

**BLACKHEATH PUBLIC SCHOOL
LEICHHARDT STREET
BLACKHEATH NSW 2785**

Phone: 4787 8253

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

2025 PARENT INFORMATION
KINDERGARTEN

Welcome to the 2025 school year. We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning with your children! Early Stage 1 is the first year of school (Kindergarten) and children have a year to complete the outcomes set for that stage. Stage 1 includes Year 1 and Year 2 and children have two years to achieve the outcomes set for that stage. Stage 2 includes Years 3 and 4 and Stage 3 includes Years 5 and 6. In each case, children have two years to complete the outcomes for that stage.

TEACHING STAFF FOR 2025

KH – Possums

Mrs Ruth Harris (Assistant Principal)

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 **most 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, they 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,

regardless of how long they take to eat. On wet or very hot, windy or cold days, children remain in their own classroom for recess.

Lunch: 1.00-1.45pm

Kindergarten and Stage One children eat in the back playground area and the same 10 minute eating time applies as for recess. Children then play for the remainder of lunchtime. On wet or very hot days, each class eats in their classroom for the first 10 minutes and children are supervised indoors 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. Wide brimmed school hats are available from the Uniform Shop. We encourage children to wear sunscreen on exposed areas. In Term 2 and 3 beanies may be worn.

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 2.30pm so the office staff can ensure your child receives the message.

A note from the parent/ caregiver must cover all absences from school and should be sent via the Compass app or with the child upon return to school. Teachers contact parents after any 2 days of unexplained 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

The six key learning areas are:

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

There are also the following cross-curriculum 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 Kindergarten English program includes intensive phonics work using the InitialLit program, sight words, guided reading groups, shared reading, home reading,

modelled and guided writing, and a range of speaking and listening activities. Teachers use the NSW English 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 a level which supports their school learning. 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?

Our Home Reading program is supplemented by a Sight Words program. This will begin at the same time as our Home Reading program. In the first couple of weeks, your child will bring home their Sight Words Booklet, which will contain a list of five high frequency words to learn and practise. Once your child can recognise those five words instantly, a new list of words will be provided. Later in the term, lists containing ten words will be added to their booklet.

Home Reading will begin in Week 6 for Kindergarten. This should be an enjoyable experience for both you and your child. The child returns their book to school the following day where they read it to a teacher or parent. We will be asking for parent volunteers to assist in our classrooms for 30 minutes at the start of each day, Tuesday to Friday, to support this Home Reading program. The majority of Kindergarten children will be reading decodable books that are simple and support the phonics work covered in the classroom. More details of the program will be provided when it begins.

Library

Our school has a wonderful library, which is rich in resources. It is run by Ms Genevieve Shute (Teacher-Librarian). Every class has a library session for one hour per week. Children should bring their clearly labelled library bags and books each Monday.

This year we would like to encourage every child to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. The Challenge encourages the reading of quality literature at home. A list of books will be available from the library and parents are encouraged to read these with their children and send the completed sheet of books read to the library. Please see Ms Shute for more details.

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 mathematics curriculum: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Space, and Statistics and Probability. Working Mathematically is embedded in all content.

Our focus is upon developing early numeracy understandings to enable students to become confident users of mathematics. Students learn to understand and appreciate how mathematics is a relevant part of their lives. Children learn cooperatively and work in groups to complete tasks whilst developing the necessary mathematical language to explain their thinking. 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.

HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT – History and Geography

Our main Kindergarten unit for Term 1 is 'Me and My Family'. Throughout this unit, we will be exploring families, their similarities and differences, and providing opportunities for our new Kindergarten children to develop a greater understanding of their family and their special place in it. Across the year, we will also be exploring our school and community and how people from different cultures celebrate and recognise important events.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

During Term 1, Kindergarten children will have the opportunity to learn about Australian animal species with particular emphasis upon their special class name. Across the year, our Science units will include 'Weather', 'Toys' and 'Living Things – Growth and Change'. Our 'Living Things' unit also incorporates a visit to a farm in Term 4. Our interactive displays provide the opportunity to develop the children's technological skills in an exciting, hands-on way. Children use the displays on a daily basis and across the entire range of key learning areas. iPads are also used to access educational learning applications.

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, Musica Viva, dancing and classroom music. Mrs Jenny Lanyon is responsible for teaching the music and drama program to Kindergarten children.

These lessons will take place on a Wednesday.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Fitness lessons are incorporated into the timetable of all classes. Children engage in a variety of activities aimed at improving fundamental movement skills and coordination. In addition, all Kindergarten children participate in a dance session each week for 45 minutes. In Term 2, we will be teaching a unit entitled 'Healthy Choices', which involves many activities related to health, nutrition and wellbeing.

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 'mend' the situation. It is an educative rather than a punitive approach to behaviour management.

For further information regarding school expectations of student behaviour, please refer to the Department of Education 'Behaviour Code for Students'. A copy can be found on our school website.

HOMEWORK

Homework in Kindergarten includes the learning of high frequency words and home reading for approximately 10 minutes per night. Try also to spend some time talking to your child about the highlights of their day. Talking, of course, is the basis of all literacy skills and is a vital component of our Homework Program.

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' spaces free as these spaces are in regular use by members of the school community.
- ☺ Two cars can access the 'Kiss and Drop' area at a time. If your child is not at the area we would ask that you proceed around the block to ensure traffic flow on Wentworth St can be maintained.

We look forward to an exciting, fun and productive year of learning.

Kind regards,

Ruth Harris
Assistant Principal