



Minlaton District School

'By Deeds Not Words'

Celebrating 30 Years 1992-2022

Newsletter 8

19 MAY, 2022

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

DIARY DATES

MAY/ JUNE 2022

May

24th - 7/8 9 a-side footy
26th - SAPSASA Netball

June

1st - 7/8 & Open Basketball
6th - Beats n Pieces Performance

*see attached full term Calendar
All External dates to be confirmed dependent on Covid restrictions

Fortnightly Feature

MINLATON DISTRICT SCHOOL CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

'Where are they now?'

Rewinding back to 2002 Kate Agars (nee Jolly) graduated at Minlaton District School.

Kate was a high achieving student both academically and sporting. While at MDS Kate was School Captain along side Josh Reichstein. Kate also had the leadership role as Yorke House Captain. As a high achieving sportsperson Kate showed wonderful leadership and communication skills to her peers. Kate represented the state on many occasions while at school in netball and basketball. These representative teams needed a lot of commitment from Kate, with trainings being based in Adelaide. Kate would travel to Adelaide multiple times a week and often complete her homework in the car.

Kate's fondest memories of MDS are Inter-school Sports Day along with other house events held throughout the year. Kate is still in touch with many school friends even though she is currently living overseas.

When Kate left school she worked as a bank teller/ personal banker with Adelaide Bank whilst studying a Bachelor of Junior Primary/Primary Education at The University of South Australia. Kate continued with her basketball playing for Sturt in the Women's ABA Team.

Once she graduated, Kate moved to Tanunda to teach at Redeemer Lutheran School. After a number of years living and teaching in the Barossa, Kate married a local Sam Agars. In 2014 they decided to move to Discovery Bay, Hong Kong where Kate gained a role as Team Leader/ Teacher Position for up to Year 6 students.

Now Kate is a Primary Vice Principal and Primary Years Programme Coordinator at Discovery College, however has just gained a new role to commence in August 2022 as Director of Pedagogy and Professional Learning (Yr1-13)

Whilst in Hong Kong Kate played in the Hong Kong International Women's Netball Team. She competed in the 2016 & 2018 Asian Championships and was fortunate to be named co-captain in the 2018 team.

Kate is now a proud mum to Oliver 'Ollie' who is 2 years and 6 months old.

Happier than ever Kate, Sam and Ollie miss their family and friends back in SA and look forward to Covid restrictions easing to allow visits back home to see them in the near future.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



A MESSAGE FROM ALI

Here we are at the end of Week 3 and the MDS classroom absentee carousel continues to turn. While we had a spike in Covid cases over last weekend, there is another nasty bug doing the rounds and we are running at about a third of our students being absent for one reason or another on any given day. We are stressing to the students the importance of wearing masks in our classrooms, and maintaining good hygiene practices with hand sanitiser and hand washing. Your support in keeping students with symptoms of illness at home, is very much appreciated; I think that all of our immune systems must be quite depleted given the last couple of years, and we are certainly seeing evidence of that in our attendance both of students and staff.

NAPLAN

Over the past two weeks NAPLAN testing has been undertaken here at MDS for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Students complete tests in writing, reading, conventions of language (grammar, punctuation and spelling) and numeracy. You can imagine the logistics of this process while our absence rate has been particularly high, especially within the Year 9 cohort. While some students have been able to do catch up tests on their return to school, there will be a number of gaps in our testing this year. This will only impact at a system level as here at school, NAPLAN tests are only one method of attaining information about student learning. Thank you to all of the students who participated and our staff for the their flexibility in administering and re-arranging classes so that testing could take place.

SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT

On their return to school this term students were greeted by a fenced area and mound of gravel where the old music room used to be. We are delighted that this process went ahead so smoothly over the holiday period. Next week trenching will begin to put our data cabling between the adjacent buildings underground, removing yet more of the overhead cabling around the school which makes it safer and more stable for our data and power supplies. Thanks to our Senior Service Delivery Lead Anthony Nitschke and the personnel at McMahons Services for their work on this project. Visitors to the library will also have noted upgrades to the community toilet facility, which is now ready for use. A small area of asbestos was removed, making our school now almost asbestos free, while the toilet was refurbished to increase ventilation with a complete paint job and new tiling and hand basin. Thanks to Neil Dutschke for his delivery of this project and Frank Endemann for his oversight. Neil was also able to open up a wall between two rooms in our triple block, which will provide a larger classroom space for the Year 2/3 class to move into at some point in the future. Our next big project is the internal refurbishment of the canteen. We have signed off on the project, and depending on material supplies, works will take place in either the July or October school holidays to avoid disruption to our canteen service during school term.



