

Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) Parent Information - Semester 1 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Stage 2. A special welcome to all families who are new to our school. The Stage 2 teachers are:

3C	Mrs Kristy Jubb (Assistant Principal Yr 3)	4S	Mr Kieren Scally (Assistant Principal Yr 4) + Miss Lauren Mita
3A	Miss Alice Keith	4A	Mrs Archana Chawla
3B	Mr Elias Boustani	4C	Ms Kathy Chan
3C	Miss Amelia Cicala	4D	Mrs Teaghan De Wet
3D	Miss Ashleigh Dwyer	4G	Mrs Mary Ghalloub
3G	Mrs Jennie Gregory	4H	Miss Amy Huang
3K	Miss Emma Koop	4K	Miss Elisha Krishna
3N	Miss Rebecca Noble	4M	Mr Scott Mercieca
3V	Mrs Vidya Venkateswaran	4V	Mrs Rebecca Varlet

Additional staff who support Stage 2 classes are:

EAL/D	Ms Gumna Rajapakse (Yr 3), Mrs Julie Walton and Mrs Christine Salloum (Yr 4)
LaST	Ms Singleton, Mrs Dunstan and Mrs Ireland
Library	Mrs Azar and Mrs Kougellis
RFF	Ms Rangoon, Ms Seat, Miss Gray, Ms Barton and Ms Hussain

Join our Twitter account and stay up to date with school information.

SCHOOL PLAN 2018-2020



Please visit our school website for further information at: <https://westmead-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

Teachers meet regularly to plan similar learning experiences for students and ensure consistency across the grade. Students have begun the-year with great enthusiasm for learning. The following provides an overview of learning for Stage 2. Class programs may differ slightly due to student needs, interests and abilities. Students will work towards achieving Stage 2 outcomes.

ENGLISH

Over the semester, students will be exposed to quality literature as a model of the English language. Students will be learning to write through examples of quality literature by deconstructing texts for meaning, grammar and sentence construction. This will include reading, viewing and writing a variety of imaginative, persuasive and informative texts. Students in Stage 2 have a strong focus on persuasive and imaginative texts. Additionally, students will be further developing their knowledge and application of spelling strategies (phonetic and visual) to assist with spelling more complex words. Students will be required to be active participants in reading groups using reciprocal reading strategies. Over the year, students will deepen their application of reading roles including predicting, questioning, clarifying, connecting and summarising. Students will be learning to effectively communicate ideas and information in the classroom, school and social situations for a range of purposes. In Year 3, students will be introduced to NSW foundation cursive style handwriting, leading to mastery in Year 4 when students who produce neat, legible handwriting will be recognised with a pen license.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics covers the strands of; working mathematically, number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability. Number concepts will reoccur during the teaching of all strands (e.g. during perimeter lessons, students will use addition to find the perimeter of most two-dimensional shapes). Students will learn to develop understanding and fluency in Mathematics through inquiry, exploring and connecting mathematical concepts, choosing and applying problem-solving skills and mathematical techniques, communication and reasoning. Over the last few years, students in Stage 2 have achieved excellent results in Mathematics. The area that students tend to have difficulty with is visual literacy. This strand of Mathematics covers outcomes where students need to use a visual prompt to reason, justify, question and analyse their mathematical knowledge. To achieve in all of the areas of Mathematics, your child will be involved in whole class and group activities. Students in Years 3 and 4 will be exposed to many styles of mathematical questions to ensure they have an understanding of how questions can be worded differently, with the language of Mathematics a key focus.

HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE) & SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T)

In Geography, students will be involved in inquiry based activities to develop their understanding of the Earth's Environment, comparing Australia's climate, vegetation, flora and fauna to a neighboring Asian country. They will learn to identify and describe sustainable practices and explore different ways to create a sustainable world. **In Science**, students initiate their own investigations and will investigate the suitability of natural and processed materials for a range of purposes. **Technology** forms an integral part of daily learning and is embedded in all class activities. Students learn skills in word processing, multimedia and internet use. All classrooms have an Interactive Whiteboard and desktop computers. Year 4 classes will be taking part in the **Bring your own device program (BYOD)** and will start from week 5. Year 3 will not be participating in this program this year. Students can only participate in the BYOD program after the Acceptable Use Agreement has been signed and brought to school. Devices remain locked in classrooms during recess and lunch and **do not** come to school on Fridays.

