



Kentlyn Public School | Georges River Road | Kentlyn 2560

PO Box 5222 Minto, 2566 | Phone: 4628 2455 - Fax: 4628 4365

kentlyn-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Thursday 1 February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome Back

Welcome back to what promises to be another fantastic and rewarding year at Kentlyn Public School. I am pleased to say that we all had a great holiday, are recharged and ready to start our year with 121 students. I am confident that our mantra of "Together We Can" will ensure that 2024 is a year of growth, learning and memorable experiences for all 😊

Staff Changes 2024



Mrs Michelle McTavish was appointed as a permanent member of staff at lovely KPS at the end of December through a merit selection process. Mrs Kendall Robinson will also be joining us in 2024. Other members of staff that will continue to join our KPS team on various days in 2024 are Mrs Emily Kuoppala, Miss Tamara Parry and Mrs Marisa Brcic. I know that you will join with me and make them feel welcome 😊

Classes and staffing for 2024

We will be starting the school year with five classes. We will have 121 students.

KB	Ms Coral Bartlett
1E	Mr Andrew Elvis
2/3R	Mrs Kendall Robinson
3/4D	Mrs Melissa Davenport
5/6M	Mrs Michelle McTavish

Deputy Principal - Mrs Sarah Harris

Assistant Principal Curriculum and Instruction - Mrs Kaytlyn Macaulay

Relief from Face-to-Face teacher - Ms Carol Ward

Ms Ward will be on personal sick leave starting from Week 3 of Term 1 and will continue her absence until the end of the term. We all wish her a swift and full recovery during this time.

School Learning Support Officers: Mrs Denise Killeen, Mrs Lisa Mammoliti, Mrs Nea Minter, Miss Indiana Crowe, Mrs Chloe Jung and Miss Sarah White.

Office staff: Mrs Karen Macey and Mrs Michelle White

Cleaners: Mr Samit and Mr Harry Wright

General Assistant: Mr John Bird

Extra Gardening Maintenance: Mrs Rebecca Hall and Mr Steven Macey



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At Kentlyn Public School we utilise a number of balancing criteria to ensure the classes formed are in the best interests of ALL students. Please know all staff took special care to place each child in a well-balanced class in order to foster successful learning. We form classes carefully to ensure an even spread of girls and boys, where possible, with a range of learning abilities and social attributes and we take into account the social and emotional needs of all our children. It is our responsibility as teachers to ensure that we cater for your child's individual needs and that we are differentiating the curriculum to cater for those needs. Your children may not be in the same class as their best buddies this year, but you can use this as an opportunity to talk with your children about the wonderful opportunity to develop new friendships as well as building on existing relationships. Emphasise the positives, rather than focusing on the anxieties that may be associated with change. I'm confident all of our children will have a terrific year of learning and working together with our fantastic, dedicated teachers.

Kindergarten students:

A very big welcome to our 20 new kindergarten students. They will all be starting 'big school' on Wednesday 7 February 2024, however, will be coming in on various dates for their one day transition and Best Start evaluations. Both Ms Bartlett and another staff member will be supporting the students during this time. Ms Bartlett will be administering the Best Start testing in the KB classroom. All 2024 Kindy parents would have received a reminder note with their allocated Best Start date. If you have not received yours, or not quite sure, please contact the school office for assistance on 02 46282455

Notes to parents

This week you will be receiving a 'bundle' of notes regarding various administrative procedures for your child. Most of these notes will not require any money, simply your written permission for your child to participate etc.

Please ensure that you have completed each 'bundle' for each of your children and it is returned to your child's teacher by Friday 9 February 2024. (Please do not separate the notes from the bundle) This is especially the case with using the oval as we cannot allow students to play on it until all permission notes have been returned.



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Canteen Update:

We are in desperate need for parent volunteers

for our canteen to open up in 2024. **Our canteen days are Wednesdays, Thursdays and**

Volunteers

Needed!



Fridays. If you are able to assist on any of these days or any other day of the week please let myself or the ladies in the office know as soon as possible. Training will be provided and you will always be rostered on with another member of our community so that there is always two of you on duty. We need the Kentlyn Community Spirit to come through for us once again, and I know

that we can do it 😊

Remember that we now have the Spriggy Schools app for both school uniforms and canteen orders. If you are not able to access the Spriggy Schools app to purchase your child's uniform, please come to the school office to order and pay for your child's school uniform.

More information will be provided in the notes bundle that will be handed to each student on Thursday 1 February 2024.

Family Contribution School Fees 2024

The total cost of the Family Contribution Fee in 2024 is \$45.00. Remember that this is a 'voluntary fee', however, if you are able to afford it, very much appreciated 😊. The money raised this year will be used to purchase various necessary resources for our teachers to use in the classroom. Our goal is to raise \$4,000. The only way that we can achieve this goal is by families contributing their family fee as well as any other general donations that each family may wish to make.

