



St Columba
Anglican School

Welcome to Kindergarten 2018



Welcome to Kindergarten at St Columba Anglican School.

The first few years in a child's education are important steps in developing a love of learning, and our role is to help nurture this passion and build confident learners in an environment that is safe, vibrant and challenging.

Kindergarten students at SCAS have a rich and varied program including excursions, incursions, assemblies and chapel, all designed to give them a sense of enjoyment and community. Co-curricular activities are also available to Kindergarten students, which offer many opportunities to develop a love of music and sport.

A very exciting year awaits, designed to promote and enhance your child's growth and development. This very important first year promises to be one filled with discovery and joy.

St Columba Anglican School is a wonderful place to be, with dedicated and talented staff. We firmly believe in the teacher/parent partnership and acknowledge that this can only occur through effective communication. Please feel free to talk to your child's class teacher about any issue or come in and see us. Our door is always open.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which reads "Terry Muldoon". The signature is written in a dark ink on a light blue background.

Terry Muldoon
School Principal



Day One 29th January 2018

What to Wear, What to Bring

Kindergarten students should arrive before 8.45am.

All Kindergarten students must wear their summer uniform including the school hat on their first day.

Students should bring a fruit snack, lunch, recess and a drink bottle. Lunch boxes and drink bottles must be clearly labelled with the student's name.

Kindergarten students will be met by teaching staff under the Shaded Outdoor Learning Area (SOLA), adjacent to the Kindergarten classrooms.

Please note: Equipment from the resource list for Kindergarten such as paint smock and headphones will not be needed until Thursday Week 1. Students will be given a SCAS library bag in the early weeks of Term 1.



Transitioning in Term 1 and School Hours

To assist students in their transition from preschool to "Big School" the following structure will apply for Kindergarten's first weeks of school.

Term 1

Weeks 1 - 4

- Week 1 Starts Monday 29th January 2018.
- Weeks 1 - 4 Children will not be attending school on Wednesdays. For these weeks, Kindergarten students will be attending on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Fridays only.
- Classes during Weeks 1- 4 will be held from 8.50am until 3.00pm.
- Children need to be collected from the SOLA at 3.00pm. (Please do not wait on the verandah).

- Children will be placed in their class group on the first day of school.

Week 5

- Classes from Week 5, Term 1 onwards will be from 8.50am until 3.20pm Monday to Friday. Children need to be collected from the SOLA or Kiss and Drop at 3.20pm. When you collect your child please ensure that they are supervised at all times.

Terms 2 to 4

- Classes in Terms 2, 3 and 4 will be from 8.50am until 3.20pm, Monday to Friday.
- Children need to be collected from the SOLA or Kiss and Drop at 3.20pm. When you collect your child please ensure that they are supervised at all times.



Outside Hours School Care

Before and After School Care is available. This is a fee based service offered by Columba Cottage Early Learning Centre. For further details please visit the Columba Cottage Early Learning Centre website at www.columbacottage.com.au or contact the Columba Cottage office on 6581 4433.



At Home With Your Child

In preparation for entry into Kindergarten, it is most beneficial for your child to have achieved the following:

Social

- Separates from parent without trauma, and has experienced extended periods of time away from parents.
- Puts toys away.
- Has played with other children and is learning how to share and take turns.
- Can stay within given boundaries.

Personal

- Is toilet trained.
- Dresses independently, including buttons.
- Uses a tissue when necessary.
- Can put shoes and socks on (not necessarily laces).
- Can open lunch box and drink bottle.

Educational

- Can draw a person with 3 - 4 recognisable features.
- Can hold a pencil and has some control when colouring in.
- Can recognise and print their own name, using lower case letters and a capital for the first letter.
- Can talk in proper sentences.
- Can follow two simple instructions put together.
- Can hold and use a pair of scissors correctly.
- Can stay at an activity for at least 10 - 15 minutes.

Preparation Checklist

Before starting, you will need:

- Uniform; please see the Uniform List for items required.
- A second hat is recommended in case one is misplaced. Due to health reasons we are unable to loan hats.
- School backpack (available from the Uniform Shop).
- Lunch box and drink bottle.
- Items from the Primary School Resource List.
- Label ALL their belongings clearly in writing they can read, making sure they know WHERE each item is labelled.
- Attach an easily recognisable key ring to your child's school bag.
- Read to your child regularly - this will encourage an understanding of books and a desire to learn.

On the first day of school:

- Talk positively about the first day.
- Pack a spare pair of underwear, socks and a change of clothes in a plastic bag. Let your child know these are in their bag in case they have any toilet accidents at school.
- Encourage your child to become increasingly independent by dressing themselves, packing/unpacking his/her school bag and identifying their own belongings.
- Apply sunscreen to your child each morning.
- Ensure your child is aware of who will be picking them up. To avoid any confusion, please write in the Diary on a regular basis. For example: Bus, Kiss and Drop or After School Care.



