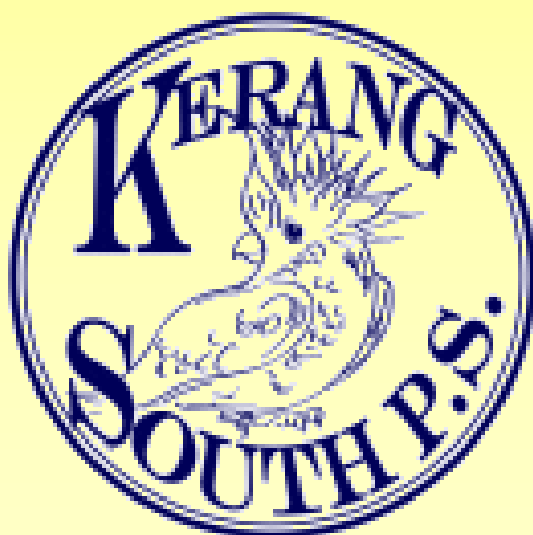




Kerang South Primary School 4949



Information Book

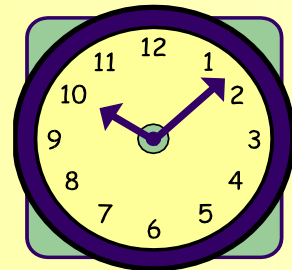
GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL DETAILS

School Name:	Kerang South Primary School	
Location:	Mitchell Street, Kerang	
Postal Address:	P.O. Box 67, KERANG, Vic. 3579	
Telephone:	03 5450 3900	
Email:	kerang.south.ps@education.vic.gov.au	
Web Site:	http://www.kerangsouthps.vic.edu.au	
Facebook Page	Kerang South Primary School (public page)	Private Group: KSPS Parents
Principal:	Lyn Veall	
Business Manager:	Stacey Fernee	
School Council President:	Scott Bourne	
Parents Club President	Ailie Grainger	

SCHOOL HOURS

8:30 a.m.	Yard duty begins
8:50 a.m.	First session begins
10:50 a.m.	Morning recess
11:20 a.m.	Middle session begins
1:20 p.m.	Lunch
2:10 p.m.	Mindfulness
2:20 p.m.	Afternoon session begins
3:17 p.m.	Preparation for dismissal
3:20 p.m.	Dismissal



TERM DATES 2026

Term 1 starts	January 27*
Term 1 finishes	April 2nd
Term 2 starts	April 20
Term 2 finishes	June 26
Term 3 starts	July 13
Term 3 finishes	September 18
Term 4 starts	October 5
Term 4 finishes	December 18

Our Prep students DO NOT attend school on Wednesdays throughout February.

* The first day of Term 1 is a pupil free day on January 27th—it is the first day for teachers.

Transition Information 2026 For 2027 Preps

- **Prep Come and Try—Thursday 7th May—2pm**
- **First Foot Forward sessions** - Wednesday 27th May, Wednesday 10th June, Thursday 30th July
- **Parent Information Session**—Wednesday 18th November 2:15pm—3:00pm
- **Transition Day 1** Friday 27th November 9:00 am—12:00 pm
- **Transition Day 2** Wednesday 2nd December 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- **Transition Day 3** Tuesday 8th December 8:50 am – 12:00 pm
(Step Up Day – Whole School)

TERM DATES 2027

Term 1 starts	January 27*
Term 1 finishes	April 2nd
Term 2 starts	April 19
Term 2 finishes	June 25
Term 3 starts	July 12
Term 3 finishes	September 17
Term 4 starts	October 4
Term 4 finishes	December 17

* The first day of Term 1 is a pupil free day on January 27th—it is the first day for teachers.

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Our VIBE (Values, Intention, Behaviours, Expectations)

At Kerang South, we believe that every child is able to thrive as a learner. That's why we work together to help every child achieve to their full potential and be good citizens. We welcome all students and our staff strive to teach to their individual needs in a safe, caring and inclusive environment. Everyone who enters our school comments on the warm and welcoming feeling, the friendly and engaged students and the vibrant classrooms. We fondly refer to this as our VIBE.
Lyn Veall (Principal)

VISION (Intention)

Each individual at Kerang South thrives as a learner.

- Committed to growing academically, socially and emotionally.
- Valuing curiosity as they explore and question the world around them.
- Proud of the respect and support given to each other and the community spirit lived each day.

VALUES

At Kerang South Primary School we value:

RESPECT: We respect what and how we achieve, the relationships we have and the opportunity for these to evolve.
(The umbrella value that the following sit under)



LEARNING: We are open to learning and using feedback to improve.

GROWTH: We encourage each individual to grow and to be active decision makers in preparation for an evolving future.

RESPONSIBILITY: We are responsible for our own learning and behaviour, and its impact on others.

INCLUSIVENESS: We provide an inclusive environment where every learner has access to quality teaching.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT: We welcome all learners and the diversity that builds the vibrancy in our community.



V Values

I Intention

B Behaviours

E Expectations

The Respectful Relationships program (incorporating the You Can Do It! program) is an integral part of our culture. The foundations of Persistence, Confidence, Getting Along, Organisation and Resilience have been adopted and are promoted throughout the school. These 5 foundations are essential for achieving success. We are also a Better Buddies and eSmart school (Alannah & Madeline Foundation) and adhere to all government Child Safe standards.

Kerang South is committed to providing the highest quality education for all in an environment that cares for and nurtures our students, staff and families.

We demonstrate this commitment by encouraging students to:

- Reach their full academic, social and physical potential in a fair, positive and consistent environment.
- Develop a good understanding of all key-learning areas, particularly literacy and numeracy.
- Value learning and growth and show a commitment to improving their learning outcomes.
- Develop a sense of self-discipline and pride in their work and their play.
- Respect the rights of other students, staff and visitors.
- Provide equal opportunity and equity for all members of the school community.
- Develop qualities and life skills such as responsibility, communication, independence, inquiring minds, resilience, problem solving, team work and creativity.
- Prepare for their next stages of learning by building on their strengths and experiences.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROFILE

Kerang is a busy service centre for the immediate and wider farming district. It has extensive sporting facilities, a large range of community services and a stable population of about 2500.

Kerang South Primary School, which opened in 1967, is situated in the southern area of the town. Its enrolment is presently around 105 and approximately one quarter of the students travel in by bus from the surrounding district.

At present, the buildings consist of an upgraded main wing, 6 spacious relocatable classrooms, children's toilets, an art / music room, Science / Respectful Relationships space, tutoring room, well equipped library, a fully enclosed basketball court and multi-purpose shed, 3 large covered outdoor learning areas, several store sheds and a Physical Education equipment store. The impressive grounds incorporate a large oval and new basketball court, attractive gardens with extensive shade structures and outdoor learning spaces, bike shelter, fitness track, a large variety of play equipment and pirate ship cubby sandpit area. Access to the town's facilities, such as the swimming pool and town library, is usually achieved by bus.

The school enjoys the active support of parents and the local community. Kerang South Primary School is part of the Southern Mallee Network of schools and often engages with other schools in exciting educational activities and teacher professional development initiatives.



