

Premiers Spelling Bee, 2021 – Years 3, 4, 5 & 6

Dear Parents and Students,

The Premier's Spelling Bee was introduced in 2004 as a fun and educational way for NSW public primary school students to engage in spelling. The program includes activities to encourage all students to improve their vocabulary and spelling and to promote literacy skills in combination with the English K-6 Syllabus.

The Premier's Spelling Bee will be going ahead in 2021 in an altered format to previous year's competitions. In 2021, schools can enter only **one** student in each of the junior (Years 3/4) and senior competitions (Years 5/6). Once the two students have been finalised the regional finals will be held online.

This year our School Spelling Bee will be held on **Friday 23rd July 2021** in our school hall. The senior competition will start at 9.30am and the junior competition will start at 10.30am.

Who is eligible to compete?

This is an optional competition. The Premier's Spelling Bee is open to all NSW government primary, central and community schools. The competition comprises two divisions – Junior for Years 3&4 and Senior for Years 5&6. Each school can enter a maximum of one student per division (i.e. a maximum of two students per school).

How much does entry cost?

There is no cost associated with the Premier's Spelling Bee.

What are the competition stages?

- **School:** This year our School Spelling Bee will be held on **Friday 23rd July, 2021** in the school hall. The senior competition will start at 9.30am and the junior competition will start at 10.30am.
- **Regional:** This level of competition will be held online somewhere between 23 August - 3 September (Term 3 Week 7 and Week 8).
- **State:** The state finals will be held at the ABC studios on Friday 29 October, 2021.

Preparation/Words lists

Words for the competition are provided by Macquarie Dictionary and are divided into several categories. Junior and senior students study different wordlists. Regional and State Finals also include unseen words in later rounds. You can find the word lists to help students prepare for competition at: <https://www.artsunit.nsw.edu.au/premiers-spelling-bee>

Please email the school for the password to access the word lists.



What are the competition procedures?

- There is a demonstration round using simple words to help familiarise contestants with the competition format. No one is eliminated in this round.
- This is followed by elimination rounds of increasing difficulty.
- The announcer reads the word, then a sentence including the word, and then repeats the word again.
- Each contestant must repeat the word to the satisfaction of the announcer before they spell, and then say the word again to indicate they have finished spelling. Up until this point, contestants may self- correct if they clearly indicate that they are starting again.
- Students have 45 seconds in which to spell the word. A warning bell is rung at 30 seconds with two bells at 45 seconds to indicate the contestant's time has expired.
- Contestants may ask the announcer to repeat the word – this is included in their 45 second time limit. Any self-corrections must also be made within the time limit. At the second bell, any incomplete spelling will be taken as the contestant's final answer.
- When a student has finished spelling a word, the announcer will either state 'That is correct' or 'That is incorrect. The correct spelling is...'
- A contestant will only be eliminated if at least one other contestant in the same round spells their word correctly. If all contestants in a particular round misspell their words then no one is eliminated.

Thank you,

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