'Always keep learning,
It keeps you young'



INVITATION TO JOIN A CONVERSATION

From time to time in our newsletter, we publish articles from third parties to prompt some thought and provide advice to parents and carers. This week Greg Hackett has provided a piece which has provoked thought and conversation amongst our staff regarding the role of parents in the use of digital devices by students. I urge you to read the article and join that conversation. We welcome your thoughts and invite you to email us via the email address at the bottom of the article. We have made the decision to post this article on our school Facebook page in addition to the newsletter. Normally this page is reserved for school information and celebrating what our students are up to, but we thought that it could provide a wider forum for discussion about a variety of topics, so you will begin to see some 'other' types of posts in the future.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

Our 'Where are they Now?' series continues this week. We are very grateful to hear from ex-students with information about what they have been doing since they graduated from MDS. Our aim is not simply celebrating our alumni, but also providing a range of stories to show our current students and their parents that anything is possible post school. We want to raise the aspirations of our current students and expose them to all of the opportunities that might exist for them. If you know of any past students with an interesting story to tell, please ask them to get in touch. It is wonderful to hear about what experiences and adventures our ex-MDS students.

PPEP

Last week we were visited by a presenter from the Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia who spoke to our year 8 - 12 girls and our year 9 - 12 boys about Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain. This is the second time we have hosted this presentation, and this year we were encouraged to broaden the audience to include the 9 - 12 boys. Many teenagers suffer period pain, pelvic pain or endometriosis, but this doesn't have to limit them in living their best lives. Gaining an understanding of these conditions supports both girls and boys. Our students gained a great deal from the presentations and can gain further understanding through a number of free on-line sessions being held in June. Details are provided in a flyer attached to this newsletter. I urge any parents of girls with who may be affected to book in to one of these sessions with your daughter to learn more.

UNIFORM

It is fabulous to see our Year 12 cohort in their year 12 jumpers; their delivery for the start of Term 2 and the cooler weather was timely. We have noted that there is a range of non-uniform garments making their way into daily wear for some students. Parents are reminded that while we have a generally relaxed uniform to allow our students flexibility to engage fully in all learning experiences, there is an expectation that students will adhere to the dress code. MDS school tops, whether the polo top, windcheater or school jacket are the expectation, while navy or dark grey are the only colours that should be worn below. Outer jackets of varying colours are of course allowed while outside to protect from the weather, however these should not be worn while inside.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Ali

From the Deputy's desk...

Disclaimer: from time to time, parents/caregivers seek advice or support from MDS staff regarding a range of issues. The intention of this article is to go some way to supporting parents/caregivers for the benefit of our young people and the community that surround them. This article is a stimulus for self-reflection on our attitudes and behaviours towards relevant issues. It is in no way targeted at a single individual or group within our school community, but is shared to all in the interests of transparency and an avenue to promote dialogue and a deeper understanding of the issue at hand. Your feedback is welcome and encouraged. dl.0781.leaders@schools.sa.edu.au.

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

As educators, we are acutely aware that the best learning outcomes for students occur when there is a strong partnership between the child/learner, the educators/school and parents/caregivers. It is through this lens that we present a plea from an international colleague regarding some of the roles and responsibilities of parents. Our department has challenged us to more actively engage with parents and we believe this thought-provoking article is a means to this end. It is not intended as 'preaching', being judgmental, or accusatory, rather, a reminder to check in with your child and maybe evaluate where you stand on the issues raised by the educator-writer.

Among the many observations of pandemic researchers is the effect that its many complicating factors are having upon our children and youth, some of which include withdrawal from families, friends and social groups, increasing use/reliance on digital devices and an increase across a broad spectrum of mental health issues. Thankfully, this article contains some simple, positive strategies to combat the potential harms highlighted

Again, we welcome your thoughts, comments or questions in relation to this matter.

Parents.

