

ALEXANDRIA PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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17th February 2023

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

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

Lachlan Guthrie (KG)

Liz Neal (KP Tues)

Connie Hallas (KH)

Christine Hill (KC)

Stephen Pittman (KP) (Relieving Assistant Principal)



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 Deadly's 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
- 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 8:40, 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. If there is a last-minute change on the day, please call the school office 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 Ms Ruschen. 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).

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.

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.

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.

NSW Department of Education

Why attendance matters

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



Learn



Make friends



Build skills through fun

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"> Oral Language & Communication Vocabulary Phonological awareness Print conventions Phonic knowledge Reading fluency Reading comprehension Creating written texts Spelling Handwriting Understanding and responding to literature 	Students will participate in daily English lessons. They will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engage with a wide range of quality books and texts. participate in a variety of whole class, small group and independent reading and writing activities. develop key reading skills such as reading left to right, pointing to each word and using pictures to gain meaning. develop their knowledge of the alphabet and phonics, by learning letter sounds. learn correct pencil grip and letter formation and begin to write high frequency words. develop their oral language by saying simple sentences about familiar topics. develop fine motor skills through daily practical activities.
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Mathematically Number and Algebra Measurement & Space Statistics and Probability 	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> combine and separate quantities (addition and subtraction) recognise and explain how a group of shapes has been sorted describe two-dimensional spatial structures organise objects into simple data displays and interpret these displays. copy, create, and complete repeating patterns identify part-whole combinations up to 5.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● describe, compare, and order measurable attributes including length, area, volume and mass ● share their thinking when working with others to solve problems ● develop consistent numeral formation ● quantify, organise and represent collections up to 10 ● identify and represent part-whole combinations up to 10.
HSIE <i>Human Society and its Environment</i>	'All About Me'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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.
Science and Technology	'Weather'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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.
Creative Arts	'Exploring Art' Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will develop their understanding of art and develop their art-making skills. ● Students will listen, respond, and move to music.
PDHPE <i>Personal Development, Health and Physical Education</i>	'Skills for Learning', 'Empathy', 'Games and Sports'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will learn about skills for learning and empathy. ● Students will participate in a range of modified games to develop their fundamental movement skills.

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 fresh and dry leaves

Key Dates

- Wednesday 15th February - Meet the Teacher
- Tuesday 28th March- Parent/Teacher meetings
- Wednesday 5th April- K-6 Photo Day
- Friday 7th April- Last day of Term 1

Assembly timetable

We welcome parents to join our assemblies in the Denzil on Thursdays from 9:00-10:00 am. Please see the schedule below:

- Week 4 (16th February) K - 6
- Week 10 (30th March) K - 6

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

Kind regards,

Stephen Pittman, Christine Hill, Connie Hallas, Lachlan Guthrie and Liz Neal.

Teacher email addresses

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

KP: stephen.pittman@det.nsw.edu.au and elizabeth.orpwood@det.nsw.edu.au

KC: christine.hill31@det.nsw.edu.au

KH: constantinahalls4@det.nsw.edu.au

KG: lachlan.guthrie5@det.nsw.edu.au