



Welcome to Merimbula Public School – Kindy Class of 2021 !

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to Kindergarten 2021! We are so happy to have had your child/ren at our first Orientation Day! Orientation days are such a wonderful opportunity to get to know each and every child, their interests, talents, how we can assist them during their transition, as well as, when they come to school.

Today we had a lot of fun doing a range of activities. Students took part in three activity stations, assisted by one of the Kindy teachers.

At the 'Gross Motor Skills' station, your child took part in balancing, catching and other movement activities on their own and with a partner. At the 'Playground' station, your child had fun playing on the equipment, playing in the sandpit and playing with new friends, when using a range of our playground games and toys.

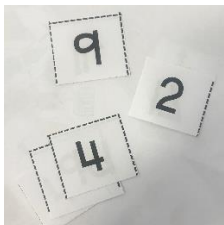
When completing activities at the 'Fine Motor' station, children were also introduced to their first 'Home Reader', *Merimbula Public School – My New School*. They have even added their name and a picture to the reader! This reader has been put together by our Kindy team for you to read with your child. There are also some activities listed in the reader, that we would love for you to have your child practise, to support them in getting ready for Kindergarten.

Your child was also given a special **library bag** today. Please write your child's name on their bag. They will need to keep it somewhere safe, ready for their library day each week from next term. Library days and other special days will be outlined in the first Newsletter of the year, which will be sent home on the first day of Term 1. All newsletters are also available on our website and via our School Stream app.

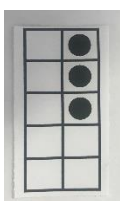
Some special items for parents and their children were also included within the library bag. Items included information about:

- The **Best Start Kindergarten Assessment** - Please read this information and contact the school to book your child's assessment time in, should you wish to attend while he/she is completing it. The assessments take place during school hours, therefore if you cannot attend it is fine. They will complete the assessment at school in your absence. Parents will be provided assessment feedback in writing, later in Term 1.
- Our **School Stream app** – Information about how to download our School Stream app is outlined in this handout. It will support you in accessing school calendars, alerts, information notes as well as, help you applying for leave for your child should they be absent.
- **Absences** – Including Department requirements regarding attendance.
- **Bus travel** – Including how to apply for a bus pass.
- Our school **Uniform Shop** price list – This includes a link to the online store. If you would like to come onsite and visit our Uniform Shop (run by Daylight Sportswear), you will need to make a booking by calling our administration office. As a result of COVID-19 restrictions, 1:1 appointments are being made (December 1 to December 11).

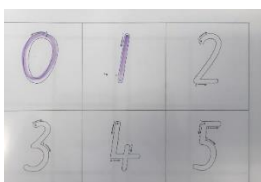
- The **School Curriculum** – We have included a *Parent Guide to the NSW Primary Syllabuses* so that you can see what your child will be learning in each primary school grade.
- Helping your child get ready for school – We have included a *Kindergarten Smooth Start Calendar*. This calendar can be used as a checklist, so that you can support your child in taking part in some fun activities that will help him/her get ready for school.
- A **Number Sense Toolkit** – *This pack includes:*



Some **digit flash cards**. Shuffle the cards and hold them up, getting your child to read the number. Alternately, get your child to order the cards in numerical order. If he/she is really clever, they may like to find the missing number (eg: 7, 8, __, 10). You could use the cards to get your child to state the number after or before that number. These cards will be great to use throughout Kindergarten. Keep them somewhere safe!



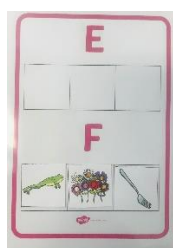
Some **subitising cards/ten frames** – *Subitising* is the ability someone has to instantaneously recognise the number of objects in a small group without counting them. Subitising is a great skill, that will assist your child in many areas of Mathematics. You can use these cards as flash cards, for quick ordering activities, or challenge your child by getting them to add two together quickly!



Handwriting numbers within a plastic sleeve – Your child can use **the whiteboard marker** (also provided) to trace over the numbers again and again. Use an old odd sock as an eraser!

Ten Frames – On the back of the cover page, we have included some ten frames. You can use these in the plastic sleeve to add your own subitising patterns. Try other shapes, as well as dots. Alternately use counters or coins you may have at home.

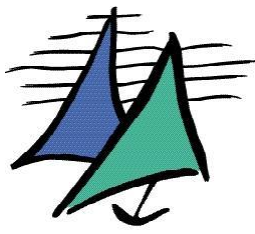
- Some **Literacy Support Tasks** – *These include:*



Some initial sound grid cards – Help your child cut out the pictures (Cutting practise is great for big school!). Use the flash cards to get your child to name objects. If the object is an apple, ask them what sound the word starts with. Say 'ah' for a, not 'ay' as in the letter.

Once your child knows initial sounds, have them place the cards next to the letter they represent.

Foundation Style Handwriting Tasks – In NSW, students learn to write in Foundation Style handwriting. Have your child practise writing letters, and their name, using the sheets provided. Please remember to put the sheets into a plastic sleeve and use the whiteboard marker, so that they can be used again and again. Practise helps your child to improve and develops his/her confidence.



