

RANDWICK PUBLIC SCHOOL
Kindergarten 2023

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

Dear Parents / Carers,
Welcome to Kindergarten!

Class Expectations

Each class has a set of class expectations which have been negotiated by the students and the teacher. These expectations are in line with the 3 school values: be responsible, be respectful, be a learner. When the students demonstrate the expectations, they receive points for their house group.

RANDWICK SCHOOL VALUES	Class Expectations
Be respectful	We keep our hands and feet to ourselves. We share and take turns.
Be responsible	We walk safely around the school and classroom. We always wear our hats when we are outside.
Be a learner	We listen when others are speaking. We put our hands up when we have a question or comment.

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 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 Check Ins

There will be parent check-ins held in **Week 8-10 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 or call the school office if you wish to arrange an interview.

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.

Homework

- Homework will be sent home on Fridays and returned to school on Thursdays. This allows you the option of completing or working on homework over the weekend. Homework will begin in Week 5 (Feb 17).

- In Term 1, Homework routines will include reading to your child, revising sounds, and optional 'Reading Eggs' and 'MathSeeds' tasks on a device.
- We recommend reading to your child every day, or as much as possible. Your child will borrow 1-2 books from the school library each week that you can read to them. You might also like to borrow from your local council library or read books that you have at home. Discussing the book during and after reading will assist your child to make meaning and connections with the story. We ask that you write the name of the book that is read each day in your child's home reading diary. Remember, a long book might last a few days!
- We teach a variety of letters and sounds throughout the term which should be practised at home to encourage retention. Your child is asked to revise the sound that each letter makes, as well as how to write the letter. The teacher will indicate which activities are ready to be complete in the home reading diary when appropriate.
- Reading Eggs (Fast Phonics) and Math Seeds lessons can be accessed on a device and are completely optional. Login details are printed and glued on the back of your child's home reading diary; please ask me if you cannot locate them. It will be important to sit with your child initially to help familiarise them with the online platform, however the activities should be simple enough for your child to complete independently.
- I would like to encourage you to support your child in the completion of their homework.

Tips on how to engage with your child:

- <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/literacy-and-numeracy/resources-for-parents-and-carers/helping-your-child-with-literacy-and-numeracy-at-home>
- <https://education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/learning/english/eight-ways-to-help-your-child-with-talking-and-listening-skills>
- <https://fivefromfive.com.au/parent-resources/reading-with-children/>

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

Two key processes underpin the teaching of English: understanding texts and creating texts.

- Understanding texts focuses on reading fluency and comprehension.
- Creating texts focuses on creating written texts, spelling and handwriting.

InitialLit is a synthetic phonics program used throughout K-2 to teach students phonological awareness skills and phonics. Students will learn the sounds that letters make and begin blending sounds together to form words.

The following sounds will be focused on throughout the Term 1; **m, s, t, a, p, i, f, r.**

Throughout the term, students will engage with a variety of quality picture books. They will make connections with the texts and express their understanding through pictures and simple written texts.

Talking Time: “News”

The students will give several **informal oral presentations** (Talking Time) throughout the year as well as engage in class discussions to build their oral language and communication skills.

Students have Free Choice for Talking Time in Term 1, beginning in Week 4 (Feb 13). 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 & Space
 - Statistics and Probability

Number and Algebra: We recognise number patterns and small collections, identify part-whole relationships, match numerals to collections and learn to count from a number other than one.

Measurement and Space: We look at 2D and 3D shapes and identify their attributes, and explore different units of measurement, including volume and mass.

Statistics and Probability: We learn to collect information and create simple data displays.

We focus on 'hands-on' activities to develop the children's concepts. At this early stage of learning there is a heavy emphasis on mathematical language and identifying that maths is all around us.

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)

A variety of Personal Development & Health programs are covered throughout the year. These include Drug Education, Road Safety and Child Protection. Miss Fitzgerald will teach this program in Term 1.

The Year 4 Buddy Program begins on the first day of school when your child will meet their buddy. This weekly program teaches students how to form and maintain friendships. Their buddy will also provide support to them outside of the classroom and on the playground. The whole school 'Peer Support' program happens in Term 3 and is run by Year 6 leaders. The focus is on positive relationships and understanding.

In Term 1, sport lessons will take place weekly with their classroom teacher. Students will develop their Fundamental Movement skills including balancing, running, throwing, catching and more. Every 3 weeks, students will also participate in an intensive 2-hour sport program run by the skilled professionals at SISA.

CREATIVE ARTS

Creative Arts includes visual art, dance, drama and music. These concepts are integrated into various subject areas and an explicit visual art lesson is taught each week in Term 1. Mr Brown will teach music lessons to Kindergarten students once a week.

In Term 2 and 3, Kindergarten students will work on their whole-grade musical, Farmyard Hullabaloo. *More information about the musical and how you can secure tickets will be provided later in the year.*

ASSEMBLY

In Term 1, assembly will take place in-class, with no parents present, so that we can learn the songs and routines. From Term 2, assembly will take place fortnightly on Friday afternoons in the Hall. Classes will take turns hosting the assembly, and parents of that class will be invited to attend. The assembly schedule is below and will be communicated closer to the day.

Term 2		Term 3		Term 4	
Week 2	KD	Week 2	KG	Week 2	KS
Week 4	KK	Week 4	KF	Week 4	KL
Week 6	KV	Week 6	KD	Week 6	KG
Week 8	KS	Week 8	KK	Week 8	KF
Week 10	KL	Week 10	KV	Week 10	n/a

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.

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 on the school website: <http://www.randwickpublicschool.com.au/>

You could greatly assist me by doing the following:

- If your child is absent for the day, please notify the office by phone or email.
- If your child is booked in to attend Randwick Out of School Hours Care (ROOSH) and they are absent from school, please alert ROOSH on the day they are absent.
- When your child has arrived late for school, **accompany your child** to the Front Office and complete **late notes**.
- Ensure 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.
- Read to your child **every day**, or as often as possible.
- Place your **child's name and class** on **all items of clothing**, lunch containers, drink bottles, etc.
- Do not allow small toys and valuable items to be brought to school.
- Ensure that your child wears a **broad brimmed hat** and sunscreen to school every day. Our '**No hat, play in the shade**' policy is in accord with the Department and Cancer Council guidelines.
- **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 or afternoon

Important Dates:

What?	Grade	Details
Meet the Teacher	All School	Wednesday 8 February
Stage ES1 Assemblies	ES1	Every EVEN week Tuesday 2:30- 3pm commencing in Week 6. Term 1: in-class, no parents.
School/class photos	All school	Monday 27 February
StEPS Vision Tests	ES1	Friday 3 March AND Friday 10 March
Bully Zero Workshop	All School	Wednesday 15 March - Thursday 16 March
Harmony Day	All school	Wednesday 22nd March
SRC Muffi Day - Switcheroo!	All School	Wednesday 28 March

I am looking forward to working with you and your child this year. If the need arises and you feel it necessary to speak with me about your child's learning or welfare, please feel free to contact me. Please note that teachers are unable to reply during school time and are often involved in school meetings and professional development before and after school, which may mean we are unable to reply immediately. Urgent issues should always be raised via the school office phone 9398 6022.

Thank you. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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