

Stage 3

Parent Information

Dear Year 5 and 6 Parents/Carers

Firstly, Miss Catley, Mr Christensen Mrs Hiser-Smith, Mrs Petterson and Mr Salmon (Stage 3 teachers), Mrs Dunn (Stage 3 SLSO) and Mrs Clifford (Year 6 Fundraising Coordinator) would like to welcome your child to Year 5 or 6 at Banks this year and hope it will be a happy and successful year. We are looking forward to an exciting and busy 2020, with lots of learning opportunities and interesting activities planned. We hope that the following information will assist both you and your child to adjust to a new grade (or even new school) this year. This information is by no means exhaustive, and we strongly recommend that you keep updated on all our Stage activities throughout the year by regularly referring to the school contact information provided.

The classes for Stage 3 at Banks PS in 2020 are:

Cheshire Cat 5/6	Miss Michelle Catley
Hogwarts 5/6	Mrs Simone Hiser-Smith (Mon-Thurs) and Mr Nathan Christensen (Fri)
Percy Jackson 5/6	Mrs Amanda Petterson
Simba 5/6	Mr Steve Salmon

The following are procedures for some of the areas that most commonly attract enquiries. At all times please remain aware that the teachers have the welfare of your child and the other children at this school at heart and will act accordingly to ensure this.

BANKS PUBLIC SCHOOL'S VISION

At Banks Public School we work together to nurture and inspire all students to be resilient, creative and independent learners who are known and valued. Students are motivated and engaged critical thinkers and problem-solvers with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values for future success in life.

OUR KEY LEARNING AREAS

Literacy and Numeracy

Modelled, guided and independent reading activities will take place daily, with an emphasis on students refining their comprehension strategies. They will be using Focus on Reading's Super 6 Strategies and Visual Literacy to develop a greater understanding of texts they read. Jolly Grammar and Sentence-A-Day will continue in their literacy mornings.

Teachers will model concepts during explicit teaching in whole class lessons, then students will engage in selected tasks to enforce prior knowledge. During this time teachers will withdraw small groups of students to explicitly teach them in areas where reinforcement is required.

During literacy time, tasks will involve writing, reading, spelling, grammar, talking and listening, while numeracy tasks will relate to number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability with the focus being on problem solving using a variety of strategies. A few of the ways we will be engaging students in their lessons are through the use of interactive whiteboards, researching on laptops, problem solving with robotics, inquiry-based learning and open-ended tasks. Students will be expected to take an active role in discussions and listen carefully in order to follow directions accurately.

Throughout the year we will be teaching what students are expected to know within concept units, book studies and author studies, with the first focus being about the author of each class name.

Contact Information

Facebook:

Banks Public School

School Website:

www.banks-p.schoolwebsites.com.au

Library Website:

www.banksialibraryweebly.com

School App:

<https://banksps.schoolzineplus.com/szapp>

Science, Geography, History and Creative Arts

These units will occur over a two-yearly cycle. HSIE is now divided into Geography and History. We will be teaching History during Semester 1, while the focus in Semester 2 will be on Geography. This ensures all students in Stage 3 will be learning the same themes regardless of Grade. Some excursions/incursions will be based on these units to support learning. Students will have the opportunity to express themselves through art, music and drama related to the units. Banks also implements a whole school approach to teach a number of important issues.

Stage 3 Units

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
History	The Australian Colonies	The Australian Colonies		
Science	Solar System (Earth and Space)	(Material World)	(Built Environment)	Products (Project)
Geography			Factors that Shape Places	Factors that Shape Places
Whole School Program	Each whole school program will be taught in 3 weeks blocks so that each one is taught continuously throughout the year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antbullying and Positive Relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection • Personal Health Choices and Safe Living • Peer Support (will occur every few weeks- 3 times a term) 			
Creative Arts	Music and Drama	Dance and Visual Arts	Music and Drama	Ballroom Dancing and Visual Arts
Bounce Back!	Resilience program that will be taught throughout the year.			

