



# TERM 1 OVERVIEW

## Bandalug (Kindergarten)



Welcome to term 1 of Kindergarten for 2025! This overview is designed to outline what our classes will be engaged in this term.

**Kindergarten Teachers:** Jessica Pickering, Prue Parker & Gabi Cowley

**Specialist Teacher/s:** Amy Pepper (PACH), Kristie Davies (Library), Lavy Oruganti (Music)

**School leader for Kindergarten:** Charissa Gosper

### GENERAL INFORMATION

- ❖ Drop off should not be before 8.45am as supervision is limited up until that time while teachers and learning support staff prepare for the day.
- ❖ If you arrive before 8.45am, you will need to wait with your parents/carers (juniors) or sit down in the senior courtyard (seniors).
- ❖ If you arrive later than 9.10am, you will need to sign your child in at the front office.
- ❖ Our 'Kiss and Drop' on Sherbrooke St operates for all students from 8.40-9.00am for dropping students to school and from 3.00pm for picking them up in the afternoon. Students in kindergarten to year 2 are assisted to get to their drop-off point in the morning and to 'Kiss and Drop' in the afternoon.
- ❖ Please do not drop students, without getting out of your car, at other areas of the school, particularly along Sherbrooke St. We understand that students may have to walk slightly further from the 'Kiss and Drop' area, but dropping them in other locations causes congestion for families who need to have the adult assistance getting out of the car and can cause safety issues with families walking and riding to school.
- ❖ Our break times will be:
  - ❖ In-class eating time - 10:50am - 11:00am
  - ❖ Break 1 - 11:00am - 11:45am
  - ❖ In-class eating time - 1:05pm - 1:15pm
  - ❖ Break 2 - 1:15pm - 1:45pm
- ❖ Please ensure that your child brings the following **labelled** items to school each day:
  - ❖ A sun smart hat
  - ❖ A drink bottle
  - ❖ Sensible enclosed shoes for sport/P.E

### MONDAY MORNING YARN UP

Every Monday, we have our whole school Yarn Up to start the week. All classes from Kinder to Year 6 will need to line up behind their class sign in the senior courtyard after the bell. Monday Morning Yarn Up involves the school sharing messages about lunchtime clubs, any upcoming events or other activities for the school and will be led by the year 6 Student Leaders (from later this term). It is

also a lovely chance for us to acknowledge students and staff and hand out certificates or ribbons from whole school events.

Students in Kindergarten to Year 2 should not go to the junior playground on Monday mornings but should head to the senior courtyard. Teachers from the junior school have practised with the students where they go and will be there to greet them on Monday mornings when the bell rings. We will also assist anyone who uses the Kiss and Drop area, or who catches a bus.

All students in K-6 can be dropped off to the senior courtyard from 8.45am and can place their bags behind the sign for their class. They can then play in the courtyard until the bell goes. When the bell goes, all students then sit in their lines and wait for the Yarn Up to start.

All classes then head off for their learning for the day from morning lines.

## COMMUNICATION

We would like to support families by reminding you about the best ways to communicate with us. Please read below to see the different reasons you may have for contacting the school and the processes you use for each situation. Just a reminder that messaging on Class Dojo is no longer being used at North Ainslie Primary School.

This week you will receive a fridge magnet with the best contacts as a quick and easy reference.

We update families on what is happening at our school in a number of ways from information nights, emails, notes, newsletters, and Dojo. We encourage you to stay in touch with what is happening in our school through these channels.

Remember that our front office is a vital part of our communication strategy and is often a great first port of call. The front office can be contacted:

- ❖ by phone on 61420760 or
- ❖ via an email to [admin@nthainslieps.act.edu.au](mailto:admin@nthainslieps.act.edu.au)

By using these processes, you also ensure the right information is getting to the right staff member in the most timely and efficient manner.

### *Staff responding to communication*

Communication with parents and carers is important to us and our staff will always work to get back to your enquiries within a reasonable timeframe. We aim to do this within three working days. There is no expectation that teachers respond to queries from families during their personal and family time. If your matter is urgent, please contact the front office rather than the classroom teacher. This will ensure we can get back to you as quickly as possible.

