

Essential Information for Kindergarten Parents

Term One 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

KINDER EXPECTATIONS

It is important for children to arrive promptly by 8.50am so they are ready for line up outside the library. They will then proceed to class with their teacher to complete their literacy block. Students arriving after this time are required to go to the front office to sign in. 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.

KINDERGARTEN CLASSES

We have 8 Kindergarten classes at Harrison School. 6 classes in the green building and 2 classes in the demountable. The Kindergarten classes are:

Class	Line up number	Class teacher
KKN	4	Kym Naylor
KKV	5	Kristen Vellar
KAC	6	Amandeep Chahal
KJC	7	Julia Cunningham
KJB	8	Justine Boreham
KRT	9	Roz Thomson
KJP	10	Alannah Jones and Ellen Pascoe
KTJ	11	Natasha Taylor and Farleigh Jay Daniel
EAL/D		Cheryl Davis
Junior LSU		Alison Kanaridis

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 after you have received your Working with Vulnerable People card.

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/>, 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 9:30am**. 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 various foods including nuts and eggs. Please take care when providing food for the class (e.g. birthdays or class parties). At Harrison we do not encourage students to share food with each other. We have three food breaks during the day. **Brain 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. Children will then eat **morning tea (10:40)** and **lunch (12:50)** before going out to play at recess and again at lunch. Please also remember to pack a full water bottle daily.

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** your child's **belongings** so they do not get lost. This includes hats, jumpers, bags, lunch boxes and drink bottles. Lost property items are stored in 2 locations, the shared space in the Kindergarten building and the library. 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 strongly discourage students from bringing toys to school as broken and lost toys cause great distress. If your child would like to bring a toy 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 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. Seesaw is an App that is also utilised by teachers to communicate class and school events as well as individual learning.

ABSENCES

As a legal requirement, all student absences require a **written notification** even if verbal notice has been given. It is preferred that absences are communicated via email at Harrison.Absences@ed.act.edu.au, however written notes can be handed to your classroom teacher. Extended leave (i.e. holidays inside school terms) requires additional forms to be complete. Please speak to your class teacher as needed.

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 re-apply sunscreen themselves.

LITERACY

In Kindergarten we teach Literacy in Context. We aim to build student's understanding of Literacy through connecting their real-life experiences to balanced, meaningful and engaging learning opportunities. 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, tricky words, spelling, sentence and language structures and critical literacy skills. Motivation and meaning are 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 sequence that a class learns each week is supported by a big book or rich text that the teacher has chosen for the class to read.

To support literacy at home, please read with your child as much as you can and complete the daily letter/sound homework. The weekly letter/sound sequence will be sent home every Friday.

BASE

During weeks 3 and 4 all Kindergarten students participate in BASE. This is an assessment task completed one on one (teacher: student) on the computer. BASE is a new research-based assessment featuring Milly the Bug. Milly guides each student through a series of fun and engaging activities, covering Literacy, Maths, and Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED). BASE is a student friendly assessment designed to identify what each child knows and can do, right at the start of their school life. This assessment is repeated early term 4.

HOME READING

Home readers will go home in Week 3. Your child will bring home 2 readers, one is an instructional level book and the other is a book of interest. The time books are kept at home can vary. Interest books are for you to read with your child with a focus on enjoying reading and supporting the practise of strategies developed as part of

their targeted classroom program. Instructional books are for students to read to you. Initially students will need assistance and guidance from you however as their reading progresses, they will begin to read independently.

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.

MATHEMATICS

The students 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
Establish understanding of the language and processes of counting by naming numbers in sequences, initially to and from 20, moving from any starting point. ACMNA001	Use direct and indirect comparisons to decide which is longer, heavier or hold more, and explain reasoning in everyday language ACMNG006	Sort and classify familiar objects and explain the basis for these classifications. Copy, continue and Create patterns with objects and drawings. ACMNA005
Connect number names, numerals and quantities, including zero, initially up to 10 and then beyond. ACMNA002	Sort, describe and name familiar two-dimensional shapes and three-dimensional objects in the environment ACMMG009	
Subitise small collections of objects ACMNA003	Compare and order duration of events using everyday language of time ACMMG007	
Represent practical situations to model addition and sharing (ACNMA 004)	Connect days of the week to familiar events and actions (ACMMG 008)	

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

INTEGRATED INQUIRY- HEALTHY MIND, HEALTHY ME

Focus Inquiry Questions:

- **Why is it important to have a healthy, positive mind?**
- **How am I contributing to a positive environment/place?**

This mini unit of inquiry will help develop students' capacity to initiate and maintain respectful relationships in different contexts. It will give students opportunities to learn about their and others' emotions and simple actions they can take to keep themselves and others (mentally) healthy and safe.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students participate in one gross motor session a week (Tuesday) 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, students will participate in the following specialist activities:

Japanese: Amy McLeod

All classes participate in a 55-minute session of Japanese each week. During the year Kindergarten will focus on learning to introduce themselves using Japanese, numbers and colours through hands on games, activities and songs.

Music: Janine De Simone

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, 'Que Sera' and other songs which will be regularly sung at Harrison gatherings and assemblies.

Science: Bo Zevon and Kelly Dunstan

In Kindergarten, students observe and describe the behaviours and properties of everyday objects, materials and living things. They explore change in the world around them, including changes that impact on them, such as the weather, and changes they can affect, such as making things move or change shape. They learn that seeking answers to questions they pose and making observations is a core part of science and use their senses to gather different types of information. During term 1, students engage in exploring the concept that living things have basic needs, including food and water.

Library: Nola Zorzi

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-2 ASSEMBLY (In the hall)**

Wednesdays - 9.15-10.00am in weeks 3, 7 and 9

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

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

Gross Motor Tuesday

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

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

Facebook Page

Harrison School Kindergarten 2020

Warmest regards,
The Kindergarten Team

Contact e-mail addresses:

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