In The First Few Weeks

- Develop a routine as quickly as possible. Your child will be tired at the end of each day and some are extremely tired by the end of the week. Don't overload your child with lots of out-of-school activities. As much as is possible, maintain a regular bedtime.
- Make sure they have time to share with you at the end of each day. Don't ask them "What did you learn today?" Rather, be more specific, encouraging conversation, such as "Who did you play with? Did you draw a picture today? Did you learn a new sound today?"
- Refer to your child's Diary every day. This is an excellent form of communication, for both you and your child's teacher. Please sign the Diary daily and make sure it is in your child's bag every day.
- Help them to remember days when specific activities are timetabled eg. Library, Sport and News.
- The playground can be an extremely daunting place for your child. It takes time for children to establish friendships. You can help your child by giving them skills for approaching others and joining in play. Practise with them at home.



Food at School

Fruit Break

Each morning at around 10.00am students from Kindergarten to Year 2 stop for a five minute 'Fruit Break'. This is designed to encourage good eating habits and provides children with the opportunity to eat the healthy snack that may otherwise be left in the lunch box and not eaten. Please pack a small piece of fruit or vegetable cut up in a separate container.

Lunch and Short Break

- All students have to sit down and eat during the first ten minutes.
- Please send water in a drink bottle.
- Only pack food, which you know your child will want to eat. The children are encouraged to eat everything in their lunch boxes.
- Make sure that your child can unwrap his/her own food packages. Some commercial packaging is extremely difficult for children to manage and they can be too shy to ask for help. It is much easier for your child if you repackage the food into plastic seal-lock bags, or cling wrap.
- Don't pack them extra food 'just in case' - your child is busy at lunchtime socialising as well as eating. If the teachers feel your child is hungry, we will let you know.



Canteen

Parents can order their child's lunch by placing money in a paper bag with your child's name, class and food order written on it. We also offer an online ordering system, Flexischools, which allows parents to place food orders with payment that is completed online. To register for Flexischools, simply go to www.flexischools.com.au and click "Register Now". Please see the school website www.scas.nsw.edu.au for the up-to-date price list. Students can also bring money to buy snacks. Please remind students to be careful with their money and food and not to share these with their friends.

When lunches come home

Teachers on duty try to ensure that the students eat their packed food and do not throw away any unwanted food in the bin. Do not be too concerned if your child does not eat all their lunch to start with. Sometimes the excitement and having fun with friends distracts them from eating. Your child's eating habits may change but will settle into a routine.

Curriculum

The curriculum of Kindergarten (Early Stage 1) encompasses a wide range of skills and topics. Many of these are introduced in Kindergarten and further developed in Years 1 and 2 (Stage 1) and beyond.

English

Probably the most important knowledge children develop in Kindergarten is the understanding of the alphabet - letter names and the sounds they make. By the end of the year it is expected that children can blend the sounds together to read and write simple 3-letter words eg. cat, dog.

In conjunction with their developing knowledge of single sounds, children are taught basic skills of reading. It is vital that they realise that we read to get meaning from print, and they cannot do that at this stage without using picture clues. Children are encouraged to look at and discuss what is happening in the pictures. They will also begin to develop a knowledge of sight words - words which cannot be sounded out.

Maths

Much of the Kindergarten Mathematics curriculum involves practical hands on activities, in which the children develop understanding of concepts such as big/little, long/short, more/less, heavier/lighter, etc. It also includes the numbers 1 - 30, counting and matching groups, basic shapes and colours, and pattern making.

Other Curriculum Areas

History and Geography

Learning about our world and the environment, cultures, how people live, etc.

Science

Children are encouraged to look at why things occur the way they do. This involves problem solving (often in groups) and designing and making models.

Creative and Practical Arts

This includes music, art, craft and dance.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)

This includes games, gross motor skills, fitness, dance, healthy and safe living, nutrition and getting along with others.

Christian Studies

Kindergarten attend Stage 1 Chapel weekly. Christian Studies is also taught within the class, emphasising Christian attitudes, Bible stories and the life of Jesus.

Technology

Use of iPads, the computer and keyboard skills.

Homework and Other Expectations

- All children are placed into a House and many school activities involve inter-House competition.
- Buddies: Each Kindergarten child will be paired with a buddy from Year 6. These buddies support the Kindergarten children in the classroom during House activities, and in the playground.
- Uniform: Children are expected to wear full School uniform at all times. Kindergarten children wear their sports uniform on the appropriate days.
- Homework will begin late in Term I and will consist of the learning of sight words and daily reading of the home readers. This is a consolidation of what is taught in class.



Rewards, Assessment and Reporting

Rewards

All classes use a positive reward system to encourage the students.

When a child is given a sticker in class, they put these on a special card and when the card is full, they will receive a Principal's Award.

Class awards are also given for various outstanding achievements. Five Class Awards will also receive a Principal's Award.

Assessments

Much of the assessment in Kindergarten is done by teacher observation. At this stage it is often easier for children to verbalise their understanding of a concept. This also gives teachers more knowledge as to the child's depth of understanding.

