



VARDYS ROAD PUBLIC SCHOOL

Quality Education in a Caring Environment

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18th February 2019

KINDERGARTEN – 2019 PARENT INFORMATION

A warm welcome to all families. We hope that the following information will be helpful to you.

Your teachers for 2019 are:

K Daffodil	Ms Diana Lloyd	diana.p.lloyd@det.nsw.edu.au
K Marigold	Mr Dave Bartlett	dave.bartlett1@det.nsw.edu.au
K Buttercup	Mrs Brigette Harrison	brigette.harrison@det.nsw.edu.au
K Wattle	Miss Nicole Sclavenitis	nicole.sclavenitis@det.nsw.edu.au
K Sunflower	Mrs Claire Sachdev	claire.sachdev@det.nsw.edu.au

Attendance

As directed by the Department of Education, any absences must be accounted for within seven days. You may do this by providing a note to your child's teacher explaining your child's absence upon their return to school. Late arrivals (after 9:00am) must go to the office to collect a late pass before going to class. Early departures also require a note from the office. Only, once this note is obtained, may your child be taken early from school. Kindergarten is an important year of learning so regular attendance and arrival on time each day is vital to ensure continued and sequential learning.

Medication

If your child requires medication during school hours please contact the school office. A 'Request for Administering Medicine' form will need to be completed prior to any medication being administered to your child. All medicines are kept in the office and are not to be left in the child's possession.

Special Days

Wednesday – Newsletter Day (online) Thursday – Scripture Friday – Assembly and Sport

Assemblies

Each class takes turns to lead a K-2 Assembly. You will be invited to the school to watch your child's class lead the assembly and perform an item.

Staff Development Days for 2019 - Students do not attend school on these days.

- * Monday 29th April
- * Monday 22nd July
- * Thursday 19th December
- * Friday 20th December

School Terms for 2019

Term 1 – Tuesday, 29th January – Friday 12th April
Term 2 – Tuesday 30th April – Friday 5th July
Term 3 – Tuesday 22nd July – Friday 27th September
Term 4 – Monday 14th October – Wednesday 18th December

Award Systems

20 PBL Awards	=	1 Merit Award
5 Merit Awards across school years	=	1 Gold Award
3 Gold Awards across school years	=	1 Excellence Badge
Excellence Badge & 3 additional Gold Awards	=	1 Gold Medallion

PBL (Positive Behaviour for Learning) Awards (yellow cards) are awarded to students who show **respect**, **pride** and **safety**. 20 PBL Awards across a school year may be redeemed for a Merit Award. Students are

responsible for saving the awards. They present them to the school office when they have the required number.

Students who participate in Home Reading will also be rewarded through the merit system. When your child has completed each Home Reading log sheet, (1 entry per day), they receive a Home Reading Award from their teacher. When they have received 3 Home Reading Awards, they then receive a Home Reading Certificate presented at a K-2 Assembly. When they have received 3 Home Reading Certificates they then earn a Merit Award.

2019 Excursion

Calmsley Hill City Farm – 22nd October (Week 2 Term 4). An excursion note will be sent out in Term 3.

SIX KEY LEARNING AREAS

English:

In Kindergarten we begin learning about reading and writing through modelling from the teacher. We read at least one book to the children every day and encourage class discussions to develop their comprehension. Students will participate in shared, guided and independent reading. Students will learn about the alphabet letters and sounds, and that some words need to be memorised and are called 'tricky words', as they aren't sounded out like most words. Group work in Talking, Listening, Independent and Guided Reading is part of our daily reading time at school.

Students develop their fine motor skills and practise writing individual letters and learn the correct formation of the letters. Correct direction and formation is important to allow your child to learn to write fluently as they progress through school. Your child should write his/her name using lower case letters with only the first letter as a capital. Please encourage your child to use lower case letters in words and sentences, with upper case letters used only in the appropriate places.

Your child will learn to write as they learn to read, as the two skills are inseparable. The writing program draws together skills learned through the phonics, handwriting, reading and spelling programs.

