



Spring Farm Public School

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February 2017

Term 1 Week 3

Coming Soon 2017

Twilight Swimming Carnival, Friday 10 February at Camden War Memorial Pools 6pm - 8pm

Parent teacher interview Tuesday 14 March & Wednesday 15 March

Class Leader elections Weeks 4 & 5 Term 1

Uluru Class assembly - Badge Induction ceremony, Thursday 2 March, 2:15pm in the hall

Please refer to the school's website calendar for more events

Dear Parents and Carers,

Congratulations to everyone for a smooth transition to Spring Farm Public School. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all returning and new students and families to the 2017 school year.

We will begin the 2017 school year with 10 mainstream classes and 1 Multi-Categorical (MC) support class. We have a growing community and for this reason we place students in **temporary** classes and school structures while our school population stabilises and school enrolments are lodged with the Department of Education in Week 3. It is only then that we are given our staffing entitlement and permanent classes will be announced.

All classes in each stage will deliver the same curriculum themes in the early weeks. Your child had been placed in their temporary class taking academic and social needs into consideration by teachers and stage supervisors. Kindergarten have been placed in classes according to orientation observations.

Class placement is a complex processes especially in a growing community, with class sizes set by the Department of Education and school structures must take these policies into consideration when forming classes. If student numbers increase we will need to form another class or classes and therefore student movement may happen. The school has put a lot of thought and forward planning to prepare for an influx of

student enrolments, especially mid-year when a lot of new houses will be completed and families are moving into the area.

Class structure at Spring Farm Public School

In New South Wales public schools, the curriculum and syllabus is separated into 4 Stages – Early Stage One (Kindergarten), Stage One (Year One and Year Two), Stage Two (Year Three and Year Four) and Stage Three (Year Five and Year Six).

Within each Key Learning Area, there is a clear outline of what is expected of students in each Stage. Teachers use syllabus documents to plan and implement appropriate learning experiences for the students in their class.

Within each class, our teachers identify where each student is at in relation to the syllabus through consistent and thorough assessment, planning, lessons and evaluation. Learning and key concepts are then differentiated in order to support each student. Teachers manage workloads for a range of ages and abilities in any given class, whether it is a class that is a single grade or stage classes.

The stage outcomes for each syllabus are designed to be a sequential build up of skills that increase in complexity and depth as students progress through school.

Spring Farm Public School will continue to have stage classes or cross stage classes as they have a number of benefits to students. Teachers are able to focus on individual student's academic and social needs. They can

plan fluid academic movement for all students in their class. Stage classes provide opportunities for students to broaden their friendship bases and be clear role models to others in their class. These type of classes will assist with the new enrolments throughout the year without disrupting existing classes. More information can be accessed on this link:

<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/wcm/connect/25cb2fe5-c5f4-4ce8-920c-6b4b108bb30a/parents-guide-2015.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=>

Current Teachers, classes and staff

Teachers & Staff	Stage	Name of Class
Mr Jance	Principal	
Mrs Pereira	Early Stage One-Kindergarten	Perth
Mrs Pearce	Early Stage One-Kindergarten	Perisher
Mrs Evans	Early Stage One-Kindergarten	Eaglehawk
Mrs Kelly	Stage One	Kakadu
Mrs Creber	Stage One	Cairns
Miss Delli-Fiori	Stage One	Darwin
Mrs Hawker	Stage One and Two (2/3)	Heart
Miss Duncombe	Stage Two	Daintree
Mrs Berry	Stage Two & Three (4/5)	Bondi
Miss Urry Assistant Principal (AP)	Stage Three	Uluru
Mrs Morris	Multi-categorical class MC	MCG
Mrs Scuteri	School Learning Support Officer (SLSO)	MCG
Mrs Cox	School Learning Support Officer (SLSO)	
Mrs Branks	School Learning Support Officer (SLSO)	
Mrs Neal	Senior Administration Officer	
Mrs Mills	School Administration Officer	
Mr Berry	General Assistant	
Mrs Eljed	School Counsellor	
Mrs Pickford	Speech Therapist	

Parent Teacher Interviews

The school will be conducting Parent Teacher interviews on Tuesday 14 March from 3:30pm to 7pm and Wednesday 15 March 2017 from 3:30pm to 6pm. This is an opportunity to discuss with the class teacher, your child's needs and goals for the year. More information will be sent to you closer to the dates as you will be able to schedule interview times online.

