

Term 4 Overview

Early Stage 1



A focus on...attendance

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. Schools in partnership with parents work to encourage and support regular attendance of students. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children. Just one days' absence each fortnight amounts to nearly one and a half years of absence from school by the end of Year 12.

While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as part of their duty of care, record and monitor part and whole day absences. Communication of information about attendance to parents is also part of our responsibility. Schools, in providing a caring teaching and learning environment, which addresses the learning and support needs of students, including those with additional learning and support needs or complex health conditions, foster students' sense of wellbeing and belonging to the school community.

In our school context, there are 5% of students currently presenting concerns with an attendance rate of less than 85% this year. There are a number of factors which appear to impact on the data related to significant student absence, which have been consistent across years - mainly sickness, family holidays and special needs. Despite this fact, the data represents a large improvement compared to the same period of time last year, when 13% of students were identified as attendance concerns.

Families are encouraged to plan travel during school holiday periods. We also invite parents to work with teachers and Executive to plan supports for their children when they are experiencing difficulties attending school or getting to school on time. We hope to continue in our efforts to communicate openly and honestly about the issue of attendance and work together to ensure students get the most from their educational opportunities at our school.

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KLA Content Summaries

English

Both classes will continue with daily literacy groups, covering guided reading and writing sessions, sounds and sight words practice and independent reading and writing tasks. Teachers plan a variety of lessons to engage students at their literacy level.

Students will continue writing statements and questions each day using the weekly sight words and incorporating our phoneme focus. After writing informative texts last term, we will be moving to writing imaginative texts, and students will be identifying the differences between them. Students will identify that imaginative texts are about characters that are represented by nouns and noun groups as they write stories for a known audience.

Classes will incorporate speaking and listening across the key learning areas so no booklet will be issued this term for this part of the program. There will however be a short presentation by students in Week 6. Students will continue to learn some language of the local Dharug people and this content is linked to our learning in Geography. Communicating with classmates and adults, and expressing needs, likes and dislikes, will also be a focus.



Mathematics

Although students are covering new content this term, we will also further develop a number of concepts taught in previous terms, including 3D objects, fractions (understanding halves), multiplication and division (forming equal groups, sharing fairly) and ordinal numbers to tenth.

In Number, students will count forwards to 30 from any given number and backwards from any number in the range to 20. They will further develop their knowledge of quantity of number, using 10 as a reference for forming numbers 11-20. We will look closely at our monetary system and students will begin to recognise all our coins and notes.

In Measurement, students will identify the attribute of 'area' as the measure of the amount of surface. Our lessons in area will enable students to record area comparisons informally by drawing, tracing, or cutting and pasting, and by using numerals and words. Students will demonstrate how one surface is bigger than another by comparing shapes directly. Lastly, students will arrange objects to form a data display which will lead into displaying data in lists and tables.

Science and Technology

Our Science unit comes from the Physical World strand, which focuses on the physical characteristics of objects and the effects of these on how they move. Students will investigate how push and pull forces create movement - this introduces the fundamental concepts of force and motion. The key focus question guiding our teaching and learning is 'What causes objects to move in different ways?'. This inquiry will enable students to observe the way a variety of familiar objects move, for example sliding, rolling, spinning and bouncing. We will look at the effects of push and pull forces on familiar objects, for example changes in motion (starting, stopping, changing speed or direction) and changes in shape (stretching or breaking). We will participate in guided investigations to explore how particular objects move on land, water and/or in the air, and how these objects are affected by forces.

Geography

Students continue with their learning from Term 3, as we explore the places they live in and belong to. They will further develop an understanding of what makes a place special and how this may differ for different people. Students continue to learn about the importance of looking after places and explore how the location of places can be represented. We will engage in mapping exercises and investigate familiar and local places on maps. We will investigate our local upper mountains environment and have particular focus on areas of importance to our local Aboriginal community - identifying sites and discussing why they are important.

Creative Arts

In visual arts students will begin the term painting 3D wooden flowers. They will then study the sea and creatures that live there. The students will create a clay fish and draw, paint and print fish jumping in the sea.

In music students will continue to explore some elements of written music. They will sing a range of songs and accompany them with xylophones, recorders, and percussion. Students will build up skills and confidence with recorders, using simple melodies, repeated patterns and call and response. Part of our music lessons will be allocated to supporting students with individual and group performances for the Art and Music Showcase.



PDHPE

Safe Living and Personal Health Choices are our focus this term. Students will discuss and identify good hygiene practices, safe use and storage of medicines, talk about environmental factors that impact on their health and describe dangerous things they can see, reach and touch. Safety at school, in the home and in traffic will be covered.

We will be covering dance outcomes from the PDHPE syllabus. Fitness will continue with a focus on fundamental movement skills. Our sport of focus will be tennis. This will happen on Fridays.



Kindy Business:

Parent helpers are always welcome and greatly appreciated for our literacy groups program. If you would like to become involved, please contact your child's teacher.

Although we have a number of resources to engage students in our Geography unit, it is always beneficial for local people to contribute their knowledge on this topic. Please let us know if you are, or know someone who is, able to share information with our Kindy students about significant Aboriginal sites in the Blue Mountains.

A note about the Week 6 speaking task was sent home in Week 1. Please see your child's teacher for any further information.

Tennis will start on Friday in Week 3 and continue until Week 7. We have an expert professional tennis player coming to teach the students and we are all very excited to have her on board. There may be some disruption to morning groups on a Friday, as the whole of K-2 will have tennis lessons on this day. Thank you for being flexible if groups change and parent helper schedules are modified.

Home readers will continue to be sent home until Week 7, when they should be returned to class.



Important Term 4 Dates

24/10 – Farm Excursion

4/12 – Showcase

25/10 – Cricket Skills Clinic

5/12 – Parent Helpers Afternoon Tea

1/11 – P&C Meeting

9/12 – Level 3 Reward

4/11 – Principal's Assembly

9/12 – K-2 Christmas Concert

7/11 – Outdoor Classroom Day

11/12 – Presentation Day Assembly

19/11 – Fire Brigade Visit

13/12 – Student Reports go home

26/11 – P&C Meeting

13/12 – Kindy Party Day

29/11 – Stage 3 Fun Day

18/12 – Last Day for students

2/12 – Principal's Assembly

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