I am an assistant principal in a middle school (grades 6-8). My number one job is to create and sustain a school environment where both students and teachers feel safe (physically, emotionally, and mentally) to teach, learn, innovate, and socialize. I take my job very seriously, as do my colleagues, and we work very hard to grow in our capacity to do this work daily.

I can't begin to describe how much time I spend every day dealing with issues that stem from unsupervised cell phone usage by our students. In the situations where I have to search a student's cell phone, I often get sick to my stomach at what I find (highly inappropriate photos, videos, messages, social media usage, etc.). The things our students are willing to try and be a part of at such a young age gets worse and worse every year.

When I call parents to inform them of what is going on I always ask them how often they look through their kids' phones. The shock gets even worse when 90% of them say hardly ever or never. And then they get upset at me, accuse me of lying to them about their kids' roles in certain situations, or expect me to somehow fix the situation.

Parents, it is your number one job as a parent to get in your kids' way at all times. Kids do not deserve privacy without accountability. You own their devices, not them. You should be having the hard conversations with them about life, relationships, their bodies, their futures, etc. It is your responsibility to provide social and emotional support, help build coping skills, and monitor their activities, especially online. Please stop actively working against schools and start working with us. We are not the enemy. We are trying to fulfill the role of both parent and educator in many situations and that is a very delicate and difficult line to walk.

Here are 3 tips for "getting in your child's way." You can modify any of these based on your relationship with your children.

1. Eat dinner as a family every night possible and actually talk.

No devices allowed. Current research suggests that parents only spend about 8 minutes a day in conversation with their kids. That's unacceptable.

2. Check their devices RANDOMLY AND OFTEN.

You need to learn how to navigate their world. Inform yourself on how to use certain apps. Keep up with what apps are the most downloaded in the App Store. Make your kid show you their content and conversations and explain to you what is going on. Then give them advice. MAKE CONTENT WITH THEM and be part of their online presence.

3. Create opportunities for them to have experiences.

Take them to do new things, see new things, and learn new things. This not only strengthens their brain development, emotional development, and builds resiliency in kids but it also strengthens your relationship with them.

The online world is by far the most dangerous place our students go to every day.

And finally, do not let them take their phones into their rooms, shut their doors, and disappear for hours. Nothing good ever happens on the internet behind closed doors. We can't assume that they will intuitively know how to navigate the dangers of the online world on their own.

Please, help us with this.

A note from the Finance Office

Finances

Dear Families

Please have M&S Fees & Student Device Payments (that are due in 2022) paid by the end of term 2 or have a payment plan in place.

Feel free to make a time with me if you would like to discuss anything finance related, I'm here to help!

Jacket Update

For those that have ordered MDS Winter Jackets for 2022 they are still on track to arrive at the end of May.

I will notify everyone who has placed an order as soon as they arrive and advise of the amount and collection details.

Thanks for your patience!

Zoe



Canteen Update

Public school canteens don't receive any staffing or financial support from the government and are completely the responsibility of their respective schools. Consequently we constantly walk a very fine line trying to offer the best possible service while operating within the restrictions of strict financial parameters. We sincerely thank Minlaton Foodland for recently coming on board to support our canteen and once again supporting our community, it is most appreciated.

I also want to acknowledge the students who help out in the canteen in their own time. It's an enormous help and their competence and positive attitude are testament to their character.

Cathy
Canteen Manager

Pastoral and School Care Worker News



Last week I attended the Schools Ministry Group annual conference in Adelaide. After two years of being cut very short due to Covid, it was nice to spend time with other PCW's to share resources and network.

We were lucky to have Dr. Lori Desautels who is an Assistant Professor at Butler University in Indianapolis as our main Keynote speaker. Dr. Lori specialises in applied educational neuroscience. It was really interesting and enlightening to hear how educators and students alike must understand their neuroanatomy to regulate behaviour and calm the brain.

Last week I also completed Seasons for Growth training. Seasons for Growth is an innovative, evidence-based change, loss and grief education program that draws on the metaphor of the seasons to understand the experience of grief. It builds the knowledge and skills necessary to strengthen social and emotional wellbeing following significant loss. The program is run in small groups or can be delivered individually over an 8 week period and I am hoping to implement this here at MDS when and if the need arises.

