

BLACKHEATH PUBLIC SCHOOL

LEICHHARDT STREET

BLACKHEATH NSW 2785

Phone: 4787 8253 Fax: 4787 8320

Email: blackheath-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

2023 PARENT INFORMATION

STAGE ONE

Welcome to the 2023 year. We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning with your children in Stage 1.

TEACHING STAFF FOR 2021

Year 1N - Emus	Ms Ellie Nankervis
Year 1R - Finches	Ms Erin Reeves
Year 2L - Lorikeets	Ms Cathy Lamond
Year 2OM - Lyrebirds	Ms Kerry Oreleon/ Mrs Bonnie McIntosh

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 or hallways** 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 covered 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 are then supervised indoors or under the covered outdoor area 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 play under the covered shade area behind the hall. 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 at an arranged meeting place. 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 2.30pm so the office staff can ensure your child receives the message.

A note from the parent must cover all absences from school and should be sent with the child upon return to school or registered via the Compass app. 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 across the stage.

The six Key Learning Areas are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Human Society and its Environment (History/ Geography)
- Science
- Creative and Performing 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 21st 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.

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 Ms Genevieve Shute, 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 1N - Emus	Thursday
Year 1R - Finches	Wednesday
Year 2L - Lorikeets	Monday
Year 2O/M - Lyrebirds	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 online and children are encouraged to read these books independently at home. Please contact Ms Shute for more details.

The uniform shop 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 content areas of the new mathematics curriculum: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Space, and Statistics and Probability. Working Mathematically is embedded in all content areas. Our focus is upon developing early numeracy understandings based upon 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.

Students will be using the online 'Mathletics' program to complement and consolidate our classroom maths programs. The site can be accessed both at home and school. Login details will be provided so that your child can access the program at home.

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 target bird. From week 4, Stage One is embarking on an integrated unit titled 'Water in Society'.

SCIENCE

The science unit for this term is entitled 'Water Works' which focuses on Earth and Space sciences and explores earth's resources. The Blue Mountains City Council will also be supporting an excursion to Pope's Glen as part of this unit of work.

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 laptops on a rotational basis.

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING 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 1N - Emus	Wednesday
Year 1R - Finches	Thursday
Year 2L - Lorikeets	Friday
Year 2OM - Lyrebirds	Monday

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.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Blackheath Public School implements 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.
- ☉ If you do not have the required sticker please leave the 'Disabled Parking' spaces free as these are used regularly by members of our school community.

All stationery supplies needed will be provided for your child. However, we would appreciate donations of a box of tissues for classroom use.

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

Kind regards,

Stage One Teachers &
Mrs Ruth Harris (Assistant Principal)

