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4th February, 2020

Welcome to Kindergarten!

We are so excited about the year ahead! The children have had a lovely day and have been placed into their 2020 class today. They have a special artwork in their bag, with their class name and the name of their teacher. When your child arrives at school each morning, they can hang their bag on a hook outside their classroom, then make their way to the figtree to play. Teachers will meet their class near the figtree when the bell rings at 8.55am.

KR will line up behind the **Gold** squares.

K/1M will line up behind the **Red** squares.

KS will line up behind the **Purple** squares.

At 2.55pm each day, the children will meet you outside the Kindergarten rooms. PEAK will come up and collect those students from this area.

We’re sure you will have many questions for your child’s teacher. If you are able to come along to our information session (see attached note), you will find out details such as Library days, classroom supplies, reading routines and our school merit system.

You are invited to a ‘Meet the Teacher’ afternoon in our **classroom** on **Wednesday, 12thFebruary at 4 pm.** It would be lovely if you could attend, however if you are unable to make it the information discussed will be sent home with your child.

**Steps Vision Screening at SPS**

You will find attached a consent and result form for Steps Vision Screening. This is a free service for any child who has not had their vision screened at preschool. If you’re child has not previously been tested it is a wonderful opportunity. This screening will be held at school during school hours on ***Tuesday 7th April 2020*** and is a short 5-minute vision test. Information about the screening process is included. If you would like your child’s vision to be tested, please sign the and return to your child’s teacher by ***Friday 27th March 2020.***

**What is StEPS?**

The StEPS program is an initiative of NSW Health and offers all 4 years old children free vision screening. NSW Health advises all children to have their vision screened before they start school and strongly recommends that all four-year-old children participate in the vision screening program.

**Why would my child need their vision screened?**

Children rarely complain of eye problems or realise that they can’t see well. The only way to tell if a child has a vision problem is to have the child’s vision tested one eye at a time.

**Did you know?**

* If a child has a ‘lazy eye’ it may lead to severe vision loss or blindness in that eye if not treated
* If a child has a vision problem, the earlier the problem is detected and treated the better the vision outcome
* If parents wear glasses or had vision problems as a child their children are more likely to have vision problems too
* After a certain age, some childhood vision problems cannot be treated and the child will have poor vision for the rest of their life - glasses won’t help
* Low birth weight babies and children with neurological problems are at a greater risk of developing eye problems.

We look forward to a wonderful year of learning!

**Mrs Morris, Mrs Munro and Mrs Rowe**

Kindergarten teachers