 **RIVERBANK PUBLIC SCHOOL**

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**Term 1, Week 2 2019**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

***It was with much excitement, that we welcomed your child on their first day of ‘big school’ today!***

The Kindergarten teachers are looking forward to getting to know the children in their class and meeting each child’s family. We understand that both children and their parents/caregivers can find this time quite overwhelming, and we will endeavour to provide you with the necessary information to ensure the transition to Kindergarten occurs smoothly.

Your child’s teacher is ………………..……………………..…………………….. in class …………………..…….….

**Kindergarten Classes**

To assist students as they learn their new class name and peers, we have allocated each class a colour. This corresponds to the name tag students are going to wear at school over the next couple of weeks. You will see a coloured sign in each Kindergarten class window. All Kindergarten classes can be found on the ground level of the school.

**KTM:** White Teacher: Ms Thoroughgood (Assistant Principal ES1) & Mrs Matthews

**KR:** Pink Teachers: Miss Walsh

**KS:** Purple Teacher: Mrs Slater

**KTM** Orange Teacher: Mrs Trovato and Mrs Khaliqi

**KL:** Red Teacher: Mrs Lie

**KC:** Turquoise Teacher: Miss Tyburski

**KA:** Yellow Teacher: Miss Arundel

**KG:** Blue Teacher: Ms Grice

**KW:** Green Teacher: Mrs Winthrop

**KI**: Lime Teacher: Mrs Ignacz

**KM**: Rainbow Teacher: Miss McAlister

**School Drop Off Procedures**

For Weeks 2 and 3 (Monday 4- Friday 15 February), Kindergarten students are to be **dropped off at their classroom**. If your child attends Northwest Community Before School Care, they will be walked to their classroom by one of the carers. Students are to place their bag on a hook or on the silver seat outside their classroom. School begins at 8.45am; however Kindergarten teachers will be supervising students in the classrooms from 8.30am. This provides a familiar environment for children as they adjust to school and we ask that you try to make goodbyes brief. The class teacher will be able to support you and your child if your child becomes upset. From Week 4 (Monday 18 February), Kindergarten students will put their bags outside their classroom each morning and join the Year 1-6 children in the playground from 8.15am. When the bell rings at 8.45am, they are to line up outside their classroom. We will be doing a lot of practise to help students become familiar with to these routines before Week 4.

**Lunch & Recess Times**

Kindergarten students will be having **separate recess and lunch play periods** for the first 3 weeks. This procedure plays an important role in supporting students as they learn about the school playground, understand the school expectations and develop friendships amongst their Kindergarten peers.

**School Pick Up Procedures**

School finishes at 2.45pm. Kindergarten students are to be **picked up from inside their classrooms**. If you arrive prior to 2.45pm, please wait outside the classroom. Please avoid peeking into the windows, as children can often become distressed when they see their parent or carer arrive. Just before 2.45pm, teachers will be assisting students to pack up and prepare for home time. The teachers will instruct the children and be giving clear instructions, ready for pick up when the bell rings. Parents will be invited into the room, normally one at a time at the beginning of the year as we start to learn faces. It is very important that we know who is collecting each child every day. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in making this a safe and settled way to end the school day. **This can be a very busy time in the room** and if you have questions to ask your teacher, please wait until all the children have been collected before having a one-on-one chat so that we can give you our full attention.

If your child attends Northwest Community After School Care, they will be collected by one of the carers until they are able to go directly to the hall on their own.

**Your child’s daily pick up routines**

Please complete the weekly overview attached to today’s welcome letter and return it to your child’s teacher as soon as possible. This allows teachers to be aware of who your child will be picked up by each day and if they are attending Before or After School Care. If there is a **change to routine**, please contact the office by phone or email and the class teacher will be informed.

**Teaching and Learning**

Students will be immersed in quality **literature** and be provided with structured, interactive activities that enable them to develop confidence, skills and strategies as early readers and composers. They will learn to express themselves, think creatively and respond to a variety of texts, by sharing their own perspectives about the ideas conveyed throughout the text. Students will develop their understanding of concepts of print, but will also have opportunities to explore the role of the author in texts such as There’s a Hippopotamus on the Roof Eating Cake, Shoes from Grandpa, Harry the Dirty Dog, Belinda, Olivia and Who sank the Boat? to name a few.

During **mathematics**, we will develop early arithmetical strategies to count, combine and separate numbers as we learn basic addition and subtraction strategies. We will also be exploring concepts of addition and subtraction, 2D shapes, patterns and algebra, position, length, statistics and probability, volume and capacity and time.

**Science** – Through our unit ‘Weather Watchers!’, students will identify daily and seasonal changes that occur in our environment, such as day and night, and changes in the weather.

**History** – Students will communicate stories of their own family heritage and the heritage of others in the in the unit ‘Families Past and Present’.

**Personal Development and Health** – The safety and security of children is enhanced when they can recognise situations where their personal safety may be at risk, and use strategies to protect themselves. Our ‘Play it Safe’ and ‘Anti-Bullying’ units supports the protection of individuals through the promotion of safe environments and practices.