Morning Routines

Due to safety concerns, **parents and carers are asked to keep the walk ways clear so that teachers can organise their classes from 8:55am.** Once the morning bell rings I ask that parents and carers stand behind the **witches hats, say their goodbyes** and leave as soon as possible as this can minimise separation issues with students.

Whole school assembly will be every Monday morning. We will sing the national anthem, give reminders about the week ahead and provide recognition of any achievements. Parents, relatives and friends are welcome to stay and join us in our assembly and sing the anthem with us.

Please be mindful, when anyone is addressing the assembly or when students are singing the national anthem, that **we all display good role modelling by being respectful and courteous in these formal occasions.**

On Thursday morning we will have a quick whole school assembly to provide reminders especially for PSSA (Primary Schools Sports Association) teams competing on the Friday.

Once the morning bell rings on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, students are expected to line up and their teacher will take them straight into their class to begin the morning routine. This is an important time to settle in the class and focus on the learning ahead. We are working to establish successful morning routines so that all of our students and teachers are focused on their teaching and learning.

If your child **arrives late, from 8:55am onwards** they require a late pass from the school office, before going to their lines or classroom.

Structured pick up time

I ask for all parents and carers to keep the walk ways clear so that Stage 1 to 3 classes can settle in the green zone and Kindergarten can settle in the school hall.

Seeing your class teacher in the morning

Like in any household, the morning routines can be hectic and busy. This is the same for teachers who are setting up their class and preparing for the day ahead. It is vital that all students are getting a good start in the morning as this can set the tone throughout the day. Therefore, I ask if you really need to see the class teacher in the morning please make it as quick as possible **and limit going to the class teacher when the morning bell rings as they have a duty of care to be with their students and take them into their class safely. Trying to discuss matters with the class teacher when they are supervising their class at lines is difficult as they cannot give you the appropriate one-to-one time to address your concerns. If there is a pressing matter, please email or phone the school with your concerns and this will be passed onto the class teacher who will be able to address as soon as possible.** This provides the opportunity for the teacher to fully assess and clarify any issues in a less hectic environment.

One of the reasons that we have had structured Pick Up Zones after school is for the opportunity for parents or carers to see their class teacher on a regular basis and address any issues or concerns. This afternoon time is also an opportunity to book any phone or face to face appointments to address any concerns with the class teacher or simply have a chat about your child.

Spring Farm Public School is a Nut Aware School

We aim to minimise the risk to children with documented allergies to nut products. We have some students who are anaphylactic and require their EpiPen injection if they have contact with these type of foods.

How can you help?

Avoid, or use ‘nut free’ alternatives to the following products:

- ❖ Nuts
- ❖ Peanut butter
- ❖ Nut spreads such as Nutella
- ❖ Fruit and nut bars and muesli bars
- ❖ Biscuits
- ❖ Chocolates and any other products that have nuts listed in the ingredients

The school acknowledges that it is impractical to ask parents not to send food which states ‘may contain traces of nuts’ on the label. This nut aware policy applies

to those ingredients specifically listed on the product label.

Consider the ‘Nut Aware Policy’ when sending birthday cakes for student celebrations.

Spring Farm Public School request that if you choose to celebrate your child’s birthday at school, you send in something that is a single serve such as mini cupcakes, donuts, cookies or a healthy alternative which can be given out at the end of the school day. Parents can then decide if they want their children to eat it or not. Please be mindful of the students who may have allergies when you make the food selection.

All Parents are asked to support the school’s Nut Aware Policy by:

- ❖ Being sensitive and supportive to the needs of students with a history of anaphylaxis.
- ❖ Providing children with healthy food options that do not contain nuts.
- ❖ Encouraging children to wash their hands before and after eating.

General Parking

We ask that Parents and Carers obey the street parking signs accordingly that surround the school and park a safe distance from the Bus Bay and School Staff Parking gates.

We encourage parents and carers visiting to enter the school via Barley Road entrance.

