Countdown to School Calendar
July 2019 - June 2020

Supporting families to have a positive start to school
Time to enrol in school

Visit your local school and fill out an enrolment form...

Understanding School Talk????
SDD
Staff Development Day
Children do not attend school on these days

Visit your local school

When visiting your school ask about orientation days, transition to school programs and open days.
Visit your local school and fill out an enrolment form.

Find out what transition to school programs or orientation sessions they have. Pop the dates into this calendar.

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**Things to do...**

- Visit your local school and fill out an enrolment form.
- Find out what transition to school programs or orientation sessions they have.
- Pop the dates into this calendar.

**July 2019**

**End of Term 2**

**Staff Development Day**

**Students Start Today**

**School Holidays**
Playing games with dice and counters helps develop numeracy and turn taking skills.

Play simple card games like ‘Snap’, ‘Memory’ or ‘Go Fish’. Children are using hand and finger muscles to hold the cards, as well as taking turns and matching.

Pretend play develops many skills that will help children at school. Skills to help with friendships, communication with others and using their body.

Building together with Lego and blocks strengthens the muscles in children’s hands which helps them when learning to write.

Learning through play
Read through the first Kids Matter transition booklet titled ‘Setting the Scene’, you can find it on our Website, - address is on the back of this calendar.

**August 2019**

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**Education Week 2019**
Encouraging a love of reading

Talking and listening is the foundation of reading so play games with words and rhymes.

It’s great to read the same book many times. Talk about the pictures together.

Talking and reading with your child will give them a great start to school!

Let your child TELL you the story even if they can’t read the words.

Ask your child questions about the story.
“Who did you like best in the story?”
“What did you like about them?”
“What do you think might happen next?”

Understanding School talk????

DP - Deputy Principal
Contact the school to confirm orientation and transition session times.

Things to do...

Father's Day

September 2019

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End of Term 3

School Holidays

Father's Day
Offer different writing and drawing tools. Try writing or drawing with chalk on a path, sticks in the sand or painting with water outside.

Playing with dough, pegs, Lego and other building blocks will help to build the muscles in your child’s hands. This will help

Write your child’s name. Talk about the letters in their name.

Understanding School Talk???

KLA’s

Key Learning Areas

The different subject areas taught at school
Practice your child's independency skills e.g. opening lunchbox containers, drink bottles etc.

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**School Holidays**
Encourage Independence

Has your child used a public toilet? Talk with your child about the symbols on the doors and using only the boys or girls toilets.

Encourage your child to drink water as a healthy choice.

Encourage your child to dress themselves.

Give your child little jobs to do at home such as make their bed, put their clothes away or set the table. Acknowledge them when they complete the task.

Set a regular bedtime routine: toilet, clean teeth and read a story in bed. Children need plenty of sleep!

Understanding School Talk??
AP
Assistant Principal
Visit the local library and borrow picture books about starting school.

Have a look at our website for great children’s picture book titles. Address is on the back of this calendar.
Use opportunities to write. Messages, notes, letters etc. Watching adults writing messages shows children that writing is important and is another form of communication.

Understanding School Talk??
Mufti Day
Out of Uniform Day
Children wear ordinary clothes that day.
Relax and enjoy time together prior to your child starting school.

**School Holidays**

**December 2019**

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**Things to do...**

- Students last day of school
- Staff development day
- Staff development day
- Public Holiday Christmas Day
- Public Holiday Boxing Day

**BE SUN SMART**

- Put on a Shirt
- Put on Sunscreen
- Wear a Hat
- Wear Sunglasses
- Stay in the Shade

**SHARE THE SUN SAFE STORY WITH YOUR CHILD**
Do you have a uniform yet? Children love to dress up in their uniform. Let them wear their school shoes before they start school so they get used to them. They may need school uniforms, sports uniforms and a school hat too.

Talk about the times and structures of the school days e.g. “You would be going into school now.” “This would be lunch time.” “It would be time to come home now.”

