Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to Kindergarten. We are looking forward to a wonderful year working with you and your child as well as forming and maintaining home-school partnerships. We send a warm welcome to all our new families at Westmead Public School.

Our teachers are:

KA  Mrs Azar and Mrs George  KP  Miss Pillay
KC  Mrs Chetty  KR  Mrs Sallan
KE  Miss Baldry  KS  Mrs Stevanja
KF  Mrs Felton and Mrs George  KT  Mrs Taylor

Our specialist teachers working with Kindergarten are:

EAL/D  Ms Tulloch
RFF  Miss Purkis, Ms Matijevic and Mrs Cetindag
LaST  Ms Singleton
Library  Mrs Kobeleff and Mrs Xuereb

Throughout the year our teachers meet regularly to collaboratively discuss and plan teaching and learning experiences for our students. The following overview provides a general outline of the teaching and learning programs in Early Stage 1. Similar content is taught across the grade and students are working towards achieving Early Stage 1 outcomes by the end of the year. Learning experiences may be presented differently and at different times throughout the year. They are planned to cater for student needs as a whole class, group or individually.

**ENGLISH**
The focus for this term is on identifying all the letters and their sounds and correctly forming each letter using NSW foundation style handwriting.

**Speaking and Listening:** Speaking and listening enables our students to clarify their ideas, explore issues, solve problems and develop understandings in all Key Learning Areas.

**Reading:** Our students develop reading skills, strategies and comprehension through modelled, guided and independent reading experiences. Your teacher may send home a list of words to support the teaching and learning of sight words. They will also send home reading books to support reading enjoyment and skill development.

**Writing:** Students develop handwriting, spelling, grammar and punctuation through modelled, guided and independent writing experiences. A range of texts will be taught throughout the year. Our focus is on developing correct formation of letters and understanding sentence structure.

**MATHEMATICS**

**Strands:** Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability are all taught in Early Stage 1. Students are encouraged to use practical materials and investigate and explain the methods they use to obtain answers. Learning experiences may be whole class, small group or individual.

**HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE)**
Classes will be covering the following unit this term: **Me and My World**

Students will be provided with opportunities to explore their place in their local community, family group and their place in school life.

**CREATIVE ARTS (CA)**

**Strands:** Visual Arts, Music, Drama and Dance. These skills are developed through integrated learning experiences.
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PD/H/PE)
The Bounce Back Resilience program incorporates school and class rules, appropriate ways to play and learn together, core values and bullying. Students will also participate in a variety of sport and healthy lifestyle lessons. **Kindergarten does fitness four days per week this term. They can wear their sports uniform on a Wednesday in preparation for Term 2.** This term Kindergarten students will be learning about Healthy Living and fundamental movement skills during RFF.

LIBRARY
This term all classes will visit the library on a weekly timetable for a half hour lesson, which will include time for borrowing and returning books. Library sessions are listed below

- Learning about library rules and procedures and how to care for library books;
- Participating in the 2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC).

**Library days:**
- Tuesday KA, KC, KE, KR, KT KV, KP
- Wednesday KF, KS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Homework** - During the first term of school, no homework is set. This is to allow your child to settle into school and feel relaxed about each day. It is important that you ensure your child goes to bed at a reasonable time. We recommend no later than 7:30 pm as this will support their learning, more than extra study sessions that may leave them tired for the next school day.

**Punctuality** – Please ensure that your child is at school and ready for learning before 8:55am. If you are late, escort your child to their classroom and let them walk inside alone. This has the least impact on the learning of other children. When your child is late they impact the learning of 20 other children. Please keep this in mind.

**Birthdays** are a special time. Your child may like to bring a party bag or small gift to share with the class. Please do not send large cakes, balloons or party poppers as these are inappropriate at school. Balloons may cause choking or severe allergic reactions in some students. Party bags may include pencils, sharpeners, small novelty toys and a small amount of individually wrapped lollies.

**Nuts** - Please avoid sending nut products to school with your child for recess or lunch. These include peanut butter, Nutella and nut mixes, as several students in the Kindergarten have allergies to nut products.

**Parent Helpers** - If you are available to help us in our school, please see your child’s teacher. We welcome any help with special events such as excursions and sporting carnivals. There will be a parent helper induction later this term run for all parents wishing to help in school.

Should you have any questions or queries please give your child a written note for the teacher, asking to see them after school or to make an appointment. When the 8:55am bell goes, the teacher’s role is to take their students into class. Last minute messages and distractions from parents mean teachers cannot fulfil their duty of care. When the class enters the classroom, the teacher cannot leave the classroom and go into the corridor to answer enquiries from a parent. Parent and teacher communication is important and we are happy to answer questions, but student safety comes first.

If you have any further queries, please make an appointment to see Mrs Taylor (Assistant Principal) or Mrs Bridekirk (Deputy Principal). Please be reassured teachers will contact you if there are any concerns or questions about your child. For this reason and in case of emergency, we ask that you ensure your contact information is up to date at the office.

We look forward to working together to support your child throughout the year.

Adrian Mort  
Principal

Mrs Bridekirk  
Deputy Principal

Mrs Taylor  
Assistant Principal

February 2015