



# St. Aidan's Primary School

1-5 Adelaide Street, Rooty hill

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[www.staidansrootyhill.catholic.edu.au](http://www.staidansrootyhill.catholic.edu.au)

## Newsletter

Term 2 Week 7

**Learning is a 24/7 activity.**

**It is constant and ongoing!**



**W**hy do we say it only “counts” when done  
in a classroom setting?

**W**here did you learn the most important lessons in life when  
you were growing up? Odds are it wasn't the classroom.

**W**hat if learning outside the classroom **“counted”**  
the same as learning inside the classroom?

**H**ow would this be assessed and reported back to parents?



## **REPORTS AND CONFERENCES COMING UP**

Over the next few weeks, you will have the opportunity to learn more about your child's learning progress.

A paper note and Skoolbag alert went home this week with details as to how to register a time slot for your 'family conference'. The child-centred meetings allow each student to reflect on their learning and their strengths/ challenges/ goals. Parents and teachers also add to this reflection with the report being the basis of the discussion.

**Bookings details are in this newsletter;**

**they have been emailed to parents;**

**and are also on the Skoolbag App.**

***AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT, BOOK TODAY!***



Dear Parents,

Family Conferences will be held from **Wednesday 27th June- Thursday 5th July.**

Interviews are strictly 15 minutes and spaces are limited. If you require more time with a particular teacher, please arrange a separate meeting by telephoning the school on 9625 3181

Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and enter the code **xxrhk**



Enter your details



Select the teachers you wish to see



Select the appointment times that suit your family best



When you click FINISH your selected bookings will be emailed to you immediately. If you not receive your email, please check your junk-mail, or enter the event code again and check your email address spelling. Update your details if email address is incorrect. **DO NOT DELETE** the email you receive. Keep it somewhere safe. You may need to refer back to it at a later date.

REMEMBER TO ADD YOUR APPOINTMENTS TO YOUR CALENDAR - reminders will not be sent home.

**Bookings must be finalised by Friday 22nd June.**

If you need to view, cancel, change or print your bookings:

- Click on the link in the confirmation email you received after you made your bookings
- OR return to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and enter the code and the email address you used when making your bookings.

**Your child (K-6) will be required to attend the conference with you so that they can share their learning with you and negotiate their next goals for semester 2.**

# REPORTING TO PARENTS

At St Aidan's, parents have ready access to teachers to obtain information on a child's progress. Feedback may be through a phone call, a letter or simply by comments on a student's work.

A formal or informal meeting is always possible at a mutually agreeable time to discuss concerns.






In weeks 9/10, we have the opportunity to sit with your child and your child's teacher to investigate how they are going so far this year. Surely teachers or parents who have major concerns about a student would already have spoken before this mid-year report.

**REMEMBER:** "C" is the EXPECTED level for most students. **It is where they are supposed to be at this time.** EFFORT is very important when you read the report since it shows how hard the child is working regardless of their 'E-A' grading.

For example, a student might get a 'D' or 'E' but if they get a great **EFFORT** response, then it shows they are working to the best of their ability.



To put the E-A Standards-Based Reporting Scale into perspective, it is helpful to look at the analogy below for driving a car.

<i>E-A Standards-Based Reporting Scale</i>					
<b>Years 1-6</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>Formal Terms</b>	Limited achievement	Basic achievement	Sound achievement	High achievement	Outstanding achievement
<b>St Aidan's Descriptions</b>	Experienced difficulty	Did OK	Celebrate this work	Beyond expectations	Amazing achievement
<b>Looking at this like a driving licence.</b>	<p>A person on their <u>L plates</u> must always be accompanied by an experienced driver.</p> 	<p>A person on their <u>P plates</u> drives independently but is still learning and developing their skills.</p> 	<p>A person who has their full <u>driver's licence</u> is independent to drive on their own without restrictions.</p> 	<p>An <u>advanced driver</u> can navigate through many obstacles and has extra skills.</p> 	<p>A <u>Formula One driver</u> strives for excellence - conquering one challenge and then moving on to the next and even bigger challenge.</p> 



# Nothing soft about 'soft skills'

By Greg Whitby, 13 June 2018



Greg Whitby AM is Executive Director of Schools, Diocese of Parramatta

There is a view among some that Australian students are falling behind because schools are too focused on teaching what are sometimes referred to 'soft-skills' like **creativity** and **collaboration**. Since when did deep thinking, being able to work with others and imagination ever become 'soft'? In fact, these are the skills that are young people need for than ever.

