



**Newsletter 7/2021**

**13 April 2021**

Dear Parents

Suellen Shay served three terms on our Governing Body up to 2012, and as chairperson for most of that time. She sadly died last night from a long illness which she was expected to succumb to already in 2017. I spoke to her husband yesterday and although they were expecting her death this week, he was happy that she had managed to say goodbye to her family overseas and spend precious time over the last few weeks with her immediate family. While she was chair the school managed to turn the finances around, thanks to her firm and forthright stance on paying school fees.

**Staff**

At the end of April our Presidential Interns will leave us after 5 months serving our community. We have benefitted enormously from their help: they have completed admin for staff, have managed reception, have coached sport and physical education, have controlled traffic and prepared our weekly assemblies. Thank you to each one; your impact has been huge. Thanks too to the President and his committee who created this job opportunity scheme which has benefitted schools so much.

**Governing Body Online Election**

The biographies of the six candidates who have been nominated, were sent out on Wednesday last week. They are attached to this newsletter too in case you have mislaid them. Please don't forget that **today** is voting day for 5 parents to represent the parent body on the Governing Body for the next 3 years. The online platform opened at 07:00 this morning and closes at 19:00 tonight. The first meeting of this new Governing Body will be held at 07:00 tomorrow morning to vote for the office bearers. Once Dave Campbell, the Electoral Officer closes the voting, successful candidates will be contacted.

**Governing body 2018-2021**

Thanks to all those who served on the Governing Body in the previous 3 years. Your commitment and duty of care has continued to keep PNPS in the realm of 'great schools'!

**Facilitator's Course**

We have an exciting revamped Facilitator course being developed by Joanne, Lodize and the LS team. The new focus will focus on learning support, curriculum adaptations, creative teaching and efficient ways of working across subjects to support innovative teaching strategies given the current schooling structure. This course is aimed at anyone who works with children individually or in small groups. Whether you're a parent, tutor, facilitator or caregiver, this will definitely be a course to attend. Please mail [course@pnps.co.za](mailto:course@pnps.co.za) to be added to the mailing list. See attached flyer.

**Term 2**

The current Governing Body met last week to debate the recommendations of the management committee re term 2. These only apply to term 2.2021, the current situation will be continually evaluated to assess the needs of the school and the COVID realities.

These are the decisions that were taken:

- Red Roots will move to 5 days a week therefore attending school on Fridays as well.
- Grade 1 and 7 will continue to attend 5 days a week.
- Grade 2 to 6 pupils will continue 4 days a week because the school cannot safely bring more

- children back onto the premises. (See newsletter 6 for reasons)
- Sport will continue to be included in the school day, with grade 3 to 7 pupils extending one day a week to accommodate this.
  - From term 2 sport clinics will be held on Thursday afternoons for grade 6 and 7 pupils. These will be free for PNPS children and the school will foot the bill for outside specialist coaches to teach children the particular skills of certain sports. The idea is to offer at least one coaching course in each of the school's main sports. Grade 6 and 7 children will need to sign up for courses they are interested in. Should this idea work well, the plan would be to increase the offering to grade 4 and 5 pupils in term 3.

### **Additional term 2 plans**

The staff have noticed that some children are very frustrated by the lack of interaction between grades and the short amount of time they can spend interacting with friends at school. A task team of staff and management are working on plans to assist children with this currently. Most classes have already started encouraging children to eat in the classroom before going out to play, and some grades have already started teaching whole grades at a time to allow for group interaction during the school day. More information to follow.

### **Reports Term 1.2021**

Reports will be uploaded onto the Edana parent portals. Instructions on how to download the report can be found on page 10 of this newsletter. Please print, comment and return on the first day of next term. Please discuss the report with your child and set achievable goals for the rest of the year. Please be positive! (Grade 6 & 7 parents – remember to make copies for high school applications). Assessments done in the first term usually result in inflated marks because each section assessed is either revision of the previous year's work or only one assessment when normally staff would assess pupils a few times in each subject. Be very concerned therefore, if your child gets ones, twos or threes in this report.

### **Holiday Programme**

Holiday Care bookings close on 16 April and there are still a few spaces available for both junior and senior programmes. Please contact Toni at Aftercare on [aftercare@pnps.co.za](mailto:aftercare@pnps.co.za) if you are interested in taking up a space.

