

RANDWICK PUBLIC SCHOOL
2020

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN!

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to Kindergarten.

Class Rules

Each class has a set of class rules which have been negotiated by the students and the teacher. They incorporate the school welfare policy.

RANDWICK SCHOOL VALUES
Be respectful
Be responsible
Be a learner

Parents as Partners

The best way to encourage children to value education is to show them that you value it too.

You can do this by ensuring your child:

- Attends school every day.
- Arrives at and is collected from school on time.
- Has full school uniform including a broad brimmed school hat and is well groomed.
- Has the required classroom equipment.
- Has a sufficient amount of nutritious food and water every day.
- Also please provide an explanation for any day your child is absent from school (emailed to the office).

Assessment & Reporting/ Parent/ Teacher Interviews

Semester One Reports will come out at the end of Term 2. It is a comprehensive written report outlining student achievement in all 6 Key Learning Areas and specialist programs across the school.

There will be formal interviews held in **Week 9 and 10 of Term 1**. Best Start results will be given out at these interviews. If you wish to discuss your child's progress at any other time throughout the year please arrange an appointment. I would be more than happy to discuss your child's progress, at a mutually convenient time. Please be mindful that in the morning the teacher is completing preparation for the day's lessons and is unavailable unless a prior appointment has been made. Please email me, call the school office or send a letter via your child if you wish to arrange an interview.

Homework

- Homework routines will include Home Reading, the revision of sight words, 'Reading Eggs', and 'MathSeeds'.
- Home Reading is completed Monday–Thursday and should be easy and enjoyable. Students are regularly tested in class and the level of home readers adjusted as appropriate.
- Students should be practising the recognition of the sight words that are given out throughout the term, as well as continuing to practise sight words that have been previously sent home. About 25% of all text we read is made up of these high frequency words, so it is important that there is confident, automatic recognition. It's good to play lots of memory and matching games and have them visually evident on the fridge or around the house.

- When working through Reading Eggs and MathSeeds lessons, it will be important to sit with your child initially to help familiarise them with the program. If your child is unable to access the internet at home, please contact the class teacher.
- I would like to encourage you to support your child in the completion of their homework.

Subject Areas – The Curriculum

The six key learning areas in primary school are:

1. English
2. Mathematics
3. History/Geography
4. Science
5. Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)
6. Creative Arts (Visual Arts, Drama, Music & Dance)

ENGLISH

- 3 Strands: Speaking & Listening, Reading, Writing
- Kindergarten Students focus on phonemic awareness, phonics, sight word recognition, fluency and comprehension in Reading.
- Kindergarten students bring their '**My Home Reader**' booklet to school every week day. This reading will form part of their **daily** homework routine. Take home reading books will be supplied by the class teacher.
- **Guided Reading** is a whole school focus and reading groups are formed to help children develop reading skills, decode text successfully, comprehend and progress as independent readers. Guided Reading groups will commence this term across Kindergarten in **Week 6**.
- The students will give several **oral presentations** throughout the year as well as engage in class discussions.
- Talking Time (News) will form a very important component in English.

Materials that provide information about helping your child with literacy can be found at:

<https://www.alea.edu.au/publicresources/resources-for-parents-and-community/little-peoples-literacy-learning>

The following sounds will be focused on throughout the Term 1; **s, a, t, i, p, n, c, k, e, h, r & m**. Please spend time playing games such as "I spy" and identifying these sounds in familiar words.

Talking Time: "News"

Students have Free Choice for "Talking Time" for Term 1, beginning in Week 4. Your child can share any topic of interest with the class. The talk should be no longer than one minute. Specific topics will be introduced from Term 2.

MATHEMATICS

- The strands of Mathematics are:
 - Number & Algebra
 - Measurement & Geometry
 - Statistics and Probability
 - Working Mathematically

Number and Algebra: We explore numbers to 50 and beyond, look at patterns, sort objects, and recognise and identify coins. We learn about addition and subtraction and ordinal numbers. We look at groups (comparing groups and matching equal groups) which is the beginning of multiplication.

Statistics and Probability: We learn to collect data through using yes/no questions and tallies. We learn to read and draw graphs.

Measurement and Geometry: We look at shapes, both 2D and 3D, length, mass, capacity, positional language and time.

We focus on 'hands-on' activities to develop the children's concepts. At this early stage of learning there is a heavy emphasis on language in Mathematics.