GENERAL INFORMATION

MEMBERS OF THE STAFF FOR 2026

Teacher:	Role:
Lyn Veall	Principal, Indonesian Teacher
Tania Sutherland	Classroom Teacher, Grade 5/6 S
Kevin Tilley	Classroom Teacher, Grade 2/3 T
Jeannette Teasdale	Classroom Teacher, Grade 4/5 T - Learning Specialist / Assistant Principal
Narelle McGowan	Classroom Teacher, Grade 1/2M
Kym Daghish	Classroom Teacher, Grade Prep D
Jason Williams	Physical Education & Science Specialist
Meredith Jones	Art and Wellbeing Specialist
Tara McKenzie	Music & Tutor Program Specialist
Stacey Fernee	Business Manager
Karen Manuel	Integration Aide & Support / Library
Dianne Moon	Integration Aide & Support
Chloe Simons	Integration Aide & Support
Kate Todd	Integration Aide & Support
Veronica Martens	Integration Aide & Support
Sharon Garner	Teacher Aide
Kerang Commercial Cleaners	Contract Cleaners
Ross Nesbit	Mowing Contractor
Alan Gillingham	Gardener
Thumula Kumarasinghe	Technician

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The school council has many important functions such as managing the financial affairs of the school, the employment of staff, the maintenance of the buildings and grounds and deciding the education policy and priorities of the school. All parents are urged to help with the formulation and review of school policies. Council usually consists of 12 members - parents, teachers and co opted community representatives, and half the membership retires annually. School council elections are held each year and all parents of children at the school are encouraged to nominate for office and to vote at the elections. The council meets on the 4th Monday of each month. Parents are welcome to attend the school council meetings as observers.

Members and Office Bearers

Jon Ferguson	
Kevin Tilley	Matt McKenzie
Scott Bourne (President)	Peter Szabo
Gary Maconachie	Kym Daghish
Jeannette Teasdale	Lyn Veall (Executive Officer)
Cass Hicks	Rodney Sitters

The **Parents Club** is active in fundraising for the school through a variety of activities. President - Ailie Grainger

STRATEGIC PLAN / ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Kerang South Primary School is self-managing, though it has to run within guidelines set by the Department of Education Victoria (DE). Our curriculum programs are largely governed by the Strategic Plan which sets out the school's goals and priorities. Our school is in the 1st year of the School Strategic Plan (SSP 2025-2028), which is based around the two FISO key improvement strategies (KIS):

1. Optimise the learning growth of every student in literacy and numeracy

KIS 1a - Refine, document and embed a consistent approach to diagnostic, formative and summative assessment to inform differentiated learning.

KIS 1b - Further develop, document and embed whole school collaborative approaches to curriculum planning and instructional approaches.

KIS 1c - Embed opportunities for student agency across curriculum areas and learning tasks.

2. Optimise the wellbeing of all students

KIS 2a - Document and embed multi-tiered systems of support that enhance student wellbeing, attendance, engagement and inclusion.

KIS 2b - Build all staff capability to respond to the wellbeing needs of individual groups, especially those at risk of disengaging, or those with special needs.

SCHOOL POLICIES

Staff and School Council review school policies and programs in accord with the needs of DET (Department of Education), the School Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan. Parents may be consulted as part of the process. At Kerang South, we follow the Victorian Curriculum, with Maths, English and STEM being a strong focus.

CURRICULUM PROGRAMS

ENGLISH

Reading, writing and speaking and listening are all linked, as in real life. Purposeful activities and explicit teaching are carried out at all levels requiring children to write and to talk about actual experiences and imaginative adventures. Over recent years, we have been very successful at implementing best-practice Early Years Literacy strategies—reading, writing, speaking and listening—throughout all year levels through a 2 hour literacy block each day. We pride ourselves on our ability to teach its students to read, understand, appreciate and communicate!

Writing

When writing, children are encouraged to try to use new words to extend their vocabulary; and so at the first-copy stage, less importance is placed on spelling. However, the significance of correct spelling for the final copy is emphasised. The school has adopted formal writing and spelling programs such as **SMART SPELLING**, which is supported by **THRASS** principles (Teaching of Handwriting, Reading and Spelling Strategies) and **Words Their Way** (Grade 5-6 explicit spelling program). This has improved the continuity of writing and spelling programs. The school has also developed a plan for the explicit teaching of different and increasingly-complex writing styles (genre) to the students. **Writer's Notebook, VCOP (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers, Punctuation) - Cold Write and Big Write** are incorporated throughout the school.

Reading

In junior grades (Prep to 3), children read sequential readers, large and small picture-story books and a variety of other materials. Through **consistent daily practice**, students are assisted to develop a love of reading, a knowledge of phonics [alphabet and sounds], an ever-expanding sight vocabulary and most importantly, comprehension skills. They learn to identify and use word families and to gain meaning from words by reading them in context. **Buddy reading programs** also operate on a weekly basis with the Prep/1 and Grade 5/6 classes. Students participate in **SQUIRT, shared reading and partner reading**.



In the upper school (Years 4 to 6), reading should be mostly **independent**, but some children still need to be taught specific decoding and comprehension skills. At this level, students learn to read critically and appreciatively by reading books from a variety of sources.

At least once a week, children at all levels work with a teacher for a session of **Guided Reading**. During this structured reading session, a small group of children read the same text, discusses its contents and also their reading strategies. Teacher-guided discussion develops and assesses each child's level of understanding of the text.



A **library program** operates where students are able to browse and borrow books from our extensive collection of books. Naturally, children are encouraged to love and enjoy good books, and to read for recreation and information.

Language intervention and extension programs are also run by specialist teachers and teacher aides such as reading, speech and oral language programs.

Speaking and Listening

Students from Prep to Grade 6 are explicitly taught how to speak in front of a group and audience. This may include **Show n Tell** and formal speaking activities such as the **Lions Club public speaking competition** (Grades 3-6).

MATHEMATICS

Children actively **measure, weigh, count, estimate and calculate, graph, draw and describe their solutions to real problems**. **Fractions, decimals, geometric shapes, area, volume**, etc. are all taught and used in practical situations. Of course, a growing knowledge of **tables and number facts** and **problem solving skills** are vital to the whole process. Formal and abstract computations are taught as understanding develops.



Mathematics is a core subject and an ongoing priority. The school uses **Booker, Michael Ymer planners and Powerpoints** to sequence lessons each term according to the Victorian Curriculum and the **KSPS Teaching and Learning Model** to plan detailed lessons. To complement the **explicit teaching, rich maths tasks** have been developed across all year levels. We have purchased many new teaching and learning aids and are extremely well resourced.

Through their growing involvement in both the Early Years and Middle Years Numeracy initiatives, teachers are introducing new practices to their mathematics teaching. From time to time, teachers conduct information sessions to help acquaint parents with the current ways by which children are taught mathematics. Teachers have undertaken significant professional development and followed this up by adopting a program to ensure that all facets of mathematics are covered in the primary years. Since our involvement as a Department SIP lead school from 2018-2021 in Maths, we have been using **Essential Assessment** throughout the school.

We have teachers trained in **EMU Maths**. EMU stand for Extending Mathematical Understanding.

WELLBEING

Learning and wellbeing go hand-in-hand at Kerang South. Ensuring our students' wellbeing needs are being met is so important to us because when students are emotionally in the right space, they are able to learn.