### **Family History for PNPS**

Every school has some families who make a particular mark on the school during their time at the school. We are writing the school history and would like to include a section headed: Success stories... families we have known. Please will you give us an opportunity to interview you so we can write your story. Cara, one of our Presidential Interns, could interview you virtually or live at our café. You could otherwise choose to write your answers yourself. Before the interview, or as part of your response, please ponder these ideas:

- When did your family first come to PNPS and what was your immediate response to the school?
- When did you leave the school and why?
- Remember the school views everybody on the premises with having special needs that need to be fulfilled. What 'special need' did your family have that the school, the staff or the principal assisted you all with?
- What will you never forget about your journey at the school?
- What made/makes Pinelands North a special primary school?
- What did the staff teach your children that you will never forget?
- How do you think the school could have provided even better for your needs?
- Anything else you want to tell us that we haven't asked?

Please email Cara at [carawhite-phillips@pnps.co.za](mailto:carawhite-phillips@pnps.co.za) to let her know if you are willing to be interviewed, whether you will be writing your story yourself or if you'd prefer her to interview you. If you'd prefer to be interviewed, please also let Cara know when would be suitable for the interview, and whether it would need to be online or in person. She is available for interviews between 7:30 and 16:00 daily. Please let us know within the week as we would like to write these stories during the month of April.

## **Earlyact News**

As the weather starts to cool down, we take a moment to think about the newborns at Mowbray Maternity. If you enjoy knitting and would like to help, please call on everyone you know to join us in the baby beanie drive. Here is the very simple pattern to follow:

- You will need 4-ply wool (one ball is enough), size 10 (3, 25) and 11 (3) needles.
- Cast on 90sts with size 11 needles. Work rib (knit 1, purl 1) for 5cm.
- Change to size 10 needles and work in stocking stitch (1 row plain, 1 row purl) until work measures 12,5cm from beginning.
- Shape top:
  - Row 1: (knit 8, knit 2tog) 9 times
  - Row 2: and alternate rows –purl
- Row 3: (knit 7, knit 2tog) 9 times
- Row 5: (knit 6, knit 2tog) 9 times
- Row 7: (knit 5, knit 2tog) 9 times
- Row 9: (knit 4, knit 2tog) 9 times
- Row 11: (knit 3, knit 2tog) 9 times
- Row 13: (knit 2, knit 2 tog) 9 times
- Row 15: (knit 1, knit 2 tog) 9 times
- Row 17: (knit 2 tog) 9 times.



Break yarn and thread through stitches. Sew up.

We continue our Bread Tag for Wheelchairs drive this term. There is a collection bucket in the foyer of the school, so feel free to drop them in at any time.

## **Sport term 1**

For those who can't get their children to share details of their days, you might want to know how sport is organised in the afternoons at the moment. Two grades of children are divided into 7 groups, each group managed by 1 or 2 staff members. Each group focuses on sport specific skills like softball, swimming and cricket. These drills help with the wholistic development of fitness, balance, flexibility and co-ordination. Groups are rotated so that every week every child experiences a different skill at a different station. Groups are aimed at teaching skill in a fun environment.

## **Healthy Living**

It has been wonderful to see how our pupils have come to school with healthy lunches and healthy snacks. It takes a bit of planning but it ultimately benefits their brains. Please remember to buy a BPA-free bottle to send to school as we do allow the children to use a water bottle in class.

## **Applications 2022**

Interviews for Red Roots 2022 started last Friday and will continue until the end of the term. Families will be informed in the first week of term 2 whether their application has been successful.

## **Letter to parent community from a local school**

I was sent this interesting letter...it was apparently taken from the newsletter of one of our local schools. I thought it was worth thinking about...

