



# Penrith South Public School

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Principal: Craig White

Thursday 8 February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Early Stage One Overview

Welcome to Kindergarten for 2024. We hope you have enjoyed the sunshine over the break and had a relaxing holiday. We are looking forward to working in partnership with you for a positive and successful year of learning for your child. Below is some organisational information about routines and the teaching and learning programs that will run in Early Stage One throughout the year.

### Kindergarten classes:

- K5 – Mrs Lucy Hiam and Mrs Elizabeth Healey
- K6 – Mrs Charlotte Kop and Mrs Belinda Brunac
- K7 – Miss Jordan Bishop

### English

Over the year Early Stage 1 students will learn within the 2 domains of English: Understanding Texts and Creating texts. Within these domains students will engage in experiences to build their skills in the areas of; oral language and communication, vocabulary, phonic knowledge, reading fluency and comprehension, writing, spelling, and handwriting. There are some exciting opportunities occurring for our students within each of these domains.

In line with the new K-2 English syllabus that was introduced last year we will be implementing the InitialLit program. InitialLit is an evidence-based whole-class literacy program that incorporates a synthetic approach to the teaching of phonics alongside rich literature.

While each Early Stage 1 teacher will run their English block differently all teachers ensure their approach allows for differentiation, personalised learning, provides consistency and teaches students independence. All teachers will meet individual student needs through whole-group and small-group instruction, as well as one-on-one conferencing.

### Mathematics

In Early Stage 1 students will continue to learn within the 3 domains of Mathematics: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Space and Statistics and Probability. Throughout the term students will engage in four (4) mathematical units. These are:

- Unit 1 – Attributes can be used to sort objects
- Unit 2 - Patterns have something that repeats over and over and over again
- Unit 3 - What needs to be measured determines the unit of measurement
- Unit 4 - Smaller numbers can be found hiding in bigger numbers

These units provide opportunities for students to investigate concepts such as:

- Whole numbers
- Combining and separating quantities
- 2D shapes
- Data
- Length
- Volume
- Mass

Again, while Maths will look different in each classroom all teaching and learning experiences will develop students' deep conceptual understanding and mathematical proficiency through students working towards personalised goals.

## **Science**

For this term Early Stage 1 will be completing a unit titled *Material World*. This unit focuses on the observable properties of materials and how they can be used for making useful products. Students investigate how the properties of materials determine their use.

## **HSIE**

Early Stage 1 will complete the History unit titled *Personal and Family Histories*. Students explore the concept of family, think about their own families and who their family members are. They explore the origin of their own family, and the families of their classmates. The historical skills and concepts of significance, continuity and change, perspectives, empathetic understanding, explanation and communication and chronology are addressed throughout this topic.

## **PDH**

This year Penrith South will be implementing the Resilience Project as our whole school PDH program. The fun and captivating program includes a suite of digital presentations and workshops which inspire students to practise positive wellbeing strategies. Hosted by Hugh van Cuylenburg or Martin Heppell, their humour and unique stories inspire resilience across the whole school community. All presentations and weekly lessons are centred around gratitude, empathy and mindfulness (GEM); principles linked to positive emotions and positive wellbeing.

## **PE**

This term Early Stage 1 sport will focus on gymnastics. Gymnastics will be held weekly on Wednesday and Thursday, with each class attending one session per week. Each class will also undertake a class fitness program that will run based on class needs.

## **Creative Arts**

This term Early Stage 1 students will focus on dance activities for Creative Arts. During this unit student will develop' physical competencies and awareness of the body in time and space. Students are provided opportunities to respond expressively through movement to a range of stimuli, including imagery from direct, everyday experience.

## **Homework**

Students will be encouraged to participate in the Home Reading Scheme aimed at developing their ability to decode texts. Further information will be sent home in Week 5 when this will commence.

## **Library**

All Early Stage 1 classes will participate in library lessons. We encourage all students to regularly borrow books from our school library to support the development of their reading skills as well as a positive attitude towards reading. Please ensure your child has a library bag to protect the books they bring home.

Early Stage 1 library days are:

K5 – Monday

K6 – Tuesday

K7 - Wednesday

## **Assembly**

K-2 assembly will be held on a Tuesday afternoon from 1.55pm – 2.55pm in even weeks of the term.

## **Whole School Routines**

### **School Expectations**

- Our School STAR expectations are: Safe Teamwork, Achieving Respect and are the values we continually expect and encourage from our school community.
- Supervision for children commences at 8.30am each morning.
- School hours are 8.58am to 2.55pm.
- Full school uniform, including a school hat, is expected to be worn every day.