I was also very honoured to receive a certificate from the Schools Ministry Group for 15 years continues service as a Pastoral Care Worker. It has been an absolute privilege to be able to care for and support schools, families and communities during this time. Not sure if I'll make another 15 years but I'll give it my best shot!!

Hope you all have a great week!

Di



Middle School News

Time is flying this term as we are already in Week 3. NAPLAN has been completed by Year 7 and 9 students for another year and the run up to end of semester reporting has begun. Students will be very busy working on course and assignment work.

Last week, the Middle School students set their goals for Term 2. Students were asked to reflect upon their Learning Conversations that took place at the end of last term as a source of inspiration. Goals were 'SMARTER' based, Specific, Measurable, Action-based, Relevant, Timely, Evaluated and have a Reward if achieved. They also needed to link-in with our thriving learner concepts. It would be great if parents can discuss these goals with their child/children and encourage them to focus on these each week.

A number of students have identified organisation as a key area for improvement from the goal setting activity. There are a variety of strategies that can help students improve their organisation both at school and at home. Scheduling set times to complete homework each day can provide structure to a student's learning. Creating a calendar with due dates for drafts and assignments can also allow students to prioritise their work to ensure they are meeting specific deadlines. Utilising all the features of Daymap can also be a handy tool providing students with an understanding of lesson tasks and activities, homework requirements, deadlines, note taking and providing communication opportunities with the various teachers.

Two themes will dominate discussions within the Middle School over the coming weeks, Bystanders/Upstanders and appropriate device usage. As a continual effort for students to play an active role in shaping a positive educational environment students will discuss the roles of Bystanders/Upstanders. We seek to have all students act in safe and responsible ways when unacceptable standards are observed. This follows on to the appropriate use of devices at school. Network privileges will and have been restricted to individuals if the MDS BYOD ICT agreement is not adhered too. Greg's communication in this newsletter as to how parents can support their student in safe device usage is a great conversation starter in your home.

Please get in contact with me if you have any questions/concerns/issues with anything throughout the year. My email address is Stephen.Talbot110@schools.sa.edu.au

**Stephen Talbot
Middle School Coordinator**



Senior School News

Week 3 already, what a whirlwind start to the term. It certainly does not seem like more than two weeks since holidays, I think I need another one!

I've spent some time this week and last having a look through most of the senior classes and can honestly say that we have a group of amazing young people (and teachers) here at MDS. The quality of the teaching and learning happening across the senior school is exemplary. In the last few days, I have seen restaurant quality sticky pork belly and crunchy Asian salad being served up in Food & Hospitality, industry standard plasma cutting underway in Design & Technology and deep discussion and conversation about what young people can do to influence governments around climate change. It has been a very impressive first 3 weeks to the term, and in the next newsletter, I will ensure that we have some photographic evidence of the great things our classes are doing, a bit of a showcase so to speak.

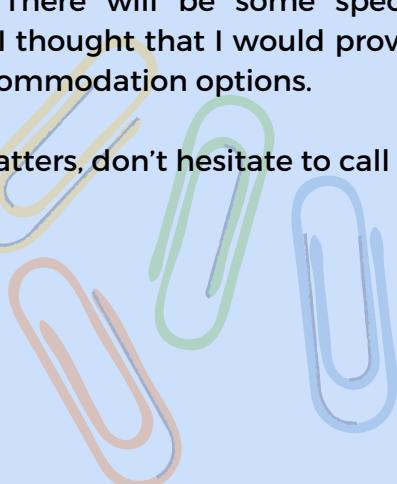
For our year 10 students, they are moving towards some very exciting educational opportunities, both this term and next.

The first of these is work experience. Work experience is a fantastic opportunity for young people to sample the world of work in order to assist them making future choices around both school and post school pathways. For our year 10 students, a week of work experience in each semester is compulsory. This term it is scheduled for week 9 of the term (27/6/22-1/7/22), after semester 1 commitments are complete and prior to beginning semester 2. Information has been provided to students this week. We have suggested that in this first instance, students undertake a local placement, in order to increase confidence and get used to learning in a different environment with different responsibilities & expectations. For all placements afterwards (and they get chances in year 11 and possibly 12 too), we would firmly encourage students to undertake placements in identified areas of interest related to post school pathways. More information will follow in future newsletters and via email to parents, however please note that this is meant to be a student driven process, and that all fully completed forms are to be returned by 9am Wednesday 15/6/22.

