

Essential Information for Kindergarten Parents

Term One 2017

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to Kindergarten. We have had a great start to the term and look forward to working with you throughout the year.

KINDER EXPECTATIONS

It is important for children to arrive promptly by 8.55am so they are ready for line up outside the library (except for Wednesday when they line up at their class pole). Students arriving after this time are required to go to the front office to receive a late note. The school day ends at **2.50pm**. Parents/carers are requested to wait outside to meet their child at the designated class line up area.

If you need to take your child out of school during the day, you are required to sign your child out at the front office first and then hand a 'leave slip' to the class teacher.

CLASS NAMES

Kindergarten is divided into three learning communities with three classes in each. The Kindergarten classes have names that link a creature to the habitat of their learning community as follows:

Ocean learning community	Class	Line up number	Class teacher
Clown Fish	KYJ	4	Yara Jerious
Sea Stars	KNM	5	Neridah McMinn
Rainbow Fish	KRB	6	Rhianna Byrne
Arctic learning community			
Penguins	KKD	7	Kelly Dunstan
Polar Bears	KKN	8	Kym Naylor
Orcas	KSW	9	Stephanie Walker
Rainforest learning community			
Elephants	KLK	10	Lauren Kirkland
Jaguars	KAJ	11	Amy Jager
Spider Monkeys	KMF	12	Ruth McTaggart / Radia Fattah
LSU			Sandy Newbery

PARENT HELPERS

We greatly appreciate assistance from parents in our classroom. If you wish to assist in any way in the classroom or at home, please speak to your child's teacher.

LUNCH ORDERS

The canteen is now open every day. A lunch order can be submitted in two ways: 1) Online through <http://www.flexischools.com.au/> please use the link to sign up for this service, or 2) handwritten. These must be written on a **paper bag** with the money inside. In the case of the canteen providing a bag, there will be an extra charge. Please also indicate your **child's name and class**. Lunch orders are to be given to the teacher as soon as your child enters the classroom as they need to be at the canteen before 9:30. Online orders will go straight to the canteen for filling and returning to class in the lunch order basket. Please note if your child is having a lunch order they will still need fruit and recess for the other break times.

FOOD AT SCHOOL

Harrison School is an allergy friendly school. This is because we have children who are allergic to nuts and eggs. Please take care when providing food for the class, (e.g. birthdays or class parties). At Harrison we do

not encourage children to share food with each other. We have three food breaks. **Fruit break** will be held daily at around **10am** and it is important for your child to bring fruit or vegetables to eat at this time. Please also remember to pack a full water bottle daily. Children will then eat **morning tea (10:50)** and **lunch (12:50)** before going out to play at Recess and again at Lunch.

NOTES AND MONEY

Any notes for excursions and incursions need to be returned prior to the due date with all relevant notes signed and monies, if applicable. Please bring these to your classroom teacher.

CLOTHING

Please label **all** of your child's belongings so they do not get lost. This includes hats, jumpers, bags, lunch boxes and drink bottles. Lost property is located in a laundry basket in the shared space in the Kindergarten area. Please provide a change of clothes in a plastic bag with your child's name on it in their school bag in case of accidents.

TOYS

We discourage students from bringing toys to school as broken and lost toys cause great distress. If your child would like to bring a toy in for their news day it must be kept in their bag at all other times.

COMMUNICATION

Please feel free to make an appointment to see your child's teacher to discuss any concerns. Please keep a regular lookout in our school newsletter for information regarding special events. You may also contact your child's teacher by email. At the end of this letter there is a comprehensive list of email addresses.

ABSENCES

As a legal requirement, all student absences require a **written notification** (handwritten or by email at Harrison.Absences@ed.act.edu.au) even if verbal notice has been given. These notes can be handed to the classroom teacher on the day your child returns to school from any absence - sick leave or holidays (or just a day off to regroup).

SUN SMART

Students are required to wear a navy blue wide brimmed or bucket hat to school daily for play time and sport. If your child does not have a hat they must play under the green or blue shaded area. Please ensure you have applied sunscreen to your child before they arrive at school. Time will be available before heading out to lunch for your child to reapply their own sunscreen themselves.

LITERACY

In Kindergarten we teach Literacy in Context. We aim to build student's understanding of Literacy through connecting their real life to balanced, meaningful and engaging experiences. A curiosity to read, write, discover and express new knowledge is facilitated through exposure to rich sources of literature.

Literacy in Context addresses key concepts including; letter and sound associations, sight words, spelling, sentence and language structures and critical literacy skills. Motivation and meaning is strengthened by connecting books to; drama, art, diverse cultural perspectives, music and movement explorations.

Our focus in Kindergarten is on teaching sounds rather than teaching letters. For example the sound /n/ can be created by the spelling choices n, nn or kn. The sound that a class learns each week is determined from the big book or rich texts that the teacher has chosen for the class to read.

To support literacy at home, please read to your child as much as you can.

