

## Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6) Parent Information - Semester 1 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Stage 3. A special welcome to all families who are new to our school. The Stage 3 teachers are:

<b>5S</b>	Mrs Scally – Assistant Principal		Ms Doran – Deputy Principal
<b>5C</b>	Mrs Campbell	<b>6R</b>	Mr Roberts – Assistant Principal
<b>5T</b>	Miss Tan	<b>6E</b>	Miss Espiritu
<b>5H</b>	Mrs Han	<b>6H</b>	Miss Hughes
<b>5B</b>	Mrs Brogden & Mrs Hussain	<b>6K</b>	Mrs Rajpal
<b>5L</b>	Miss Lam	<b>6M</b>	Miss Mantzios
<b>5N</b>	Miss Navarro	<b>6P</b>	Miss Pearce
<b>5/6Y</b>	Mrs Yoo	<b>6S</b>	Mr Singh

The support teachers are:

<b>EAL/D</b>	Ms Suttor
<b>Library</b>	Mrs Kougelis & Mrs Azar
<b>LaST</b>	Ms Singleton, Mrs Becker and Mrs Dunstan
<b>RFF</b>	Miss Amour, Miss Seat, Mrs Malvicino

Students have begun the year with great enthusiasm for learning. All classes have been working on their first Four Week program, which has involved lessons on resilience, wellbeing and our Strong Minds program, school rules, anti-bullying and Cyberbullying. English and Mathematics have also been a focus.

### School Plan 2018 – 2020 - Strategic Directions (SD)



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



Please visit our school website and view our School Plan 2018-2020 for further information at:  
<https://westmead-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/school-planning-and-reporting.html>

### ENGLISH

The study of English develops a student's love of literature and learning. It develops skills to enable students to experiment with ideas and expression, to become active, independent and lifelong learners. To assist your child, we encourage them to **read as much as possible**. Through reading, your child will learn how to be creative and will better understand the world around them. It is essential that your child **reads a variety of good quality texts**, especially novels (chapter books) to develop their vocabulary/language and comprehension. In class your child will be involved in Literature Circles. Skills are taught and practised through enjoyable activities and supportive group work. During Literature Circles, your child will also learn how to critically analyse texts and make connections between texts and real world issues. Your child will write a variety of texts this term. We will teach and revise text composition, emphasising key elements that make a **quality piece of text**. Students will participate in discussions where they will be encouraged to **take a risk** and **have a go** expressing their opinions.

### MATHEMATICS

Mathematics covers the strands of; working mathematically, number and algebra, measurement and geometry, statistics and probability. Over the last few years, students in Stage 3 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 5 and 6 will be exposed to many styles of mathematical questions to ensure they have an understanding of how questions can be worded differently.

### GEOGRAPHY & SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T)

All Stage 3 students are working on the same integrated units of work: A Diverse and Connected World and Material World.

Technology forms an integral part of daily learning and is embedded in all subjects. Students learn skills in word processing, multimedia and internet use. All classrooms have an Interactive Whiteboard. Stage 3 classes will be taking part in the **Bring your own device program** this year. Students will be notified when this commences.

### CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS (CAPA)

Music will be taught during RFF lessons. Visual Arts will be part of classroom learning and may include activities on the theme for the term. Students are also encouraged to join our creative arts groups for dance, recorder, band, and choir.

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

Interpersonal skills such as teamwork, communication and friendships are essential to ensure successful learning and happiness at school. Students are learning about their classmates and important rules, while routines and relationships are being established during this term. Social skills lessons to develop resilience and anti-bullying are also a focus. Students are encouraged to develop independence by taking greater responsibility for learning and behaviour at home and school. Students also participate in 2 hours of sport each week.

### YEAR 6

Soon you will receive a **High School Expression of Interest form**. On this form will be your child's name, address and your child's local high school. The local high school cannot be changed as it is based on your current residential address. As well as the local high school details, you will be able to nominate three non-local high schools. We advise that you research the public high schools in the area. You may like to visit <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/finding-a-public-school> and use the school finder. **Please ensure that the school has your current address.**

### LIBRARY

This year all Stage 3 classes will participate in an hour lesson every fortnight which will include time for borrowing and returning books. Your child will bring home a note with the day they visit the library 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 each week. Lessons over the term will focus on: Revisiting library rules and procedures, Revisiting the Web Library Enquiry facility, Revisiting the Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) rules and procedures, Students will log on and navigate the PRC site, register to participate and set up a reading record, Literature/Author study, Cyber safety and Digital Citizenship introduction including a recap of responsible Internet usage.

### STRONG MINDS

This year we are continuing the implementation of our wellbeing program called Strong Minds. It is a whole school approach to wellbeing for all children from 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.

### IMPORTANT DATES (more information to come closer to each event)

Year 5 Meet the Teacher	- Monday 24 February	Parent Teacher Interviews	- 29 – 30 June
Year 6 Meet the Teacher	- Thursday 27 February	NAPLAN (Year 5)	- 12 May – 22 May
Swimming Carnival	- Wednesday 26 February	Athletics Carnival	- Wednesday 3 June
Liftoff! Parent Workshop	- Tuesday 10 March	Year 6 Camp	- 3 – 5 August (Wk 3, T3)
School Photos	- 6 - 8 April	Year 5 Camp	- 19 – 21 August (Wk 5, T3)
5S, 5C, 6S & 6H Assembly	- Thursday 2 April	5B, 5N, 6R & 6K Assembly	- Thursday 25 June

### OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Year 5 students will sit *NAPLAN* tests. While these tests are 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>
- The Stage 3 camp is an exciting and valuable part of your child's learning and personal development. This year we will be going to the Great Aussie Bush Camp at Kincumber.
- Year 6 will be fundraising again this year. One of these will be for an outside charity as part of their role as global citizens.
- Year 6 will be looking at purchasing the Year 6 T-Shirt early in the year. More information will be provided as the semester progresses.
- Money for activities is to be placed in the **blue payment box** at the front of the office building or you can pay online
- 3-6 assemblies are held once a term this year in the hall. Your child will tell you when his/her class is running the assembly. You are most welcome to join us. You will also be invited to visit your child's classroom on this day. More information to come.
- Birthdays are a special time for family celebrations. On your child's birthday, teachers are happy to distribute fruit, muffins, cupcakes, lolly bags, chocolates or mini donuts to classmates before they go home. **Please ensure there are no balloons or party poppers in lolly bags. Please be aware of students with nut allergies.**
- 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.
- Please be reassured our teachers will contact you if there are any concerns or questions about your child. For this reason and in case of an emergency, we ask that you ensure contact information is current at the office.

Please refer to the newsletter, website and notes which are sent home for further details about all events. We look forward to your support throughout the year and wish all students a wonderful first term of learning.

**Mr Jenkins**

Principal

February 2020

**Ms Doran**

Deputy Principal 5-6

**Mr Roberts – Year 6**

Assistant Principal

**Mrs Scally – Year 5**

Assistant Principal

**Stage 3 teachers**