In 2021, Kerang South was considered one of the top performing schools in our region and at a state level as a result of our high growth on the students' Attitudes to School Survey, and we have been able to maintain this positive data.

WELLBEING TEACHER

At Kerang South, we have a specialist wellbeing teacher who teaches **Respectful Relationships** from Prep - 6 and also coordinates our wellbeing supports (internal and external) for students.

Our wellbeing teacher also **works with small groups** on identified areas of need e.g. friendships, resilience, getting along etc.

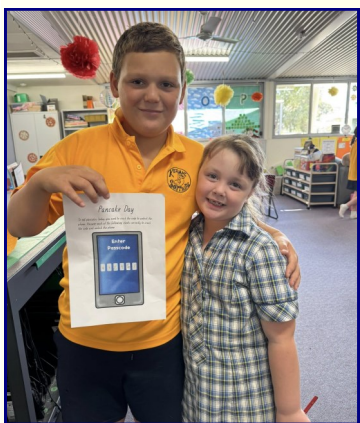
LOUIE - OUR WELLBEING DOG



In 2021, **Louie** joined our school as our **wellbeing dog** in training. He is a gorgeous Spoodle, chosen specifically for his calm temperament with children and also because his fur does not affect allergies. His role at the school is to support students and staff with wellbeing and he makes us smile. Louie has a staff and **student support group** who help with his training and looking after him whilst he is at school. The student support group are senior students who have had to write an application as to why they should be chosen for this important job. **Louie spends time in all classrooms** and gradually his time will build up until he is full time with us. He also meets and greets students with the principal before school at the gate.



Our school is **affiliated with Dogs Connect**, who provide professional learning for staff and help us with all of the training for Louie so he is able to work safely and successfully in all areas of the school. We love having Louie at the school.



BETTER BUDDIES SCHOOL

Kerang South is a Better Buddies school where students are nurtured to build resilience and care for each other. The **Alannah and Madeline Foundation's Better Buddies Framework** is an initiative designed to create friendly and caring primary school communities where bullying is reduced. **Each Prep is paired with an older child in Years 5 and 6** who, as a buddy from the first day of school, cares for the child and helps with any adjustment to school life. Each pair engages in regular pre-planned activities. Students in other grades are also buddied up and engage in buddy activities once or twice a term.



TEACHER BUDDIES

As a part of our wellbeing program in the school, all students have been assigned to a **teacher buddy** (a teacher other than their class teacher). Several times a term, the buddy teacher has a special lunch with their buddies and also regularly checks in with their student buddies to make sure that everything in the yard and classroom is going well following up with any issues arising. Regular notes are kept to track each student's wellbeing and engagement.

DAILY MINDFULNESS

Every day after lunch, all of our grades do mindfulness. This is to teach students how to focus, calm their minds, take notice of how they are feeling and self-regulate and generally to give them some time each day to relax, recharge and revive ready for their learning. Activities include meditation, Smiling Minds activities, mindful colouring, listening to audio books, yoga and other mindful activities. Some rooms have calming music playing and the lights dimmed and the rooms are quiet and calm.

CURRICULUM PROGRAMS

LANGUAGES - INDONESIAN

We provide the opportunity for all students to learn about the **Indonesian** language and culture. A **specialist teaches Indonesian to Preps - Grade 6** and informal lessons are taken by class teachers. Additionally, children in each classroom are encouraged to practise basic Indonesian language—names of days and months, greetings, counting numbers and common objects—and in doing so, assist the integration of the language throughout the school and community.

MUSIC

The school runs a **specialist music program** to encourage the creation and appreciation of music. Forms and structures, rhythms, dancing, singing, and percussion instruments are all part of the enjoyable program. The children are encouraged to participate in various performances e.g. singing Club, Rhythm and Voice Workshops, Carols by Candlelight, Northaven activities etc. as well as the school's weekly assemblies. In 2020, **KSPS received \$1500 class set of African drums** after staff completed the training for African Drumming. This is beneficial for developing social skills, communication skills, fine and gross motor skills, and it also assists with many cognitive and emotional needs. It is a wonderful stress reliever and a means of improving confidence and self-esteem. Drumming is also therapeutic.



ART

Students are involved in creating wondrous works of visual art with a wide range of 2 and 3 dimensional materials with an **art specialist teacher**. They are encouraged to express themselves and appreciate the beauty of form, shape and colour. A well-stocked art room and activities within the school's Integrated Curriculum Plan support this program. Students, from an early age, are also taught how to create and manipulate art works using digital technologies.



HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The school recognises the strong link between achievement in P.E., enhanced self esteem, a healthy body and the adoption of useful leisure pursuits. Kerang South has a **strong P.E. program** with a **specialist teacher**. The **fitness, motor-coordination and social skills** of its students often show up in advanced skill development.

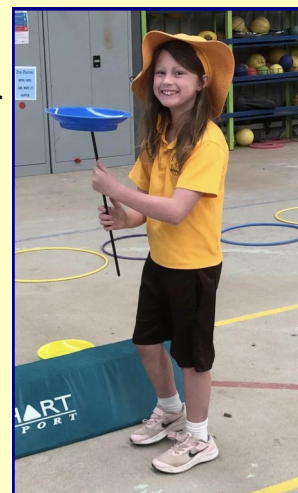
The school also recognise the importance of helping children feel good about themselves and developing positive social skills. It runs a whole-school program called **Respectful Relationships**. This program incorporates **'You Can Do It!'** that focuses on the teaching of skills and values related to success. The 5 foundations of success are persistence, organisation, getting along, resilience and confidence. Cybersafety and bullying prevention are also taught as well as **Protective Behaviours**.

All students participate in a diverse range of physical education activities including **swimming, gymnastics, athletics, ball handling and minor and major games**. Junior students are given activities to develop skills such as balance, hand-eye coordination, memory and self-confidence. Students in Prep-1 participate in **PMP (Perceptual Motor Program)** once a week for 3 terms to complement the P.E. program and support early development skills. Children are taught the **fundamental motor skills** i.e. to run, jump, catch and kick. Research has shown that the early development of these attributes improves the attainment of academic skills.

Students in the upper school have a **weekly sport session** through which modified major games are taught and practised. The school participates in most **district and regional school sports** and is often represented at state championships e.g. **cross country, athletics, swimming, winter sports**. Visits by major games skill development officers via **sports clinics** are encouraged e.g. basketball, hockey, football, badminton and athletics.



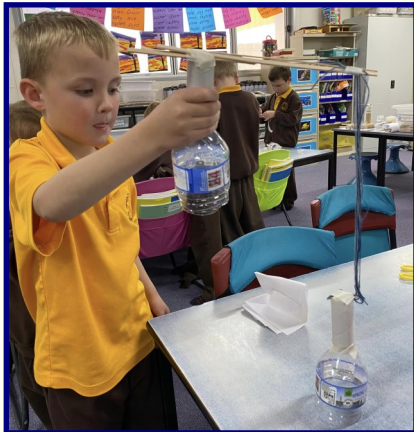
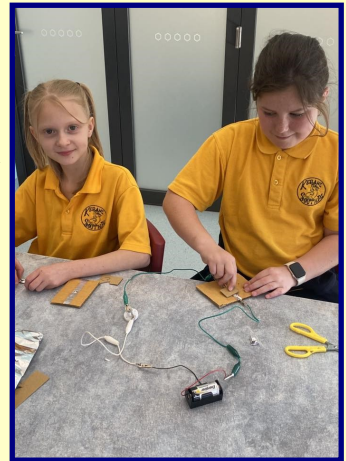
All children attend **swimming sessions** at the local pool — usually for two weeks during first or fourth term - plus several other days. Small groups are taken by teachers with swimming teacher assistance. Children are kept active and warm on cool days. Adequate sun protection must be provided on sunny days. All children are expected to attend swimming lessons and a written note is required for non-attendance.



