



GOOD SHEPHERD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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KINDERGARTEN TERM 1 2021



We warmly welcome everyone to our wonderful school!

We hope that you are starting to feel a part of the place and have made a few new friends (parents as well as students!). Please take the time to read this newsletter as it has information pertinent to Kindergarten and it might answer some questions you may have.

Entering the school

The school gates open at 8:00am and **supervision begins at 8:10am**. Parents can use the "Kiss and Drop" driveway at the front of the school or park in the church car park and walk their child/children to the front school gate.

Currently, parents are not permitted into the school due to COVID restrictions, but rest assured that children are well supervised from 8:10am. Please say goodbye to your child before they enter through the gate and remember, **a quick goodbye is a good goodbye**. When you say goodbye, remind your child that you will be back to pick them up (or remind them of the alternative pick up arrangements).

As children enter they are to sit in the COLA (on the steps) until duty begins at 8:10am. **Teachers will tell them when they can leave the area to walk to their classrooms to place their bags on the hooks and play till they hear the music**. Please ensure that your child is wearing their hat.

Your child's school bag will be placed on a hook outside the classrooms. Their lunch box will be stored in the classroom throughout the day.

We encourage the children to place their own bags on the hooks so that they can find them easily throughout the course of the day. **Please also make sure that your child is able to identify their own bag by letting them choose either a tag or coloured ribbon that will help them to identify their school bag**.

A school hat is essential - it is needed everyday! Please also ensure that your child has a change of clothes in their bag as accidents do happen.

Label everything! It is very easy for things to get lost or misplaced.

School begins at 8:30am promptly. When the music goes at 8:25am, the children line up outside their rooms and have their lunch boxes with them, ready to take them inside the room to keep cool. Their hat goes into their bag.

Do not pack too much food for your child; they will not eat it all. Please pack a drink bottle filled with water.

Dismissal Procedure

Parents are asked to observe our COVID restriction procedures when picking up their child/children at the end of the school day. Please line up at the school gates ensuring a 1.5m distance between parents. A teacher will direct the number of parents to enter the school collection zone. Parents are asked to collect their child/children and then leave the school via the middle gate. This procedure may seem time consuming, however, it ensures the safety of all our students. We thank you in anticipation of your patience.

Red Communication Folder

A red communication folder is used by the teachers to send home important notes. Please check your child's bag daily when you get home. The red communication folder must be returned to school everyday as your child will be expected to place it in a tub as they walk through the door each morning. Teachers check the folder for returned notes each morning. We encourage you to use the red communication folder when sending notes to the teacher or returning forms for the office.

Sports Uniform is to be worn on the following days:

Tuesday - All of Kinder

Thursday - KB and KG

Friday - KR and KW

Library Borrowing will begin shortly. Please ensure that your child has a library bag to place the books in that they wish to borrow. Borrowing days will be **Mondays** for all Kinder classes.

Teacher Contact

If you need to speak to your child's class teacher, please contact the school office. The class teachers will contact you at their earliest convenience.



Make sure you have signed up for the **free app for your phone**.

It is called **skoolbag**. Search for our school in the app store and join. It's that simple! You will receive the weekly school newsletter as well as any messages that are sent out. You can also have a look at the school website and have the school newsletter emailed to you each Tuesday. There are lots

of other things on the website too.

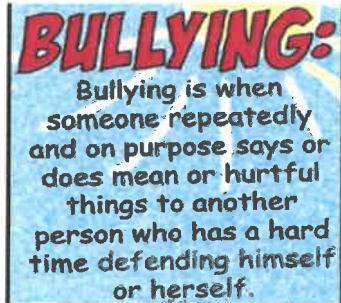
Attendance at school is critical to ensure success at school. We understand that children sometimes get sick and should be kept home, though keep in mind that the more days a child has away from school, the greater the negative impact this has on his/her learning. If your child is sick, please ring the office after 9am and let us know. A short letter explaining the reason for your child's absence is required the day he/she returns to school. This is given to the class teacher via the red communication folder.

If you are late to school, you will need to sign your child in through the office.

If you need to pick up your child early, you will need to go to the office and sign your child out. We do not encourage early pickups. Please restrict them to emergencies only.

Thank you for presenting your child so beautifully in their school uniform. A reminder that suitable haircuts are an important part of our school uniform. Please refer to the school newsletter, the Parent Handbook or the website for details if you are unsure of our expectations.