SCIENCE

We will be following the High Possibility Classroom framework which is an inquiry-oriented model of teaching science. Students will be involved in hands-on learning experiences with scientific phenomena. They will be given opportunities to develop investigations and build their understanding of science with a focus on technology-enhanced learning.

Term 1: Growing Well– Biological Sciences

Students investigate what living things are and what they need, with a focus on humans, insects and plants. They will also investigate how plants grow and the requirements of plants for survival.

Term 2: Weather in my World – Earth & Space Sciences

This inquiry unit aims to develop students' understandings and beliefs about the air, sun and wind.

Term 3 & 4: How Objects Move- STEM Unit

In this unit, students design solutions to identify the ways that objects move. Students will participate in simple investigations to produce solutions to identified problems. They will use our playground equipment as a case study to begin their inquiry learning.

HISTORY

Our History topic this semester is '**Personal and Family Histories**'

'Personal and Family Histories' provides students with the opportunity to learn about their own history and that of their family; this will include stories from a range of cultures and other parts of the world. As participants in their own history, students build on their knowledge and understanding of how the past is different from the present.

GEOGRAPHY

In Semester 2, students will study the Geography unit '**People live in Places**'. This unit provides students with the opportunity to explore the places they live in and belong to, and develop an understanding of what makes a place special.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PDHPE)

Personal Development Programs are covered throughout the year. These include the Year 4 Buddy Program, Peer Support, Drug Education and Child Protection. The whole school 'Peer Support' program will continue in 2020. The focus is on positive relationships and understanding.

In Term 1, sport lessons will take place weekly. Students will develop their Fundamental Movement skills including balancing, running, throwing, catching and more.

CREATIVE ARTS

Creative Arts includes visual art, dance, drama and music. These lessons are integrated into various subject areas. Mr Brown will teach Music lessons to Kindergarten students once per week. This year, all grades will perform a concert. The Kindergarten concert will take place in Term 3.

iPads & Technology

Students will have access to iPads at school. Students may also have access to the internet and must sign an Acceptable Usage Contract about sensible and responsible internet use. Students will engage in technology lessons including robotics and coding in a variety of subjects.

Digital Citizenship

Randwick Public School identifies that the Internet, and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) play an increasingly important role in the learning of students in the education. As such, there is a whole school focus on what it means to be a good digital citizen. Students will engage in lessons throughout the year that are linked to the Common Sense Media curriculum (<http://www.commonsensemedia.org/>).

Newsletters

Please keep updated via the **fortnightly School Newsletter** for more information related to whole school activities. Please ensure your **email contact details** are up to date with the school office. Copies of the School Newsletter are available via Skoolbag or on the school website: <http://www.randwickpublicschool.com.au/>

You could greatly assist us by:

- If your child is absent for the day, please notify the school office by phone, email to provide an explanation.
- If the absence is more than one day please inform the office and teacher by email.
- If your child is booked in to attend Randwick Out of School Hours Care (ROOSH) and they are absent from school, can you please alert ROOSH on the day they are absent.
- When your child has arrived late for school, **accompanying your child** to the Front Office and completing **late notes**.
- Ensuring all **homework** is completed promptly, neatly and returned on time. This will enable you and your child to work out an appropriate schedule that does not encourage them to leave work until the last minute.
- Ensuring that your child has time and space to complete their homework.
- Ensuring your child's out of school schedule allows them to focus on homework and places their academic needs in a position of importance.
- Encouraging your child to **read every night**.
- Placing your **child's name and class** on **all items of clothing** etc.
- Not allowing small toys and valuable items to be brought to school.
- Ensuring that your child wears a **broad brimmed hat** and sunscreen to school every day (especially sports days.) Our '**No hat, play in the shade**' policy is in accord with the Department and Cancer Council policies.
- Making any payments or sending any notes to the school in **labelled envelopes**.
- **Car Park:** A reminder for all families that children and parents are not to be in any of the staff car parks in the morning.

READING GROUPS WILL COMMENCE IN WEEK 6.

Please let the teacher know if you are free to help with Reading Groups.

Important Dates:

What?	Grade	Details
Stage ES1 Assemblies	ES1	Every EVEN week Tuesday 2:30- 3pm commencing in Week 6 - 3rd March
P&C Back to School BBQ	All school	Friday 21st February
StEPS Vision Tests	ES1	Tuesday 25th February
School/class photos	All school	Monday 2nd March
Harmony Day & Lunch	All school	Wednesday 18 th March

Thank you. Your support is greatly appreciated.

All Kindergarten teachers wish you and your child a safe, happy and successful Term 1!

Kindergarten Teachers