

# Welcome to the Early Stage 1 Information Session

*Thursday 29th February 2024*





# **Acknowledgement of Country**

I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

# **The Early Stage 1 teachers this year are:**

**KR**

**Ms M. Retsinas**

**KP**

**Miss M. Pantazis**

**KT**

**Miss S. Tsiavos**

**KS**

**Mrs S. Shopovski**

# Contacting School

- For academic/classroom issues, your child's classroom teacher is your first contact. If the issue can not be resolved, then the next contact is Ms Dillon (ES1 Supervisor).
- Action of other students – discuss with your classroom teacher first or contact Ms Dillon for playground issues.
- At no time should a parent approach another child other than their own child to address issues at school.
- Please make an appointment to speak with a teacher.

# Notes and Payments



The following are ways of paying your invoice and other payments:

- **Cash/cheques** may be placed in an envelope and handed directly **to the class teacher in the morning**. Please ensure that the enclosing envelope has all the relevant details, namely your child's name and class, the amount and reason for the payment (e.g., Joe Smith 6Z – Zoo Excursion: \$24.50).
- **EFTPOS** payments at the office by 10am.
- **School Bytes** - register for a parent portal account:  
<https://portal.schoolbytes.education/auth/login>

You can process payments for multiple children in one transaction.

Please provide a note for absences within 7 days.

Late arrivals and early departures needs to be processed at the office.

# Routines at School

- **8:45 am - 9:00 am - All students, parents and carers to meet in the top playground**

\* If raining, the wet weather music will play at 8:45 then students will go to their classroom.

- **9:00 am – School day begins**

*Crunch and Sip (small fruit break during roll marking)*

- **11:00 am - Morning Recess**
- **12:55 pm - 1:05 pm - Eating Time**
- **1:05 pm - 1:55 pm - Lunch**
- **3:00 pm - Dismissal**



# Assemblies

- K-2 Assemblies are on Fridays at 12:30pm (even weeks, i.e. Week 2, 4, 6, 8, 10)
- Morning assemblies:
  - Messages will be on Mondays and Wednesdays.
  - Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays are “drop and run” days. Please drop your children at lines and move off quickly so we can maximise learning time in the mornings. We really appreciate your support with this.

# Scripture/Ethics

- Scripture/Ethics happens every Thursday morning.

Below are the session times:

- **9:15am-9:45am** (Early Stage 1 & Stage 1 - Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2)
- **10:00-10:30 am** (Stage 2- Year 3 and Year 4)
- **10:30-11:00 am** (Stage 3 - Year 5 and Year 6)
- **Rebecca Hinchey** is the Ethics coordinator at Earlwood Public School.



# Attendance



**Days  
missed =  
years lost**

If your child misses as  
little as



day per week

they will miss



weeks of school  
per year

which adds up to over

**2.5**

years missed over  
their school life

# Canteen

The school canteen operates from Monday to Friday.

Lunch orders can be placed online or in person before school.

To place an order online, download the **flexischools** app and fill in your details.



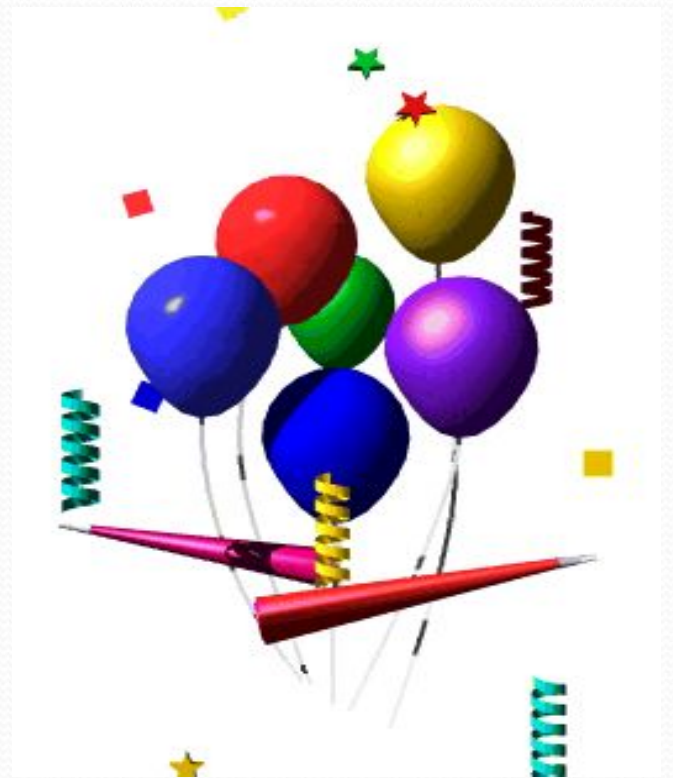
# Birthdays

Birthdays are an important milestone that we enjoy sharing with your child.

**However**, due to a significant number of students who have severe food allergies, cakes and other food items can not be school.

We appreciate your support and vigilance with this matter. We will use other resources to make your child's special day extra special!