*Dear Parents*

- *We would like to remind you that magic words such as hello, please, you're welcome, I'm sorry, and thank you, all begin to be learned at home.*
- *It's also at home that children learn to be honest, to be on time, diligent, show friends their sympathy, as well as show utmost respect for their elders and all teachers.*
- *Home is where they learn to be clean, not talk with their mouths full, and how and where to properly dispose of garbage.*
- *Home is also where they learn to be organized, to take good care of their belongings, and that it's*

*not okay to touch others' belongings.*

- *Here at school on the other hand, we teach language, maths, history, geography, physics, sciences, and physical education. We only reinforce the education that children receive at home from their parents.*

### **Can you help?**

- The grade 4 and 5 pupils will learn to knit squares next term to create blankets for charity. Teaching so many children to knit at the same time will be very challenging and, in the past, we have asked volunteers to help us. Lessons take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 13:10 to 14:00. If you are able to help us, we would still appreciate the time you can give, even if you can't come every week. Please contact Shereen Stadler on deputy@pnps.co.za if you are able to help. We would also appreciate donations of double knitting wool and size 8 or 4mm needles.
- Grade 6 pupils will be learning to embroider and so if you have spare embroidery thread please send these to school too. If you are keen to assist children to learn this skill on Monday afternoons from 13:10 – 14:00, contact Shereen too.

### **End of term 1**

School will close 11:00 on Friday, 23 April for all grades except Red Roots and grade 5 who aren't at school on Fridays. Civvies Day will be on Thursday, 22 April for all grades except grade 2 who will celebrate Civvies day on Wednesday, 21 April. Coming in civvies will cost a minimum donation of R10 which is payable via Karri, by 16:00 on the previous day. Money donated for this event will provide money for the Solidarity Fund which currently only has about R6 000 available to support families in need.

Best wishes to our Muslim families as they start Ramadan, a month of fasting. Wishing you a Ramadan Kareem.

Yours sincerely



ANN MORTON  
Principal

Thank you to everyone who swipes their MySchool card when making purchases at participating retailers - the most recent amount received from this programme for March was R1 809! Well done everybody! If there is a parent who might want to manage this programme for us by encouraging others to get cards etc, please contact Erica. This is such an easy way to accumulate funds for very little effort.

## How does it work?



MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet, South Africa's biggest community-based fundraising programme, raises over R4 million every month for schools, charities and animal welfare organisations. **Every time you swipe your card at any of our partners they make a donation on your behalf** to the school or cause you choose at no cost to you!

## 4 great reasons to become a MySchool MyVillage MyPlanet supporter

1. **Raise funds** for a cause that is close to your heart, without it costing you a cent.
2. **Over 1500 partner stores** where you can use your card to raise funds.
3. **You benefit too:** get instant savings of at least 10% on over 1000 items with Woolworths WRewards.
4. **You have the power to choose:** select up to three schools and/or charities.

<http://www.myschool.co.za/about-myschool/myschool>

A vertical advertisement for Kumon. On the left side, there are three small portrait photos of children: a young girl with blonde hair, a young boy with dark skin, and a young boy with dark hair. The background is a light blue gradient. The text 'Kumon builds benefits that last a lifetime:' is written in white. Below this, there is a list of five bullet points: 'Confidence and self-esteem', 'Focus and self-discipline', 'Self-reliance to succeed independently', 'Motivation to pursue challenging and advanced work', and 'A love of learning'. Below the list, there is a paragraph: 'With Kumon children discover their ability to flourish throughout school and beyond — to realize their full potential and their greatest aspirations.' At the bottom left, there is a white box with the text 'Pinelands Kumon 072 040 3169' and the Kumon logo. At the bottom right, there is a white box with the text 'MATHS and ENGLISH CONTACT JOAN 072 040 3169'. The phrase 'be truly amazing' is written in a light, stylized font across the bottom of the advertisement.

## Nominees for Pinelands North Primary School SGB Elections - 2021

(Names are listed alphabetically. Elections take place on Tuesday 13 April, and parents may vote for up to five candidates)

*Gouwa Ebrahim*



Good morning parents of Pinelands North Primary School. I am Gouwa Ebrahim, mom to Imrah in Grade 5 and Ismaeel at Red Roots.

I love cooking traditional Cape Malay foods and recipes passed down from my mom and her mom, and hers... I have recently discovered that I enjoy baking as well after having to bake cookies for Santa Claus, the tooth fairy, the Easter Bunny and just about every mythical character my kids believe in.

As a little family of four we are trying to grow our own mini-backyard farm and during lockdown last year we started with spinach, onions and chillies and have now added some herbs as well.

I am speech therapist and audiologist and have worked with children with unique and special educational needs since 2000 at Eros School for Children with Cerebral Palsy and Tafelberg School.