CURRICULUM PROGRAMS

HUMANITIES, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ICT

This year, all grades are using the **Mappen** integrated studies program. These engaging units of work cover all areas of the curriculum with the exception of explicit numeracy and literacy. This sequentially-planned seven-year program ensures that each child experiences a broad range of learning experiences especially around the Victorian Curriculum outcomes in History, Geography, Economics (Gr. 5 & 6), Technology, Science and the capabilities (Ethical, Personal & Social, Intercultural, Critical & Creative Thinking). The aim is to help children understand themselves, understand society and their world, and know how they can participate effectively in a democratic society. It is inquiry based and seeks to develop broad understandings about the world that we live in. Teaching focuses on the development of knowledge, skills, thinking tools, values and actions.



Science

All grades from Prep - 6 follow the **Victorian Curriculum and Mappen** to teach Science outcomes. **This year we have a science specialist teacher.** Since we were chosen by the Department to become a **Primary Maths Science Specialist** school in 2016-2017, Science and Technologies have been a strong focus. Students in all grades have the opportunity to participate in hands-on science experiments, especially during National Science Week. Promoting and valuing curiosity in students is a part of our school vision.

Computers, iPads & Digital Technologies

Computers and iPads are used extensively across the school to complement and enhance, **not replace**, explicit teaching by staff. The school has over 150 computers, laptops, netbooks and iPads accessible to its students, 26 of which are located in the one room and the remainder distributed across the classrooms. In addition to this, **each Grade 3-6 student has their own iPad** for school and home use.

All the computers are networked and connected to laser printers and selected Internet resources. Students use the computers for a variety of purposes such as word processing, multimedia presentations, problem solving, data gathering, keyboarding skills, spread sheet analysis and desktop publishing. Teachers use computers for teaching and administrative purposes.



Each child has his or her own **Mappen, Essential Assessment and Reading Eggs** accounts and the ability to access a moderated suite of Internet resources. The use of both of these facilities is stringently controlled.

The school plans to replace its computers every three years. Students must sign a responsible user agreement at the start of the year. All classrooms have **interactive whiteboards**.

As a Primary Maths Science Specialist school, Kerang South has a strong emphasis on **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths)** from Prep-6 and has embraced the new **Victorian Curriculum subject, Digital Technologies**, which also includes **coding**.

Grounds and Environment Education

The school is very proud of its beautiful spacious grounds and visitors often remark on the lovely feel of the school as they walk around. Students, under the guidance of the staff, are encouraged to contribute towards the development and maintenance of the grounds, especially the gardens. Several areas have been redeveloped in recent years e.g. outdoor chess boards, cricket nets, shade sails, beach themed play area, quiet areas. Environmental Education is an aspect of Science that aims to teach children about the environment, sustainability and encourage their involvement in its conservation.

CURRICULUM PROGRAMS

EXCURSIONS & INCURSIONS

Excursions and incursions are a vital part of our curriculum. Please be prepared for the major excursion costs. These are usually:

Year 5/6	15 Mile Creek	Five days (Term 1 - Every 2nd year)
Year 5/6	Sovereign Hill	Three days (Every 2nd year)
Year 3-4	Melbourne / Halls Gap	Two-three days in Term 3 or 4
Years Prep-2:	Swan Hill or Melbourne Zoo	One day in Term 2 or 3

Other minor trips occur from time to time at little cost. Parents with a current Health Care Card are eligible for the CSEF which helps cover some of the cost.

When sufficient teachers are not available for supervision, parents may be asked to accept responsibility for groups of children. Most often, their excursion costs will be covered. The school prefers that parents who accept such a role are not accompanied by a pre-schooler.

S.R.C. - Student Representative Council - Promoting Student Voice

Representatives are elected from all grades in the school to sit on the **School Representative Council** in addition to our school captains. The S.R.C. discuss ideas and issues that have been brought up in class meetings and they also organise fundraisers.

Fundraising activities enable the school to contribute to selected charities. Emphasis is placed on supporting local organisations as a means of assisting the children to develop a social conscience.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students have the opportunity to participate in an extensive range of extra-curricular activities throughout the year. **Extra-curricular activities are extra activities outside the regular curriculum that complement our school programs.** Some examples are as follows:

- Sports Clinics e.g. badminton, A.F.L, hockey, basketball
- Mother's Day and Father's Day activities and stalls
- Rotary Spelling Competition
- Rotary Junior Leadership Program
- Lions Club Public Speaking Competition
- Arts Performances
- Excursions, Incursions and Camps
- Sleepovers
- S.R.C., selling mementos for the R.S.L.
- Book Parade and Book Competition
- Special Events e.g. Anzac Day, Remembrance Day, Better Buddy Day, Day for Daniel
- Guest Speakers
- Dress Up Days e.g. Olden Days, Easter Parade, colour days, Halloween.
- Special Local Days e.g. Emergency Services Day, Reconciliation Week, Rhythm and Voice workshop.
- GRIP Leadership Conference
- Tabloid Sports
- Clean Up Australia Day
- Fresh Fruit Friday
- Fundraisers
- Graduation
- Gardening
- Cooking
- Swimming
- Royal Flying Doctors
- Active Youth Program



REPORTS

REPORTS AND INTERVIEWS

Kerang South Primary School implements an on-going method of reporting student progress to parents. Throughout each term, **portfolio activities** are compiled by the teachers and students and placed into a **Work Sample Book**. These are sent home at the **end of each term** and the book of reports is then returned following the term holiday. Over the course of the year, a comprehensive picture of each child's achievement is collated.

Parents also receive the **half-yearly Student Achievement Report in June and December**. This report indicates overall achievement in each of the Victorian Curriculum learning areas (subjects). As well, the report includes information about such things as how the teacher plans to further assist the student, activities that parents can do at home, the child's attitude to learning, social abilities and practices, work habits and the extent of conformity with school policies, school rules and other expectations. In May, students in Years 3 and 5 will participate in the **National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)**, which gives a snapshot of performance on nationwide tests in the areas of Maths and English.

A **parent-teacher interview is organised for each student early in the year and in June**. Parents, teachers and students meet formally to discuss matters concerning student achievement and welfare and to set long and short-term goals. Interviews can be arranged by request at other times, and are encouraged if parents or teachers are concerned about a child's progress. Please send a note so that a mutually satisfactory appointment may be arranged. Parents are invited to attend the school on other occasions to join in discussions about the curriculum with members of staff and outside consultants.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

COMMUNITY USE OF GROUNDS AND FACILITIES

The school welcomes community use of grounds, buildings and facilities. Preference will be given to organisations connected with the school or community, or groups involving Kerang South children. Outside bodies are expected to meet costs of power and lights and to sign a formal agreement regarding conditions of use.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

Helpers and volunteers working in the school need to have a **Working with Children Check**. This is a part of our compliance with **Child Safe Standards**. Application forms are available from participating Australia Post outlets or by submitting the Application Forms Request form on the web site. The Working with Children Check is free for volunteers in schools. Please check with the post office or online.

