



# Kindergarten Newsletter Term 1

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you are as excited as we are about your child's first year of school! We are looking forward to getting to know the children in our five beautiful Kindergarten classes this year.

Below are some dates for your diary:

<b>Scripture commences</b>	Wednesday 26 February
<b>Meet the Teacher</b>	Thursday 27 February
<b>Harmony Week</b>	Monday 17 – Sunday 23 March
<b>ANZAC Service</b>	9:30am on Monday 7 April
<b>End of Term 1</b>	Friday 11 April
<b>Beginning of Term 2</b>	Wednesday 30 April

## Key Learning Areas

### English

English incorporates many different areas of learning which will all be covered every term. These areas, which include phonics (sounds and letters), handwriting, reading, writing, and viewing and discussing texts will be taught in short units of work. Over the course of these units, students will:



1. Context: Engage with texts related to starting school and learn to make text-to-self connections.
2. Narrative: Explore narrative and learn how to identify the beginning, middle, and end of a text.
3. Character: Learn to identify, discuss and compare character features and actions at the beginning, middle and end of a narrative text.

As part of our phonics unit, we will be learning about syllables and rhyme as well as learning the sounds **m, s, a, t, p, i, f, r**. Each student will also participate in guided reading sessions with their class teacher in a small, focused group to develop their skills in reading.

### Mathematics



Students will develop their ability to work mathematically by reasoning, problem solving and communicating across the strands *Number and Algebra*, *Measurement and Space*, and *Statistics and Probability*. Mathematics content will be connected across these strands to enable students to develop a deep understanding of the following concepts.

#### Number and Algebra

- Instantly name the number of objects within small collections
- Use the counting sequence of ones flexibly
- Recognise number patterns
- Connect counting and numerals to quantities
- Identify part-whole relationships in numbers up to 10
- Copy, continue and create patterns

## Measurement and Space

- 2D shapes: Sort, describe, name and represent familiar shapes
- Length: Use direct and indirect comparisons to decide which is longer
- Area: Identify and compare area
- 3D objects: Explore familiar three-dimensional objects
- Volume: Compare internal volume by filling, packing and building
- Mass: Identify and compare mass using weight

## Statistics and Probability

- Respond to questions, collect information and discuss possible outcomes of activities
- Organise objects into simple data displays and interpret the displays

## Science

This term in science, Early Stage 1 students will be exploring the unit called 'Material World', focusing on the properties of materials and how these can be used for different purposes. They will make observations and record these using drawings and oral descriptions. Students will work towards designing and creating a plant pot out of appropriate materials to take a seedling home in.

## History

During Semester 1 (Terms 1 and 2), students will be engaging in a unit called 'Personal and Family Histories'. This unit provides students with the opportunity to learn about their own history and that of their family; this may include stories from a range of cultures and other parts of the world. They will develop an understanding of the different structures of families, family groups today, and their heritage. As participants in their own history, students build on their knowledge and understanding of how the past is different from the present.

## Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDH-PE)

### PDH

To begin the term, students will be learning about our three school expectations: Respect, Responsible and Aspire. They will then learn to identify and describe emotional responses people may experience in different situations and practice interpersonal skills to interact positively with others. Students will also learn about sun and water safety as well as a focus on pedestrian safety.



### Grade Sport

During Term 1, students will participate in sport lessons with their class teacher which focus on enhancing students' fundamental movement skills. The skills will include underarm throwing, hopping, skipping, balancing and catching. Lessons will incorporate a warm-up activity, physical conditioning activities and opportunities to practise movement patterns.

### Specialist – Physical Education with Mr Teylan

During Term 1, Kindergarten students will be participating in Physical Education and will be engaged in activities which will enhance students' fundamental movement skills. The skills will include underarm throwing, hopping, skipping, static balance and catching. The lessons will incorporate a warm-up activity, physical conditioning activities and movement patterns. To be organised and ready students should wear the correct sports uniform, including sport shoes, a hat and a drink bottle.

Kindergarten students will need to wear their sports uniform on the days listed below:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Grade Sport</b> with class teachers		KB, KC, KD, KH and KM			
<b>PDH</b> with Mr Teylan				KM	KB, KC, KD and KH

### Creative Arts

During visual arts lessons, Kindergarten students will be making simple pictures and other kinds of artworks about living things and celebrations. They will experiment with a range of media, including the use of playdough, scissors, glue and paint brushes to assist in developing fine motor skills. Students will also be given opportunities to communicate their ideas about pictures and other kinds of artworks.

Students will also participate in a dance unit, focusing on creating and performing routines with simple repetitive movements. During these lessons, they will learn to demonstrate an awareness of body parts, control over movement and expressive qualities. Students will explore movement in response to a stimulus to express ideas, feelings or moods.

### Library

Library borrowing for Kindergarten students will begin in Week 5. Many students have already brought in their library bags. If you have not already, please pack a small (fabric) bag ready for your child's first day of borrowing. Kindergarten students are encouraged to borrow two books each week.



To borrow, students must have returned any outstanding books and bring a library bag. Classes will borrow from the library on the following days:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			KB	KC, KD, KH and KM

### Clothing and lunchboxes

A friendly request to please ensure that all of your child's items including lunch boxes, hats and other clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name. Parents are also encouraged to have a unique tag on the side of their child's bag that will allow them to identify their school bag more easily.

### Food

At Castle Hill Public School, we promote healthy eating. Students need to bring a piece of fruit/vegetable with them to school each day to eat when we have 'crunch and sip'. Please pack this fruit separately from your child's recess and lunch for easy access. It would be helpful if you show your child what is in their lunch box each day and explain what they can eat for 'crunch and sip', recess and lunch. We also ask for assistance in showing your child how to open and close containers and packets.

### Absences

Absences from school require an explanation. You can notify the school through the School Bytes Parent app, a written note or via email [castlehill-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:castlehill-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au) . Absences **must be explained within seven (7) days**.

Please advise the school if your child will be taking an extended absence as this may require the completion of an exemption form. If students are arriving at school late or departing school early, they must be accompanied by a parent/guardian and signed in or out at the front office.

**Important Information**

To help your child settle into Kindergarten, please say a quick goodbye in the morning and leave promptly. We know this is sometimes hard, but it really does make it a lot easier for us to settle children into the day.

We are looking forward to the term ahead and to working closely with you throughout the year.

Warm regards

Mrs Bertus, Mr Brien, Miss Charker, Miss Hunter and Miss McKey