PIPS

During weeks 3 and 4 all Kindergarten students will be assessed using the PIPS (Performance Indicators In Primary Schools) program. This is a computer based literacy and numeracy assessment that is completed at school. Students will be assessed again during term 4. An information pamphlet on PIPS will be sent home soon.

HOME LEARNING

Home Learning will be sent via email. If you do not have Internet access please speak to your teacher to organise a paper copy. The main aim for home learning is to provide opportunity for consolidation and practice of skills and concepts that have been learnt in class. This will also include students spending time on their online free Mathletics and Reading Eggs accounts.

HOME READING

Home readers will go home in Week 3. The readers your children bring home are different levels and chosen by your child. Books can be returned when needed. We use levelled readers in the classroom as an instructional tool. Teachers will plan for targeted strategies and activities using information from their reading. Your child will bring home a variety of levels. They will choose their own books. This is because for home reading, our focus is on enjoyment and practising strategies targeted in their classroom program.

Teachers will guide the choice of students' home readers to provide a balance of books that are read to, read with and read by:

- 'Read To' allows your child to see what 'good readers' do to decode words. When you read to a child they are learning as they are watching strategies in action.
- 'Read With' slows the process down and the child is supported in using those strategies themselves.
- 'Read By' is about building independence in reading.

NUMERACY

The children engage in mathematical activities daily. The activities are hands on, using concrete materials and games to explore, learn and consolidate concepts. In Term 1 learning intentions are:

Numbers and Algebra	Measurement and Geometry	Statistics and Probability
-Students make connections between number names, numerals and quantities up to 10. -Subitise small collections of objects.	- They group objects based on common characteristics and sort shapes and objects. (Patterns) -Students connect events and the days of the week.	-Students answer simple questions to collect information and make simple inferences.

Our programs have been established to cater for individual learning needs and styles. We are able to extend and support children by differentiating the curriculum where needed.

INTEGRATED INQUIRY

This term students will be focusing on developing strategies around how they cope with change at school. Our focus question for this term is **How do I stay safe, happy and healthy?** Students will have opportunities to further develop their resilience, practise personal and social skills including interacting with others.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The children participate in one gross motor session a week (Mondays) and are asked to wear their PE uniform on this day. Fitness sessions are run throughout the week incorporating fundamental motor skills, body awareness, motor memory, balance and spatial awareness.

SPECIALIST PROGRAMMES

During the week, each class will participate in the following specialist activities:

Japanese: Amy McLeod

All classes participate in a 55 minutes session of Japanese each week. During Semester One Kindergarten will focus on learning Japanese numbers and colours through hands on games, activities and songs.

Music: Kieryn Khan

*During Semester 1: KKD, KMF, KJJ, KLK and KRB will participate in the music program once a week.
In Semester 2: KKN, KNM, KAJ and KSW will participate in the music program once a week.*

Music this year in Kindergarten begins with a strong focus on beat, as children use a range of instruments and marching games to keep the beat across various musical styles. Students will be introduced to music notation concepts, counting the beat in playful rhymes and representing it with drawing materials and manipulatives. Instruments featured this term include ukuleles, tapping sticks and floor drums. Kindergarten students will have opportunities to echo four and three beat rhythm patterns and try out their own ideas to play instruments in different ways. The term will also be rich in singing, beginning with learning the new school song, 'Follow the Sun' and other songs which will be regularly sung at Harrison gatherings and assemblies.

Drama: Nicole Zimmer

*For semester 1 KKN, KNM, KAJ and KSW will participate in the drama program once a week.
For semester 2 KKD, KMF, KJJ, KLK and KRB will participate in the drama program once a week.*

Term 1 will see students make and present drama using the elements of role, situation and focus in dramatic play and improvisation. Drama lessons will be taught as an integrated subject exploring the question 'How do I stay safe, happy and healthy?' Students will explore emotions, how to express them and how to recognise feelings in others.

Library: Pamela Gaukroger

Each week all classes will go to the library with the class teacher. These sessions include basic library orientation skills, library/literacy terminology, location and order of fiction books, and regular borrowing. Children will become familiar with quality picture books available to them, and every lesson will be centred around the joy of reading and fostering a love of books.

Your library times are to be advised.

TIMES OF THE WEEK TO REMEMBER

P-4 ASSEMBLY

Wednesdays - 9.15-10.00am in weeks 2, 4, 6 and 8

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday Weeks 5 and 10 from 9:15am - 10:00am

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (P.E.) Mondays

Please regularly check our Harrison School online calendar for upcoming events.

http://www.harrison.act.edu.au/our_community/calendar2

Warmest regards,
The Kindergarten Team

Contact e-mail addresses:

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KMF	Ruth.McTaggart@ed.act.edu.au	KMF	Radia.Fattah@ed.act.edu.au
KKD	Kelly.Dunstan@ed.act.edu.au	KRB	Rhianna.Byrne@ed.act.edu.au (not yet active)
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