**COMMUNICATING WITH NAPS**

**ABSENCES**

- Use the **Parent Portal** (can be used for past, present and future absences)
- Email [absence@nthainslieps.act.edu.au](mailto:absence@nthainslieps.act.edu.au)
- Respond to the **SMS** from the school

**APPOINTMENTS AND EARLY PICKUPS**

- Please email the front office using the absence email address: [absence@nthainslieps.act.edu.au](mailto:absence@nthainslieps.act.edu.au)
- They will then communicate with their class teacher
- For an unexpected pickup, please phone the front office on **61420760**

**STUDENT SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

- For any information regarding your child, please contact their class teacher via email [first.name.surname@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:first.name.surname@ed.act.edu.au)

**FOR ALL OTHER ENQUIRIES OR CONCERNS**

Please contact the front office via phone or the admin email address (please do not use the absence email):

- Phone: **61420760**
- Email: [admin@nthainslieps.act.edu.au](mailto:admin@nthainslieps.act.edu.au)

## STAYING HOME IF UNWELL

We remind families that if your child becomes unwell to please not send them to school until their symptoms have resolved.

Unfortunately, short-term staff absences due to illness can have an impact on the way we run our schools – and in some cases schools may need to temporarily adjust the delivery of programs in order to manage. This may include minor adjustments to school timetables, split classes, a reduction in extracurricular activities, camps and excursions, or periods of larger group or supervised independent learning. Teachers may use online educational resources as part of their teaching at school.

These temporary adjustments support schools to ensure student learning is not impacted, and if any changes are made we will keep you updated.

## TERM 1 LEARNING FOCUSES

Below is a brief overview of our learning focuses for Term 1.

### English Focuses

- ❖ **Reading** - This term students will engage in modelled, shared and guided reading experiences. They will be exposed to a variety of rich picture books, decodable readers and predictable text with familiar vocabulary and images to support them to experience success. They will have opportunities to use predicting and questioning strategies and make connections between text and personal experiences.
- ❖ **Writing & Spelling** - Students will engage in a variety of modelled, shared and guided writing experiences. They will have opportunities to experiment with writing behaviours, such as writing letters of the English alphabet in upper and lower case (with a strong focus on formation and pencil grip) and experiment with the most common sounds by blending them to write words. Writing activities will be for a range of purposes and will often arise from personal experiences and books read in class.
- ❖ **Viewing** - Students will begin to understand the conventions of print and screen, including how books and simple digital texts are organised.
- ❖ **Speaking & Listening** - Students will have opportunities to engage in speaking and listening, both in informal group and whole class settings. Students will be encouraged to communicate clearly and provide detail when retelling events and experiences with peers and known adults.

### Kindy Home Reading Program

An important part of our English curriculum is our home reading program. We encourage you to read the home readers with your child each night. More information will be provided in the home learning pouch. We will also be commencing star words (high frequency words derived from the Oxford word list) which we encourage you to also revise at home with your child. Once your child has mastered a particular colour, they will move on to the next colour.

### Reading volunteers

We welcome parent/grandparent/special friend volunteers to the classroom to assist students with reading. This usually involves the children having some one to one time, taking a turn to read a home reader or high frequency words with you outside the classroom. If your child is settled at school we welcome you to stay after drop off, from 9-10am. Please email your child's teacher (letting them know what day suits) if you would be interested!

## Math Focuses

- ❖ **Number and Algebra** - This term students will focus predominantly on numbers to 10. They will have opportunities to count, sequence, subitise, make patterns and connections, practice forming numerals and engage in simple addition, subtraction and sharing activities. Students will be exposed to the language of ordinal numbers, such as first, second and third.
- ❖ **Measurement and Geometry** - This term students will explore 2D shapes and have opportunities to group, sort and organise objects based on common characteristics.

You can help your child with mathematics at home through practical, everyday activities, such as helping with cooking or by playing dice or card games, practising counting and identifying numbers in the environment.

## Unit of Inquiry

### ❖ Who We Are (Semester One)

Central idea: Understanding ourselves and our feelings helps us to express our emotions and communicate effectively.

Concepts: Function, Perspective, Responsibility

Lines of inquiry:

- The different feelings and emotions we can have.
- How we become aware of our feelings/emotions and make positive choices to support ourselves and others.
- The ways we can communicate and express ourselves effectively.

Approaches to learning: Social Skills & Communication Skills.

## Specialist Focuses






- ❖ **PaCH** - This term in Personal and Community Health (PaCH), students will learn about the importance of eating a variety of foods to help them Grow, Go and Glow. Students will have opportunities to learn about how plants grow and actively care for the school garden. They will also participate in the school's sustainability practices of recycling and composting.
- ❖ **Library** - In the Library this term Kindergarten students will be focusing on listening to stories and then sharing ideas and thoughts about the stories. They will also have opportunities to retell events from stories in small groups. Students are encouraged to borrow library books each week. On their library day, please send your child to school with a library bag to protect their library books.
- ❖ **Music** - During music this term students will use familiar and new songs to explore the following elements of music: tempo, dynamics, beat and pitch. We will investigate and experiment with different types of classroom instruments.