Assessment and reporting is done with an 'outcomes approach'. Certain outcomes for each subject are expected to be reached by the end of each stage. That is, children are expected to have certain skills and knowledge by the end of Kindergarten (Early Stage 1), Year 2 (Stage 1), Year 4 (Stage 2), etc.

Students work through learning experiences that help them to achieve these outcomes. As children learn and develop at different rates, they also achieve the outcomes at different rates. It is not expected that they achieve the outcomes until towards the end of each stage. If a child demonstrates that they have achieved an outcome BEFORE the end of their stage, they are usually given work, which will extend and consolidate their knowledge within their stage.

Reports

Progressive reporting becomes available on the Parent Lounge throughout each term. An email is sent to parents when a new round of progressive reporting is released.

Formal academic reports will be issued at the end of Terms 2 and 4 via the Parent Lounge.



Parental Involvement

Your child would love to see you at School and your contribution to our School is needed, valued and appreciated. There are many ways to be involved.

In the Classroom:

Parents are invited to assist in our Kindergarten Reading, Maths groups and special activity days. Your teacher will seek volunteers as needed.



At School:

- Helping in the School Canteen
- Helping in the Library, covering books
- Helping with fundraising
- Offering a special skill or expertise such as coaching a sporting team, playing an instrument or sharing job information
- Parents and Friends Committee
- Class parents

How we keep you informed:

- School website and Parent Lounge www.scas.nsw.edu.au
- SCAS App available for iPhone and Android phones via download
- SCAS Express is the weekly newsletter sent out via email
- Emails
- Parent Information Sessions
- Parent Teacher Interviews - Terms 1 and 3 as well as other times by appointment
- Progressive Reporting and Semester Academic reports at end of Term 2 and 4
- Notes through the Student Diary
- ClassDojo - a communication site specific to each class

Student Diary:

Each child in the School is given a School Diary for them to keep a record of homework. Parents are expected to sign the Diary each night.

For Kindergarten children, it is unrealistic to expect them to maintain a Diary, so its main purpose is a method of communication between the teacher and parent. It is a helpful way of keeping in touch with how your child is coping at school, as well as letting the teacher know of any concerns you may have.

The Kindergarten teachers recognise the need to maintain regular and open communication with the parents. As a matter of courtesy, however, parents are kindly asked to make an appointment with their child's teacher should they wish to discuss any matter.



Primary School Contact

Primary Office	6581 4188
Primary School Email	primaryschool@scas.nsw.edu.au
SCAS Website	www.scas.nsw.edu.au
Canteen	6581 4188
Enrolments	6581 4188
Noone Uniform Shop	www.noone.com.au

Please Note: It is strongly advised that all Kindergarten uniform fittings are done by appointment. Please contact the Uniform Shop to book your child's uniform fitting to avoid delays when purchasing.



Absences

Please notify prior to 8.50am via one of the following avenues:

- SCAS App (available for download on iPhone and Android phones - search 'SCAS' or 'St Columba')
- Parent Lounge (link available via the School website www.scas.nsw.edu.au)
- Email to absence@scas.nsw.edu.au

Before and After School Care

During school hours contact Columba Cottage on (02) 6581 4433. Outside of school hours please call 0488 214 433.

Primary School Office Hours

Primary School Office hours during Term: Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.00pm. The Primary School Office will close on Friday 8th December 2017 and will reopen on Monday 22nd January 2018.

School Front Office Reception Hours

Front Office hours Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.00pm. The School Front Office will close on Friday 15th December 2017 and will reopen on Monday 22nd January 2018.

NSW Foundation Style Handwriting

These are the letter formations used in NSW Schools:

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff

Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll

Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr

Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx

Yy Zz

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Please encourage your child to write their name using a capital followed by lower case letters.



Term Dates for 2018

Term I, 2018	
Commences	Monday 29 th January for Kindergarten, Years 7, 11 and 12 New students in Years 1 to 6 'Meet the Teacher' from 2.00pm to 3.00pm New students in Years 8 to 10 meet their Year Patron from 2.00pm to 3.00pm Tuesday 30 th January for all other years
Concludes	Friday 13 th April
Public Holidays	Easter: Good Friday 30 th March; Easter Monday 2 nd April
Term II, 2018	
Commences	Monday 30 th April
Concludes	Friday 29 th June
Public Holidays	Queen's Birthday: Monday 11 th June
Term III, 2018	
Commences	Monday 23 rd July
Concludes	Friday 28 th September
Term IV, 2018	
Commences	Monday 15 th October
Concludes	Wednesday 12 th December Please note: School Office closes on Wednesday 19 th December

Kindergarten Class Times

Monday to Friday	
Morning Session	8.50am to 10.50am
Long Break	10.50am to 11.40am
Noon Session	11.40am to 1.40pm
Short Break	1.40pm to 2.10pm
Afternoon Session	2.10pm to 3.00pm Weeks 1 through 4 2.10pm to 3.20pm Week 5 onwards





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