

Monday 15 February, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,



WELCOME TO WEEK 4 of TERM 1.

Welcome Kindergarten!

It has now been two weeks since 139 of our newest students joined us at Parramatta West. These kindergarten boys and girls happily waved goodbye to their families with hardly a tear in sight (even from the parents!). COVID restrictions have had an impact on our usual welcome approaches for our

new parents. We hope that small groups of families can arrange to meet informally, perhaps at the local park or for a coffee to start to develop a support network. When visiting the kindergarten classrooms, I noticed all of the students happily making new friends, learning new routines, playing and chatting. At recess and lunch times in the playground, the boys and girls have kept themselves busy, further developing friendships and learning the routines of school life. All of the kindergarten boys and girls are lining up in the class lines under the COLA at 8.55am each morning. Now is a great time for our parents to practice dropping the children and leaving, knowing that they are in good hands. I thank our kindergarten parents for supporting your children's independence to ensure that they are ready for school. Thanks too to our kindergarten teachers for their enthusiasm and kindness to ensure every student has a positive start to school.



A VERY SETTLED START!

I am happy to report that the school has settled very quickly and teachers have commenced delivering their teaching and learning programs to their respective classes. I remain impressed with the smooth functioning of the school and the systems in place to maintain that. It is a delight to visit classes to find them highly engaged and engrossed in their learning and I know this positions them well for the year ahead.

NEW YEAR CELEBRATION - LUNAR NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year to all of our families who have been celebrating this very special occasion. This year's Lunar New Year took place on Friday February 12. The Chinese New Year animal for 2021 is the Ox.

COMMUNICATION VIA EMAIL

Past experience has taught us that on occasions, parents have directly emailed teachers with significant delays occurring in response times as teachers are not checking emails throughout their teaching day, are at professional learning or are not present on day/s. To assist with this, we are asking that parents use the school email system where possible so that queries can be directed to the appropriate person, resulting in a more timely response: parramattw-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au



MEET THE TEACHER INFORMATION SESSIONS

The home – school partnership is very important and we continue to adjust the way we do things to accommodate COVID safe practices. Our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions enable parents to put the class teacher's face to their name and hear about specific class routines. These sessions are not an opportunity to discuss individual children. Parents wishing to speak with the teacher about their child may organise an appointment directly with the teacher by phoning or emailing the school office.

Our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions will be held in classrooms this week. Thank you for ensuring that only one parent/carer per child attends the session in order for us to comply with COVID restrictions. All visitors attending the school site will be required to sign in with both the Service NSW QR code as well as acknowledging the information provided in the following poster. We thank you for your understanding and support in adhering to these requirements.

Later in Term 1, we will be organising meetings with each family to discuss your child's progress. The exact timing and format of these sessions will be communicated at a later date and will again be governed by NSW COVID restrictions.

NSW Department of Education

COVID-19 requirements

for visitors, contractors and service providers



Stay at home when unwell

Do not attend the school if you are unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms. COVID-19 symptoms include fever, cough, some or scratchy throat, shortness of breath, or loss of smell or tasts.



Practise good hygiene

- Wash your hands or use hand sanitiser regularly.
- Avoid shaking hands when greeting people.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing with your elbow or a tissue. Put tissues in the bin.
- Clean tools and equipment in between uses and when sharing with others.
- Use personal protective equipment when required.



Maintain physical distance

Maintain 1.5m physical distance from other people while on the school site at all times.



Keep our school environment clean

Leave working and learning spaces clean and tldy. Wipe down any high-touch surfaces or workspace area following use with a suitable cleaning product.

education.nsw.gov.au



Contractors and service providers

All businesses and organisations delivering services and programs within our school must comply with Public Health Orders and have a COVID-19 Safety Plan as required.

Acknowledgement

Before visiting school grounds I acknowledge

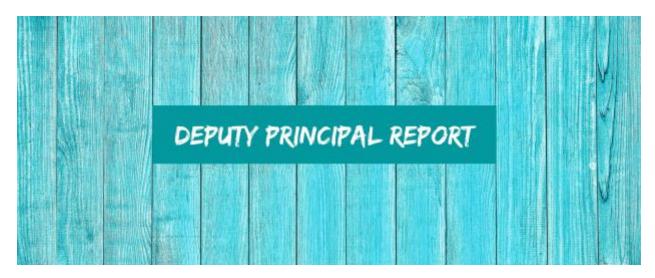
- I agree to comply with COVID-19 requirements for visitors, contractors and service providers (as outlined on this page).
- I am well and have no COVID-19 symptoms
- I have provided my contact details to the school so I can be contacted in the event of health or other emergency.
- I agree to comply with and follow all safety, policy and procedural requirements in place at the school.
- For contractors and service providers I will work in compliance with the contractor and service provider requirements (identified above).