I was co-opted to the SGB in 2018 and was later elected where I also serve on Inclusive Practices committee. I am currently the acting chairperson of the SGB; it has been an absolute privilege to work alongside a cohesive governance team, particularly during the last year when we were faced with extraordinary circumstances. I look forward to continue to support the PNPS community.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to represent you and to make a positive difference through serving on the SGB.

*Tim Fenner*



Tim Fenner is husband to Caryn, and proud father to Zachery (Grade 3) and Lydia (Grade 1) at PNPS. As a mixed-race family, embracing diversity and the inclusivity are values they hold very dear. They believe that our differences should not divide us but should be celebrated for the richness they bring. Tim's interests include playing music, DIY, and cycling.

Tim's work background is in retail operations for one of SA's leading retailers. Portfolios have included national budget and expense control, project management, strategy development and Group Store Facilities management. Changes in the economy over the last year have seen him leave the corporate world to start his own business focussing on home and hygiene services.

Tim & Caryn have always been actively involved in their children's school life. With a new season in Tim's career, he would love the opportunity to further contribute to the development of this generation of learners at PNPS by investing his skills, experience and time to make a difference.

*Grant Holton*



Dear Parents of PNPS,

My name is Grant Holton. I am a proud husband to my wife who works in Education, as well as a father of two children. My son Quaid is currently in Grade Two and my Daughter, Brynnley, will hopefully be attending Red Roots next year.

We live in Pinelands, directly opposite the school. I enjoy playing and watching a wide variety of sports and encourage my children to also take part in extra-curricular activities, in our community.

I have a background in finance and economics, but I am an entrepreneur at heart. I have successfully run my own property business, HQM Properties, since 2004. The ethos of Pinelands North Primary school and its Inclusive policies resonates with my own beliefs. I look forward to, if nominated, applying my problem-solving skills to assist and add value to PNPS, and using my practical and thoughtful approach for the school's benefit.

*Imhal Jamodien*



I have two daughters at PNPS, Qayla in grade 7 and Milla in grade 3

I am a personal trainer with a degree in Psychology and Gender Studies. My job is identifying points that need strengthening, to motivate and to design better lifestyle solutions. I hope to bring these practices to the SGB.

I've held various SGB positions at Rosebank Junior School, an interim treasurer for four months as well as parent representative for a year before joining PNPS. In that time, I've also been an interim chairperson for two months.

I've been a community liaison officer on my neighbourhood watch board as well as a night patroller for five years. I am also a member of the Sybrand Park Civic Association where I managed a community portfolio prior to the pandemic.

My hobbies include hiking and camping with hopes to attempt the Otter Trail this year. I also watch anime, paint and have become a bit of a plant mom.

*Makhosi Ncube*



I have been a member of the SGB for the past 3 years serving as the School Treasurer. A qualified actuary by training, I bring a long-term view to school finances and analytical skills which have been useful in monitoring school finances vs budget as well as budgeting for future years. The year 2020 was a challenging year for the school financially, but we managed to survive it thanks to disciplined financial management and mettle to make difficult (but forward-looking) decisions.

I am married to a lovely lady, Nicole, with whom I have two munchkins at PNPS – Naomi in Grade 5 and Mordecai in Grade 1. I am clearly going nowhere soon and so have a long-term vested interest in the school.

I currently work for FMI, a life insurer and member of Bidvest Financial Services, where I am Head of Actuarial Valuations.



My free time is typically spent at home with my family. Competitive Uno and Ludo games with my daughter are common. Most recently I have taught my wife to play pool. I enjoy watching John Oliver (Last Week Tonight), Grand Tour (Jeremy Clarkson's hilarious quips), English Premier League (YNWA) and cricket.

*Jacqui Tooke*



I am an *always-learning* parent of three: one has completed his PNPS journey and the other two are in Grade 1 and 5. My eldest has a genetic syndrome and some would describe his educational needs as “special”. Indeed, much *out-the-box* thinking from Learning Support, his facilitators and teachers was required to ensure his experience at PNPS was meaningful, and yet, in many ways I also see my other two neurotypical children as having “special” needs: both are so different and unique in their learning. I have appreciated the inclusive ethos at PNPS that makes space for, and celebrates, all three of my children.

Having convened two Red-A-Fairs, volunteered on Red Connect, served as a class rep, and participated in the Inclusive Practices Strategic Planning group, I have moved through many different spaces in the school system, and built relationships with many who make up the school community.