## TERM 1 CALENDAR






<p><b>Week 3</b> Mon 17 - Fri 21 Feb</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Getting to Know You Interviews</b> (Kinder to year 6)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 4</b> Mon 24 - Fri 28 Feb</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fire Evacuation Drill</b> (Tuesday)</li> <li>• <b>Principal Coffee Chat 9am</b> (Friday)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 5</b> Mon 3 - Fri 7 Mar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ILP Meetings</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 6</b> Mon 10 - Fri 14 Mar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Canberra Day Public Holiday</b> (Monday)</li> <li>• <b>Active Street Community Design Consultation 5:30pm</b> (Tuesday)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 7</b> Mon 17 - Fri 21 Mar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>School photos</b> (Wednesday and Thursday)</li> <li>• <b>Harmony Day</b> (Friday)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 8</b> Mon 24 - Fri 28 Mar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Principal Coffee Chat 9am</b> (Friday)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 9</b> Mon 31 Mar - Fri 4 Apr</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Progress Interviews</b> (Monday - Thursday)</li> <li>• <b>Kindergarten Hosting Assembly 12:30pm</b> (Friday)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 10</b> Mon 7 - Fri 11 Apr</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>School Cross Country Carnival</b> (Wednesday)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 1 (Term 2)</b> Mon 28 Apr - Fri 2 May</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Student-free Day</b> (Monday)</li> </ul>

## WEEKLY TIMETABLES

Specialists & Whole group events in **KJP** looks like:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		 <p>Library</p>	 <p>Music</p>	 <p>Assembly (Fortnightly)</p>
		<p><b>Mystery Reader # 1</b></p>  <p>Mystery Reader</p>	 <p>PaCH</p>	

Specialists & Whole group events in **KPP** looks like:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 <p>PaCH</p>	 <p>Library</p>	<p>Mystery Reader # 1</p>  <p>Mystery Reader</p>	 <p>Music</p>	 <p>Assembly (Fortnightly)</p>

Specialists & Whole group events in **KGC** looks like:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		<p>Mystery Reader # 1</p>  <p>Mystery Reader</p>	 <p>Library</p>	 <p>PaCH</p>  <p>Music</p>  <p>Assembly (Fortnightly)</p>

If you have any questions, please speak to your child's teacher. We look forward to a fun term of learning!

The Kindergarten Team

Jessica Pickering - [jessica.pickering@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:jessica.pickering@ed.act.edu.au)

Prudence Parker - [prudence.parker@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:prudence.parker@ed.act.edu.au)

Gabrielle Cowley - [gabrielle.cowley@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:gabrielle.cowley@ed.act.edu.au)

Charissa Gosper (School Leader) - [charissa.gosper@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:charissa.gosper@ed.act.edu.au)

*Please see the next page for information regarding the Mystery Reader program.*

February 2025

## Mystery Reader

Dear Kindergarten Families and Friends,

We are looking for Mystery Readers to share their love of reading with us this year. Each **Wednesday, from 2:30pm-3:00pm**, we will be welcoming a new Mystery Reader into Kindergarten to read to our classes. If you would like to surprise your student by coming to read to us, we'd love to have you. Here's the scoop on becoming a Mystery Reader:

### Who can be a Mystery Reader?

Parents, older siblings, grandparents, relatives, or other special people may volunteer to read/tell a story to the students. The goal is to remain a 'mystery' so that even your own student is surprised to learn who our weekly Mystery Reader will be. (So, shhhh it's a secret!) We ask that families only sign up one special person for their child initially. If we have spare space we will let you know later in the year.

### What does a Mystery Reader do?

Mystery Readers are welcome to choose any age-appropriate book to read to the kindergarten students. Some readers may select favourite stories from their childhood, others may bring props or costumes related to the story they read. No matter what you choose to do, we are sure that we will enjoy spending time reading and learning with you.

### How can I sign up to be a Mystery Reader?

You will find a list of available sign-up dates outside the Kindergarten classrooms (in the pick up area). Alternatively, if you cannot make it to the sign-up sheet, send your child's teacher an email with your top 3 available dates and we will try our best to accommodate your request. We will remind you of your allocated date/time (usually an email or an afternoon chat) prior to the day to confirm your visit.

Please see one of the kindergarten teachers or send us a 'Top Secret' note if you have any questions. Thanks so much for participating in this exciting program and sharing your love of books with our Kindergarten students.

We look forward to your time with us.

*The Kindergarten Team*

