

WELCOME TO KK Class Newsletter Term 1, 2020



My name is Kim Ballard and I am excited to be teaching Kindergarten and beginning this learning journey with your children. I grew up in the local area on a farm just outside of Coraki and have a large family of seven siblings. I enjoy playing touch football, oztag, netball and indoor soccer. I began at WRPS in 2015 and loved working with my colleagues and the wider school community. Throughout my experience as a teacher I believe that the student's personality and prior knowledge enrich the classrooms that they are in, and their school environment. I believe it is essential to hold high expectations, set learning goals with students and most importantly teach in a professional, caring and nurturing manner. This year I am looking forward to working with you and your child, and building open and effective lines of communication.

Our Kinder Team

KA class teacher: Juanita Allen and the Learning and Support Officer (LSO) Jamie Cottee

KB class teacher: Tina Budd (Assistant Principal) and LSO Sue Skimmings

KC class teacher: Adam Condon and the LSO Silvana Barlow

KK class teacher: Kim Ballard and the LSO Kath Molloy

General School Information – Routines

Bell times-

Supervision for students begins at **8:30**.

Parents requiring earlier drop off may wish to contact 'Helping Hands' after school care. Contact number: 0448125995

Email address: wyrallahroad@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au

8:55 - First bell for morning assembly then class begins

11:00 - 11:25 - Recess

12:55 - 1:45 - Lunch

2:55 – School departure procedure. Whole school meets under the shelter. All departures from school are supervised by teaching staff.

3:00 – Final bell

Kindergarten Daily Routine

Generally our daily routine will be:

- Literacy, Language and Learning (L3) – morning session with a fruit break
- Targeted Early Numeracy (TEN) and Mathematics – middle session
- Other key learning areas – afternoon session

Late to School

Parent will need to accompany student to the office for a late note to be taken to their teacher.

	<p>Early Pick Up Parent will need to obtain a sign out note from the front office before collecting your child.</p> <p>Change in Pick Up Please notify your child's teacher if there is a change in routine.</p> <p>Afternoon Procedure All students assemble under the shelter at 2:55 to be supervised by staff for their departure from the school. There are designated lines for carpark, parent pick up, buses, walkers and 'Helping Hands' after school care. Parents are asked to collect their child from the designated areas and not from the shelter area. (please refer to attached map).</p>
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At WRPS we understand and value the importance of effective communication and building relationships with our parents. Communication is one of the most important parts of the relationship between school and home as it helps us to better understand your child. We recognise that every child is a unique individual and begins school with varying social, emotional and learning needs. If your child is away from school for any reason (being family commitments or illness) could you please send a note with your child the day they return explaining their absences or use our Skoolbag app. It is a legal requirement to report absences. If you need to get a message to me during the day, please ring the office. My day can become very busy and I don't always check my emails until after the school day. If you have a non-urgent message, I can be contacted via the office or email. I will only be corresponding during business hours which are 8:30 to 4:30 weekdays. If you would like to organise a time to have a chat with any of the teachers, please ring or email to make an appointment. There will be times that we may contact you via phone or email. We like to contact parents to share wonderful learning moments, if we have any concerns or need to clarify any confusions regarding your child. We also may contact parents to discuss areas that may need some extra attention and a collaborative approach. Our school has an excellent website and Facebook page, which highlights many exciting things that happen at our school. Our website contains information about individual classes and notes for upcoming events and excursions.
Kinder Homework	<p>Home Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each child will be provided with a home reading folder and will borrow 1 book daily. Children may borrow Monday to Friday on the return of the book borrowed. There will be further explanation of the process when Home Reading folders are sent home and at our 'Meet the Teacher' session in Week 3. Home Reading will begin Wednesday, Week 3. It is highly recommended that each child reads for approximately 10 minutes