It always concerns me whenever I hear comparison between teaching soft-skills and the need to teach 'hard' skills like English, maths and science. These are not 'skills', they are subject disciplines out of which students acquire literacy, numeracy and scientific reasoning.

Soft skills need to be cultivated. Good teachers have always been able to use the content of their lessons to develop their students' creativity, critical thinking and communication. Out of the experience of learning music, art, history or maths, students learn to do new things with sounds, images and words, and solve problems.

To dismiss the importance of 'soft skills' or to dismiss them as education fads is to not understand what good teaching is about. Good teachers not only impart knowledge but they also teach their students *how* to learn, *how* to think critically, *how* to work together and *how* to be good communicators.

Debates about whether 'subjects' are more important than 'skills' is a waste of time. Instead, we need to acknowledge that subjects open the door to developing all kinds of necessary skills that young people need today more than ever.

American physicist Richard Feynman won a Nobel prize for his work in 1965. Feynman believed there was a big difference between knowing something and knowing the name of something. We need our young people to know more than just the names of things. We need them to be the change-makers. This will mean using knowledge in new ways, taking ideas further than they have been taken before (and sometimes rejecting them outright) and always, always questioning. And it is the role of schools to create environments for this to happen.

**Greg Whitby**  
Executive Director of Schools – Diocese of Parramatta

# Parent Feedback on the recent TTFM Survey

All data was confidential and anonymous yet the overall feedback was very helpful in assisting us to be more precise with our learning and also addressing various issues raised.

**The school rated extremely high in a number of areas including**

- being supportive of positive behaviour,
- support for learning,
- safety of students,
- teachers being approachable & available,
- parent support with learning at home,
- creating a warm, inclusive and welcoming environment for parents and students,
- being well informed
- promoting our Catholic Faith.



# Parent Feedback on the recent TTFM Survey

We appreciated the affirmation of our staff and the learning we do here at St Aidan's. We are blessed to have teachers who work extremely hard to promote the potential of each and every student.

Some areas were also noted to be further addressed:

- **Communication**- people having a range of misconceptions about the school and the learning
- **Communication**- people being misinformed about school processes and programs- simply **not reading** the newsletters/ alerts/ notes/ social media posts



SkoolBag



facebook

twitter



# Parent Feedback on the recent TTFM Survey

- **Behaviour**- parents and students having a deeper understanding about 'bullying' and 'social incidents'
- **Behaviour**- a child's or family's right to privacy and confidentiality when parents feel that 'nothing has been done' about some other child's poor behaviour.
- Award Systems
- Mass regularity
- Stricter enforcement of various behaviours ( eg uniforms)
- Parents not getting on well with others because of children's behaviours.



# WHAT IS BULLYING?

Any situation where a student feels unsafe in school because of bullying is not tolerated in our school. **We are committed to providing safe, secure and stimulating learning environments for all students.** As part of this commitment we have policies and guidelines to prevent and manage bullying.

Unfortunately, the word 'bullying' conjures up many and varied definitions that are sometimes not very helpful in resolving any unpleasant experience a student may have. Clarifying the definition of bullying is vitally important so that children, parents and staff at school approach and resolve any 'incident' in an appropriate manner.

**Bullying is when one or more people deliberately upset or hurt another person, their property, reputation or social acceptance, and this action is repeated over time.**

There are three broad categories of bullying:

- **Direct physical bullying** - Examples include hitting, tripping or damaging property.
- **Direct verbal bullying** - Examples include name calling, insults or verbal abuse.
- **Indirect bullying** - This form of bullying is harder to recognise and is designed to harm someone's social reputation. Examples include spreading rumours, encouraging others to socially exclude someone and cyber-bullying. eg. use of text messages, e-mail.



# WHAT IS BULLYING?

Many distressing behaviours are not examples of bullying even though they are unpleasant and often require teacher intervention and management.

**There are three socially unpleasant situations that are often confused with bullying:**

- **Mutual conflict** - There is an argument or disagreement between students but not an imbalance of power. Both parties are upset and usually both want a resolution to the problem. However, unresolved mutual conflict sometimes develops into a bullying situation with one person becoming targeted repeatedly for 'retaliation' in a one-sided way.
- **Social rejection** - Unless the social rejection is specifically directed towards someone and involves deliberate and repeated attempts to cause distress, exclude or create dislike by others, it is not bullying.
- **Random acts** - Single episodes of nastiness or physical aggression are not the same as bullying. If a student is verbally abused or pushed on one occasion they are not being bullied. Nastiness or physical aggression that is directed towards many different students is not the same as bullying

Solutions to the above variety of 'bullying' and 'non-bullying' behaviours differ greatly. It is therefore important that you contact the school with your concerns and then work with us to resolve the issue.

