

2018

Kindergarten Matters—

• Information you need to know



Welcome— It's another year at Blackwell and we are looking forward to teaching your children this year and in being partners, with you, in the education of your child. We have many activities planned for this year and so we are looking forward to an exciting, busy and productive year.



2018 Early Stage One -

Parent Information

Welcome to Early Stage One (Kindergarten). We hope you find this information useful. If you require any other further information please see your child's class teacher.

Teachers:

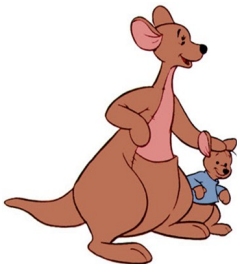
The Early Stage 1 team will be:

Miss Lane, Assistant Principal, is on KL – Lemurs, and will supervise the teachers on Early Stage 1 this year. Mrs Jo Wrigley will be sharing the Lemurs class, working on Fridays.

Mrs Jo Turnbull is on KT - Toucans—Stage Supervisor Fridays

Mrs Krensel is on KK – Kangaroos

Miss Harper is on KH – Hummingbirds



Library: The library is open at 8.30 for quiet reading time or borrowing each morning (except Tuesdays). Each class has a scheduled library day each week. Students will be given a **library bag** (included in the school pack) to carry borrowed books to and from school. The books borrowed can be written in your child's Home Reading Log.

Scripture: Will commence on Wednesdays in **Term 2**. More information to follow.

Banking: Details will be sent home at a later date.

Banking day is Thursdays.



“A
teacher
takes a
hand,
opens a
mind and
touches a
heart.”

Money Procedures: All money sent to school for payment of goods and excursions etc. should be in a labelled envelope and handed in at the school office. Please **DO NOT** hand to the class teacher.

Book Club: Book orders should be in a labeled envelope and handed in at the school office.

Absences: The Department of Education and Training requires all absences to be explained in writing or can be done through the Schoolbag App. If a student is late or is to be collected early, please go to the office for a late pass or pass to leave early. These are to be given to your child’s class teacher. These partial absences are recorded as a legal requirement and the Department’s Home School Liaison Officer regularly checks all school rolls for unexplained or regular absence patterns.

Please let the teacher know, in writing, if your child is to be collected by a different person e.g. aunty, family friend.

Labelling: Please label **all** equipment and clothing brought to school. This is very important and enables return of lost items.

Sleep: Kindergarten children are on the go all day. It can be exhausting! Please make sure that your child is getting plenty of sleep. A school child usually needs to sleep about 10 hours every night. When deciding on a bedtime, bear in mind what time your child has to get up and how long it takes them to get ready for school. You want your child to get a good night’s sleep and feel rested in the morning. If not, your child won’t get the best out of school and every morning will be a hassle, trying to get a tired child out of bed.

Appointments: Please phone the office if you wish to make an appointment to speak to a teacher. A suitable time can then be arranged. We ask that you please do not try to ask questions or discuss concerns as the teacher is walking the class inside in the mornings. If information is required for the day, please write a note and forward it to the class teacher.

“Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.”



Parent Helpers: In the coming weeks, teachers will send home a separate note asking for any parents, grandparents or other family members who would like to assist with various activities in our classrooms. Students and teachers welcome parent helpers and value their contribution to our learning programs. Please visit the front office when coming to school during school time to sign in and receive a visitor’s pass. This is for the security of all students and staff as well as visitors. A Working with Children check needs to be completed. Please see the Office for details.

Equipment: Please supply your child with a paint shirt, a bottle of hand soap from the girls and a bottle of hand sanitizer from the boys and a box of tissues. Pencils, rulers etc. are not needed as these are supplied in our school packs. School packs are \$80 and includes the use of computer programs, exercise books, stationary and incursions. Reading Eggs will be invoiced separately.

Assessments: Teachers conduct formal and informal assessments regularly throughout the year to assist with the compilation of reports. Our reports are sent home at the end of each semester (Terms 2 and 4) with parent / student / teacher interviews held at the end of Term 2. Please feel free to arrange interviews at any time if you have a question or concern. Teachers may also request an interview with parents.

Crunch and Sip: This is a **small** snack of fresh fruit or vegetables and water only, eaten in class between 9—11am each day. Please avoid whole apples—only a quarter or half an apple is needed or cut into slices.

Recess and Lunch: Please do not send too much food as some students are having difficulty eating it all and often miss out on playtime. Given students eat “Crunch and Sip” in the mornings, they only need one or two little things for recess, e.g. yoghurt, fruit, sultanas, rice crackers etc. Sandwiches, wraps or rice cakes are all they need for lunch. Please do not send soft drink. Try to limit the number of sugary items (processed foods). Snap lock bags are easy for the students to open and are disposable. Please teach your child to open their snack packets or make a cut in the packet for them to tear down.