Money Payments for 2024

We can accept the following payment methods:

- Parent Online Payment - through our parent online portal which will be effective toward the end of Term 1. More information to follow soon regarding this update. But for now:
- Cash
- * Pop Payment through the school website



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If you are paying by cash please ensure that money are handed in a sealed and clearly labelled envelope with your child's name, amount, class and what the money is for.

K-6 Assemblies 2024

Our K-6 Assemblies will continue to be held on Thursdays from 2:10pm – 2:50pm in our school hall.

Our first K-6 assembly will be on Thursday 22 February 2024, Week 4. Our KB students will join us in Week 6, Thursday 7 March 2024, so as to give them time to settle in to big school routines.

Thank you for your continued support.

Attached is also our "Proposed Classroom Requirements for 2024". It would be greatly appreciated if all students ensured that these items are brought in early Term 1.

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards,

Androula Kavallaris

Androula Kavallaris

Principal



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Classroom Requirements for 2024 – Kind Reminder

Dear Parents/Carers,

Classroom requirements for 2024 are as follows:

All Classes K-6

For the Classroom (to be shared)

- 2 x Boxes of tissues
- 1 x Paper towel
- 1 x Liquid Soap
- 4 x Glue Sticks
- 4 x whiteboard markers
- 1 paint shirt (old t-shirt also works well)

For Individual Students (all clearly labelled with their name)

- Set of earphones / headphones
- Homework book (4-6 A4 exercise book / K-1 scrapbook)
- Plastic A4 document wallet
- Library Bag

3-6 Classes

Pencil case containing the following (to be replenished by parents as required through the year): -

- 2 x HB lead pencils
- 2 x blue, red and black biros (once issued with a pen licence)
- 2 x highlighters (different colours)
- Coloured pencils or roll up crayons
- Coloured textas
- Eraser
- Sharpener (with catcher)

Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Thank you,

Androula Kavallaris

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Friday 2 February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE UPCOMING BUSHFIRE SEASON

I am writing to advise you of bushfire emergency arrangements for our school this bushfire season.

Our school is in a bushfire prone area and is listed as Category 1 on the NSW Department of Education's bushfire risk register.

To ensure the health, safety and welfare of students and staff, the department has determined that on days when NSW Rural Fire Service declares a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating, our school will temporarily cease operations for the following day. **Please continue to monitor updates via our Seesaw and/or COMPASS apps.** In addition, schools may be made non-operational due to changing higher risk conditions and advice from emergency services and the State Emergency Operations Centre.

We recommend that you download the [Parent App](#) and select to monitor advice from our school which will push notifications to you advising that the school is non-operational. We also recommend that you stay up to date with bushfire and grassfire activity by using the [Hazards Near Me](#) app (set a watch zone for your school area), and by monitoring local media. You can also review fire activity and alert levels on the [RFS](#) website.

The Fire Danger Rating does not mean there will be a bushfire, but rather weather conditions that could pose a high risk for a bushfire event. The measure is proactive to ensure staff, students and the community remain safe.

To ensure that we continue to support student learning on these days, I have put the following arrangements in place:

Students on this day are encouraged to:

- keep a journal of their experiences during the fire warning, including their thoughts and feelings
- read books or educational materials related to science, nature, or current events
- access work via our students Studyladder or Reading Eggs accounts
- draw/sketch or colour in – expressing themselves creatively
- spend some time playing with board games or puzzles
- cook or bake at home with an adult
- participate in some indoor activities such as dance by following steps from a YouTube video or watch a documentary



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- write/draw a safety plan on how they would evacuate in case of a fire emergency around their home
- play music and sing some songs; make their own instrument with various odds and pieces around the house
- think about others affected by the fires and find ways to help, such as preparing care packages for evacuees or donating to relevant charities. (charity and kindness).

Parents/Carers are also encouraged to access home learning packages, set by the department, which are available for all Kindergarten to Year 6 students. Kindergarten – Early Stage 1, Years 1 and 2 – Stage 1, Years 3 and 4 Stage 2 and Years 5 and 6, Stage 3.) These activities are set out in weeks with 5 days' worth of content. You may access these activities by clicking on the link below.

<https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/guided-learning-packages>

Our school will inform our school community after 4pm if there is a change to the operational status of the school for the following day. Please ensure that you have an active account with our Seesaw App and have access to our Compass Parent Portal app to further assist us with communicating and keeping you informed. If you need further assistance regarding connecting or downloading these apps, please contact the lovely ladies in the office to assist.