**We are committed to the happiness and well-being of every student at our school and we have different solution focussed responses to each of the above situations.**



# Sacramental Preparation



Dear Parents,

The preparation of our students for taking part in and receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion are vital aspects of our lives as Catholics and people of faith.

During my Religious Education lessons with your children from Kindergarten to Year 6, I have noticed an increasing number of students who have not yet received their sacraments.

It has been the custom for many years to register your child at your local parish and commit to the entire Sacramental program as a family. The upcoming Sacrament of Confirmation will see some of our students in years 5 and six receive the last of the three sacraments of initiation.

Next term, students at our school who have received the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be eligible to register for and complete their Holy Communion program. During our upcoming Family Conferences, I will provide your child's classroom teacher with the information about the St Aidan's Parish Sacramental program for term 3 which they will share with you. Students in Years 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 will be encouraged to attend the lessons. Together with your ongoing support as primary faith educators, we will be able to support the faith formation of our students and continue the mission of Jesus Christ.

Thanking you in advance for your ongoing support

Mrs Miray Khoury  
Religious Education Coordinator



## *Make a Difference!* **DONATE**



Dear parents,

At St Aidan's, we strive to equip all of our students with the solid foundation they need to be successful in school and in life. Knowing that many of our students come to school without any fruit each day, we are asking for donations of fruit to offer students during crunch and sip.

As a school community that does our best to foster a strong and supportive learning environment, we want to ensure that hunger is not a barrier to our student's success. Studies indicate that a healthy breakfast and fruit snack positively influences student health and academic achievement. When students don't eat a balanced diet their energy levels, problem solving skills, creativity, concentration and behaviour are negatively impacted.

The **Crunch and Sip** initiative introduces students to new fruits and vegetables and promotes the development of lifelong healthy living habits. The benefits from this vital meal are felt in the classroom, at home, and ultimately, in our communities.

The success of **Crunch and Sip** depends on support from parents who provide their children with a piece of fruit or vegetable sticks but better yet, encourage your children to prepare their own fruit snacks as a way of developing healthy eating habits.

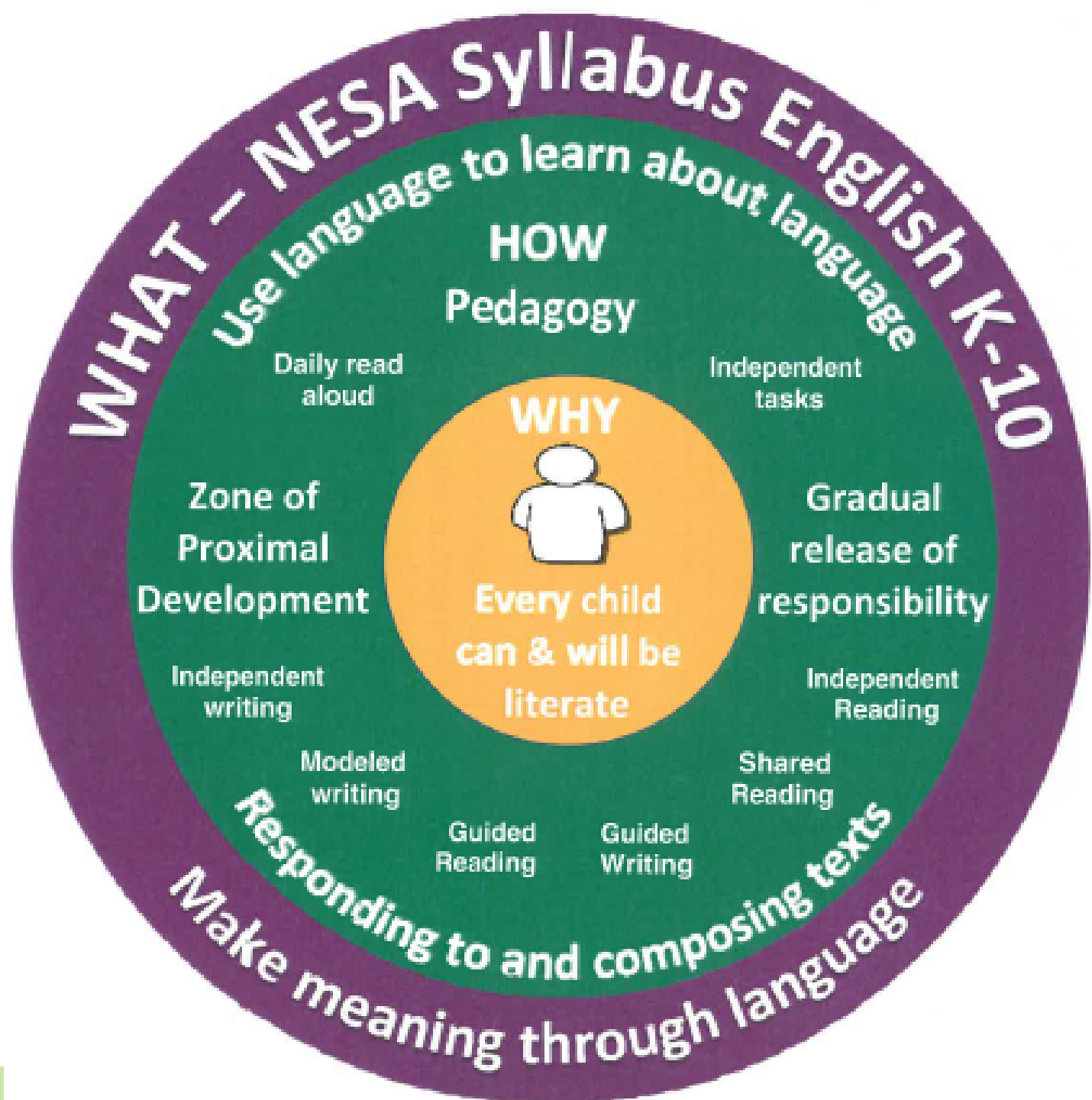
Currently we are in need of donations of fruit and contacting friends and families who are greengrocers that could donate a box or two of fruit for our students. Any contribution that you can provide would be greatly appreciated. All donations can be left at the office. By working together, we will make a real and lasting difference in students' lives and ensure that every student receives their first bite to success!





