



# Minlaton District School

*'By Deeds Not Words'*



Ph: (08)8853 2346 Fax: (08) 8853 2531 <http://www.minlatonds.sa.edu.au/>

## *Welcome to 2025 at MDS*

Everyone I speak to is really excited about the coming year at our school; we have an exciting improvement journey ahead of us that will empower our students to flourish from Reception right through to Year 12! It's important to start with a reminder of our vision and what we value but please ensure you read on as there is critical information contained in this letter for all parents/carers.

*Our vision is to foster a connected school community, where every student is empowered to thrive in their academic and personal lives. We are committed to ensuring that all students confidently express themselves through eloquent expression and apply numeracy in diverse life situations.*

*We value **Zest for Learning**, Deep Understanding and Mastery, Transfer of Learning, Building Personal Capacity, Close Connections, Identity and Belonging*

### **Personal Information**

If any contact information (phone numbers, addresses, email, or emergency contact) or medical information for your child has changed please let us know as a matter of urgency. This information is critical to us in emergency situations so phone us on 8853 2346 to make updates.

### **First Day Back**

Students, staff and parents will congregate in the gym for our usual whole school welcome at 8.50am Tuesday 28 Jan. We'll have lots of staff in the yard on the first morning wearing their high viz, so please ask if you are unsure. Primary students generally come to the gym with their Care Group teachers as a class (Reception kids will stay in their class), but there is no designated seating for all other year levels. For Year 6 and upwards, timetables will be published on Daymap by the end of the day, Friday 24 Jan. For those who cannot access Daymap or Class Dojo, don't worry, Care Group information will be shared during the welcome and more detailed information will be covered during an extended Care Group lesson on Tuesday.

### **New staff and new roles**

Primary School Teacher – Caitlin Roads

Middle School Teachers – Kate Oatway, Charlotte Champion, and Cara Maclay

Wellbeing and Inclusion Leader – Erin Cock

Temporary Groundskeeper for Term 1 – Brenton Patten

Aboriginal Community Engagement Officer (ACEO) – Nikki Jackson

Aboriginal Education Teacher – Geordie Cameron.

*...where everyone thrives.*

## **Class Dojo and Daymap Connect**

Class Dojo is the preferred communication tool for parents of Primary students and your Care Group Teacher will contact you about access. For Middle and Senior Students, Daymap is our communication tool. We have both quick and detailed instructions on how to set up the parent portal on our website. As the year continues there will be information that is only published on Daymap so make sure your access is set up now. We regularly update our Facebook page, and we will continue to run two newsletters a term (generally one halfway through and one at the end of term).

## **Stationary Packages**

Initial stationery for Middle and Senior students will be distributed by class teacher/s on the first day of school, while parents of students in R – 5 classes are encouraged to collect stationery packages from classrooms during Week 0 to allow time for covering and labelling. Details are on Facebook. Parents and Caregivers can pick up stationery packs on Thursday between 2pm and 4pm and Friday between 2pm and 3:30pm.

## **BYOD**

Middle and Senior students with a new laptop will need to bring in their device to us, to allow Scott to set up the network and relevant certificates. It is best that you get the set up done before we come back to school if possible. Please note that you must perform the initial setup at home before bringing the device in to Scott.

Please phone 8853 2346 and ask to speak to Scott Nankivell to make an appointment or for more information.

## **Uniform**

MDS has a Governing Council approved uniform policy. The details can be found at the following:

[https://www.minlatonds.sa.edu.au/files/ugd/50ed17\\_adb26862614745c38094c05aef6fc8cb.pdf](https://www.minlatonds.sa.edu.au/files/ugd/50ed17_adb26862614745c38094c05aef6fc8cb.pdf)

During summer students typically wear a school polo (purchased from school) and plain navy shorts with no or minimal visible branding (often purchased from Target, Kmart etc). Refer to the uniform policy for other approved clothing options and requirements. Shoes should be in-closed.

Students MUST have a school branded bucket hat (purchased from school) for all outdoor activities in Terms 1 and 4. There will be no grace period for this. Students who forget their hats will be directed to a common space during break times.

If families experience financial barriers regarding the purchasing of uniforms, please let us know and we will support as needed.

## **Canteen**

The canteen will continue to operate on three days per week (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday). In 2024 we had more students than ever using the canteen (nice work Tammy!) which allows us to make more improvements to the canteen in 2025. From time to time, we need to keep the canteen open using parent

volunteers so if you're available to help from time to time, then please let us know on 8853 2346 or in person! You will find the menu on QKR as usual.

### **Materials and Services**

Materials and Services invoices will be distributed to parents during the first half of Term 1. If you have any queries about payments or uniform; need to apply for School Card; or would like to organise a payment plan to manage your budget, please contact Sophie Glazbrook or Zoe Weir in the Finance Office for assistance.

### **Facilities**

Over the break we have had lots of work happening around the place, including painting, new drinks fountain near the oval and new kiln shed.

See you all soon!

Andrew Dickinson

Principal

Minlaton District School