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# Glenmore Park



# Public School

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13 February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

## KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Glenmore Park Public School. We hope you and your child will enjoy a very happy association with our school and we look forward to the year ahead. The Kindergarten teachers for 2018 are:

**KD** Ms Dickenson (Assistant Principal)  
**KK** Miss Kotic  
**KR** Mrs Roberts  
**KW** Mrs Whiticker

### Communication

General communication will be via the School Newsletter which goes home fortnightly on Tuesdays. This newsletter will be available via the Skoolbag App or on our school website. Grade and class notes will be sent home as required, usually on Thursdays. Whilst in the early days of Kindergarten 'quick chats' may occur between teachers and parents or carers, please realise that teachers are keen to bring children into class as quickly as possible to commence lessons and speaking with parents at the classroom door is very disruptive for the flow of routines. Sometimes afternoons are more appropriate. For more involved conversations it would be best to make a mutually convenient time to speak privately with the class teacher. Please notify the class teacher in writing if there is any change to your child's arrival or departure routine or relevant family circumstances.

### Best Start

Best Start assessments provide Kindergarten teachers with information on each child's current knowledge in literacy and numeracy. These assessments have been completed and you will be provided with some written feedback this evening. The feedback suggests ways you can best support your child's future learning at home. Should you wish to speak to a teacher regarding your child's progress at any time please make an appointment via the front office, or a note to the class teacher.

### Studyladder – [www.studyladder.com.au](http://www.studyladder.com.au)

Kindergarten will be using a free version of Studyladder, an online educational program which allows children to learn at their own pace. Studyladder is a K-6 web based educational program designed by teachers. The program is curriculum based and covers Mathematics and Literacy. Your child has been given a username and password which can be used to access Studyladder. It is not compulsory for your child to use it at home, however regular access will help your child to reinforce what they have learnt in school. It will also help to build their confidence through practice. Studyladder does not allow student access to social networking. Your child will NOT be able to chat

with anyone via Studyladder. Go to [www.studyladder.com.au](http://www.studyladder.com.au) and login using your child's school username and password which has been provided to you. If you have any questions please see your child's teacher.

### **News Telling**

One of the regular class activities is the sharing of news. Each child has a turn once a week. Below the day that has been allocated to your child is marked. In Term 1, you can help your child to prepare for this with either a topic to talk about or something to bring in for showing eg. my family holiday or something to show eg. photos of an event, small toy. Set news topics will be introduced later in the year. On this note, however, it is important that children do not bring valuable or breakable (eg. no glass) items to school at any time (especially electronic toys), as it can be very heartbreaking if a belonging is broken or lost.

### **School Attendance**

School attendance is an important key to learning success. If your child is absent from school could you please send a note explaining the absence with the child on their first day back at school. This is a legal departmental requirement for our school rolls. Notes need to be handed to the class teacher. Partial absences will need to be explained. Requests for extended holiday leave will need to be applied for on a form available from the school office. Absence notes can be submitted via our Skoolbag App. Please contact the school office in the event of prolonged absence for illness.

### **Drop Offs and Pick Ups**

Please consider that just over 80 new Kindergarten children have begun school and the drop off and pick up around Kindergarten classrooms can become very congested in the mornings and afternoons. It would be appreciated if children enter the classroom as quickly as possible with their teacher. As you can see, there is not a lot of room for strollers and prams on the walkways so please park these to the side if possible. The children have been learning to line up on the dots outside the Kindergarten rooms. We request you to leave your child in the playground and move from the area so that duty teachers can supervise the children. The playground is supervised from 8.30am. Due to safety requirements the playground is a parent free zone. At the end of the day, parents should collect the Kindergarten children from inside the classrooms following the 3:00pm school bell. As children become more familiar with the school, children will be released from outside of their classrooms. If your child attends *after school care* please notify the class teacher so arrangements can be made to ensure your child gets to the bus lines safely and on time. Any variations to usual routines should be communicated to class teachers in writing.

### **Library/Book Club**

All Kindergarten classes will have the opportunity to borrow books from the Library. KD, KK, KR and KW will borrow on Thursdays. Children require a clearly labelled library bag for borrowing. Unfortunately children are not allowed to borrow if they do not have a library bag in which to place their books. Books should be returned each week on the allocated day. The Teacher Librarians will be logging the children into the Premier's Reading Challenge and all children are encouraged to read books from the book list which is available online. Details will be provided soon. Book Club is available twice a term. It is due the week following distribution and takes two-three weeks to be delivered. ALL orders are to be completed online. Information on ordering is included with the order form.