My training was in Social Work and I have worked in the field of early childhood development, psycho-social support for orphans, as well as community mobilisation and capacity building around injustices.

I serve as a leader in my faith community, with my role being to deepen our community's response the injustices in our city.

I co-founded an NGO here in Pinelands, called “Renew The Elsiekraal River”, which aims to bring the canal back to life and to stop plastic pollution from flowing into the sea. This is motivated by my deep concern for our planet's future, and my belief in the power of community-run initiatives to build the world we want for our children. My passion for living in right relationship with nature also finds its expression in the joy of growing my own vegetables.

I am blissfully married to Lloyd, a puzzle book author and a paediatrician. Our favourite pastime is the adventure of geocaching.

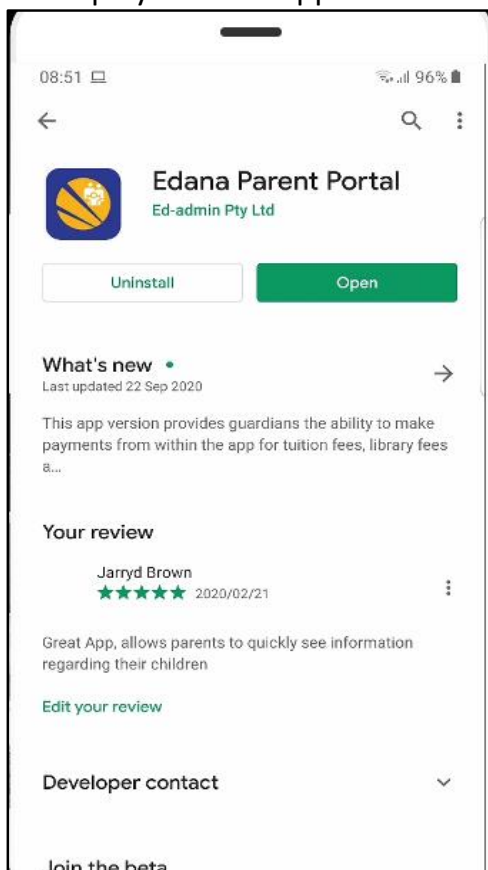
# How to download your child's report on the Edana Parent portals

Please note that Term 1 reports will be published from 12:00 on Friday, 23 April 2021.

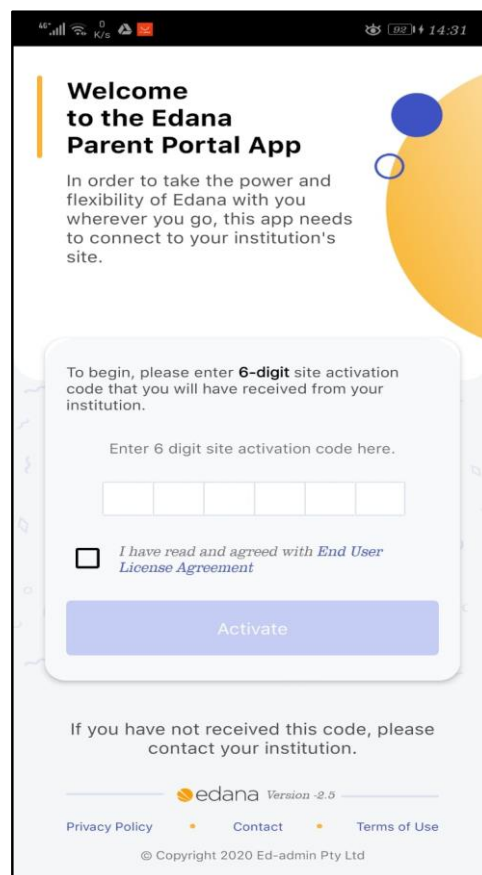
Access reports using either the Parent Portal or Edana App.

