, ham, chicken, cheese or tuna (12)	\$5.00
Beef, chicken, turkey, cucumber, tomatoes, corn (12)	\$4.00
• Add \$1 for wraps, rolls or gluten free	
Extra add-ons (12)	
• Add mozzarella, lettuce, tomatoes or pineapple for \$2.00 each	
• Add cucumber, ham, chicken, tuna or egg for \$1.00 each	
FRESHLY MADE GARDEN SALAD BOX (12)	
Lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber, corn, tomatoes (12)	\$4.00
Extra add-ons (12)	
• Add cucumber, ham, chicken, tuna, egg for \$1.00 each	
WINTER TOASTIES (12)	
Cheese & tomato or chicken (12)	\$5.00
Cheese & pineapple (12)	\$5.00
Beef & chicken (12)	\$5.00
Chicken and cheese (12)	\$4.00
Ham, cheese & tomato (12)	\$4.00
Ham, chicken & pineapple (12)	\$4.00
Chicken, cheese & pineapple (12)	\$4.00
• Add \$1 for gluten free bread	
CUP OF SOUP (12)	
Porridge (12)	\$2.00
Chicken noodle (12)	\$5.00
• Add \$1 for bread roll (gluten free option available at some price)	
HOT FOOD (12)	
Assorted roll (12)	\$2.00
Meat Pie (12)	\$4.00
10 Chicken nuggets (12)	\$4.00
• Add \$1 for a gluten free sausage roll or pie	
• Add \$1 for gluten free sausage roll or pie	
Open every Tuesday, Thursday & Friday	
To order online: See us at your school or download the App	



School Uniform



Our uniform provides students with a sense of equal belonging to the school community and makes the school visible in the wider community. Parents are asked to ensure that children attend school in the correct uniform. If a student cannot wear full uniform, please advise the office on the day.

MVPS supply the community with uniforms directly from the school. Please do not purchase substitute clothing. A uniform shop is located on our school grounds near the Canteen or online via Flexischools. Hours of operation are advertised through the school. Online orders are delivered to students classrooms. The P&C clothing pool provides good quality second-hand options and is located outside the administration building facing the COLA.

Sports Uniform

Sport is an important weekly activity at school. While there is no formal sports uniform, students are asked to wear the school emblem polo top and shorts or skorts with sports shoes.

Students will be allocated one of four sports houses when they enrol, and remain in the same house group as their siblings during their time at Moss Vale Public School. When participating in house-related events such as the Cross Country or Athletics Carnival, students will be invited to wear clothing to match their House colours. This includes tops with sleeves (no singlets), shorts or leggings and enclosed sports shoes.

House Colours



Our school community

Volunteering at school

We value families that are willing to lend a hand to support students' learning. We offer a range of opportunities for parents and carers to help in-class, such as reading support, excursions and across the school more generally. Our office staff will assist you to register as a school volunteer on enrolment.

We regularly offer free training to parents and carers who are coming into classrooms to support literacy programs. Assisting in-class helps you to understand the learning processes and activities that your child participates in, and improves consistency between home and school learning which leads to better educational outcomes. Speak with your class teacher about how you can support your child's learning at school and at home.

P&C Association

The school has a wonderful working relationship with our dedicated P&C to support the school, students, staff, parents and community at large.

New families are especially welcome to join the P&C, which currently meets at 6pm on the first Wednesday of each month in the staff room. The P&C runs the clothing pool, annual Country Fair, fundraisers for school facilities

and equipment and is a great way of getting to know school staff and other families. Being part of the P&C is also a great way to hear about what is happening at the school. Visit the website for details.

mossvalepublicschoolpandc.com.au

Community partnerships

The school works closely with local community groups including Wingecarribee Shire Council, Yamanda Aboriginal cultural centre, CWA Evening Branch, Moss Vale Rotary Club, the Rotary e-Club of Brindabella, The Southern Highlands Foundation, PCYC, Moss Vale Services Club, Reading Friends Australia, Ngununggula and local businesses.

WWCC

Parents who volunteer at school, including at a P&C run event during the school day must complete a working with children check declaration form. Forms are available via the office. Parents will need to visit the office to verify their identity in order to complete the process. This only needs to take place once during the enrolment period of your child, unless processes are updated with the department.



Communications

Our school uses a range of platforms for communication with students, families and carers.

School Bytes

This online parent portal and App is used to post notes that would usually be sent home, including provide permission notes and invoices and to update any change of address or emergency contacts. The School Bytes parent portal enables you to view all your children in one portal and process payments for multiple siblings in one transaction.

Facebook

Follow MVPS on Facebook where student learning and achievements are celebrated. The P&C also has a Facebook page on which they post relevant, timely information.

Website

The school website is a repository for information about our school including a school calendar for upcoming events, reporting on recent activities and access to term newsletters. The P&C also has a website www.mossvalepublicschoolpandc.com.au

Communicating attendance

On occasion, your child may need to arrive late, leave early or be absent from school for the day. For late arrivals, the student reports to the school office before going to the classroom so that a late note can be issued and handed to the class teacher. Please advise the office of early leave requests and student absences, as well as any changes to student pick-up routines. You can also view and record student absences on School Bytes.

School Community Charter

This document outlines the responsibilities of parents, carers, educators and school staff in NSW public schools to ensure our learning environments are collaborative, supportive and cohesive. This document ensures we work in partnership to promote student learning, we treat each other with respect and fairness and we communicate in a positive and constructive manner.





COMMUNICATION PROCESS

How to communicate with the school



CONTACT

Email or send a written note to the teacher directly

OR

Email or phone school office

- Provide appropriate subject line and state the general concern.
- If the nature of the concern requires an immediate response, please phone the office.



RESPOND

Teachers or the school will respond within two school days & when they can give you their full attention.

Please remember that while our staff are in class or dealing with other matters, they may not be available to answer your questions immediately.

There is no expectation that staff will respond to communications out of working hours.



CONNECT

Teachers will connect with you to understand and resolve the concern.

If necessary, the teacher will arrange for a face to face meeting at a mutually convenient time.



RESOLVE

If you & the teacher cannot resolve the concern, please contact the Assistant Principal.

If the concern remains unresolved, the matter will be referred directly to the Deputy Principal or Principal.

T 02 4868 1866
E mossvale-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Custody

Confidential information is respected by the school. If parents are divorced or separated, parents are asked to only provide essential and appropriate information such as copies of court orders and contact details. Separate interviews as well as copies of your child's reports can be arranged upon request.

Mobile Phones

Students are not allowed to use mobile phones at school, including before school, during class, at break times or directly after school (ie; bus lines). If a student brings a phone to school for use outside of hours, the phone must remain in the student's school bag and switched off during the school day. Contact with parents via a personal mobile phone at the end of the school day should only take place with teacher permission and if absolutely essential (ie; in bus lines or at school gate).

Digital Device and Online Services

The school's digital device and online services plan is included in the parent pack and available on the school's website. Parents and students are required to complete a signed agreement acknowledging that they are aware of their responsibilities and the school's approach to managing digital devices and online services.





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