Further information on up-to-date communication of school operations, can also be found through:

- Seesaw and Compass Parental Portal apps
- NSW Department of Education's School Safety website: [education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety](https://www.education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/school-safety)
- NSW School Updates app: [education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/nsw-school-updates-app](https://www.education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-carers/nsw-school-updates-app), and
- social media.

We recommend that all our families follow the advice of the NSW Rural Fire Service and ensure that your family knows what to do if there is a fire.

It can take as little as five minutes to make your plan. Discuss it with your family so you know what you will do in the event of a fire. www.myfireplan.com.au

Please contact the school on 02 46282455 if you would like any further information about this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Androula Kavallaris

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Principal



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Dear Parents/Carers

SPRIGGY SCHOOLS APP

An online canteen and uniform platform for our whole school community

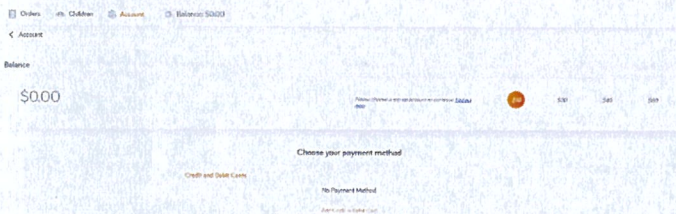
We are pleased to announce that our school canteen lunch orders and uniform shop will continue to be organised online through our Spriggy Schools App. Parents/carers have a choice of downloading the Spriggy Schools App or going straight to the Spriggy Schools Website to put their orders in.

<https://www.spriggyschools.com.au/>

Step 1:

Set up an account

Step 2:



Add your children in, along with any allergies they may have. There will be drop down boxes to choose Kentlyn as their school & also a list of classes.

Step 3:

You will have two options, you can either start with transferring money into your account or this can be done later when completing your first order. This works along



Orders Children Account Balance: \$0.00

My Children

Add your child to begin using Spriggy Schools!

the same lines as the 'toll accounts' do. You will be able to view your balance instantly and top up whenever required.

Step 4:

Select your child from the drop-down menu and choose **from either uniform shop or canteen** orders. You can order

and pay without requiring any cash or change.

Please note: Cut off times for lunch **orders will be at 9.05am each day**. So, please make sure you place your lunch orders before then. **You can also order lunches weeks in advance, if you know what your children love!**

With the uniforms, the lovely P&C ladies or ladies in the office, will organise your order and give it to your child to bring home.

For Term 1 this year, we will have a blended payment, **both the new online method** and the old traditional way of ordering via the order form and depositing money in the P&C account, for school uniforms and the lunch bag being handed in to the canteen for **lunch orders**.

Over the counter sales at lunch time will remain cash only and no frozen products will be sold via lunch orders. These are to be purchased over the counter.

Some feedback from our school community that have used the uniform and lunch order app to order lunch orders and purchase new uniforms was that it was 'easy and convenient' 'love it, so easy' and finally 'No cash required, happy with that'.

Thank you for your continued support.

Androula Kavallaris

Ms Kavallaris
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Dear Parents/Carers,

COMPASS, OUR NEW SCHOOL BASED SYSTEM- PARENT PORTAL LAUNCH

Please make sure that you are connected.

Our PARENT PORTAL was launched in December 2023. We are asking all parents/carers to ensure that they are connected so that you can be receiving our school related messages, notes etc. If you have not as yet connected, please call the office and the lovely ladies will assist you further. "Compass" is designed to streamline communication and continue your engagement with our whole school community. We believe that Compass will make your interactions with us more efficient, accessible, and enjoyable.

We will soon be launching our financial portal, which will allow you to make payments for any events/excursions that we have at the school, as well as digitally sign a permission note. We are hoping to launch this before the end of Term 1 😊

Some of the benefits of Compass are as follows:

Excursion Payments:

With Compass, paying for excursions is now very easy. You will no longer need to pay via our school portal, but directly through Compass. No more scrambling for cash or filling out forms. You can securely make payments online, ensuring your child doesn't miss out on enriching experiences.

Effortless Digital Permissions:

Signing permission notes for school activities is now as easy as a few clicks. Forget about paper forms; you can digitally authorise your child's participation in events and activities directly through the Compass portal.

Instant Parent Notifications:

Receive real-time notifications via SMS if your child is absent from school. Stay informed promptly and effortlessly, ensuring you're always in the loop about your child's attendance.

Parent Portal and Finance:

The Compass parent portal will serve as your gateway to a wealth of information regarding your child's academic progress, school activities, and important announcements. Additionally, it will provide a user-friendly platform for managing various administrative tasks, including finance-related matters such as fee payments, excursion bookings, and more.

We are excited about the opportunities Compass will bring to improve our communications across the whole school community.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the lovely ladies in the office during school hours.

Thank you for your continued support.

Androula Kavallaris

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Principal