	<p>every night. When your child has completed 20 nights of reading they receive an award at the Kindergarten assembly. This award is given for every subsequent 20 nights of reading.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are holding a parent training session to support the beginning reader in Week 4. More details will be provided closer to the date. <p>Sight Word Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each child will be assessed on our Kinder sight word list and will start at their point of need. Children will progress at their own pace. • They will bring home a list of 5 words each week and will return their folder every Friday. The teachers will check to see if the children know all 5 words before sending a new list home to practice. Further explanation of our Sight Word Program will be provided with their sight word folder and at our 'Meet the Teacher' session. This will begin in Week 4. <p>Speaking and Listening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your child will be nominated for a particular day where they stand in front of the class and present their topic for the week. Each term, I will send home a Speaking and Listening timetable which will outline the Speaking and Listening topics for that term. • It is beneficial for your child's engagement and confidence, if you could help them prepare for their weekly topic. Teacher assistance and support is always provided. <p><i>We would like to thank all parents and carers for their support and involvement in these programs.</i></p>
<p>Positive Behaviour for Learning PBL</p>	<p>Wyrallah Road Public School is a 'Positive Behaviour for Learning' (PBL) school, taking a school wide, systematic and proactive approach to explicitly teaching expected behaviours.</p> <p>At Wyrallah Road we are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respectful • Responsible • Safe <p>As a PBL school, teachers at WRPS explicitly teach expected behaviours covering the many different school settings. This is reinforced by both our formal and informal recognition system.</p> <p>Class Dojo is our in class rewards system. While each teacher implements class dojo in their own unique way, the main purpose of this tool is to reinforce positive student behaviour within the classroom context. Class dojo is based upon a classroom culture where students have their own unique monster emoji and are rewarded for displaying the skills and values expected within their classroom setting.</p> <p>Win Bins are used in both the classroom and across the wider school context. Win Bin tickets are issued by all staff. They are issued to students who have demonstrated positive behaviour/effort/achievement. The purpose of a Win</p>

Bin is to reinforce positive behaviour immediately. Four times per term (Friday non-assembly weeks beginning Week 3 each term) draws are made from accumulated Win Bins for canteen vouchers (4 x \$1 per stage).

Merit Certificates are given by classroom teachers to recognise special and positive behaviour/effort/achievement. Two awards are given for each class at each whole school assembly.

PBL Owl Badge is a PBL award. This award is presented to students who *consistently* demonstrate positive behaviour and follow school expectations. It is received in the form of a Wyrallah Road Owl Badge ('Wyrowllah') and accompanied by a photo display in the school foyer for the fortnight following the presentation assembly. One PBL badge *may* be awarded for each class at whole school assemblies.

Student of the Week is awarded every odd week in our Kindergarten assembly. Each student will have the opportunity to be awarded the student of the week. It is presented in the form of a poster which is displayed in their classroom for the next two weeks, then given to the recipient to take home.

Gold Day is our way of recognising students that consistently follow all school expectations both in the classroom and on the playground. All students begin each term as a Gold level student and will stay on Gold level if they maintain their good behaviour. Gold level indicates that the student is a cooperative, tolerant student who works with others and participates in the opportunities provided by the school. Students who have remained on Gold for a whole term will be entitled to attend Gold Day activities at the end of each term to celebrate their positive behaviour.

Kinder Sport

- The purpose of sport in Kinder is for students to develop fundamental movement and gross motor skills. This includes one circuit lesson per week where students buddy up with another kindergarten class and rotate around to different stations.
- The other lessons involve a whole class game or activity held on the oval.

Curriculum Overview Term 1

During Term 1 Kindergarten will be focusing on an integrated unit of work, "Me in My World". This involves students developing an understanding of who they are by exploring what they have in common with others, and what is unique about themselves. Students will develop an understanding of personal and family histories. This will include stories from different cultures and other parts of the world.

English: Students will become familiar with the L3 routine during the morning session and will be participating in a variety of literacy based rotation activities. They will also participate in small group explicit teaching in guided reading and writing with the teacher.

Maths: This term we will be exploring whole numbers and in particular counting, adding and subtracting. We will be learning about the capacity of different size containers and comparing the lengths of different objects.