The second of the great opportunities is Careers Week! We haven't been able to run this for the last 2 years due to COVID protocols and restrictions, however we will most likely be able to do so this year and we are very excited. Week 5 of Term 3 (22/8/22-26/8/22) is set aside for a great week in the city for our year 10 students. Planning of visits is already well underway, with visits being linked to areas that students have identified as wanting to investigate. There will be some specific information provided to parents over the next week or so, however I thought that I would provide some advance notice in order for families to start thinking about accommodation options.

Once again if you have any questions about Senior School related matters, don't hesitate to call me here at school or send an email to: glen.white872@schools.sa.edu.au

Glen White
Senior School Coordinator



Senior School News



PPEP TALK® NEXT STEPS

Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia (PPFA) welcomes attendees of PPEP Talk® (Periods, Pain & Endometriosis Program) and their families to attend a **FREE** information session.

Join Gynaecologist, Pain Specialist and author of 'Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain' Dr Susan Evans on Zoom for PPEP Talk® Next Steps.

Building on the knowledge students have gained at our school sessions, PPEP Talk® Next Steps is an opportunity for young people experiencing pelvic pain and their families to ask questions and seek support for the next steps to take.



**Register for the
session now**



Details:

- What: PPEP Talk® Next Steps
- When: Wednesday 29th June 2022
 - 7.00pm ACST,
 - 7.30pm AEST,
 - 5.30pm AWST
- Where: Via Zoom
- Details at www.trybooking.com/BLDRE
- Cost: FREE

PPFA is committed to supporting teenagers who suffer severe period pain, pelvic pain and endometriosis to allow them to fulfill their potential and live their best life possible.

If you have any further queries please email us at contact@pelvicpain.org.au, call (08) 8291 7923 or visit our website www.pelvicpain.org.au

**MDS Visit from Libby
on Wednesday 11th of May
Yr 10 Boys Information Session**



Primary School News

Times Tables Apps for tablets and iPads

Several parents have asked about apps for children to use to learn their times tables. Following are a couple of apps that are completely free and the second list shows apps that have a minimal cost. If your child likes music and singing the 'Maths Rockx' app would be great. The other apps have various games that may appeal.

Free Apps

DK 10 minutes a Day Times Tables - racing car game
Learn times tables quickly - speed tables

Apps that cost

Quick math - speed tables
Maths Rockx - singing to learn tables
Space Pig Math - space shooting game
Engaging times tables game - platform adventure game
Monkey Math Jetpack for Kids - involves all operations (+ - x) with a flying monkey who collects fruit
Tap Times Tables - small games involving tables and a squirrel

Performances

We have a performance for the primary students on the 6th of June. The group called 'Beats 'n Pieces' is coming to entertain the children. They use repurposed material to create music with an Asian influence. Curramulka Primary and Stansbury Primary Schools will be attending the performance and staying for recess.

NAPLAN

The Year 3 and Year 5 students have now completed all the NAPLAN tests for the year. They conducted themselves very well, working with diligence throughout each of the tests. They are to be commended on their calm approach.

Barb Agnew
Primary Coordinator



Primary School News

"Last term in the Year 3/4 class we explored Australia's neighbours, with our unit culminating in the production of a research poster. Each student chose one of the many island nations we share our region with to do some deeper research on. The Solomon Islands proved to be a very popular choice among the class, however there was no single country left poster-less!

The research displayed varied from population, land area and capital cities to threatened animals, favourite sports, and local foods, giving some excellent insight into the similarities and differences found in our incredibly diverse part of the world.

In our next Geography unit the Year 3/4 class will be looking even closer to home! Natural and man-made landmarks, significance of place, and what makes up a 'climate' will all feature in a term that is sure to be just as exciting and inspiring as the last!

Mr. Cameron"
Year 3/4 Teacher



Sport News

SAPSASA CROSS COUNTRY

In Week 1 of this term, we had a small but zealous band of runners converge on the grounds of Yorketown Area School for the SYP Cross Country District Day. Congratulations to all of them on their impressive results.