PARENTS CLUB

This is a dedicated group of parents / guardians of students who meet regularly to organise a variety of fundraising activities that directly benefit the students and school community. The **Parents Club** can provide an opportunity for parents to not only become more involved in school life, but to also **build friendships** with people who share common interests and concerns - namely the education of their children. This committee is a highly valued organisation within our school that performs an extremely significant role in the **raising of both funds for children and school community spirit**. Over the past few years, they have fundraised essential funds to supply our school library with a number of new picture story books and fiction books for all of our students to enjoy as well fun family events like a good ole bush dance—where the whole family can join in!



PARENT ASSISTANCE

The school needs the assistance of parents with many of its functions. Parents help with the hearing of **reading, preparation of teaching aids e.g. covering books, the typing of stories, sports coaching and providing support for many programs e.g. Fresh Fruit Friday, Parents Club fundraisers, sports days, working bees, uniform store, P.M.P.** Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to help in any special way and volunteer as befits your availability.

Should you possess some particular skill, or have a great interest in some special area that you would like to share with the children (not necessarily your own child's age group), please let us know. We appreciate all the help that's offered! If you have something interesting happening at work or home e.g. a new baby or pet, an overseas visitor or an item that complements a current theme, please let us know so we can make use of the opportunity.

SCHOOL RULES

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The school's aim is to provide a safe, secure environment for everybody and at all times. Its large playground, varied play facilities and the students' easy access to plentiful sports equipment usually ensures a happy playtime and the consequent development of important abilities. Our KSPS Statement of Values, Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy and Inclusion and Diversity Policy outline the expected behaviour and expectations for students, parents and staff.

Teachers use a wide range of rewards and incentives to encourage appropriate behaviour - and they usually work well.

In the classroom, the children set rules with teacher's guidance to ensure a safe and productive working environment. (student voice). A sense of ownership for the rules is deemed as being very important to their acceptance. The consequences for breaking a rule are usually

- 1)a warning, and if necessary
- 2)a detention for failure to heed the warning (pink slip).

In the yard, generous praise is given to children playing happily, wearing a hat in summer or performing helpful tasks such as gardening and tidying the grounds. Giving recognition is known to encourage the development of a responsible and cooperative attitude. A child who breaks a rule usually receives a warning and this is often sufficient to arrest any misbehaviour. However, for the very occasional serious breaches, such as fighting, automatic detention and removal from the playground is incurred. **Peer mediators wearing fluoro orange vests** are available to help sort out minor problems.

The school is proud to boast that our children have an excellent reputation for behaving very well. However, occasionally some students find themselves making the wrong choice. Usually, they are referred to their teacher or the principal and their parents are informed of their misdemeanour. Suspension may result in cases of extreme misbehaviour.

LEAVING THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Children who arrive late or leave school for any reason must be signed in and out via **Sentral** at the office. A reason must also be included. Students may go home for lunch by arrangement with parents. However, **a note MUST be sent to the office each time this is to happen.** For students who go home each day, one note per year will suffice.

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION

Children are supervised **from 8:30 a.m.** (arrival of first bus) until 3:40 p.m. Teachers on duty supervise children during recess and lunch periods. Bus travellers are supervised until the departure of the last bus. **Children should not be sent to school before 8:30 a.m. because supervision is not provided prior to this time.**

Contrary to popular belief, the school is not a public place. It is government property !

People may not enter the grounds or use the facilities without permission.

Parents are required to directly supervise their children at play in the school ground after hours. Children must be instructed to stay away from the buildings and not to indulge in any behaviours contrary to those normally expected of a student at the school.

Parents whose children enter the school grounds without permission or direct supervision and cause damage to property will be requested to compensate the school for the damage.

All yard duty teachers wear high visibility vests and carry first aid kits.



CAR PARK

For obvious safety reasons, the car park within the school grounds is out of bounds to all students. Parents may not use the entrance to, or the park itself, as a drop off point for their children. **For safety reasons, children are not permitted to enter or leave the school ground using the car park gate.**

USING THE CROSSING

When collecting or dropping off children, please remember these rules:
Listen to the crossing supervisor at all times.

- ◆ When a child is dropped off, or collected from, the opposite side of the road to the school, he or she must use the school crossing.
- ◆ If a child lives on the opposite side of Mitchell Street or needs to walk south along Garvey Road, he or she must use the school crossing to cross the road, and
- ◆ Parents are required to use the school crossing and the road in accordance with the laws of the state and local bylaws.
- ◆ Parents are expected to model safe practices to the students with respect to the crossing of the road.

BANNED ARTICLES

At times students bring items along to school which are deemed to be unsafe or likely to cause problems. Items such as pocket knives, roller blades and roller skates, skate boards, toy guns, boomerangs, aerosol cans (due to asthma / allergies) etc. must stay at home. If students need mobile phones for travelling to school, these must be stored in their bag or handed into the main office for safe keeping until the end of the day (Mobile Phone Policy). All personal items that are brought to school are the students' responsibility. Personal property brought to school is not covered by DET insurance.

CONTACT WITH THE SCHOOL

GENERAL INFORMATION

Parents are welcome to contact the school by **telephone, in writing, via Sentral or in person** at any time. Class teachers also have their own communication groups with parents. All teachers, including the principal, have teaching duties which cannot be neglected. If wishing to speak with a member of staff who is unavailable, the business manager will take a message or arrange an appointment. In the case of a concern with school policy, program content, matters affecting the safety of the school or its students and staff, or a potentially-damaging rumour, please contact the principal immediately.

Social media, such as Facebook, is a wonderful way to keep in touch with what is happening when it is used in a positive manner. Always think about your moral purpose when posting any comments. **Kerang South has its own Facebook pages (KSPS Parents private group)** which can be used for general communication by the school and to find out what is happening. Just make a request to join our page. **However, it is not a tool for communicating with individual teachers, parents or students.** We also have a public **Kerang South Primary School** Facebook page to celebrate our school and share information with the wider community (not for private communication purposes)

The school also has Sentral which is a free school app that is used to send instant messages, notifications, newsletters and updates direct to parents' phones, tablets and computers. Brochures are available at the front office.

Staff will endeavour to answer emails, phone calls, Facebook and Sentral messages as soon as practicable during work hour breaks outside of teaching times. Messages sent outside of work hours may be answered the next day. For urgent messages, please ring the office.

ABSENCES

The Department of Education requires notification of the absence of any child within a day, including a reasonable reason for the absence. Attendance records are subject to an audit i.e. absence notes are matched with attendance records. Extraordinary and unauthorised absences can affect the level of funding received from the government for the school's operation. In addition to this, the Department's new program "Every Day Counts" states that more than 5 unapproved days of absence by a student can attract a fine. Your cooperation in seeing that your children attend regularly is requested. Of course, continual attendance has a very positive effect on achievement! Staff may make a care call to check on absences.