CREATIVE AND PRACTICAL ARTS (CAPA)

RFF lessons include explicit teaching of Music, Visual Arts, Dance and Drama. These areas are integrated in classroom learning. Term 1 and 2 will focus more specifically on Dance and Drama, where students will perform and compose dances from a range of contexts and take on and sustain roles in a variety of drama roles. Students are also encouraged to join our creative arts groups for dance, choir or musical instruments.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PD/H/PE)

Students in Stage 2 will be involved in a comprehensive sports program. Students need to wear their sports uniform on Fridays. Students will be involved in recreational, competitive and enriched sporting activities throughout this year. *Healthy Living and Road Safety* will be a focus in classrooms this semester. This year, the company Sports Pro will further enhance our PD/H/PE curriculum through their engaging gymnastics program.

LIBRARY

This year all Stage 2 classes will participate in regular lessons which will include time for borrowing and returning books. Your child will be informed of day they attend library lessons and other library related information. Please ensure students bring a bag for borrowing (preferably a waterproof bag) with their name clearly marked on the bag and any books that need to be returned, so they are ready for borrowing at each lesson.

STRONG MINDS

We are continuing the implementation this year of a wellbeing package called Strong Minds. It is a whole school approach to wellbeing for all children K-6, staff and parents. It is based on developing twenty- four scientifically validated character strengths. Character strengths are the distinctive qualities that are the best in us. They reflect what is important to us and what we value. Research into character strengths indicates that when we know and apply our most valued character strengths, our wellbeing and life satisfaction improves. This has a positive influence on our motivation, effort and academic performance.

HOMEWORK

Classes will receive homework most weeks of the year. Homework is provided on a Monday and collected on Friday. This may include tasks set on Google Classroom, spelling activities, daily reading, math problem solving and activities that involve family members. Weekly Homework grids are accessed through students Google Apps account. Homework should be completed with minimal supervision and help.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Year 3 students will sit for the **National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 12-22 May 2020**. While this test is important, it is only a snapshot of their performance. It will reflect learning from Kindergarten to the present. For more information visit- <http://www.naplan.edu.au>
- Year 4 students may apply for the **Opportunity Class (OC) Placement Test**. For more information visit - <https://education.nsw.gov.au/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>. There will be a parent information session on Tuesday the 17th of March.
- **Stage 2 Assemblies** will follow a more parent inclusive format in 2020, continuing changes made in 2019.
- Please support your child's attendance at special excursions and performances. These events are organised as they enhance your child's learning and provide them with valuable opportunities to achieve success. Money must be placed in the **blue payment box** at the front entrance of the office building or paid online. If you require assistance with payment, please see your child's teacher.
- Please ensure your child has all basic equipment for each day so as to maximise classroom learning time.
- Year 4 students will once again have the opportunity to go to Taronga Zoo for an **overnight camp**. This will take place in Term 3 on the 25, 26, 27 and 28 of August (depending on which class your child is in). More information will be sent home later in the year.
- **Meet the Teacher** afternoons are coming up soon. Year 4 will hold their afternoon on Monday 17 of February and Year 3 will have theirs on Tuesday 18 February. A note will be sent home with more information.

Your child's happiness and success at school is important to us. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office to make an appointment to see your child's class teacher.

We look forward to your support throughout the year and wish all students a wonderful first term of learning.

Mr David Jenkins

Principal

February 2020

Mrs Emma Smith

Deputy Principal

Mrs Jubb

Assistant Principal

Mr Scally

Assistant Principal

Stage 2 teachers