## Edana App for cell phones

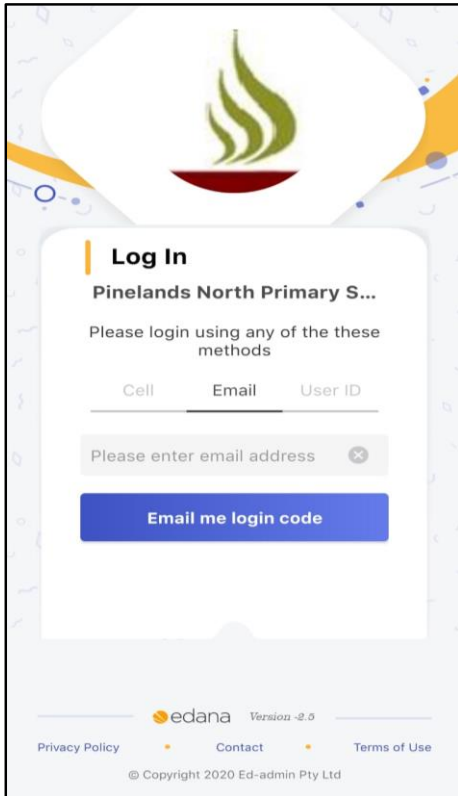
1. Download Edana Parent App from the play store or App Store.



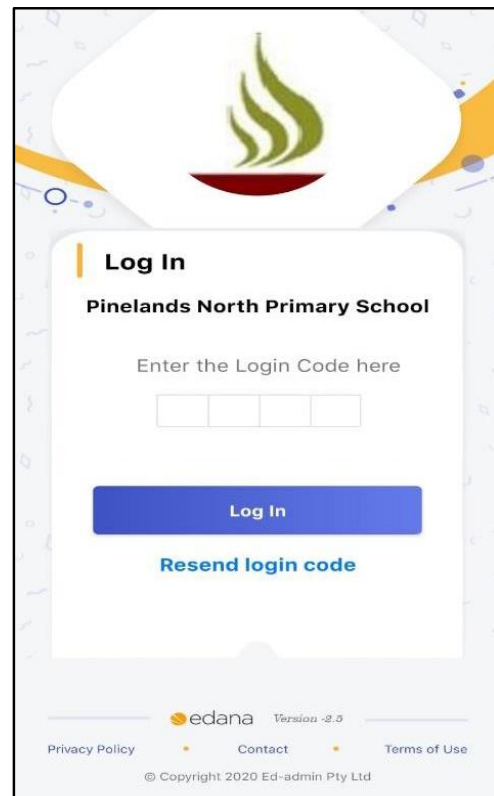
2. 6 digit code: **455867** Only for the App



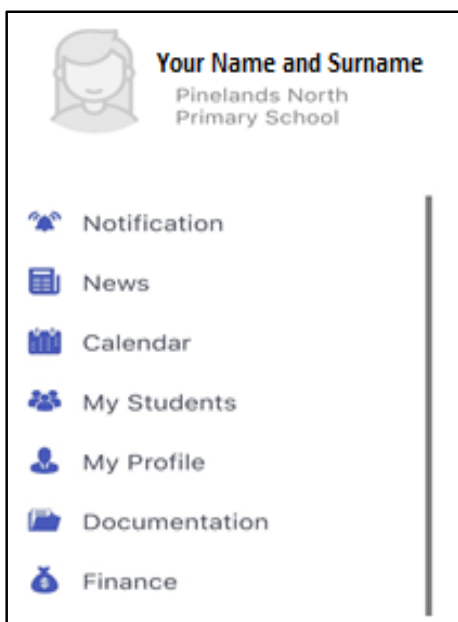
3. Login using the email address or cell you have provided the school with.



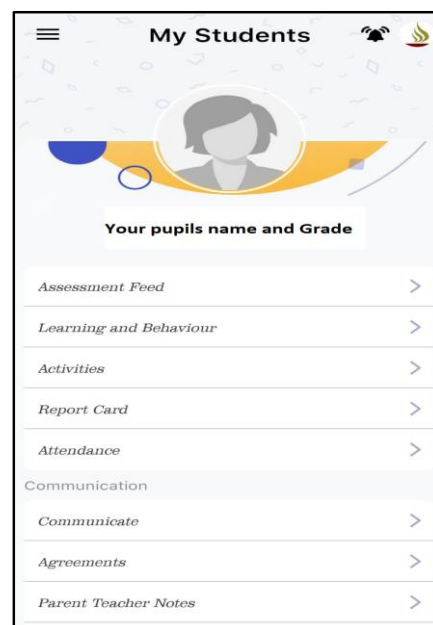
4. Input the 4-Digit code sent to your email address or via SMS.



