



Education  
TERRIGAL PUBLIC SCHOOL

*"Preparing our Children for the future  
in a Positive and Caring Environment."*

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## Welcome to Stage 1!

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to Stage 1! We have an exciting year of learning ahead in 2023. We have had a fantastic start to the new year with students settling in happily. We have started our daily routines and Stage 1 program. We look forward to working in partnership with you. We will provide further information to answer all your questions about learning in Stage 1 shortly. In the meantime, please find useful information about Stage 1 below.

### Parent-Teacher Information Evening

On Wednesday 22nd February from 4pm-4.40pm, we invite our Stage 1 families in for Parent Information Evening. The sessions will be held in your child's classroom. The first 20 minutes will cover stage organisation presented by the Assistant Principal and the remaining 20 minutes will be a whole class session with your child's teacher.

### Parent-Teacher Communication - ClassDojo

Teachers will message parents and share notes through the ClassDojo app once the third party consent notes have been returned. By now, you should have received an invitation to join your child's ClassDojo. Please contact the office if you require another invitation. We acknowledge that some of our families do not have access or choose not to use technology. If you are unable to connect to ClassDojo, inform your child's teacher and they will make alternate arrangements with you. Here is some important information from our Terrigal Public School ClassDojo policy:

- Parents are requested to turn on notifications for Class Dojo to ensure they receive all information from their child's teacher in a timely manner.
- Class Teachers will check ClassDojo messages once per day Monday – Friday between 8:00am – 4:00pm. In the event that the Class Teacher is absent, you may not receive a reply until they return to school. Class Teachers cannot respond to ClassDojo while they are teaching and therefore may not respond immediately to messages sent.



- Parents still need to contact the office for any urgent messages, e.g. same day change in pick up arrangements. This will ensure that urgent messages reach students in time. **If the message cannot wait 24 hours, call the office.**
- Parents need to request a meeting to discuss their child's progress or any concerns. Parents can send their request for a meeting with their child's teacher via private message in Class Dojo and the teacher will respond with their availability. Alternatively, parents can leave a message at the office for their child's teacher to call them at their earliest convenience.
- Any image containing a student other than your own child, e.g. whole class or small group photo, may not be published or shared digitally in any way. This includes publishing or sharing on social media apps such as Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, Snapchat or any website.
- Behaviour or language that is not appropriate in a school or classroom setting is not appropriate on Terrigal Public School's ClassDojo. Communication must be respectful at all times.

### Home Reading and Homework

Home Reading will start using the Decodable Readers Australia Online Library subscription included in your Stage 1 Resource Pack soon. More information regarding updated login details will be available shortly. Please be aware that it is completely normal for a student's reading level to drop over the summer holidays. Please do not panic! Students usually catch up quite quickly during Term 1. We will be spending time with each child individually in our first weeks together to pinpoint exactly where they are up to with their reading skills and plan learning activities accordingly. Please record your child's Home Reading on the Home Reading sheets we send home shortly. We have some lovely prizes to reward our enthusiastic Home Reading students! Remember: Students can read as many books as they like but we record one per day on weekdays only. For students reading chapter books, one chapter is equivalent to one decodable reader. If you do not have internet access at home to use the Decodable Readers Australia Online Library subscription, please let your child's teacher know and alternative arrangements will be made. When your child has read and recorded enough books for a prize, please send a photo of the completed Home Reading log to your child's teacher via ClassDojo private message. We do not need the hard copies sent into school.

## **Library**

All of the classes attend library lessons per fortnight. This will be your child's opportunity to borrow and return books. Class timetables will indicate the day your child has library and when they'll need to bring in their library bag.

## **Crunch 'n' Sip (fruit break)**

To encourage children to eat healthy foods and stay hydrated we have Crunch 'n' Sip each day. Children are encouraged to bring a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable (no fruit in jelly/yoghurt etc) and a healthy drink bottle of cool water (no cordial or juice please). Fruit will need to be ready to eat, i.e. pre-cut if needed.

## **Allergies in Stage 1 Classes**

We have a number of students in Stage 1 who live with the risk of very severe anaphylaxis to foods (**dairy, egg, nuts, shellfish**) and insect stings. Whilst we have preventative strategies in place and these children are being taught to care for themselves at an age appropriate level, we ask that you help us educate your child on the importance of not sharing food with others, washing hands and having a big drink after eating, and calling out to an adult if they think a friend with allergies is sick.

Please consider the child with food allergy when packing your child's lunch. Foods that 'may contain traces of nuts or eggs' are fine for the nonallergic students to consume at school as long as they do not share food.

Class groups that have food allergic students such as peanut or egg allergy, will receive a class note asking parents to not send in peanut butter sandwiches or egg sandwiches as young children can be messy eaters and not contain their food. Considering the needs of our students with allergies not only protects them but also your own child. Knowing a classmate is very unwell as a result of a stray piece of their lunch would be upsetting.

## **School Hats**

Please ensure your child has their school hat with them every day. As part of our commitment to sun safety, children are required to have a hat to play in the playground. To avoid losing a lovely new school hat, please make sure you have your child's name and new class clearly printed on the inside.

## **Class timetable**

The whole school timetable is in the process of being finalised. Your teacher will send home a note shortly with further information. Stage 1 sport will continue to be on Mondays. **Stage 1 students will need to wear their sports uniform on Mondays from next week.**

## **News**

Stage 1 students prepare their News in class each week with the support and guidance of their class teacher. News will be directly linked to our History, Science and Geography programs throughout the year and will focus on explicitly teaching public speaking skills such as posture, voice projection, eye contact etc. We understand families are busy and we hope that preparing news in class will take one thing off your to-do list each week.

## **Keeping up to date with what's happening at TPS**

To make sure you are kept up to date with the latest Terrigal Public School news, our school newsletter 'Sea Breeze' is available on the school app, school website, school Facebook page or by email subscription every Thursday. Paper copies are available for those without access to the internet. Please inform the office if you would like a paper copy. Stage 1 notes will be sent home on Class Dojo. Please let your child's teacher know if you do not have access to Class Dojo. If a paper permission note is required you will receive a hard copy but will also be able to print out replacement copies from our school website if needed. You can also download the Terrigal Public School App, 'like' the Terrigal Public School Facebook page or follow Terrigal Public School on Twitter.

**Resource Packs** A note has been sent home regarding the purchase of Resource Packs for Stage 1 students.

## **Classroom Supplies**

In Stage 1, we do lots of fun activities. Throughout the year, your child will use lots of different materials. To ensure we do not run out, each child is asked to bring in the following: 1 short-sleeved paint shirt clearly marked with your child's name, 1 roll of paper towel and 1 box of tissues. Any donations of baby wipes (great for cleaning up after art!) would be appreciated.

## **Pencils**

Pencil cases are not needed as pencils and textas are supplied in Stage 1 classrooms. Students may bring their own textas, coloured pencils, crayons etc for 'special work' times. These items should be kept in students' bags during lessons unless teacher permission is given.

We hope we have answered some of the questions you may have about your child's year in Stage 1. Remember, further information about learning in Stage 1 will be provided shortly. For questions that cannot wait until then, please contact your class teacher via ClassDojo private message or leave a message at the office. We will respond promptly. We look forward to a happy and successful year with your child.

Kind regards,  
The Stage 1 Teachers.