

# ALEXANDRIA PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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21<sup>st</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome from the Kindergarten team! We are (left to right)

**Christine Hill** (KC and Relieving Assistant Principal - Monday)

**Connie Hallas** (KH)

**Lachlan Guthrie** (KG)

**Danielle Ozdirik** (Learning and Support Teacher and Relieving Assistant Principal - Tuesday - Friday)

**Stephen Pittman** (KP)



Together we have a broad range of teaching experience across a range of schools, and are passionate about teaching Kindergarten.

Your child's class timetable is attached separately to this note. Please take time to read it so you can prepare your child with the correct equipment for the day (e.g. PE uniform, library bag). This letter provides information about Alexandria Park Community School and procedures for Kindergarten.

## **Positive Behaviour for Learning**

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is Alex Park's whole-school behaviour support program, which provides students, staff and families with clear expectations for behaviour and common, positive language for discussing behaviour. The three values of PBL at Alex Park are:

**BE A  
LEARNER**

**BE  
RESPECTFUL**

**BE  
SAFE**

These values are reinforced through direct teaching, the language used by all staff throughout the school, and visual posters displayed throughout the school. We recognise positive behaviour, effort and achievement through our Deadlys achievement system and recognition at assemblies, and we manage behaviour through the school discipline system, which includes behaviour contracts.

### **Developing Independence**

One of the key goals for Kindergarten this term is to help students develop their confidence and independence at school. As parents you can support your children in this by asking them to carry their possessions including their bags, hat, lunchbox etc. It is also great if you can ask them to pack their own bag with the things they need that day.

### **What to bring to school?**

Please ensure that your child brings:

- A hat (windbrimmed)
- A lunch box (that is easily opened and closed by your child)
- A drink bottle (that is easily opened and closed by your child)
- A change of clothing
- A spare set of underpants in a plastic bag (even if your child has never had an accident)

**Please label all items with your child's name.**

### **Lunch Time**

Please ensure that your child comes with a main meal for lunch and a snack for afternoon tea. All food needs to be in containers that are easy for your child to open, and it is great if your child knows what food to eat at each break. Students will need a bottle of water to keep hydrated throughout the day.

### **APCS is an Allergy Aware School**

In order to help ensure that all our students are safe, we ask you to speak with your child about not sharing food and if you could also be mindful of this when packing your child's lunch. We have students with allergies to foods such as tuna, sesame, coconut, nuts, eggs, fish and severe allergies to **peanut butter and Nutella**.

### **Birthdays**

Birthdays are a special time in a child's life and we enjoy celebrating with your child at school. Due to the variety of dietary needs among our kindergarten students, we ask that you consider **simple, non-food** ways to celebrate at school eg: a sticker or party hat for each child in the class. Please contact your child's teacher prior to the day to discuss arrangements and ensure they fit in with the class's timetable. Please also note that party invitations **should not** be distributed at school as this often causes distress and anxiety among students.

### **Mornings**

There is morning supervision at school from 8:40am. If students need to arrive earlier than 8:40am, they must be enrolled in Camp Australia's Before School Care program.

### **After School Pick Up**

Thank you for your support with our afternoon dismissal procedures. By all working together, we will make this process as quick and smooth as possible. **If there is a permanent change in your pick-up routine, you must notify your child's teacher via an email to the school (alexparkcs-school@det.nsw.edu.au). If there is a last-minute change on the day, please call the school office telephone (02 9698 1967) as emails may not be seen in time.** Students are not permitted to wait or go home with their friends' families without prior notification. Thank you for your assistance in keeping our students safe.

### **Home Reading**

It is important for students to read at home every day. Please make time to read and enjoy books with your child. The home reading program will begin towards the end of Term One. More information will be sent home at a later date.

### **Library**

Students have a library lesson each week with Mrs Soo. They will have the opportunity to borrow each lesson and may loan up to 3 books each week. Students must have a library bag to borrow (this does not need to be anything fancy; simply something to protect library books from other items in a school bag, e.g. a grocery bag, an old pillowcase or an envelope pouch will also work).

A message from Mrs Soo -

"Psst...don't be fooled by the dust bunnies, the school library is a mind-bending wonderland of knowledge! With shelves stacked with stories, facts, and ideas, it's the perfect spot to flex our mental muscles. And hold onto your hats, because this term, the library is taking things up a notch! We're diving deep into our well-being, emotions, thoughts, and ideas, all in a super safe, positive, and collaborative space. Plus, we're levelling up our borrower reading badges (bronze, silver, gold, and diamond). All you need is a library bag to borrow (it doesn't have to be fancy, a grocery bag, an old pillowcase, or an envelope pouch will do). Let's go!"

### **Communication**

If you would like to speak to your child's teacher, you can contact the office to arrange a meeting. Otherwise, our emails are listed at the bottom of this letter.

### **Permission to Publish**

Every month Kindergarten will publish a newsletter article and include a few photos of the fantastic learning that has been taking place. We may also share photos on the school website or school facebook page to showcase our amazing learners. If you do not see your child in any photos, this may be due to selecting 'No' for permission to publish on their enrollment form. Please call the school office (02 9698 1967) if you would like to update this or would like more information.