Special Organisation as we begin in Kinder

- During our first two weeks in Kindergarten all the children will come to their classrooms every morning. In week 3 the students will be playing outside the kinder classrooms.
- We will not be attending the morning assembly until Week 5 or the whole school assembly until Week 6. This allows the children time to learn the school routines and become familiar, confident and secure within the school environment.

Weekly Organisation

Music: Thursday
Library borrowing: Thursday (odd weeks)
PE/Sport: Friday
Kindergarten assembly: Friday (odd weeks)
Whole school assembly: Friday afternoons 2:10-2:50pm in school hall (even weeks) *All parents are welcome to attend this assembly.*
Please note Kindergarten will not attend until Week 6.
Home Reading: Starting Week 3.
Sight Word Program: Starting Week 4.
Speaking and Listening Program: Starting Week 3.
Scripture: Every Wednesday afternoon.

Scripture

- Scripture lessons are on Wednesday afternoons for half an hour. These lessons are conducted by volunteers and are supervised by your child's classroom teacher.
- Students who do not participate in religious education will be engaged in independent revision activities supervised by a classroom teacher.

Assemblies

- Every fortnight on a Friday (even weeks of the term) there will be a whole school assembly in the hall. All parents are warmly invited to attend.
- All classes will have a turn throughout the year at performing in a class item. Parents will be advised when these are scheduled for each Kinder class.
- On alternating weeks (Fridays of odd weeks) we hold a Kinder assembly where various special awards are distributed to celebrate student achievement. These are Student of the Week, Home Reading awards (for every 20 nights of Home Reading), birthdays. This assembly is for students only.

Equipment Requirements

- Our only request is that each Kindergarten child will need to bring in one box of tissues and one liquid hand soap.
- All Kindergarten students need to have all personal belongings clearly labelled.
- Each day Kindergarten students will need fruit/vegetable for crunch and sip, recess and lunch, a drink bottle and hat.
- Please remember that toileting accidents can occur and it is advisable to have a spare change of uniform, including socks, to help minimise the distress to your child.

Excursions/Visiting Performances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be no excursions or visiting performances during Term 1 as we settle into our classes, make new friends and learn the school routines. We will have one excursion each term following. These have proven to be wonderfully rich learning experiences for the children and supplement the learning experiences planned within the integrated units.
Important Dates	<p>"Canteen Day": Thursday, 13 February in Week 3. The children are asked to bring 80c to buy a Fruit Tube ice block. This allows each class the opportunity to practice the required routines when using the school canteen and to meet Sue our amazing canteen convenor.</p> <p>Meet the parent: Tuesday, 11 February 5.15pm-6.00pm in Kinder classrooms</p> <p>Kindergarten welcome picnic: Tuesday, 11 February 6.00pm- 6.45pm hosted by the P&C</p> <p>Northern Star Photo: Thursday, 20 February</p> <p>Harmony Day: Friday, 20 March</p> <p>School Photos: Thursday, 26 March</p> <p>Parent/Teacher Interviews: Wednesday, 25 March 3:00 – 7:00pm</p>
School Fees	<p>This is a reminder that school fees can still be paid through our online payment portal. This is a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Log onto our school site at:- www.wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.edu.au</p> <p>Click on "Make a Payment" and follow the prompts to make a payment via Visa or MasterCard. You can find more information about online payments on our website.</p> <p>Although voluntary, school fees are a vital part of our budget each year and pay for essential items in classrooms.</p> <p>At WRPS our voluntary fees are \$55 per student, \$100 for two children or \$130 for a family of 3 or more children.</p> <p>If paying online does not suit, you can also pay in person at the front office (EFTPOS or cash) or write a cheque made out to Wyrallah Road Public School. Thank you to the parents that have already paid these fees, your contribution is appreciated.</p>

Warm regards,
Kim Ballard

Email address: kim.ballard3@det.nsw.edu.au
 School office hours: 8:30 – 3:30
 Phone: 02 6621 3363



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