Mathematics

The important outcome for all work in Mathematics is the development of mathematical language and the understanding of early mathematical concepts including problem solving. Class lessons and group activities are designed to give children "hands on" experience to achieve Mathematics learning outcomes.

Kindergarten students will also have access to 'Mathletics' from Term 2, which is an Internet based program they can access at school and home. Students will complete whole class activities as well as small group ability based activities designed to develop their individual skills.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PD/H/PE)

The PE Program is designed to develop agility, flexibility, balance, hand-eye co-ordination and foot-eye co-ordination. Sports day is Friday and children need to wear their sports uniform. The areas of Personal Development and Health programs are: Healthy Habits (nutrition), Communicate & Care (interpersonal relationships), Watching Out For Me (Road & Sun Safety, Drug Ed) & Who Am I? (Child Protection & Personal Growth).

History & Geography (Integrated Units)

These Key Learning Areas have been consolidated into integrated units to provide enhanced learning experiences for our students. They allow students to develop knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes about people and their social and physical environments.

Topics include:

Welcome to Our School - investigates our school environment and explores how we can be happy and safe at school and identifies ways in which built environments suit their uses.

This is Me – investigates who the people in their family are, where they were born and raised and how they are related to each other.

Meeting Needs - develops an understanding of how and why rules, routines and products are developed to meet our needs.

Special Places - investigates places that are special to us at home and school and differentiates between natural and built environments.

STEM – Science Technology Engineering and Maths

This is the area in which students learn about the natural, physical and made environment.

Topics include:

The Gingerbread Man - The made environment, materials and properties.

Changes - How living things change as they grow.

Sense of Direction - How our senses help us discover the world around us.

Creative Arts

This curriculum area includes Arts and Craft, Music, Dance and Drama. Kindergarten students participate in Dance every Monday afternoon and Singing each Friday.

Homework

Homework is designed to reinforce classwork and consolidate basic skills and knowledge. Homework is weekly and students are asked to return their work on Fridays. The Department of Education recommends that Kindergarten students complete ten minutes of homework each day, Monday to Thursday. **Home Reading** is encouraged. This will formally begin in Week 5. Home Reading Folders and Recording sheets will be sent home with a note explaining Home Reading. Parents may read a book each night with their child and return it, or they might like to read the same book for several days. Remember, to be a good, fluent reader one must practise and practise. Daily reading is essential; this includes reading stories to your child that they are not yet able to read by themselves.

Assessment and Reporting

Assessment and reports of student learning are carried out using a variety of tasks and methods. A number of work samples, representative of what is being done in the classroom, are collected from each child.

Interviews

At the end of Term 1, parent/child/teacher interviews are held to discuss the individual progress of each child. However, please contact your child's teacher to make an appointment at any time if there is a matter you wish to discuss. At the end of Semester 1 and Semester 2, a formal report is sent home indicating the level of success that your child has achieved in meeting the various outcomes.

Library

Each child is asked to bring a library bag to school on their library day if they wish to borrow a book. Books will be returned each week during the class library time. Borrowing will commence in Week 4 or 5.

How can you help at home?

- Read all notes and newsletters to be aware of what is happening.
- Log into the Skoolbag app or like the Facebook page to receive notifications and reminders. Go to your app store and search Vardys Rd Public School and the school logo should appear on the Skoolbag icon.
- Help with reading at home. Encourage any type of reading activity and do lots of reading together.
- Encourage writing/drawing and talking about many things you do at home as well as about school.
- Listen to problems with an open mind and help your child to discover ways to overcome personal problems themselves.
- Encourage your child to form and express opinions, to discuss, to explain, to question.
- Always be ready to offer praise – be supportive and positive about your child's work.
- Please encourage children to remember to return all borrowed library books.
- Encourage self-confidence by giving your child more responsibilities. Let them pack their school bag each night, put Home Readers back into their school bag to return, dress themselves or tie shoelaces.

The teachers of Kindergarten look forward to your support this year and trust that the year will be stimulating, challenging, rewarding and enjoyable for your child.

Ian Short
Principal

Diana Lloyd
Assistant Principal – Early Stage 1