### **Absences**

Please ensure that a phone call or email is sent to the office explaining all absences. If your child is absent due to illness please provide a medical certificate where possible.

### **Attendance**

Your child's attendance at school is important to us. Please ensure that students arrive **before 9:00am each day**. Supervision is available on the playground from 8:40am. All absences are to be explained via phone or email to the Bunin (office), or to your child's teacher. If your child is absent due to illness, please provide a medical certificate where possible. If your child is going to be absent for five days or more, it is necessary to apply for extended leave through the Bunin.

# Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

education.nsw.gov.au



## Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just... they miss weeks per year and years over their school life



education.nsw.gov.au

### Curriculum

This table provides an overview of key learning areas for the term.

Key Learning Area	Topics/ Strands	Content Covered
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Oral Language &amp; Communication</li> <li>● Vocabulary</li> <li>● Phonological awareness</li> <li>● Print conventions</li> <li>● Phonic knowledge</li> <li>● Reading fluency</li> <li>● Reading comprehension</li> <li>● Creating written texts</li> <li>● Spelling</li> <li>● Handwriting</li> <li>● Understanding and responding to literature</li> </ul>	<p>Students will participate in daily English lessons. They will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● engage with a wide range of quality books and texts.</li> <li>● participate in a variety of whole class, small group and independent reading and writing activities.</li> <li>● develop key reading skills such as reading left to right, pointing to each word and using pictures to gain meaning.</li> <li>● develop their knowledge of the alphabet and phonics, by learning letter sounds.</li> <li>● learn correct pencil grip and letter formation and begin to write high frequency words.</li> <li>● develop their oral language by saying simple sentences about familiar topics.</li> <li>● develop fine motor skills through daily practical activities.</li> </ul>

Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working Mathematically</li> <li>Number and Algebra</li> <li>Measurement &amp; Space</li> <li>Statistics and Probability</li> </ul>	<p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>combine and separate quantities (addition and subtraction)</li> <li>recognise and explain how a group of shapes has been sorted</li> <li>describe two-dimensional spatial structures</li> <li>organise objects into simple data displays and interpret these displays.</li> <li>copy, create, and complete repeating patterns</li> <li>identify part-whole combinations up to 5.</li> <li>describe, compare, and order measurable attributes including length, area, volume and mass</li> <li>share their thinking when working with others to solve problems</li> <li>develop consistent numeral formation</li> <li>quantify, organise and represent collections up to 10</li> <li>identify and represent part-whole combinations up to 10.</li> </ul>
HSIE <i>Human Society and its Environment</i>	'All About Me'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will explore different types of families, share the characteristics of their family with others, and look at how families celebrate and commemorate important events.</li> </ul>
Science and Technology	'Weather'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will develop a greater awareness of the natural environment and the weather patterns that occur around them. They will develop their understanding of the ways that humans and animals respond to changes in the environment.</li> </ul>
Creative Arts	'Exploring Art' Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will develop their understanding of art and develop their art-making skills.</li> <li>Students will be introduced to the magical world of Music. Students will learn lots of body and movement songs and participate in lessons that help them to learn about the Musical concepts of Duration, Pitch and Structure.</li> </ul>
PDHPE <i>Personal Development, Health and Physical Education</i>	'Skills for Learning', 'Empathy', 'Games and Sports'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will learn about skills for learning and empathy.</li> <li>Students will participate in a range of modified games to develop their fundamental movement skills.</li> <li>Students will learn a range of playground games to develop social skills and independence when playing with peers at break times.</li> </ul>

**Many of these Key Learning Areas will be delivered in a play-based, child-centred format we have named *Explore and Learn*.** Students will be engaged in a range of rich learning experiences to build skills and knowledge in mathematics, HSIE, science, creative arts and PDH. Some learning activities students will complete include:

- Dramatic Play, such as exploring families through dress-ups and role play
- Art and Craft, such as making artworks about different types of weather
- Construction, such as making weather shelters for toy animals
- Sensory Centre, such as exploring natural materials

## Key Dates

- Tuesday 20th February - Meet the Teacher
- Friday March 8th Kindy open classroom afternoon tea
- Easter Long Weekend- Friday 29th March - Monday 1st April
- Friday 12th April - Last day of Term 1

## Assembly timetable

We welcome parents to join our assemblies in the Denzil on Thursdays from 2:20-2:50 pm. Please see the schedule below:

- Week 4 (22nd February) K - 2
- Week 6 (7th March) K - 2
- Week 8 (21st March) - K- 6 Harmony Day Assembly
- Week 9 (28th March) - K- 6 Neurodiversity Week Assembly
- Week 10 (4th April) K-6

We look forward to sharing your child's first year of school with you!

Kind regards,

*Lachlan Guthrie, Christine Hill, Connie Hallas, Danielle Ozdirik, and Stephen Pittman.*

## **Teacher email addresses**

*Please direct all urgent correspondence to the school office as teachers do not check their email during the school day.*

KC: [christine.hill31@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:christine.hill31@det.nsw.edu.au)

KG: [lachlan.guthrie5@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:lachlan.guthrie5@det.nsw.edu.au)

KH: [constantinahalls4@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:constantinahalls4@det.nsw.edu.au)

KP: [stephen.pittman@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:stephen.pittman@det.nsw.edu.au)