### **Sport**

Kindergarten Sport will be held on Wednesdays (every odd week) and children should wear their sport uniform. Children participate in the 'Sports in Schools Australia' (SISA) program which is very exciting and changes each term. It is taught by specially trained teachers.

### **Home Reading/Homework/Study Ladder**

We will commence the Home Reading Program in Week 5 of this term. Children will be given a clear folder which contains a reader to be 'read' with you, a reading log to record the books read (record each title once only), the sight words to learn, number cards to play games with and log on information for Studyladder. Folders are due back to class each Friday.

### **Uniform Labelling**

Children must wear a school hat during the day in the playground, and it should be CLEARLY LABELLED with their full name and class (as must all jackets or jumpers). All Kindergarten children need to have a change of underwear and socks in their bag for the year (also labelled) as accidents sometimes occur and school spares are limited.

### **Recess & Lunch**

Recess should consist of a small snack and/or a piece of fruit and a drink. Sometimes too many choices in lunch boxes can be confusing. Lunch is usually a sandwich or crackers and/ or a piece of fruit and a drink. All containers should be labelled with name and class. Children are encouraged to drink water from the bubblers when outside. Please refrain from sending items that require spoons to eat as they are very messy when spilt. No food in glass or tins please.

### **Crunch 'n' Sip**

Kindergarten children will participate in our whole school healthy eating program called 'Crunch 'n' Sip'. At a regular time each morning, children can eat fresh fruit or vegies (eg. apple slices, carrot sticks) provided from home (no tinned or processed fruits) and/or have a drink of water. Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions. Most children enjoy this special time in class.

### **Canteen & Money**

To begin the year, the teachers would prefer if Kindergarten children could refrain from bringing money to school. Excessive money should never be brought to school. The canteen is a popular venue and soon the children will be keen to 'shop' at school. In these early days it is more important that children beginning school learn to play, make new friends and use the bathroom during break times rather than 'lining up' at the canteen. Many lack the responsibility to securely look after money. Money should be in a purse, wallet or secure plastic bag labelled with your child's name and class. Older siblings may buy for younger ones. If your child needs to order their lunch please write the order on a lunch bag with your child's name and class, the order and the amount of money enclosed and leave at the canteen before school. Please let the class teacher know if your child has a lunch order.

### **Money**

All money for school activities should be taken to the front office in a sealed and named bag or envelope and dropped into the slot before school rather than taken to the classrooms. Online payments are also available. The link can be found on our school website.

### **Kindergarten Excursion**

The Kindergarten Excursion will take place on Thursday 30 August (Term 3). We have booked a visit to Calmsley Hill Farm. More information will be provided about this later in the year.

## Allergies & Asthma

For health reasons, we discourage any sharing of food at school and ask that you refrain from buying food for other children at the canteen. **PLEASE NOTE:** We now have a number of children in our school who have a condition called anaphylaxis whereby coming into contact with certain products can cause them to become dangerously ill. The main offending products are nuts and seafood, or sometimes egg, so it is vital that children **DO NOT BRING these foods or foods that have associations with the PRODUCTS INTO THE CLASSROOM.** We cannot stress enough how important this is and how ill a child can become simply by someone having a peanut butter, egg or Nutella sandwich in the classroom. **Any children having special health issues should be highlighted to the classroom teacher.** Children who suffer from asthma should carry a puffer in their school bags and this also should be brought to the attention of the class teacher.

## Classroom Supplies

Thank you to the parents that have already sent in the school supplies for their child. We welcome donations of suitable craft supplies at any time during the year including whiteboard markers, coloured papers, glue sticks, paper towels, tissues, stickers etc. Each child should have the following items:

- 4 glue sticks
- Large box of tissues – to share with the class
- 4 whiteboard markers
- paint shirt or apron with name
- liquid soap
- Packet of paper kitchen towels

We look forward to a wonderful year of learning with you and your child. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year.

Julie Dickenson

**ON BEHALF OF THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS**

Natalie Mansour

**PRINCIPAL**