Our preferred method for parents to send in absence notes is via the Sentral app, which can be downloaded for our school.

LATE ARRIVALS

Students who arrive after the first bell at 8:50 am are considered late arrivals and need to sign in online via the front office. Late arrivals to class can be disruptive to the learning and teaching in the classroom and lateness doesn't allow the child the opportunity to unpack and organise their materials before classes begin. All students are expected to come in before classes begin (when there is a teacher in the room) and organise their materials for the day ahead.

LUNCHES

Lunch orders are only available on Wednesday of each week. Lunch orders are placed in classroom tubs before 9.00am each Wednesday. Students may buy drinks, snacks and ice confections over the counter at recess time on Wednesdays. Children who forget their lunch will be given something to tide them over until they arrive home.

SCHOOL BANK

School banking is **no longer available** in government schools from 2021 (DET decision).

SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS AND BULLETINS

All notices, newsletters, etc. are sent home with the YOUNGEST child in the family. Our newsletter, **South News**, is sent out digitally and in paper form usually on **Tuesdays**. **Parents should check that it has been sent home** for it contains important information about school activities. Other notices are sent home as required. Having an arrangement at home for the efficient delivery of school communications e.g. a special box or clip on the fridge—is highly recommended. The newsletter may also be accessed through the **Sentral app, Facebook and email** (if requested). Parents may lodge an advertisement in South News for a small fee.

BUSES

Children who reside more than 4.8 kms. from school may travel to and from school by bus. **Buses are organised by Kerang Technical High School** but should any child wish to travel by bus for a short period e.g. overnight or for a

GENERAL INFORMATION

weekend, a **bus permit MUST be obtained** from Kerang South's office. A note or phone call from home is needed.

Children travelling by bus are supervised while waiting in the yard. A roll of travellers is marked daily by the bus captain and then endorsed by the teacher on duty. The roll then travels with the students on the bus and in the care of the driver.

NOTE: Bus travellers need to be very clear about parents' intentions when a change to normal travel is planned. The school does not want to hold up a bus to search for a child who has been taken home by a parent and the fact has not been reported. **A note is required from a parent confirming a change to normal practice.** When it's not possible to furnish a note, please notify the office or the teacher on duty if your child will not be travelling home by bus. Please, do it personally. The bus captain should always be notified when a student is not travelling on the bus.

An annual conveyance allowance of up to \$300 per student is available to parents who travel more than 4.8 kms. to reach the closest bus stop. Parents whose children do not attend the closest school and travel into Kerang, will be charged a fee in advance of the travel and access to the bus is dependent on its payment and the availability of a seat.

STUDENT BOOK PACKS AND SCHOOL COUNCIL CHARGES

Families will be required to purchase their own student book packs/stationary requirements through a special school online portal. It's just an updated way for us to order student supplies for each child specific to their grade level - the prices and items will be similar or less compared to previous years. Book packs will be delivered to the school for each student at the start of the year.

The portal also includes other contributions you can make to the school, which are outlined below. Your ongoing support ensures that our school can provide your child/ren with the support they need and as many resources and opportunities as possible. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

EDUCATIONAL ITEMS (per child)	
STUDENT BOOK PACKS - ordered online (varies per grade level) Individual student book packs and requisites, text books and stationery materials for all curriculum areas as well as specialist program supplies and class sets, i.e. workbooks, scrapbooks, workbooks for Maths, English, integrated learning, library, pens, pencils, rulers, printing costs in lieu of text books, all other materials and resources.	Between \$50-\$58
LOCAL EXCURSION, SPORTS & SWIMMING TRANSPORT & PROGRAMS (USER PAYS) Includes entry fees and bus fees transporting children to and from activities, equipment and associated costs, including cross country, town library, book parade, sporting activities and clinics.	\$50.00
SPECIALIST PROGRAM CONSUMABLES Art, Music, Science, PE, Indonesian, Respectful Relationships	\$20.00
STEM EQUIPMENT & DEVICES - iPads, laptops in shared sets	\$10.00
DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTIONS (varies per grade)	\$27.00- \$41.00
OPTIONAL EXTRAS (USER PAYS)	
ARTS PERFORMANCES (per child) - invoiced separately at the start of the school year A minimum of 4 visiting performances per year.	\$32.00
TOTAL EDUCATIONAL ITEMS (per child)	-----
THIS EQUATES TO UNDER \$1.00 PER DAY	\$172-\$186 =====

FACILITIES CONTRIBUTION (per family) School Council Voluntary Contribution (Suggested Amount - \$50) Used for the maintenance of outdoor equipment, grounds and school buildings.	Parents elect this amount
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SCHOOL UNIFORM

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school uniform is compulsory. Children look very smart in the Kerang South uniform! It encourages a sense of pride in the school, promotes connectedness to the school community and it is priced within the reach of families. As well, it saves the hassle of deciding each day what to wear and potential argument over suitable clothing. The school supplies new and second-hand items of uniform. The school also sells sturdy library/project bags in school colours.

Kerang South is a Sun Smart school! All children are required to wear the school uniform whenever they represent the school or participate in an excursion, unless otherwise stated. Similarly, all children must wear the school hat in the playground and apply sunscreen. The school council has determined that all students will be required to wear the school's broad-brimmed hat from the mid-August until the 1st May for physical education/sport sessions, during excursions and whilst in the playground during school hours. Those students not complying with this requirement will be denied the outdoor activity. On out-of-uniform days, the students are also expected to be sun smart.

The Parents Club supplies each new Prep child with a hat, a reader bag FREE OF CHARGE.

SUMMER UNIFORM - GIRLS

Navy and white gingham dress with a collar and cuffs on a set-in or cap sleeve. Girls may wear short black bike shorts under the dress to encourage playground activity. Girls may also wear navy school shorts or skorts with a gold polo shirt. Appropriate shoes, sneakers or leather sandals must be worn with short white, navy or black socks.

SUMMER UNIFORM - BOYS

Navy school shorts, gold polo shirt with collar and logo. Appropriate shoes, sneakers or leather sandals worn with short white, navy or black socks.

SCHOOL HAT - boys and girls. Official, broad-brimmed school hat with the school logo.

WINTER UNIFORM - GIRLS and BOYS

Navy windcheater with school logo, gold polo shirt (long or short sleeved) and navy track suit pants (fleece or cotton). Girls may wear a navy skort with navy tights. Yellow or brown beanies and woollen navy or yellow scarves (not football hats or scarves) may be worn outside. We do sell beanies with our school logo. School windcheaters with the school logo must be worn under coats not a coat instead of a windcheater. Waterproof shoes.

CLOTHING OTHER THAN UNIFORM

Please ensure children are sensibly dressed for school each day. Students who must attend the school temporarily out of uniform—and preferably with an accompanying note—must observe the following restrictions.

- * Bathers, basketball briefs, boxer shorts and tank tops are **NOT** to be worn to school as outer garments.
- * Thongs, slip-on shoes and surf-type sandals are not to be worn.
- * Boxer or bike shorts should not be seen below the shorts or dress hemline.
- * Winter and summer uniform is not to be mixed e.g. dress with long pants.

It is highly recommended that children change into suitable shoes for Physical Education and Sport.