**PE** – During these sessions, students will focus on developing fundamental movement skills such as catching, throwing, kicking and hitting a ball that can be used in team sports.****

**Meet the Teacher Night**

A Kindergarten ‘Meet the Teacher’ information session has been organised for **Tuesday 12 February** from **6.00-7.00pm**. This session will begin in the school hall and then you are welcome to tour your child’s Kindergarten classroom. This evening provides a great opportunity for you to find out more about the routines and programs offered at Riverbank Public School.

**School Uniforms**

Please ensure that all items of clothing, including school bags, food containers and drink bottles are clearly labelled with your child’s name. This will ensure that missing items are returned to the rightful owner. As all of the children use the ‘Riverbank PS’ school bag, it is advised that a bag tag or key chain is attached to your child’s bag, so that they can easily identify it. Children are required to wear their sport uniform on **Monday and Thursday**.

**Our School Values**

At our upcoming, ‘Meet the Teacher’ evening, you will have the opportunity to find out more about our student wellbeing programs. Talking with your children about these frameworks helps us to develop a common language across our school community.

‘Rory the Rhino’, our school mascot, will be used to help the Kindergarten children learn about Riverbank’s core values-

**BE RESPECTFUL BE RESPONSIBLE BUILD RELATIONSHIPS**

**Crunch and Sip**

Each day, we will participate in *Crunch ‘n’ Sip*. At this time, children are encouraged to eat a fresh fruit or vegetable snack (preferably cut into bite sized pieces) and drink water. It would be wonderful if your child has something for *Crunch ‘n’ Sip* every day.

**Homework & Home Reading**

Kindergarten Homework and Home Reading will begin from Week 5. We look forward to discussing how you can best support your child’s progress at home during our ‘Meet the Teacher’ evening.

As a result of recent feedback from our homework survey we will not be continuing with Mathletics or Reading Eggs in 2019. Should you be interested in free online resources for homework please talk to your classroom teacher.

**Literacy at home**

* Talk about experiences at home – ask questions
* Read with them as often as possible
* Use the school or local library to borrow literacy resources
* Be an interested listener
* Practise spelling with your child as often as possible, praise every effort made
* Read to and with your child as often as possible

**Numeracy at home**

* When measuring ingredients, or shopping, mention weights, capacities etc. Identify shapes in the home
* Help children to learn the time - analog and digital and converting between the two
* Solve problems which require the use of mathematics
* Create shopping lists together, estimate total costs and work out how much money is needed or how much change is received

**Additional Learning Needs & Medical Information**

Some children have special or additional needs. If your child has an identified learning or other need, please advise the school early so that a plan can be put into place to assist them. Each plan will be different, so it is important to provide us with as much information as possible so that we can have a comprehensive understanding of your child's needs.

A note will be sent home in Week 5 for all students receiving either Learning and Support or EAL/D programs in 2019. Details regarding a parent information session will be included in this note.

If your child has allergies or other medical conditions, please come and see the classroom teacher as soon as possible. Action Plans for students with allergies or asthma, **developed in consultation with your family doctor**, are essential. We encourage families to avoid bringing peanut products to school. We thank you for your cooperation and ask that children not share food at school.

**Birthdays** are special occasions for children and they love to share this celebration with their peers. Children may bring cupcakes or doughnuts for the class on their birthday. No knives are kept in the classroom, so whole cakes can be difficult to share amongst the class.

**School App**

The best way to find out the latest news from school, including newsletters about important upcoming activities and events, is to download our school app. To download the free school app to receive instant alerts:

1. iPhone and iPad: Open the App Store on your device, search for ‘Riverbank Public School’

Android: Open the Play Store on your device, search for ‘Riverbank Public School’

1. Download the Riverbank Public School app.

If you have any concerns regarding your child’s progress or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school to arrange a time for a meeting with the classroom teacher. We feel that it is a privilege to be your child’s first school teacher and look forward to a fantastic year at Riverbank Public School!

Kind regards,

Ms Cathy Thoroughgood Early Stage 1 Teachers

Assistant Principal

Early Stage 1

Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten)

Student Requirements

Dear Parents & Carers,

The following list outlines the supplies we would appreciate you purchasing for your child. Please provide these supplies by Monday 18 February.

**STATIONERY & OTHER EQUIPMENT**

6 x 35gm glue sticks (Bostik brand preferable)

6 x whiteboard markers

1 blank scrapbook for Homework

Paint Shirt

Headphones

1 soap on tap and/or hand sanitiser (for classroom use)

2 boxes of tissues for the classroom

1 packet of baby wipes

1 roll of paper towel

Raincoat to be kept in school bag (no umbrellas please)

Spare change of underwear in a zip lock bag (labelled with your child’s name)

Riverbank Public School Library Bag – available from the school office

Plastic waterproof Home Reader wallet or case (A4, zipper or button close)



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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| ***Picked up by….***(e.g. Brother Yr 3, Mum, Grandfather, Bus, After School Care) |  |  |  |  |  |

**KINDERGARTEN STUDENT INFORMATION: DAILY ROUTINE**

***Please provide an overview of who your child is picked up by each day and if they attend Before or After School Care. Return this slip to your child’s classroom teacher as soon as possible.***

Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_