

**BLACKHEATH PUBLIC SCHOOL  
LEICHHARDT STREET  
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**2019 PARENT INFORMATION**  
**STAGE ONE**

Welcome to the 2019 school year. We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning with your children in Stage 1.

**TEACHING STAFF FOR 2019**

Year 1-2NC - Honey Bees	Ms Ellie Nankervis/ Mrs Barbara Crowther
Year 1-2RK - Dragonflies	Mrs Erin Reeves/ Ms Vanessa Kirkpatrick
Year 1-2K - Millipedes	Mr Matt Kelly
Year 1-2S - Cicadas	Ms Genevieve Shute
Year K/1H - Ladybugs	Mrs Ruth Harris

**BELL TIMES AND DAILY ROUTINES**

**Arrival at school: 8.25am**

Children are supervised in the playground from 8.25am to 8.55am. When they arrive at school, they should place their bags in the designated spot and move to the **back playground** where there will be a teacher on playground duty. Children and parents are asked **not to be in the classrooms** prior to the 8.55am bell.

**Classes begin: 8.55am**

Children are met by their teacher and move into class, where the day's lessons and activities commence straight away. It is **very important** that children are on time for school. By being at school on time, children can be ready for the day's activities and will be able to hear all of the important instructions and necessary information to complete the morning's tasks. This allows the child to experience success, to feel confident about their learning and to feel proud of what they have accomplished. Thank you for ensuring your child is given the best possible opportunity to learn at school by being on time each day.

If your child does arrive after the 8.55am bell, he/she must report to the office for a 'Late Note'. These notes are formally recorded on the class roll as partial absences from school.

**Recess: 11-11.30am**

A 10 minute eating time is enforced before children may proceed to play in the back playground. The teacher on duty dismisses the children as they finish eating. *Children may sit and eat for as long as they like beyond the 10 minutes.* On wet, windy or very hot days, children remain in their own classroom for recess.

### **Lunch 1.00-1.45pm**

Stage One children eat in the back playground area and the same rules apply as for recess. Children then play for the remainder of lunchtime. On wet, windy or very hot days, each class eats in their classroom for the first 10 minutes and children then move to the hall where they are supervised for the remainder of lunch.

Blackheath Public School has a **NO HAT NO PLAY** policy, which operates all year round. Children without hats are required to remain in a sheltered area whilst outside. Wide brimmed school hats are available from the Uniform Shop. We encourage children to wear sunscreen on exposed skin.

### **Home Bell: 2.55pm**

Children proceed to bus lines or meet their parent/caregiver. Thank you for ensuring your child knows where to meet you at the conclusion of each day. If you cannot get to school on time to pick up your child, please ring the school by 2.50pm so the office staff can ensure your child receives the message.

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**A note from the parent must cover all absences from school and should be sent with the child upon return to school. Teachers have been instructed to contact parents after any 2 day absence.**

Please ensure that all of your child's belongings and clothing are clearly labelled with their full name. We would also appreciate it if you could ensure that children are appropriately dressed for current weather conditions and are prepared for changes in temperature. Thank you!

### **TEACHING CONTENT**

Stage One includes Year 1 and Year 2 and children have two years to achieve the outcomes set for this stage. Members of the Stage One team plan as a team and share resources so that the same content is covered in classes across the stage.

The six Key Learning Areas are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Human Society and its Environment (History/ Geography)
- Science
- Creative and Practical Arts (Visual Art, Drama, Music and Dance)
- Personal Development/ Health/ Physical Education

There are also the following cross-curricular priorities:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures
- Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia
- Sustainability

as well as general capabilities which encompass the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours required by students to live and work successfully in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **ENGLISH**

Our English program builds on a foundation of intensive phonics work, sight words, spelling programs, guided reading groups, shared reading, home reading, modelled

and guided writing based upon types of texts, handwriting and a range of speaking and listening activities. Teachers are using the newly developed NSW syllabus document that is aligned to the Australian curriculum in this Key Learning Area.

### **Home Reading**

Our Home Reading program is a very successful home/school partnership that supports the class reading program. The aim of this program is for children to practise and enjoy reading at an independent level. The children are matched to the appropriate level of the graded set of books in their classroom. We ask that you listen to your child read to you and that you make it a positive experience for them. Positive reinforcement for all reading attempts is important as are the three key questions: Does it look right? Does it sound right? Does it make sense?

We rely on parent helpers to run this program efficiently in the classrooms. A separate note will explain how the Home Reading program will run in your child's class.