Results:

- Marlie Jeffrey - 9th in the 10 year old girls 2000m
- Henley Dutschke - 5th in the 10 year old boys 2000m
- Finn Glazbrook - 8th in the 10 year old boys 2000m
- Will McDonald - 11th in the 10 year old 2000m
- Lowan Coe - 4th in the 11 year old boys 3000m
- Sam Mahar - 2nd in the 12 year old boys 3000m

Henley, Lowan and Sam will now represent SYP at the State Championships at Oakbank next month. Well done boys!

Thanks to Megan Maher for her amazing effort with transport to and from Yorketown for most of the students and her assistance with supervision. We would not have been able to send anyone without her help.



SAPSASA FOOTBALL

After all school sport was postponed late last term, the Year 5 and 6 boys were finally able to strut their stuff on the football field earlier this term. Our team consisted of Charlie Mahar, Sam Mahar, Angus Liebelt, Angus Coote, Josh Cook, Lowan Coe, Noah Macgowan, Darcy Walsh, Mekhi Nash, Jackson Burke, Max Hamilton and our last-minute super sub, Riley Stubberfield. We were fortunate enough to receive RIF funding to transport the students to and from the venue by bus.

The rescheduled carnival was held at Maitland and involved students from our neighbouring SYP schools. The carnival is a new innovation this year aimed primarily at using match play to assist in selecting a squad for the SYP SAPSASA football team which will compete in the State Carnival later this term. For this reason, there wasn't a winner declared for the day.

For the record, our boys were extremely impressive with their performances by 'unofficially' winning three of the four matches. They were another fantastic advertisement for the calibre of students we are fortunate to have here at MDS with their camaraderie, teamwork, support for each other and sense of fair play evident all day.

Congratulations to Noah Macgowan, Angus Coote, Lowan Coe and Darcy Walsh on being selected in the SYP SAPSASA boys' football team to compete in the State Carnival in Adelaide in two weeks time. Well done also to Angus Liebelt and Charlie Phillips who narrowly missed out on selection.

Josh Coombe
Primary Sport Co-ordinator



Term 2 Calendar

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT	SUN
Week 1	2 Student Free Day	3	4 SYP Cross Country	5	6 Yr11/12 Careers Trip	7	8
Week 2	9	10 Naplan Online	11 Naplan Online	12 Naplan Online	13 Naplan Online	14	15
Week 3	16 Naplan Online	17 Naplan Online	18 Naplan Online	19 Naplan Online	20 Naplan Online	21	22
Week 4	23	24 7/8 9 a-side Football	25	26 SAPSASA Netball	27	28	29
Week 5	30	31	1 7/8 & Open Basketball	2	3	4	5
Week 6	6 Performance 'Beats n Pieces' R-6	7	8	9 School Photos	10	11	12
Week 7	13 Queen's Birthday	14 Student Free Day	15	16	17	18	19
Week 8	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Week 9	27 Semester 2 begins Yr10 Work Experience	28	29	30	1	2	3
Week 10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14 July	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

*All External dates to be confirmed dependent on Covid restrictions

PepperTree Markets

make it – bake it – grow it

Jubilee Pavilion, Minlaton Oval

- Market stalls
- Pony rides
- Face painting
- Food and drink
- Fun for all ages



THE PAISLEY

Show n Shine

\$10 entry per car

Prizes on offer

- People's Choice
- Pre 1940
- 1941-1960
- 1961-1989
- 1990-present
- Classic bike pre1989
- Modern bike post 1990

Show n Shine info- 0448 539 859

Payment ref- name sns

Payments to SYP Ag Society Inc BSB-105-064 Acc- 260 017 240

Supporting the SYP Ag Society Inc. Fundraising efforts to restore their heritage building

Market information call Kellie 0418 461 080

Car Boot Sale

The perfect opportunity to clear out, declutter and pick up a few bargains.

\$10 per car site

Car Boot Info -

Lisa 0417 772 060

Payment ref- name carboot

Saturday
11th June
9am – 2pm



PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM COVID-19

There have been a number of recent cases of COVID 19 in your child's school.

Vaccination provides the best protection against COVID 19.

Don't delay – book a COVID 19 vaccination for your child today.

For more information go to
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/covidvaccine

