Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten) ~ Parent Information

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<tr>
<th>Team Member</th>
<th>Class</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Fiona Hosken (Stage Leader)</td>
<td>KH</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Peter Bootes</td>
<td>KB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Jodi Vaughan (Mon, Tues, Wed) &amp; Mrs Annie Hay (Thurs, Fri)</td>
<td>KVH</td>
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<td>LIBRARY: Mrs Megan Young</td>
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<td>PE/H/PD: Mrs Gillian Ross</td>
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<td>TEACHER AIDES (SLSO): Mrs Angela Skitt, Mrs Kerryn Howker &amp; Mrs Carol Ashworth</td>
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<td>Anti Racism Contact Officer: Miss Kim Peters</td>
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**School Learning Support Officers (SLSO):**
SLSOs assist children in Kindergarten. Children receiving assistance will work within small groups, or within an in-class team teaching arrangement.

**English:**

**Phonics:** The children will be introduced to the sounds, one per day, 4 days per week with revision activities on the 5th day. A sounds sheet will be sent home each day a sound is introduced. The children can practice singing the song with actions and writing the letter. The order of letters each week will be in the newsletter.

**Reading:** The children will be learning about the reading process through Big Book activities as well as small group guided reading sessions. Children are encouraged to read home readers, at their level, returning them every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**Writing:** Once the children have learnt some sounds they can write simple 2 and 3 letter words. They may also like to draw a picture and attempt to write their own story.

**Sharing Time:**
The children will be allocated a special day for news where they can either bring one item for show and tell or talk about something which interests them.

**Accelerated Literacy:**
Reading and writing are developed in focussed literacy sessions each day, which are completed in the morning session where possible to maximise student learning opportunities. We will be using some of the strategies from Accelerated Literacy, such as transformations, in conjunction with our Big Books to enhance the teaching of reading and writing skills. More information about this program can be found at [http://www.nalp.edu.au](http://www.nalp.edu.au)
**Mathematics:**
The children participate in lots of ‘hands on’ activities to develop their mathematical concepts. Please see the weekly newsletter for topics covered each week. Children may like to practice some of these concepts at home.

**Sport Program:** The children will be participating in gross motor activities to develop ball and movement skills, together with cooperative games. These sessions will be held 3 days per week. This program complements ‘Move To Learn’.

**Music/Dance:** The children will participate in a variety of singing, movement to music and dance activities to develop skills and for enjoyment.

**Units:**
Term 1 – *I am a school kid now.* Welcome to Merimbula, the school beside the sea.
Term 2 – *Me, Wonderful Me.* Children explore their characteristics, background, memories and important people in their lives.
Term 3 – *Magical Merimbula.* Discover the special facilities Merimbula has to offer.
Term 4 – *Let’s Be Scientists.* Explore our world through lots of fun experiments.

**Specialised Programs:**
*Kinder Co-ops:* Every Tuesday and Thursday from 11.30 – 1.30 all the Kindergarten children come together for a selection of 8 activities covering reading, handwriting, maths, art, craft, technology and creative play. They complete 4 activities each day. Parent helpers are greatly appreciated at this time to help small groups of children complete tasks.

*Move to Learn:* This program is a sequence of 9 movements used to develop each child’s movement skills, body awareness and ability to use both sides of their brain effectively. These 20 minute sessions will be held daily at 9.00 am in the Jackson Hall. More information can be found at [http://www.movetolearn.com.au](http://www.movetolearn.com.au)

*Fingergym:* Is a fun program involving a rotation of 5 activities designed to develop the children’s finger, hand and shoulder muscles to enhance their writing and fine motor skills. Fingergym activities occur weekly during terms 1 & 2.

*Premier’s Reading Challenge:* Our school is participating in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. The children in Kindergarten have 40 books, from the Reading Challenge list, read to them to qualify for the certificate. Class teachers will be reading books to the children from this list during the year.

**Library:**
In library, children listen to stories for enjoyment and are learning how to care for books, and how they are organised in the library. They have the opportunity to borrow one book each week. Children may only borrow if they bring a library bag to protect the books they borrow, and if they have no overdue books.

