

# FAIRFIELD HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL

## WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN 2016



Welcome to both you and your child to Fairfield Heights Public School. It is an honour and a privilege to have your child at our school. You will find our school to be a friendly and welcoming place for children and adults. We are very happy to see our newest students handling school life so well. All students smoothly made the transition from home and pre-school to the school environment. The Kindergarten teachers have assisted this transition through the implementation of a unit of work called 'School Days'. This teaching unit provides students with opportunities to explore the classroom culture, school surroundings and to develop social skills and strategies. This unit of work also provides learning experiences in all Key Learning Areas. The Kindergarten teachers are excited to be working with you and the students. Our role is to make sure that your child feels happy and safe at school and that your child is in a quality learning environment. We trust that you find the following information helpful and we urge you to speak with us in regard to any questions or issues that arise throughout this very important year of your child's schooling.

**Mrs Ramirez**  
Assistant Principal

**Ms Boggian, Ms Yatim, Mrs Stouraras, Mrs Dinale**  
**Mrs Maua, Mrs Millalongo, Mrs Simpson and Mrs Currao**  
Kindergarten Teachers



### School Discipline Code

*Be proud of our school.  
Be happy and safe at school.  
Be an active, cooperative learner.  
Be respectful of people, property and our school.  
Be in the correct place at the correct time.*



### SCHOOL BELLS

- **8.45am** This indicates that teachers are on playground duty to supervise students.
- **9.10am** Please ensure that your child is at school on time to assemble in class lines for morning assembly. Parents are requested to stand at the back or the sides of the assembly. This helps everyone receive important messages and promotes independence in your child.
- **11.15am** Recess (11.30-11.50 on Fridays)
- **12.50-1.40pm** Lunch. The first 10 minutes is supervised eating time. Students play from 1pm.
- **Home time** for Term 1 will be **2:45pm**. Kindergarten students are to be collected from their classroom. Please inform the class teacher of any changes in the collection of your child. If your child has not been picked up by **3.30pm** they will be taken to the office where parents will be contacted.

### IMPORTANT REQUESTS

Parents and caregivers are asked to ensure:

- Your child attends school everyday.
- Your child is at school on time as valuable teaching and learning takes place in the first part of the school day.
- If you are picking your child up before home time you must **first get a yellow slip** from the office.
- Your child wears full school uniform, including hat, every day. The school follows the "No Hat, No Play" policy.
- Your child has a **healthy** recess, lunch and drink each day.
- **ALL** clothes and property are clearly **labelled** with your child's name and class.

### Best Start

This year each Kindergarten child has taken part in Best Start. The purpose of the Best Start Assessment process is to provide information for Kindergarten teachers to:

- Build on each student's current knowledge and experiences in literacy and numeracy.
- Develop quality teaching and learning programs that support students in achieving Early Stage 1 outcomes.

Each student will bring home a progress report in Term One based on the Best Start continuum in literacy and numeracy.

## **THE CURRICULUM**

The curriculum consists of six Key Learning Areas (KLAs); English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE), Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) and Creative Arts. Teachers plan learning experiences for students to meet outcomes for each KLA as determined by Board of Studies syllabus documents. Students in Kindergarten work at Foundation and Early Stage 1 levels. Teachers develop students' skills and knowledge in all Key Learning Areas by using modelled, guided and independent teaching strategies.

### **Mathematics**

#### ***Working Mathematically, Number, Patterns and Algebra, Measurement and Data, Space and Geometry***

The strands will have the following focus;

- **Number:** read, represent and write numbers 1-30, using them to count, add, subtract, and begin to multiply and divide.
  - **Space & Geometry:** Position and 2D and 3D will be explored.
  - **Measurement:** compare and describe length, mass, volume, area and time.
  - **Patterns & Algebra:** recognise, create, continue and describe repeating patterns.
  - **Data:** Using pictures or objects to represent a graph and begin to interpret simple graphs.
- You can support your child's learning in this KLA by discussing maths in the context of everyday living.

### **English**

#### ***Talking & Listening, Reading & Writing***

The English teaching program helps students to develop an awareness of print and how to 'crack the code' to read and write letters and words.

Students engage in a formal phonics program to learn single letter sounds and a sight word program through modelled, guided and independent reading and writing activities. These occur in whole class, small group and individual learning experiences.

Talking and listening are important skills which are developed throughout the year. Students are encouraged to speak about a range of familiar topics while broadening their vocabulary. News time is one area that focuses on this area of learning. Some ideas for talks are: photos to show, special experiences, favourite places, family outings and events.

You can support your child's learning in this KLA by reading to your child daily and talking with them about events and people of significance.