Pack a lunch box with healthy foods. Have picnics outside and encourage your child to open their lunch box.

Choose a lunchbox and drink bottle that is easy for your child to open!

Remember: Be positive when you talk about school.
Check starting dates for your child’s school.

Have camera ready for first day and make sure the battery is charged.

### January 2020

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**School Holidays**
Ensuring a positive start to school

Plan a play date with some friends from school. Invite them to come and play at your house or meet at the park together.

Talk to your child about their day. Ask questions like...

“What was your favourite thing you did today?”

“Did you go into the playground? What did you do?”

If you have any concerns about your child, make an appointment to talk to the teacher.

Your child is coping with lots of new things. Be prepared, they may become tired and cranky sometimes!

Understanding School Talk??

COLA

Covered Outdoor Learning Area
Check school notes and write upcoming events on your calendar.

You may prefer to receive school information electronically. If so, check if the school has an 'App' for your phone or if you can subscribe to electronic newsletters, notifications and Facebook pages.
Learning is fun!

Children are naturally curious. Encourage their curiosity. It can lead to great discovery and learning!

“Play is the work of Childhood!” Theorist, Piaget

"Play provides opportunities for children to learn as they discover, create, improvise and imagine." Early Years Learning Framework

Understanding School Talk??
ICT
Information and Communication Technology
Become involved in school life:

Ask the teacher if they need help with small groups

Attend P&C meetings if you can, to find out what is happening at the school

Offer your time to your child’s teacher, there are lots of ways to help!
Supporting your child’s learning

Remember:
Praise your child when they try something new. Taking risks and learning from our mistakes is an important life skill.

You will have the greatest influence on your child’s attitudes towards school and learning. Always remain positive.

Even though your child is at school, play is still a very important way for them to learn and develop. Provide lots of opportunities for them to just PLAY!

Understanding School Talk??

ES1
Early Stage 1 - Kindergarten
### Things to do...

Time for winter uniforms—make sure they are labelled with your child’s name.

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**April 2020**

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School Holidays
Helping your child learn to read

Talking and Listening is the foundation for reading. Talk often with your child. Play games with the sounds in words. Recite your child’s favourite rhymes.

‘Pretend reading’ is valuable—encourage your child’s attempts.

Show your child you enjoy reading too!

Make comments about the story -
“I loved the bit where...”
“My favourite part was....”
Encourage your child to comment -
“How did you feel about the story?”

School Talk??
HSIE
Human Society and Its Environment (Social Studies)
Check in with your child’s teacher to see how they are going socially and emotionally at school.

May 2020

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Helping your child with numeracy

Division is about sharing. We will share/divide a pizza among 4 people.

Numbers are about ‘how much’, ‘how long’ and ‘how many’.
Use opportunities to talk about more or less, longer or shorter, higher or lower, faster or slower.

Learning about shapes is an important maths skill. Words like straight and curved are about shapes!

Grouping and matching are foundational number skills.

Understanding School Talk???
OOSH
Out of School Hours Care
Centres which look after children before & after school.
Reflect and look back on where you started mid last year when your family started this transition journey.
What are you looking forward to when you start school? Draw a picture below.
Draw a picture of your first day at school on this page.
Need to Find a School?
Or talk to other parents to find your local school

Start the '100 stories before school' journey now with great activities and curriculum resources found right here...
http://100storiesbeforeschool.com/using-100-stories/

Visit www.earlywords.info for activities to support your child’s language and literacy development.

What will my child be learning at school?
The curriculum is set out by Board of Studies

Looking for some parenting support?
http://www.raisingchildren.net.au/

Visit http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/ for comprehensive 'school life' and homework support

This calendar has been developed by the Transition to School Project in Western Sydney. We also have developed a really useful website that is all about transitioning to school, not only will it help parents but educators alike, visit:
www.transitiontoschool.net

The Western Sydney Transition to School Project is funded by:

connect
COMMUNITY BASED FAMILY SUPPORT

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

familiesNSW
supporting families to raise children