**Monday – KB**
**Friday – KVH & KH**
**Technology:**
Children will use Apple Mac computers in the classroom to develop and practice skills in English, Maths and units of work, using the computer programs ‘KidPix’ and ‘Clicker 4’. They will also have the opportunity to attend the computer lab for an hour each week with their class teacher and develop their skills using PCs. Here they will use a variety of activities to enhance skills and knowledge introduced in the classroom.

**Behaviour:**
Children receive Kaizen stickers for improvement in their work or behaviour. Merit awards and birthday cards are presented each fortnight at assembly. Positive reinforcement of appropriate behaviour and time out are used to modify inappropriate behaviour in the classroom. Detention takes place for playground misbehaviour after investigation by the duty teacher and then the Principal. Parents are notified of all detention incidents. Role-play and discussions are used to help the children develop appropriate social skills and strategies to cope with bullying incidents if they occur.

**Homework:**
**Home Reading:** Children are encouraged to read their home reader several times to an adult. Home Readers are changed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by parent helpers.
**Sounds:** Children are encouraged to practice identifying and writing the sounds introduced in class. Please see the newsletter for the letters introduced each week.
**Maths:** Children are encouraged to practice counting, and writing numbers. Topics being studied each week will be in the newsletter.

**Assemblies:**
Throughout the year Kindergarten Assemblies will be held at 2:10pm on Tuesdays of even weeks in the KH/KB classrooms. Parents will be invited to attend assemblies in Terms 2 & 3, when classes are presenting an item. Assemblies will be advertised in the school newsletter.

**Notes:**
All children are required to provide a note to their home class teacher explaining any absences from school (within one week of the absence). If your child comes to school late or you are picking him/her up before the end of the school day, please let your child’s teacher know. It is also important that you sign your child in/out at the office and pass on to your child’s teacher.

**Permission Notes:**
Please use the money envelopes provided by the school. Students are to hand money to their teacher or take it to the office.

**Child Safety:** Please advise your child’s teacher of the routine for going home and any changes to this routine via a note or phone call to the office as children often misunderstand verbal messages.
**Medication:** If your child requires medication during school hours, the medication needs to be taken to the office with a note from your doctor, including your child’s name, name of medication, dosage and the time required for taking the medication. This note needs to be signed and dated. Alternatively, labelled prescription medication may be administered according to details. The office has special medical forms available for your use.

**Student Requirements:**
In Kindergarten the school will provide all the students requirements. Please provide your child with a library bag and home reader bag. We would greatly appreciate a box of tissues for class use.

**Newsletter:**
The newsletter is distributed every Wednesday to the youngest member of each family. Please refer to the ‘Kinder News’ section for information about the skills and knowledge being introduced each week. Excursions and any special requirements for individual lessons or units of work will also be mentioned. The newsletter and permission notes can be accessed through the school website. [http://www.merimbula-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.merimbula-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

**Reporting to Parents:**
The Best Start Assessment Parent Feedback sheet will be distributed in Term 1, Week 4. Three way interviews involving the child, parent and teacher will be conducted in June. Reports will be sent out mid-year and at the end of the year. In June the children’s Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) will also be completed.

**Parent Concerns:**
If you have a concern, need more information, are troubled by your child’s performance level or responses please see your child’s teacher. If you feel that the matter cannot be resolved at this level, speak to the stage leader who, if necessary, may organise a time for you to see the Principal. Most matters can be resolved this way in an informal, friendly fashion. Likewise, if you feel that you would like to make an appointment with the school counsellor, please see your child’s teacher first, as all referrals must be made through the class teacher.

**Assistance with Classroom Activities:**
Assistance with Kinder Co-ops, classroom activities and the changing of home readers would be greatly appreciated! Timetables differ from class to class, so see your child’s teacher if you are able to help in any way. Please complete a ‘Prohibited Employment Declaration’ form that is available at the office. On the days you come to assist, please sign the volunteer helpers book in the office.

**Fruit Break:**
We will be having Fruit Break after ‘Move To Learn’ session at 9.30 am. Children can eat fresh fruit or vegetables in class. Some children find it easier if their food is cut up as they can have difficulty eating a large piece of fruit during this time.

**Canteen:** Lunch orders or small items can be purchased daily at recess or lunch. Lunch orders are placed in the class canteen box each morning. If your child is given food from the canteen due to something happening to your child’s lunch, an account from the canteen will follow.