Home Learning: Sight words will be sent home with your child. When your child can read these words easily and in context of a sentence, they will be assessed and given a new list. Sound sorting will be taught each week and a sheet will also be sent home for you to keep and sort out sounds. Home Reading starts soon— more information to follow. Lost readers will need to be replaced at a cost of \$10 per reader.

Thank you,

Kindergarten Teachers

These are the subjects undertaken by Kindergarten throughout the year:

English:

- **Reading**—Will be taught through big books, digital books and home readers. Home Reading is an essential part of your child’s development of reading skills. Books at their independent level will be sent home once guided reading commences. Additional books are available to be borrowed through the library. Individual sight word lists will also be part of the reading program and issued for homework.
- **Phonics**—All single **sounds** will be taught in Term 1/ beginning of Term 2. It is important that students learn the letter name and the **sound/sounds** it makes. Blending and word families will be taught for the remainder of the year. A sound sorting activity will be given weekly for each child to practise at home.
- **Writing**—The children will be involved in writing a variety of texts. Students learn that writing starts with a capital letter, has spaces between the words and finishes with a full stop. Initially, students record the sounds they hear in words, formalised spelling comes later.
- **Handwriting**—This involves the correct formation of letters, pencil grip and fine motor skills. For Foundation Font taught in all NSW schools, see attached notes.
- **Language/Grammar**—Children will be learning rhyming words, opposites, nouns, verbs, adjectives, capital letters, full stops, question marks, exclamation marks, commas, sentence structure and correct word usage. They will develop their vocabulary and discuss what words mean.
- **Talking and Listening**—Children are asked to talk on different topics throughout the term as well as being engaged in discussion. Activities to strengthen listening skills will be incorporated. A note will be sent home at the beginning of each term listing news topics.

Maths:

The essential content for mathematics is structured using one process strand:

- **Working Mathematically**—Students will develop knowledge, skills and understanding through inquiry, application of problem-solving strategies including the selection and use of appropriate technology, communication, reasoning and reflection.

And five content strands:

- **Number**—Whole Numbers, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, Fractions and Decimals.
- **Measurement**—Length, Area, Volume and Capacity, Mass, Time
- **Space and Geometry**—Three-dimensional Space, Two-dimensional Space, Position
- **Chance**
- **Patterns and Algebra**
- **Data**

Science:

Units of work will involve learning about; Living Things, Physical Phenomena, Built Environments, Products and Services, Earth & Its Surroundings and Information and Communications. Topics this year taught in Kindergarten are: “Weather in my World”, “On the Move”, “Staying Alive”, and “What’s it made of?”.

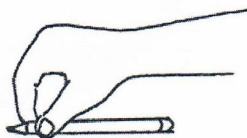
History and Geography: We will be learning about: “My Place and My Family”. Students will examine their home as a special place and learn about their own history and that of their family. They will develop an understanding of what makes a place special and how this may differ for different people over time. Students will develop their understanding of how the past is different from the present and how their family has changed. They will learn about the importance of looking after places and explores how the location of places can be represented.

Personal Development: This term students will be learning about making food choices for good health and people who help to keep them healthy. They will be discussing what medicines are, and their safe use and storage. Another aspect discussed will be how rubbish can lead to ill health. Children will also discuss how preventative measures can help us e.g. sun protection and how a range of hygiene—toileting and washing hands, dental care and grooming activities contribute to good health.

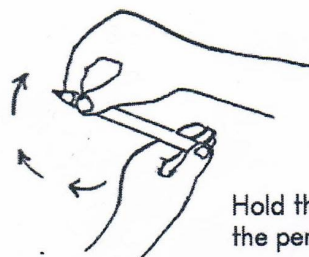
Creative and Performing Arts: Painting, drawing, cutting, pasting, arranging, organising and performing skills will be developed. Also children will be involved in learning basic music concepts, singing and playing percussion. Kinder students will be taking part in rotational groups led by the Kinder teachers. Lessons will be over 4 weeks and rotated throughout the semester. The 5 areas are: drama, music, dance, art appreciation and making art.

Technology: All Kindergarten classrooms have an interactive whiteboard where computer skills will be developed. Kindergarten will be using “Reading Eggs” on the computers in the class. Specific computer skills will be taught later in the year.

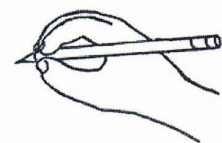
One way to develop correct pencil grip—



Place pencil on table pointing away from you. Pinch the pencil on the point where the paint meets the wood.



Hold the eraser and twirl the pencil around.



Voilà!
Correct grip.