# The Literacy Block

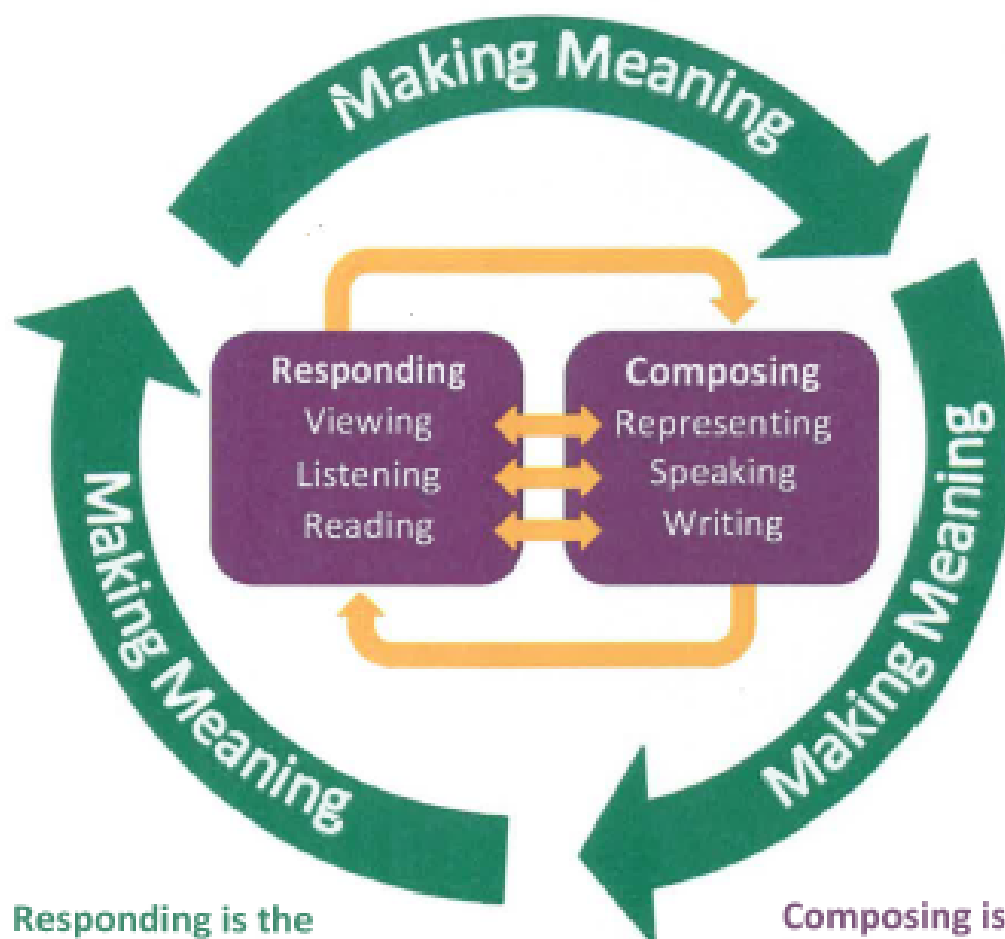
*A balanced, coherent program of instruction*