Kiss and Ride area: We have dedicated the South entrance of the school, Harland St, as our “Kiss and Ride” area, where Parents and Carers can pull up and allow their children to alight from the vehicle safely, see them enter the school grounds and continue on their way.

Bus Bay: The bus bay at the front of the school along Barley road is for Busabout Buses and OOSH transport buses only.

Before and After school care

At present, parents and carers have been organising their own before and after school care arrangements and have been utilising services such as Narellan YMCA or Scally Waggs at Camden. As the enrolments grow at Spring Farm Public School, it will be viable for the school to apply for Before and After school care. However, to start the process, the school requires 35 to 40 students to attend Before and After School care for 5 days a week. Please fill out a survey from the school office indicating

your interest for this service.

Voluntary Contribution fees

The school and P&C worked together to set voluntary fees which help the school purchase i-pad apps and pay for various online subscription such as Wushka (online home reading). Please follow the instructions below on how you can pay your fees for the year.

Per family: 1st child \$44
2nd child \$33
3rd child \$22
4th Child Free

PAYMENTS ONLINE

It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the school's website by selecting the tab **\$ MAKE A PAYMENT**. The school's website address is www.springfarm-p.schools.nsw.edu.au and is printed at the top of the school newsletter.

Items that can be paid include all excursions, sales to students (e.g. Book Packs), Sport and Creative and Practical Arts activities. There is also a category called Other which can be used to cover items not covered in the previous headings. Book Club is the only payment that **cannot** be made using this system. Please continue to pay directly online to Scholastic.

When you access the \$ Make a payment you must enter:

- the student's name, class and date of birth .

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. There is also the option to enter the student registration number, reference and invoice number but these details can be left blank.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is confirmed. If you are paying on the closing date of an excursion or activity **the permission note must be received in the office by the closing date to ensure participation in the excursion or activity**. Online payment **must** be made before 6pm on the closing date to ensure inclusion. Multiple payments may be made for the same student but a separate online payment must be processed for each individual student. Parents are not charged a fee for these separate transactions. There is an option to email and/or print receipts.

Details of the payments are passed to the school the day following payment where they will be receipted against your child's account. As a receipt has been issued from the online payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school. It is a legal requirement that a signed permission slip for all activities is provided and the online receipt number should be written on the permission slip.

For any enquiries regarding the Parents Online Payment process please contact the School Administrative staff.

Air Conditioning

The last of the air conditioning units in Miss Urry's and Mrs Berry's class will be completed on Monday 13 February 2017. I would like to thank **HavenAir** info@havenair.com.au for their commitment and flexibility to install most of the air conditioning units before school started.

Class assembly

For 2017, each class will host an assembly every third Thursday from 2:15pm in the school hall. Details of which class will be hosting the assembly can be found in the calendar section from the school's website. This assembly is an opportunity to hand out the school's merit awards or present any other major awards. It also allows the class to present small items or skits to the community. All parents, carers, family and friends are welcome to attend.

Class leaders

During Week 4 and 5 of Term 1 2017, students from Kindergarten to Year 5 will have the opportunity to run for class leader. Badges will be presented at the first class assembly on Thursday 2 March 2017, 2:15pm in the school hall.

Parents and carers will be sent a letter stating that their child will be receiving a leadership badge at the class assembly. You will have the opportunity to pin the badge on your child.

Canteen

Late last year Fresh Made secured the canteen tender for the school. Their menus can be accessed on the school's website. As it gets busy in the morning with lunch orders and serving breakfast, we ask that students purchase their breakfast between 8:30am & 8:50am and leave the blue zone straight away and join their friends and class in the green zone.

Adult toilets in the school hall

Due to child protection laws, we ask that all parents or carers who need to go to the toilet or need to take their toddlers or young children to a toilet, please use the hall toilets rather than the student's toilets. There is also a provision for visitor restroom / parent feeding room.

Police and Rangers

Highway police and parking rangers will visit the school throughout this term to provide advice about parking around the school.

P&C meeting

The next Spring Farm Public School's P&C meeting will be on **Thursday 23 February at 6.30pm** in the P & C Programming Room. All parents and carers are welcome to attend.

Each newsletters will be published at the end of week 3, 6 and 9 of each term.



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