We will be testing each child individually in Literacy and Numeracy skills using an assessment called **Best Start**. Best Start is a Kindergarten only assessment that is used extensively throughout all schools in NSW. The purpose of these assessments is to see exactly what skills your child already has and how best we can cater our teaching to their learning needs. There is no pass or fail and in fact, no marks are given! At the conclusion of the assessments you will receive a printed report outlining your child's strengths in Literacy and Numeracy. If you wish to speak to your child's class teacher about the report, this can be arranged.



Sometimes as parents we get upset when our child has a disagreement with another student and we think it is bullying. Bullying is ongoing and persistent, not a single incident. We encourage your child to talk to the duty teacher to resolve a problem. If you have any concerns, please speak to the class teacher. You are **NEVER** permitted to approach a child that is not your own (or their parents).

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING THIS TERM

Religious Education

Students are investigating - **Who is my Friend?** ("A friend loves at all times" Proverbs 17:17)

The unit of work is based around the following Statement of Inquiry:

In knowing Jesus, one can develop a friendship with Him.

Students in Kindergarten are new to school and forming new friendships. They wonder about Jesus' friendships. They are learning about the person of Jesus and what it means to develop a friendship with Him.

The students will work through the following Inquiry Questions:

- How can I be a friend?
- Who is Jesus?
- How do the actions of Jesus provide a guide for being a true friend?
- Why does the way I treat my friends enhance my relationship with Jesus?
- How can a person be a friend of Jesus and to others?

English

Students participate in a 2 hour, daily literacy program, learning to listen and speak, read and write. Students learn through structured play, shared reading, guided reading in small groups, independent reading, modelled, guided and independent writing.

Mathematics

Students participate in a 1 hour daily numeracy program. Each lesson focuses on counting skills and recognising numbers. During Term 1, students will cover the following topics:

- Whole Number - Counting small collections and being able to tell how many without counting when objects are arranged in a dot pattern
- Time - the days of the week
- Addition and Subtraction - putting small groups together and counting all the objects and taking some away to see how many are left
- Length - describing and comparing the length of objects using longer than, shorter than

Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) - Geography - People Live in Places

Students explore the places they live in and belong to. They develop an understanding of what makes a place special and how this may differ for different people. Students learn about the importance of looking after places. Students explore how the location of places can be represented.

Science - Weather in My World

This unit focuses on daily and seasonal changes in the environment. Students investigate how living things respond to these changes in the environment. They are introduced to the foundational understanding of the Earth as a dynamic interrelated part of physical and biological systems. Teaching and learning progresses through the five phases: Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate and Evaluate.

Creative Arts - Visual Arts / Music / Dance / Drama

Weekly Music lessons with Miss Touzell or Mrs Hocking during Term 1. Weekly Visual Arts lessons with their class teacher. This Term, Visual Arts will be introduced to the students using the letter of the week and be linked to what the children are learning in English. Each activity listed features cutting and gluing skills as the focus is on the 'Making' aspect of visual arts to determine the current skills of the students and their areas of strength or need. Teachers will be assessing the students' fine motor skills and their ability to resemble artworks that have been modelled by the teacher. At the end of the unit students will tell their teacher their favourite artwork and why. Students will be exposed to a range of materials to use to create the artworks including cardboard, crepe paper, wool, brennex paper and googly eyes.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE):

Physical Education

Weekly Sport lessons with Mrs McCaffery and Mrs Dhiman. Gross Motor activities with the class teacher every Tuesday.

Personal Development and Health

We start the year with a mini unit that focuses on students learning to respect themselves, others and the environment. This fits in nicely with learning about our school's expectations.

Our main unit is called **I Am Special**.

Key Inquiry Questions

1. What makes me unique?
2. How do we grow?
3. How can we care for and include each other?
4. What choices can help me be safe, supported and active?
5. What helps us to stay healthy and safe?

Important dates

All school events are published in our weekly school newsletter or sent home via a separate information letter. Please check the Skoolbag app or your emails each Tuesday afternoon for the newsletter.

We are very excited that you have chosen Good Shepherd Primary School! We know you will love your time with us here at Good Shepherd!

The Kindergarten Team

					
Miss Aloschi KB	Miss Guerrero KG	Mrs Sirry KR	Miss Rizkalla KW	Miss Cornett Teacher Assistant	Mrs Davies Learning Support Teacher / Grade Leader