# Using Language to Learn About Language

“The study of English is an active pursuit where students use language to learn about language. The key processes of responding to and composing texts are central to students using language purposefully and meaningfully and engaging with a wide range of texts.”

*NESA English Syllabus K-10, 2012*



Responding is the activity that occurs as students read, listen to or view texts.

Composing is the activity that occurs as students produce written, spoken or visual texts.

# STEAM- Athon

Thursday 28th-Friday 29th of June

Sponsorship Forms were sent home last week. Please start collecting donations from friends and family members. Donations need to be collected and back to school by Monday of Week 9. (25th June).

For every \$5 you raise you will get a ticket into the draw to win some major prizes, so get collecting!



All money will go towards purchasing robotic equipment for the students to use at St Aidan's.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**



- ▶ Are you willing to donate 'small' prizes for this event eg. Movie tickets, \$20 Kmart vouchers?
- ▶ Do you know of anyone or any businesses who would be willing to donate prizes for this event?

We are also looking for parents who would be able to 'run around' to different businesses to ask for prize donations. If you are able to help please email

Mrs Lance- [plance@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:plance@parra.catholic.edu.au)

*Any help would be greatly appreciated!*



# KINDER 2019

**Enrolments for 2019 are NOW being interviewed.**

Looking forward to meeting your child, your neighbour's child or your friend's child !

Just let them know. *Thanks.*



**Staff Professional Learning day**

**First day of next term**

**Monday July 23rd**

**Students start Tuesday 24/7**

# UPCOMING DATES

- \* Mon 25th/Tues 26th June - Student Reports to go home
- \* Wed 27th June to Thurs 5th July - Family Conferences
- \* Thurs 28th & Fri 29th June - STEAM-Athon Fundraiser
- \* Fri 6th July - last day Term 2
- \* Mon 23rd July - Staff Professional Learning Day (NO CLASSES)

*\* Tues 24th July - First day of Term 3*

*for students 8:40am \**

## ST AIDAN'S IS A NUT FREE SCHOOL

Just a reminder that we have children enrolled in our school, who are at risk of suffering a severe allergic reaction (Anaphylactic Shock) if exposed to nuts, especially **PEANUTS, PEANUT BUTTER and NUTELLA.**

School Fees are now due. If you have already paid, thank you.

If you are having any difficulties please contact Mrs Wakeling on (02) 8886 9800.



# HOLIDAY FUN AT BLACKTOWN LIBRARY

## BRICKBUILT BY SYDLUG

Come and see this amazing exhibition  
and meet the experts who build with toy bricks.  
Displays are created by adult fans of LEGO®.

Monday	9 July - Friday 13 July	10 am - 4 pm
Saturday	14 July	10 am - 2 pm
Monday	16 July - Friday 20 July	10 am - 4 pm
Saturday	21 July	10 am - 2 pm

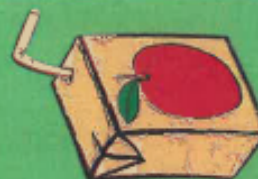
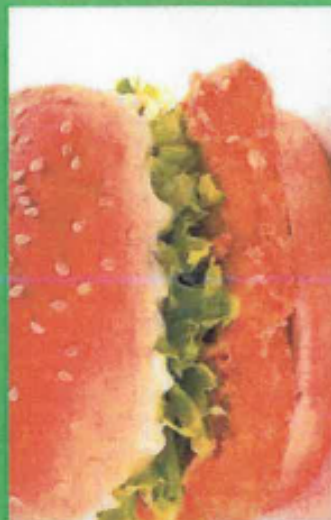
Max Webber Library Function Centre, Cnr. Flushcombe Rd & Alpha St, Blacktown.  
Check out our website for more school holiday activities.



# Meal Deal \$5.00

## Meal Deal 2

- Chicken Burger
- Juice Popper
- Frozen Ice Cup



## Meal Deal 1

- Fillo Spiral Pastry.
- Juice Popper
- Cheese Stick



Available from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2018

A: 1-5 Adelaide Street, Rooty hill

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