## **Absences**

Please give your child the best opportunity to experience success with their learning by ensuring that they attend school, on time, each day. It is a legal requirement to provide a note explaining any absences from school for your child. Please send a note on your child's return to the classroom teacher or complete the form via the SENTRAL Parent Portal App.

Attendance is tracked through the school. If your child's attendance rate falls below 90% which is the state target, you may be contacted by the class teacher to develop support systems to assist your child in attending school.

## **School Behaviour System**

Promoting the learning, wellbeing and safety of all students at Penrith South Public School is our highest priority. We implement teaching and learning approaches to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our STAR expectations. This is achieved in two ways; recognition of positive behaviour and structured support for students requiring additional assistance.

## **Recognition of Positive Behaviour**

### **1. Individual Classroom Teacher Systems**

Class teachers organise individual reward systems within their own class. These are designed to encourage and promote improvement and excellence across a wide range of activities and behaviours. These systems support the school's whole school reward system.

### **2. Whole School System**

Each week, all teachers issue a set number of STAR awards to their students for exhibiting behaviours that meet our STAR expectations, for example outstanding work, positive behaviour, citizenship. These STAR Awards are collected by students over the year and lead to:

- 5 STAR awards = Bronze Award
- Bronze Award + 5 STAR awards = Silver Award
- Silver Award + 5 STAR awards = Gold Award
- Gold Award + 5 STAR awards = Emerald Award
- Emerald Award + 5 STAR awards = Ruby Award
- Ruby Award + 5 STAR awards = Sapphire Award
- Sapphire Award + 5 STAR awards = Platinum Award and STAR badge

## **Structured Support Systems**

### **1. Referral to Assistant Principal**

For any major, or continued, behavioural incidents teachers may refer students to the Assistant Principal for further follow up. The details of these incidents will be recorded in the relevant database.

### **2. Reflection Room**

Reflection Room is hosted by the Assistant Principals and is held during second break. The purpose of Reflection Room is to assist students to reflect on their actions, the impact of these actions on others and support them to use more appropriate strategies in the future. You will be informed by either phone or letter if your child is placed in Reflection Room.

## **Extra-curricular activities**

During the year there will be many extra-curricular activities and opportunities provided to Early Stage 1 students to support the teaching and learning programs being run. These include, incursions, excursions, performing arts, sporting and academic opportunities to name a few. More detailed information will be provided as these opportunities arise. We ask that you keep a close eye on our school website, school newsletters, utilise the SENTRAL Parent Portal app as well as check your child's bag regularly for information and permission notes that are sent home.

School assistance is available to assist with the cost of these activities. Please contact your child's class teacher, if required.

## **Crunch and Sip**

Each day we will hold "Crunch and Sip". During this time students eat a piece of fruit or vegetable, brought from home, and have a drink of water whilst they listen to a story.

## **Allergies**

At Penrith South Public School for the health and safety of all our students we prefer not to have any nuts or nut products brought to school and acknowledge that nuts and nut products may be present at school. We discourage the sharing of food.

We ask that all birthday celebration food, e.g. cupcakes, donuts, chocolates be sent to the Front Office in the morning to be safely stored until the class teacher can issue them to students.

## **Communication**

Should you have any enquires or concerns regarding your child, it is best to contact your child's teacher in the first instance. Your child's teacher is the primary provider of care and education for your child on a daily basis and is usually the best place to solve any issues. This will assist in the issue being dealt with promptly in most situations, as well as help to develop positive parent-teacher relationships. If the issue is unresolved after communication with the teacher, the next point of contact is the stage supervisor, Mrs Kop. If you wish to speak with Mrs Kop, please phone the school office to arrange a suitable time.

Penrith South Public School uses a variety of forums to communicate information with families. School newsletters are posted on Sentral fortnightly. The school Facebook site is a wonderful forum that showcases the fabulous work and achievements of our students. Information is also communicated through the Parent Portal on the SENTRAL app. We recommend all parents and caregivers access this portal. This app allows you to receive notifications about school events and submit absence notes. Settings on the app can be customized to suit your child's grade. If you require access to the Portal please contact the school to organize a personalized security key.

We thank you for taking the time to read this information. As teachers, we believe all students learn best in a positive, happy learning environment where they are stimulated, interested and motivated. This is our aim for Early Stage 1. If your child is facing any difficulties, and we can be of assistance, please let us know and we will do our best to help.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Craig White  
Principal

Charlotte Kop  
Early Stage 1 Assistant Principal