JEWELLERY & MAKE UP

Except for watches and plain studs or sleepers in pierced ears, **all jewellery is banned**. Nail polish is not acceptable. Students will be asked to remove nail polish and make-up is not allowed. Plain black, brown or yellow headbands or brown / yellow ribbons may be worn.

UNIFORM STORE

Uniform store does not have specific opening times, please come into the main office to place any uniform orders. Orders can be placed online, the link is available on our private KSPS Parents Facebook page. Orders and money for new uniforms may be sent to school with the students and the order will be passed on to the uniform store to be filled the next time it is open or orders may be placed online.

SCHOOL RULES



SCHOOL SAFETY

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Parents visiting the school must be especially watchful for children at the crossings, street intersections and when riding their bikes. *Please refer to the "Using The Crossing" section of the "School Rules" segment for the requirements when collecting and/or picking up children from in front of the school.*

Prep children should be collected from the classroom at home time by a parent or an older sibling only during the first few weeks. Young bus travellers are usually placed in the care of an older student. However, it helps if the name of the bus driver and the bus captain, plus the bus number, are known.

PARKING

The car park is for the use of staff cars in order that sufficient space is left in Mitchell Street for the cars of parents, visitors and the buses. When parking in Mitchell Street, **it is illegal to park** in the restricted WHITE bus and school crossing zones between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m., and between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. **It is also illegal to park** in the smaller YELLOW bus zone immediately adjacent to the front gate during school hours. **Police issue infringement notices for illegal parking in these areas.** The best place to park is on the other side of Mitchell Street. The parking restrictions are designed to improve access for the buses which convey children to activities during school hours and to allow the buses to park safely when unloading and loading students before and after school. Beware the 40 kph permanent speed restriction!

Parents need to check and abide by the parking restrictions out the front of the school and near the school crossing when picking up and dropping off students.

BIKE SAFETY

Some children ride their bikes to and from school. Cyclists **MUST** obey all the rules of the road. Students riding on the footpath must also comply with the law. Students must walk their bikes through the school ground and along the footpath along the front of the school for safety reasons. Bike travellers need to give way to pedestrians when going through the school gates. **School Council strongly urges parents to accompany children riding on the roads whilst under the age of 8 years.** This is because young children have difficulty judging the speed and distance of traffic, maintaining direction when looking for traffic and comprehending dangerous situations.

PUPIL EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Please notify the school if changes occur during the year in respect of the following items: address, telephone numbers of home or work, emergency contact details e.g. change of preferred contact, phone number, etc., medical disabilities and/or medication and the family doctor. Please ensure that the people you have nominated as your emergency contacts are made aware of their nomination.

A new emergency information form is sent home to all families at the start of each year.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL FIRST AID

Teachers at Kerang South attend regular training for first aid, CPR, anaphylaxis, diabetes and asthma. Teachers with first aid training are always available to attend to any injury or illness. These incidents are recorded in the first aid book in the sick bay or Sentral. For more serious incidents, parents will be notified and the relevant forms filled out at school. In some cases, it will be necessary to collect your child from school.

In the case of an accident, parents may be contacted to seek instruction or a second opinion at the attending staff's discretion. In serious situations, an ambulance may be called. Ambulance membership is at an individual family's discretion. However, this will not affect the school's decision to call an ambulance if deemed necessary. The school will not pay for a student's ambulance costs so a current subscription to the ambulance service is recommended.

Also be aware that personal accident insurance is the responsibility of parents / carers. The school (Department of Education and Training) does not provide insurance to cover students for medical or personal property claims.

MEDICAL HISTORY

At all times your child's teacher is working in partnership with you in the best interests of your child. Please ensure you inform the teacher of any illnesses, emotional stress or worries that your child may have in order that due consideration may be given and/or the problem resolved. Such information is regarded as confidential.

ILLNESS OR INJURY

If your child is ill, the best place for the child is at home. The school's facilities and staffing do not permit us to adequately care for sick children. If your child is potentially ill and you will not be available for contact, please inform the school of an emergency contact—preferably in Kerang - who could take care of the child. If your child is hurt or ill at school, basic first aid will be given. If the child suffers continued pain or distress, you or your nominee will be notified. A student with a serious injury will be taken to the nominated doctor/clinic for medical treatment—or an ambulance called—whilst you or your nominee are contacted. The school carries a spare change of clothing to loan for various minor emergencies. If your child has to make use of this clothing, please ensure it is washed and returned to school as soon as possible.

ASTHMA

Parents of children who suffer from asthma are asked to provide spare medication to be kept at school - in addition to puffers and spacers which are kept in school bags or lockers. Please make sure the classroom teacher is informed of the potential for an attack. The school needs to know immediately if your child develops asthma, what medication is to be given and how it is to be administered. It is a Department requirement that a Student Asthma Management Plan MUST be filled out for each child with asthma - please keep it up to date. This plan needs to be updated annually or whenever the condition changes and must be handed in at the start of a new year in order for students to attend events outside of the school.

ASTHMA FORMS MUST BE SIGNED BY A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER AND SENT TO SCHOOL BY THE FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR.

ANAPHYLAXIS AND ALLERGIES

If your child is allergic to **ANYTHING** e.g. bee stings, the school **MUST** be advised in writing. **IT IS A DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENT** that a green allergy form needs to be filled out and returned to the school at the start of each year. If medication is to be taken e.g. epipen or antihistamine, then a supply should be kept in the school sick bay with the child's name and clear instructions for its administration packaged with it.

If your child is **ANAPHYLACTIC**, a red anaphylaxis form **MUST** be filled out and returned to the school at the start of the year so we can give your child the best possible care and in order for students to attend events outside of the school. These forms are displayed in the staff room, canteen, office area, sick bay and in the student's classroom.

ANAPHYLAXIS AND ALLERGY FORMS MUST BE SIGNED BY A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER AND SENT TO SCHOOL BY THE FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR.

MEDICATIONS

Members of staff are not permitted to give children any medication without permission from parents. If a child requires medication, teachers should be notified in writing to avoid any confusion or danger.

The school and staff cannot accept responsibility for handling or giving medication that is **essential** to the life of your child. Teachers can supervise other general medications, provided clear, written instructions are given. Medication authority forms are available from the office.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following is provided for your information. Parents are required to notify the school if children contract any infectious disease.

All students need to stay home if they are unwell.

COVID-19: It is recommended that rapid antigen tests (RATs) are used by students and staff:

If you have symptoms of COVID-19 infection, no matter how mild

If you are a household or close contact of someone who has COVID-19

If you are a social contact of someone who has COVID-19.

Students who report a positive result are recommended to isolate for a minimum of 5 days and not attend school until their symptoms have resolved.

CHICKEN POX: Patient excluded until fully recovered, usually 5 days after the beginning of the illness and until the last lesion has healed.

MEASLES: Patient excluded until at least 4 days after the onset of rash, or until a medical certificate of recovery is produced. Contacts may be excluded dependent on their immunisation status.

MUMPS: Patient excluded for 9 days or until swelling goes down.

GERMAN MEASLES – RUBELLA: Patient excluded until fully recovered or for 4 days since the appearance of the rash.

SCABIES: As for head lice.

SCHOOL SORES – IMPETIGO: Patient is excluded from school until appropriate treatment is being applied, and sores on exposed surfaces such as scalp, face, hands and legs are properly covered with waterproof dressings.