DROP OFF AND PICK UP

We thank our parents/carers for encouraging your children's independence each morning – students are happily walking into the school grounds, finding a friend and then lining up in their assigned locations or walking directly to class. Thank you for continuing to physically distance outside the school gates and leaving when you have collected your children. We continue to refine our system for the afternoon, maximising the time students are in class learning, while ensuring a safe environment for all. From today we will revert back to opening gates from 2.45pm as Kindergarten have done an amazing job of fitting into the dismissal routine. We ask that all parents have completed afternoon collections by 3.00pm.

Student collections after this time are recorded and monitored under our child wellbeing requirements and notified to supervising authorities when patterns emerge.



SPECIAL RELIGIOUS/ETHICS EDUCATION - (SRE)(SEE)

We are in the process of forming classes and teachers for SRE/SEE. You child will be placed into the group as nominated by parents/carers during the enrolment process. If you wish to make an alteration to the group, please contact the office or refer to the school website for a new permission form.

At Parramatta West Public School, we plan to offer classes in the following:

- Catholic
- Islamic
- Anglican
- Hindi
- Ethics (No teachers currently available)

PSSA

PSSA stands for the Primary Schools Sports Association. PSSA sport options are offered to all students in Year 3 to 6. Schools across Sydney are organised into zone groups with teams organised according to age. Junior teams are for children who are in Years 3 and 4. Senior teams are for children who are in Years 5 and 6.

PWPS Summer Sports - Term 1 and 4 include:

Cricket (Junior and Senior)

T-Ball (Juniors only)

Softball (Seniors only)

PSSA Trials will take place this week. Students who do not wish to try out for PSSA or are unsuccessful in the trial will participate in weekly school sport.

OUR NEW PWPS CANTEEN

Welcome to Rebecca and Tonisha, our new canteen ladies. See the fantastic new menu below, which consists of healthy, homemade, fresh food. The canteen has halal, gluten free and vegetarian options. You can find our more on their Facebook Page.

PWPS Hello Canteen



What's coming up this week for kids...



BOOK FAIR

Mrs Sell is very excited that we will be having a Book Fair this week. It will be open from 8.30am to 8.50am each morning for 5 days starting on Wednesday 17 February until Tuesday 23 February. The Book Fair will be held near Gate 3 on the corner of Franklin and Railway Street. The children will be able to see the books during their library time as well as during lunch time.

Parents will need to sign in using the Service NSW QR code when entering the gate to visit the Book Fair. We hope to see you there to buy a book or two.

PSSA Try Outs

Trials for Cricket (Junior and Senior), T-Ball (Junior) and Softball (Senior) will take place on Wednesday for boys and girls in Years 3-6. Students wishing to try out will be asked to put their name down in their classroom.





SAVE THE DATE! Tuesday March 2nd





arthurphil-h.schools.nsw.gov.au Macquarie Street Parramatta NSW 2150 feliephane 02 8855 8100 email arthurphil-h.school@del.nsw.edu.au



Free Study, Homework Help Online 24/7

Feeling overwhelmed, stuck on a study question or not sure where to even start with an assignment?

With your City of Parramatta Libraries membership, you get free access to Studiosity: online study help from real people.

Connect Live - one on one help in real time
Writing Feedback - detailed feedback
Practice Quizzes - 750 tests on core curriculum subjects

To access Studiosity, log in to the library website and click the link or visit studiosity.com/access, find your library and enter your library membership details.

http://parra.city/studiosity1





Nutrition Snippet

BACK TO SCHOOL GUIDE

Kids will take around 200 packed lunches to school each year!



Check out our <u>top tips for packing a healthy</u> <u>lunch box</u> to make your job a bit easier!

healthylunchbox.com.au



1 - <u>Healthy Lunch Box</u>