### **Library**

Our school has a wonderful library, which is rich in resources. It is run by Mrs Cathy Lamond our Teacher-Librarian. Every class has a library session for one hour per week. Children should bring their clearly labelled library bags and books on their library day as outlined below:

Year 1-2NC - Honey Bees	Wednesday
Year 1-2RK - Dragonflies	Tuesday
Year 1-2K - Millipedes	Wednesday
Year 1-2S - Cicadas	Tuesday
Year K/1H - Ladybugs	Friday

This year we aim to have every child in Stage 1 participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. A list of books will be available from the library and children are encouraged to read these books independently at home.

The uniform shop now sells a sturdy and waterproof library bag, which your child will use throughout their time at Blackheath Public. We strongly recommend you purchase one.

### **MATHEMATICS**

Mathematics is taught using a hands-on approach where concrete materials provide an opportunity to develop each child's understanding within three strands of the new mathematics curriculum: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Working Mathematically underpins all strands.

Our focus is upon developing early numeracy understandings based upon the components of the 'Count Me In Too' and 'TEN's' Program. These components include: Early Arithmetical Strategies, Forward and Backward Number Word sequences, Early Multiplication and Division, Base Ten Arithmetical Strategies and Early Arithmetical Procedures. Children learn cooperatively and work in groups to complete tasks whilst developing the necessary mathematical language to explain their thinking. At any given time, children may work independently, or in small or

larger groups. They participate in a wide variety of tasks designed to consolidate their mathematical learning. Teachers are using the newly developed NSW syllabus document that is aligned to the Australian curriculum in this Key Learning Area.

### **HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT/ History and Geography**

Stage One has spent the first few weeks of the term focusing on their class names and learning about their 'class insect'. From week 4, Stage One is embarking on an integrated unit entitled 'Water in Society'.

### **SCIENCE**

The science unit for this term is entitled 'Water World' which focuses on Earth and Space sciences. We are teaching the Primary Connections units of work, written by the Australian Academy of Science.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

Teachers are using the newly developed NSW syllabus document that is aligned to the Australian curriculum in this Key Learning Area. All Stage 1 children will have access to iPads and the Computer Room on a rotational basis. These will mainly be used for the teaching of Mathematics in the first instance.

### **School Garden**

Each class will have the opportunity to be involved in the school's sustainability practices, which include the school gardens. Classes will not only learn about the process of growing vegetables and native plants, but also about working collectively within the wider school community.

### **CREATIVE AND PRACTICAL ARTS**

The Creative Arts includes Visual Arts, Music, Drama and Dance. Experiences include theme-based activities related to our current units of work. Creative Arts activities take place across the week and will include assembly performances and singing, choir, dancing and classroom music. Mrs Jenny Lanyon is responsible for teaching the Music and Drama program to Stage One children. These lessons will take place once a week on the following days for an hour.

Year 1-2NC - Honey Bees	Monday/ Friday (Alternate weeks)
Year 1-2RK - Dragonflies	Thursday
Year 1-2K - Millipedes	Tuesday
Year 1-2S - Cicadas	Monday
Year K/1H - Ladybugs	Wednesday

### **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Fundamental movement skill lessons are incorporated into the timetable of all Stage One classes. Children engage in a variety of activities aimed at improving skills and coordination. In addition, all Stage One children participate in a Dance session each week on Wednesday afternoon. During Term One, Stage One will complete the first component of the 'Bounce Back' program which teaches social and emotional

learning skills and they will take part in Peer Support, which will run with Year 6 students as Peer Support leaders.

### **Restorative Practices**

Blackheath Public School has adopted restorative practices as a model for dealing with wrongdoing at the school. The focus of this approach is on the harm that has been done to relationships between people and the obligation of those responsible to try to 'fix' the situation. It is an educative rather than a punitive approach to behaviour management.

### **HOMEWORK**

In Stage One, homework consists of Home Reading, Spelling, preparation of News topics and Mathematics. Mathematics homework uses a grid system similar to noughts and crosses for the first three terms. Children are expected to complete 3 simple activities from the grid each week. Altogether these components of homework should take approximately 15-20 minutes per night, Monday to Thursday. If you have any issues with homework please approach the class teacher.

### **ROAD SAFETY**

Please be mindful of the following:

- ☺ Please use only the designated pedestrian crossings to collect your child.
- ☺ Please observe the 'No Stopping' signs and park safely and legally so as not to endanger the lives of children.
- ☺ Please avoid the bus stop areas between 8-9.30am and 2.30-4pm when they are for buses only.
- ☺ Please leave the 'Disabled Parking' spot free as this is used regularly by members of our school community.

We are looking forward to a happy and productive year with your children.

Kind regards,

Stage One Teachers