Best Start Assessment: As shared in the Best Start information note included in this package, please contact the office to let us know if you would like to attend school, or 'Zoom' in, to watch your child taking part in his/her assessment.

Staggered Start Time / Day 1, 2021: On the first day of Term 1, Friday January 29, all students Kindergarten to Year 6 will be commencing school on the same day. Kindergarten students can:

- **Arrive without a parent.** Children can enter the school gate with the other students, or with their sibling, at any time between 8.30am and 8.55am, when teachers are on duty. Parents can drop children off at the gate on Henwood Street (back oval). Your child can also catch the school bus. If catching the bus to school, a teacher will meet them at the bus bay, and support them in entering the school grounds. If catching the bus home, a Kindergarten teacher will walk your child to their bus line each afternoon in Term 1. Your child will also be allocated a 'bus buddy', should they not have an older sibling. Please contact Sapphire Coast Buslines to find out about your child's bus stop and bus stop pick-up/drop-off times. Their contact number is (02)64956452. (Don't forget to apply for your child's bus pass using the handout provided. Bus travel is free for all students in Kindergarten to Year 3. A small fee is charged from Year 3 for students who live very close to the school).
- **Arrive with their parent.** To support one parent coming on site with their child, and in adhering to COVID-safe physical distancing requirements, you can contact our office on (02) 65951266 to arrange an alternate drop off time, so that you can take your child to his/her classroom on the first day. This time will be between 9.30am and 12 noon. We can only have 3-4 parents at each classroom at once. No other parents (Year 1 to 6) will be coming onsite on the first day. Drop off visits will be for 10-15 minutes. Drop off will still be at the Henwood Street gate, with parents signing a Visitor Declaration Form (in accord with the Department's and NSW Health's COVID-Safe guidelines).

From Day 2, we anticipate that parents will not be able to come onto school grounds as a result of the NSW Health and Department of Education COVID-Safe guidelines. This is the current plan. Kindergarten children will be met at the back gate by one of the kindy teachers. Principals will be receiving updates to COVID advice in January. Should these arrangements change, we will notify families via Facebook and our School Stream app during the holidays.

Kindergarten students (and their siblings) will be using the back Henwood Street gate (oval gate) for drop-offs and pick up in Term 1. Students will assemble in this area from 2.45pm. This way they will be able to see you arrive. If parking in this area, please ensure that you parallel park, as noted on the parking signs. Other Merimbula Public School students will be using the front gate.

Who Will My Child's Classroom Teacher Be? Over the coming weeks, we will be observing your child in various group situations/activities. We will also be talking to preschools, early childhood centres and taking into account your wishes (preferences you shared during your child's Kindergarten Enrolment Interview). We hope to have the kindergarten classes formed by the end of the last Orientation Day, reading to share this information with you via a note when you collect your child. Should we still have some decisions to make, you will be notified of your child's class teacher via mail in December, before the end of Term 4. If the later takes place, please make sure you call us before December 16 should you not receive your information letter that week.

Thank you for enrolling your treasured child at our amazing school. We have an amazing team of staff who are so excited to be supporting and educating your child/ren. It is our privilege to be guiding them through their education.

We cannot wait to see you and your child at our second and third orientation days, as below, on November 18 and 25.

Regards,

Michelle Hulme
Principal

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Merimbula Public School

Kindergarten Orientation!



Please remember to access the program via your nominated Drop-Off/Pick-Up Zone Area.

Staggered Drop-off/Pick-up

Times:

Girls: 9.15am-12.00pm /

Boys: 9.30am-12.15pm.

Children are to pack lunch/a snack/a water bottle/a hat.

WEEK 2 PROGRAM: **November 18**

- 9.15am - Girls Arrive (see Zone for Location) / Play
- 9.30am - Boys Arrive (see Zone for Location) / Play
- 9.45am - Activity 1 (Gross Motor in the Hall / Fine Motor Tasks in the Classroom / Equipment & Sand Pit Play)
- 10.15am - Toilet Break
- 10.30am - Lunch in K-2 Eating Area (or Classroom if wet)
- 11.00am - Activity 2 (One of the stations mentioned above)
- 11.30am - Activity 3 (As above)
- 12.00pm - Girls Picked Up/Boys Play
- 12.15pm - Boys Picked Up

Kindy students will change activities / Kindy teachers will run a station and meet all students.

Ph: 6495 1266

www.merimbula-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



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WEEK 3 PROGRAM: **November 25**

- 9.15am - Girls Arrive (see Zone for Location) / Play
- 9.30am - Boys Arrive (see Zone for Location) / Play
- 9.45am - Passport Tour (Small groups are taken on tour to various school locations, filling their passport!)
- 10.15am - Toilet Break
- 10.30am - Lunch in K-2 Eating Area (or Classroom if wet)
- 11.00am - Classroom Activities (All students in classrooms)
- 12.00pm - Girls Picked Up/Boys Play
- 12.15pm - Boys Picked Up

Student groups will work together to support teachers in finalising classes. Families will be notified of classes before Day 1 of 2021.

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