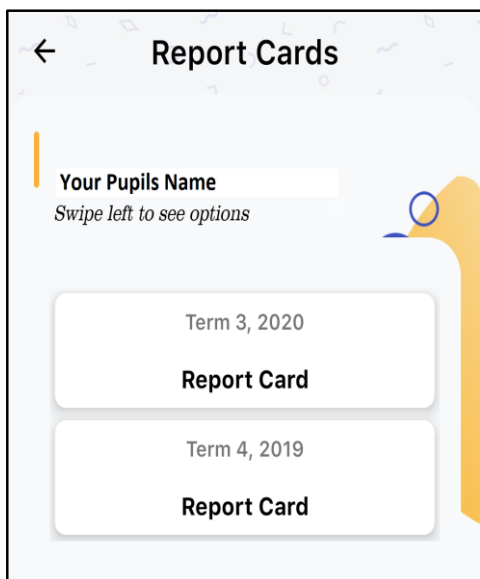
5. You are now logged in. On the left-hand side of the app, tap on the 3 lines to open the menu. Scroll and click on "My Students".



6. You will then see your child's name and surname.



7. Click on the Term 3 2020 Report Card and either download to device or email to yourself.



### Once downloaded

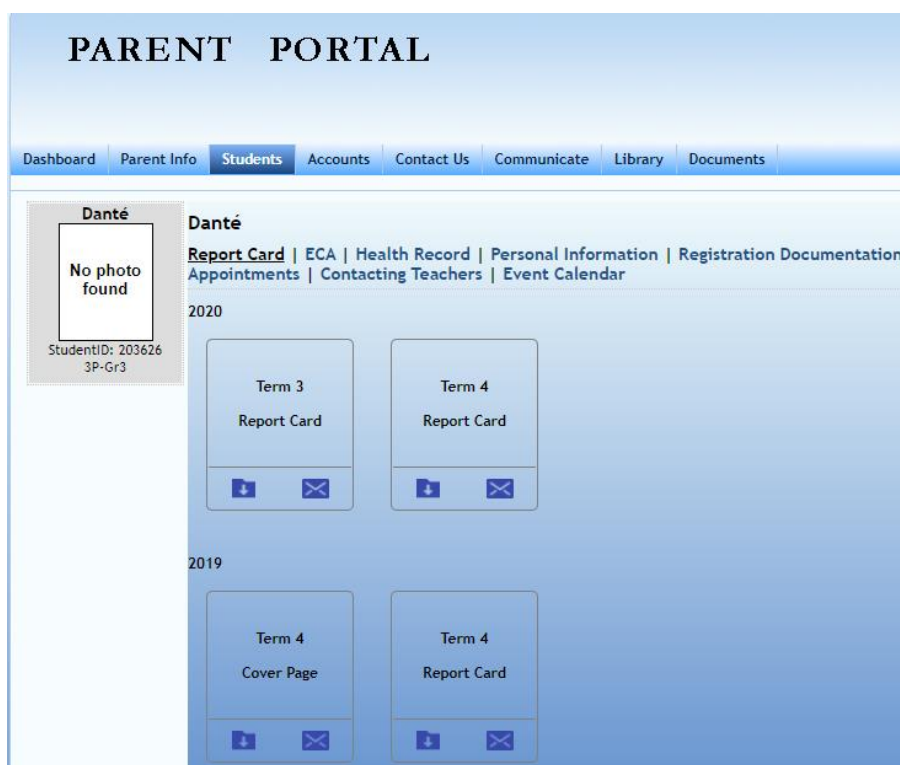
For parent and pupil engagement section, you can either edit directly on your phone or email to your PC to edit a soft copy. Programmes will vary depending on device model type. A PDF editor works well.

OR

Download, print and fill in the parent/student section manually.

Send a hard copy or email a scanned copy to your child's teacher before **7 May 2021**.

On the Parent Portal Web, from your Dashboard select Students and then Report card, to view and download your child's Report Card.



# RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

*No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted!*

THREE IN A ROW – Put an X on the acts of kindness you complete to make three in a row.

Hold the  
door  
open for  
others

Tell  
someone  
they're  
awesome!

Help  
someone  
in need

Donate a  
few of your  
unused  
toys

Write a  
letter to a  
loved one

Pick up  
trash at a  
local park

Draw a  
picture for  
someone

Make  
someone  
smile

Give  
someone  
you love a  
big hug