### **Creative Arts**

#### ***Visual Arts, Music, Drama and Dance***

Students learn to appreciate art by viewing artists' work and experimenting with different media, such as paint, clay, crayon, pencil, pastels and collage materials to make art. They also develop cutting, pasting and folding skills in art and craft activities. Students are encouraged to communicate creatively through experiences with drama, music and dance.

### **Science and Technology**

#### ***Investigating Scientifically, Designing and Making, The Natural Environment, The Made Environment***

In Science and Technology students will be learning about the process of Design and Make and Investigation. Learning experiences are provided within the units of work Animals and Toys.

Students also work with computer and digital technology using classroom computers, computers in the school library and computers in the school's computer lab.

### **Personal Development, Health and Physical Education**

#### ***Fundamental Movement and Physical Activity, Healthy Choices, Self and Relationships***

As part of Personal Development students will look at 'Interpersonal Relationships', such as friendships and social skills necessary to get along with others in the playground and in the classroom, how to express feelings and special people and things. The Physical Education strand includes games and fitness activities

## **History / Geography**

### ***Change and Continuity, Cultures, Environments, Social Systems and Structures***

Students will gain understandings about change and continuity, cultures, environments, and social systems and structures.

Students will have the opportunity to learn about people and the environments with which they interact. Learning experiences are provided within the units of work *School Days and This Is Me*.

## **GRADE ROUTINES**

### **RFF**

During Term 1 the children will be working with the RFF teachers on a series of integrated units. We are looking forward to seeing some very exciting classroom displays of children's work. Kindergarten RFF will be on Tuesdays 12.20pm – 3.15pm. The RFF teachers are as follows:

KA – Mrs Chalmers  
KS – Mrs Maggs

KAS – Ms Maddison-Waldon  
KB – Mr Dallen

KD – Ms Seyis  
KM – Mrs Lancaster

### **Homework**

Kindergarten students will be given homework commencing Week 6 of Term 1. Initially this will involve a phonics (letter sound) activity and a handwriting activity. As students develop confidence and skills we slowly increase the level and amount of homework. Homework will include a home reader, students will receive a new book on Monday and Wednesdays. Parents and caregivers are asked to encourage their child to complete homework nightly and return it to school on the days requested by their classroom teacher.

### **Sport**

Kindergarten Sport is on Wednesday afternoons. Please ensure your child is wearing our sports uniform and comfortable sports shoes. This term we will be focusing on gross motor skills, fitness and movement.

### **Speech Pathology**

Our speech pathologist, Miss Claudia Westcott, will be working with our Kindergarten students and teachers each week. This program will focus on oral language, functional language, phonemic awareness and following instructions.

### **Literacy**

Each Kindergarten class will work with a learning support officer in reading. This allows the classroom teacher to provide both enrichment and support for identified students. This program is aimed at specific needs and may be delivered as part of a whole class, small group or individual instruction. Our learning support officers are as follows:

KB – Mrs Mason  
KS – Mrs Rehana

KM – Mrs Doble  
KAS – Mrs Mariani

KD – Mrs De Filippis  
KA – Mrs Fellow

### **Scripture**

Scripture classes occur weekly for Roman Catholic, Anglican and Islamic students. Students not attending the available scripture classes will be supervised by classroom teachers.

### **Premier's Reading Challenge**

Each child in Kindergarten will be given the opportunity to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. Classroom teachers will use the Premier's Reading Challenge book list as part of a class based literature program.

### **Library**

Kindergarten students will visit the library and have the opportunity to borrow books. Each Kindergarten student will receive a school library bag when they visit the library. Please encourage your child to bring their library bag in each week.

KB, KD and KAS will have library on Mondays.

KS, KA and KM will have library on Wednesdays.

### **Birthdays**

We acknowledge and value the celebration of your child's birthday at school. It would be greatly appreciated if you could:

- Speak with your child's teacher prior to bringing any cakes as some of our students have allergies
- Bring individual cupcakes, donuts or muffins at **12:45pm**
- NO knives or candles to ensure the safety of our students.

### **K-2 Toilets**

Parents are **NOT** permitted to use the girls and boys toilets at any time.

### **Money Matters**

Money for excursions and activities needs to be sent to school in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name, class, amount and purpose of payment. Lunch orders are to be placed at the canteen between 8.45 and 9.00am. Students can make small purchases from the canteen during recess and lunch. Banking is available to students through the Commonwealth Bank on Tuesdays.

### **Toys and Valuable Items**

Children need to leave toys and valuable possessions at home. Lost or damaged items cannot be replaced.