RINGWORM: Patient excluded from school until appropriate treatment has commenced, supported (when requested) by a medical certificate.

HEPATITIS A (VIRAL): Patient is excluded from school until a medical certificate of recovery is produced, but not before 7 days have elapsed since the onset of the jaundice or illness.

GLANDULAR FEVER: Seek medical advice and abide by it.

CONJUNCTIVITIS: Patient excluded until the discharge from eyes has ceased.

In all cases, contacts (brothers, sisters, relatives, friends) should not be excluded from school, except for measles in which case contacts should only be excluded if not immunized. Parents should contact the school for advice about diseases not listed.

HEAD LICE

HEAD LICE: Patient excluded from school until appropriate treatment has commenced, supported by a Medical/Health Officer certificate when requested. To preserve a high level of control over head lice, the school council expects all parents to grant permission for the inspection of their children. Notes will be sent home as necessary.

Head lice infection can be a sensitive issue for parents and your children and can be difficult to manage.

The responsibility of treating and detecting head lice rests primarily with you, as parents.

The school is always sensitive about head lice and maintains student confidentiality if a case of head lice is detected. There is no way to prevent head lice so it's important to check your child's hair regularly even when you don't think they have head lice.

Using conditioner is a cheap and effective way to help find head lice in your child's hair. Conditioner doesn't kill head lice, but it stuns them for about 20 minutes, so they cannot move around or hang onto the hair. This method gives you time to comb through the hair with a lice comb and determine if your child has head lice and begin a treatment method as soon as possible if they are detected.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The school has access to the Department's Student Support Services (SSS) and Visiting Teaching Service including - psychologist, speech therapist, social worker, school nurse as well as a KESO (Koori Engagement Support Officer).

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE

Children in Year Prep have a comprehensive assessment by a nurse from the School Medical Service. Students found to have a health issue receive a follow-up assessment, usually in the following year. Please contact the school if you have any worries about your child's health for referrals can be made for any student at any time.

SPEECH THERAPY

We have weekly / fortnightly visits by a speech therapist. Students requiring special tuition are usually withdrawn from class on a weekly basis for a half-hour session.

COUNSELLING, GUIDANCE AND CLINICAL SERVICES

This service provides assessment and consultative services for children experiencing educational and adjustment problems. It deals with children who have attendance difficulties, behavioural, social or emotional problems, or whose learning is inhibited in some way. Referrals can be requested at any time and students will have access to services once the relevant paperwork is signed.

The school is always willing to work in with outside services your child is accessing.

STUDENT WELLBEING

Regular visits are received from the Swan Hill Network's Social Worker. Support is provided for children and parents experiencing behavioural, social and emotional problems and often helpful links are made with other services available in the region. Home visits are available as necessary.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE

The school dental service (Smile Squad):

- provides dental care:
 - ◊for all primary school children
 - ◊at either a mobile van or community dental clinic
 - ◊made available once every 12 to 24 months, depending on treatment needs
 - ◊by a dental therapist working under supervision of dentists
- can provide resources to teachers for planning and conducting dental health education at school
- requires parents/guardians to sign a consent form before any dental examination.

Smile Squad is a Victorian Government funded program which will provide all Victorian public primary and secondary school students with free dental care. Initial consent forms covering oral health examinations and active preventative care will be sent home with students. After the initial check-up, an individualised treatment plan will be developed and sent home along with a secondary consent form for treatment if needed. Parents are not needed to attend this appointment with your child. Visit www.smilesquad.vic.gov.au for further information on the program.

In our area, this service is provided by the Royal Flying Doctors when they are in the area.

INTEGRATION

The policy on integration is available on request. In general, children with disabilities and/or impairments are welcome at the school, providing it has the resources to cater for their needs. Parents and / or teachers can request an assessment to see whether a child qualifies for Disability Inclusion funding.

HOME - SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

To do its best for each student, Kerang South needs strong school-home partnerships. Strong partnerships deal most effectively with the problems that arise from time to time as children make their journeys through the primary years. Strong parental interest in what happens at school is very important to maintaining each student's attitude to learning. The following poem captures the essential message.

UNITY

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child's
mind,
And they fashioned it with care.
One was a teacher; the tools he used
Were books, and music, and art;
One, a parent with a guiding hand,
And a gentle, loving heart.
Day after day the teacher toiled,
With touch that was deft and sure
While the parents laboured by his side
And polished and smoothed it o'er.

And when at last their task was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought,
For this thing they had moulded in the child
Could neither be sold nor bought.
And each agreed he would have failed
If he had worked alone,
For behind the parent stood the school
And behind the teacher, the home.

Author Unknown



PREP ENTRY

BASIC SKILLS

Although not essential by any means, it will be helpful for your child to know some of the following things:

- His or her full name and address.
- How to secure the fasteners on shoes and sandals.
- How to attend to toilet needs and adjust clothing.
- The importance of washing the hands after visiting the toilet.
- How to put things away after using them.
- How to use a handkerchief properly.
- The importance of covering the mouth when coughing or sneezing.

SCHOOL-COMMENCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Have several "school lunches" with your child at home.

If the school is within walking distance from home, follow the route to be taken there and back with your child. Acquaint your child with road safety procedures, including the correct use of school crossings and the danger of cars reversing from driveways.

Warn your child not to accept rides from strangers, and to go home immediately after school is dismissed, preferably in the company of an older student or an adult until a routine is established.

It is wise for your child to have had a medical check prior to the commencement of school, particularly for sight and hearing and in order to meet immunisation requirements.

The Department of Education provides additional information in its booklet entitled "Welcome to School - A Parent's Guide to Victorian Government Schools", a copy of which is available from the Internet at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/publications/newsinfo/welcomeschool.htm>

ENROLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Enrolment forms must be completed in full - general, emergency contact, head lice check, privacy declaration - others as applicable.

The child must be **5 years of age by 30th April**.
Presentation of a **birth certificate** as proof of age.

Presentation of a **School Entry Immunisation Certificate** - <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/enablers/immunisation-history-statement>

The new amendments to the No Jab, No Play legislation have tightened requirements for enrolment in early childhood services and impact acceptable documentation for school entry immunisation requirements:
As of 28 February 2018, an Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register will be the only form of documentation accepted as proof of a child's immunisation status.
Documents produced by GPs or other immunisation providers e.g. blue books will no longer be sufficient as a form of evidence.

By law, primary schools are required to request and record information on the immunisation status of students prior to enrolment. Parents or guardians must provide an immunisation status certificate to the school regardless of whether the child is or is not immunised.

For a variety of reasons - regulations, bus travel and to meet the needs of working parents - Preps beginning at Kerang South attend the school for the whole day, except for Wednesdays throughout February.

To ensure a smooth start, each parent is requested to bring their child to the Prep room, say goodbye and then depart, even if the child appears to be upset. Before leaving, ensure that the child understands the arrangements for getting home.

Children are encouraged to bring their lunch from home. This is particularly important for Prep children as they can eat lunch together and avoid the stress of something from the canteen not meeting with their expectation.

Prep children often become very tired at the beginning of the school year. Activities are planned which are appropriate for their development and the weather conditions. In the initial weeks this may include an afternoon rest period.