



Welcome to Stage 2 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to Year 3 and Year 4 (Stage 2). Thank you for joining us for our Information Afternoon.

Stage 2 Statistics

- 5 x Year 3 classes taught by teachers: Emma Garroway (3G), Laura Richards & Emma Butler (3RB), Lucy Murdoch (3M), Sophia Chung (3C), Connie Saad (3S)
- 5 x Year 4 classes taught by teachers: Taylor Johnston (4J), Paula Steel (4S), Rosie Guerrera (4G), Simon Pillidge (4P), Alyce Robertson (4R)

Values

Each class has set expectations based on our school values. These have been negotiated by both students and teachers. They also reflect the school welfare guidelines.

RANDWICK SCHOOL VALUES
Be Responsible
Be Respectful
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;

Interviews

There will be formal interviews held in Week 10 and 11 of Term 1. If you wish to discuss your child's progress at any other time throughout the year, please arrange an appointment. Please be mindful that in the morning teachers are completing preparation for the day's lessons and are unavailable unless a prior appointment has been made.

Homework

- Homework activities will be issued fortnightly on a Monday. Students are expected to work on their homework every day of the week (Monday – Thursday). All homework must be returned **every Friday morning**.
- Homework routines will include English skill revision, spelling revision, Maths Mentals and Home Reading.
- Please **sign** your child's **homework task sheet in their homework book** every week.
- Additional homework **may** be sent home by specialist and support teachers throughout the week.

- Students in Year 3 should bring their **'My Home Reader'** booklet to school every Friday with reading for the week recorded. This reading will form part of their **daily** homework routine. Year 4 students will record their reading daily in their school diaries. Take home reading books will be supplied by the class teacher, or students who are reading above Level 28 will move onto the **Literacy Pro Program** which allows students to borrow a range of texts from the library for home reading. The Literacy Pro Framework is a reading measure that matches students to text. Your child's Literacy Pro number will help them select appropriate texts from the Library.
- Please look at the following document for some tips for home reading with your child:
<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/translated-documents/reading-with-your-child-at-home>

Recommended Time Allocations per Night:

The following are the recommended times for homework tasks in accord with Department of Education Policy. Where children have difficulty in completing homework within this timeframe on a regular basis, you should consult the teacher.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Times allocated for Homework Tasks</i>	<i>Times allocated for Home Reading Tasks</i>
Years 3-4	20-30 minutes	20 - 30 minutes

We are realistic about homework and understand 'life' gets in the way. However, we would appreciate your support in encouraging your child to complete their weekly homework tasks. This is important when instilling good organisational skills and independent work habits.

Subject Areas – The Curriculum

The Key Learning Areas in primary school are; English, Mathematics, History & Geography, Science and Technology, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) and Creative Arts.

English

In Stage 2, students will focus on the social purpose and clustering of texts to enable them to build a repertoire of devices when writing and reading. Grammar and language skills are linked to writing, together with an emphasis on comprehension in reading. Students will give several oral presentations throughout the year as well as engage in class discussions. Guided reading continues to support students to help children develop reading skills, decode text successfully and progress as independent readers.

In Years 3 & 4, students participate in reading groups 3 times per week. Students are grouped according to performance level and provided with a differentiated program to best meet their needs and maximise their ability.

Mathematics

Mathematics in Stage 2 provides students with knowledge, skills and understanding in Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. There is a focus on developing and refining their mathematical understanding, and extending their logical reasoning and problem-solving skills. Developing students' mental computation, particularly number sense strategies and times tables, is important during Stage 2.

In Year 4, students participate in Maths Groups 4 times per week. Students are grouped according to performance level and provided with a differentiated program to best meet their needs and maximise their skill level. Maths Groups helps prepare Year 4 students for their transition into the Stage 3 Senior School program in the following year.

History

The NSW History syllabus covers a range of history concepts and skills. Stage 2 will cover the following topics;

Year 3 – Community and Remembrance

This topic provides a study of identity and diversity in both broader and local contexts. Moving from the heritage of their local area, students explore the historical features and diversity of their community. They examine local, state and national symbols and emblems of significance, and celebrations and commemorations, both locally and in other places around the world.

Year 4 – First Contacts

This topic introduces world history and movements of people. Beginning with the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, students examine European exploration and colonisation in Australia and throughout the world up to the early 1800's. Students examine the impact of exploration on other societies, how these societies interacted with newcomers, and how these experiences contributed to their cultural diversity.

Geography

We follow the NSW Geography Syllabus, and in Stage 2 will cover the following topics;

Year 3 – Places are Similar and Different

Students examine natural and human features of Australia and the diverse characteristics of Australia's neighbouring countries. They explore the different climates, settlement patterns and demographic characteristics of places and use this information to imagine what it would be like to live in different places. Students consider how people's perceptions of places are the basis for actions to protect places and environments.

Year 4 – The Earth's Environment

Students explore the climate, natural vegetation and native places in Australia and Asia. They examine the importance of natural vegetation and natural resources to the environment, animals and people and learn about the ways people value environments, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Students identify sustainable practices and recognise that there are differing views on how sustainability can be achieved.

Science

Students engage in inquiry-based learning in the study of science, and are involved in hands-on learning experiences with scientific phenomena.