**Please note:** Lollies, chewing gum, soft drink and glass containers are not permitted at school.



# Toys

We highly recommend students leave their special toys at home so they do not get misplaced or broken at school.

There is an equipment trolley which has sports equipment for the students to play with during lunch time.

# ESPA

Earlwood Public School has a parent body P & C association called ESPA. It has been formed for the benefit of the students and school community.

- Please contact [espa.pandc@gmail.com](mailto:espa.pandc@gmail.com)

## Your Child's Progress

- Best Start feedback letter will be sent home at the end of Week 6.
- Parent teacher interviews will be held at the end of Term 1. Bookings are made online. Information will be sent out on how to book closer to the date.
- Academic reports will be sent home in Term 2 and Term 4.
- Additional interviews can be made by appointment.

# Academic Report

- Reports will be sent home in Term 2 and Term 4.
- Kindergarten students receive a grade for effort and an academic grade.
- Grading system for achievement:

## **Assessment of Achievement**

<b>Achievement Grade</b>		<b>Achievement Description</b>
Working Towards	WT	The student is working towards Early Stage 1 expectations.
Achieved	A	The student is working at Early Stage 1 expectations.
Working Beyond	WB	The student is working beyond Early Stage 1 expectations.

- Grading system for effort:

#### Assessment of Effort

Effort	Grade	Effort Description
Low	L	The student needs support to remain focused on tasks and to develop and maintain interest.
Satisfactory	S	The student generally maintains focus and satisfactorily completes tasks with an age appropriate level of independence.
High	H	The student usually maintains a strong focus on tasks, is self-motivated and work is frequently completed to the best of their ability.
Outstanding	O	The student consistently maintains a strong focus on tasks, is self-motivated, may take on additional challenges and completes work to the best of their ability.



# Greek Language Program

- In 2024 the Greek Community Language Program entered its 29<sup>th</sup> year.
- Approximately 20% of the school's population is of Greek background.
- The program is offered to all students from Years K-6. (K-1 all students, Years 2-6 elective)



# Greek Language Program

- Teachers receive two hours release from face-to-face teaching each week.
- In Kindergarten, the RFF teachers will be teaching the Greek language program (CLOTE).
- The Greek teachers are Mrs Moutevelis and Mrs Themistocleous.
- Mrs Themistocleous is teaching KT and KS.
- Mrs Moutevelis teaching KP and KR.



# School Rules

- We have whole school rules:

**Be Safe, Be Respectful and  
Be a Learner**

There is a strong commitment by staff and students to make our school a happy and safe place to be.

# Try some Problem Solving Strategies

## The High Five!

- The High 5 strategy is an effective strategy to develop problem-solving skills
- It can be used in the classroom or in the playground.
- Do the High 5 -
  - Ignore
  - Talk Friendly
  - Walk Away
  - Talk Firmly
  - Report

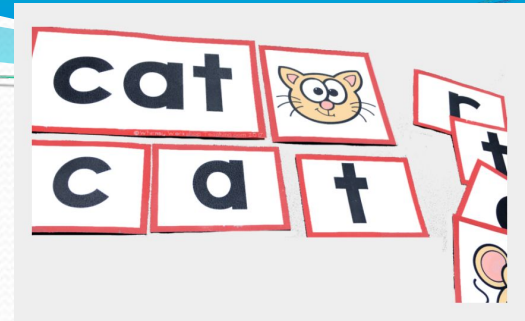


# Phonological Awareness

Phonological awareness is a crucial skill to develop in children. It is strongly linked to early reading and spelling success through its association with phonics. It is a focus of literacy teaching incorporating:

- recognising phonological patterns such as rhyme and alliteration
- awareness of syllables and phonemes within words, and
- hearing multiple phonemes within words.

# Synthetic Phonics



- Synthetic Phonics is an approach to reading and spelling. It means using the phonemes (sounds) to understand how to read and spell.
- Reading involves breaking words into separate sounds (phonemes) that can be blended together.
- Spelling requires students to identify all the phonemes in a word, and then use their knowledge of the alphabetic code to write it.

# Synthetic Phonics

## Toolkit 1

- There are 6 units covered from Toolkit 1 in Kindergarten
- Each unit contains a set of phonemes (sounds) and camera words (high frequency words)

### Example of unit 1

**Phonemes:** *a m s i p t n d* (The students will practise sounding out each phoneme first, then blend them together as part of the reading process.)

**Camera words:** *I the to was are she*

**Sentences:** *The man is sad.*

# Camera Words (Sight words)



I the  
was to  
are she

Camera Words - Set 1

Most words in the English language are decodable but there are some irregular, high frequency words. As we want to get children reading simple texts and writing simple sentences quickly we teach those irregular, high frequency words which are tricky but so essential for progression.

We call these words, 'camera words' because children must learn them as though they were taking a photo of the word with their 'mind's eye'. They are encouraged to memorise the word.

It is important to remember that very few words need to be learned by sight and that eventually they will be decodable.



# Lastly ...

- If you have any concerns regarding your child please do not hesitate to contact us to make an appointment for a meeting.
- We look forward to having a very enjoyable and successful year together.