The focus topics for this year are:

- Term 1: Year 3- Energy / Year 4- Agriculture
- Term 2: Year 3- Living World/ Year 4 – Agriculture
- Term 3 and 4: Year 3 STEM- Amusement Park/ Year 4 STEM - Earth's Surface & Interaction with the Sun

As part of the Semester 1 'Agriculture' unit, Year 4 students will participate in the Kitchen Garden Program. The emphasis of this program is learning to grow fresh produce, planning menus around seasonal produce growing in our garden and expanding students' culinary horizons.

Personal Development, Health, Physical Education (PDHPE)

Personal Development Programs are covered throughout the year.

Year 3 focus topics are:

- Semester 1- Identity and Managing Emotions (Health, Wellbeing & Relationships), TBall (Movement Skill & Performance), Dance (Movement Skill & Performance);

- Semester 2: Being Healthy & Our Safety (Healthy, Safe & Active Lifestyles), Netball (Movement Skill & Performance).

Year 4 focus topics are:

- Semester 1- Building Relationships with our Buddies (Health, Wellbeing & Relationships), Keeping Safe and Healthy (Healthy, Safe & Active Lifestyles), AFL (Movement Skill & Performance);
- Semester 2- Personal Safety (Healthy, Safe & Active Lifestyles), Managing Change (Health, Wellbeing & Relationships), Cricket (Movement Skill & Performance).

Each term students will be provided with the opportunity to participate in interschool PSSA (Primary Schools Sports Association) or School Sport. Students also take part in our 3 major sport carnivals of Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics.

Creative Arts

In Stage 2, students learn about making, performing, composing and appreciating the Creative Arts. They engage in the study of music, dance, drama and visual arts. During Semester 1, Year 4 students will be focusing on dance and drama in preparation for the Year 4 concert while Year 3 students develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of Music and Visual Arts. In Semester 2, Year 3 students will prepare for their concert through the study of dance and drama, while Year 4 students focus on Music and Visual Arts.

Year 3 will continue their study of the recorder, learning a variety of songs from different musical genres.

Technology (Digital Citizenship & iPads)

Students will have access to computers, laptops and iPads at school. Students will also have access to the internet and must sign an Acceptable Usage Contract about sensible and responsible internet use.

In 2020, all Stage 2 students have 1:1 access to iPads. Students should be aware of and abide by the guidelines set out by the Responsible Digital Use Agreement. Teachers have the right to search an iPad to ensure compliance with the school's iPad rules and agreement. Students in breach of either, may be subject to but not limited to; disciplinary action, confiscation and removal of content.

Randwick Public School identifies that Internet, and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) play an increasingly important role in the learning of students in the education. As part of the PDHPE curriculum, students will engage in digital citizenship lessons throughout the year focused on what it means to be a good digital citizen. Information regarding e-safety can be found at <http://www.common sense media.org/> and <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>

Assessment & Reporting

Classroom assessment is continuous. Taken into consideration are class bookwork and participation, anecdotal records, homework, projects and tests. Grades are not based on tests alone. Whole grade assessments are necessary to compare children in different classes and to see what concepts need to be reviewed. These take place throughout the year for Reading, Spelling, Writing and Mathematics.

You could greatly assist by:

- If your child is **absent**, please **email the office directly on the day your child is absent** explaining the absence and again for any following days of absence.
- Completing **late notes** when your child has arrived late for school, notes are available at the school office.
- Ensuring all **homework** is completed neatly and returned on time. Creating a weekly schedule for completing homework may help to ensure your child doesn't leave their work until the last minute.
- Ensuring that your child has time and space to complete their homework.

- 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 sun cream 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 online or sending any notes to the school in labelled envelopes.
- Please remember to update Skoolbag preferences to 'Stage 2' to receive up to date school information and excursion/permission notes.

Stage 2 Class Requirements:

It is important that students have the correct stationery throughout the year to ensure they are prepared for all lessons and that their name is on all of their items. Check-in with your child throughout the school year as they often need a top up of items. Year 3 students write in their books using pencil. Year 4 students gradually begin to write using pens as they gain their 'pen licence'.

Stationery Requirements	
2 x Blue, black & red pens (Yr 4 only)	Sharpener
4 x HB lead pencils	Scissors
30cm ruler with mm	Whiteboard markers (for student use)
Glue stick	Highlighter
Eraser	Small headphones

Please also send in a box of tissues.

Important Dates for Stage 2

These dates may change so please keep updated via the fortnightly School Newsletter/SkoolBag for possible changes, additions and further details.

Event	Grade	Details
Stage 2 Assemblies (Term 1)	3 & 4	Tuesday 25th February & Tuesday 24th March (2:20pm in School Hall)
School Leadership Induction Assembly	2 - 6	Wednesday 12th February
Summer PSSA & School Sport begins	3 - 6	Friday 14th February
Swimming Carnival	3 - 6	Wednesday 19th February
Back to School BBQ	K - 6	Friday 21st February
Harmony Day	K- 6	Wednesday 18th March
Parent/Teacher Interviews	3 - 4	Term 1, Weeks 10 & 11
Winter PSSA & School Sport begins	3- 6	Friday 1st May
Cross Country Carnival	2- 6	Tuesday 5th May (TBC)
NAPLAN	3	Tuesday 12th May - Friday 22th May
Year 4 Concert	4	Various days between June 15th-19th
Opportunity Class Placement Test	4	Wednesday 29th July
Athletics Carnival	K - 6	Tuesday 4th August
Year 4 Camp	4	Thursday 17th & Friday 18th September
Year 3 Concert	3	Various dates between November 23rd-27th
Students' Last Day	K-6	Wednesday 16th December

Stage 2 teachers are looking forward to working with you and your child this year!