Fitness

According to Dept. policy, we are required to provide the children with regular sessions of fitness each week. Mr Christensen will provide classes with a program focusing on the skills of particular sports. Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear and a school hat for these sessions. Primary School Sport will be held on Friday, and students will need a school hat and drink bottle and must also wear their sports uniform to gain points for their house. Students are encouraged to display good sportsmanship and may be awarded 'Fair Play' points during sport. If a child has an injury and cannot compete, a note is required to be given to the teacher. Banks is offering PSSA Soccer and PSSA Netball in Terms 2 and 3. *A reminder that students will only be offered a place in these teams if their inschool behaviour shows they can be responsible representatives for our school.*

Technology

Students in Stage 3 at Banks PS are issued with a laptop. While this laptop is the property of the school it is the responsibility of the student to use the device safely and respectfully. The laptop is provided for students as a learning tool. Students will be challenged to create, problem solve and research using the laptop. Consequences will follow if a student demonstrates inappropriate online behaviour or is unsafe with the device. Most students and parents have signed and returned a School Technology Agreement acknowledging their commitment to safe respectful behavior when using computers.

Support Staff:

During the week your child may also be taught some of these Key Learning Areas by other staff at the school:

- Mrs Lalor and Miss Nethercote are the Numeracy and Literacy Instructional Leaders. They will be working in classrooms alongside teachers to improve the numeracy and literacy skills of our students.
- Mrs Loupos is the EAL/D (English as an Additional Language/Dialect) teacher. The role of the EAL/D teacher is to provide English lessons to students whose first language is not English. She may teach students in small group situations and assist class teachers who teach Non-English Speaking Background students in their classrooms.
- Mrs Kew is the Teacher Librarian. Students will complete reading and writing tasks designed to develop their reading, vocabulary and writing skills. In addition, students will have time for independent reading and borrowing. All students require a library bag to borrow.
- Mrs Clifford is the LaST (Learning and Support Teacher) who provides direct specialist assistance for students who require additional learning and support needs. Mrs Dunn, Mrs Haamid, Mr Shannon and Miss Wynn are School Learning Support officers who assist with the delivery of specialised programs and work in the rooms with students, while Mrs Sherry is classroom support for K-2.
- Mrs Schumann, Mrs Hornby, Mrs Wood and Mr Bransdon will deliver intervention programs to K-3 students, while Mr Bransdon will also be the RFF teachers in Stage 3 classes.
- Mr Christensen is the Physical Education teacher and will work with each class once a week to deliver the PE program.
- Mr Emery, our volunteer support, will be working closely with Stage 3 students and Prefects to improve their mathematical skills and public speaking skills.

Peer Support

All students in Stage 3 will undertake Peer Support training. Year 6 will be our leaders for the program which will take place in Term 3. Year 5 students will be co-leaders and may be required to lead their group on some weeks; at the very least they will be expected to assist their leader at all times. This program follows the guidelines from Peer Support Australia.

Interviews

If you wish to see your child's class teacher and/or the Stage Supervisor (Mr Salmon) to discuss the progress of your child or if you have a matter of concern, please contact the school to arrange and confirm a mutually convenient time. It is also advisable to let the teacher know the nature of the interview, as often extra information can be obtained prior and your questions may be more informatively answered. Teachers cannot hold interviews while at lines or moving to class as this disrupts the children's learning. There are parent/teacher interviews later this term to discuss your child's progress.

Attendance

All Stage 3 children are expected to be punctual. Attendance is compulsory by law and any child who is absent must produce a note from their parent upon returning to school. Failure to supply a note may result in a letter being sent home from school asking for an explanation. Children may not leave early unless parents obtain a note from the front office, and children who arrive late also need to go to the office with a satisfactory explanation. Also, once in Stage 3 when students can walk to school on their own, they often begin to arrive early. This is a reminder that Brekkie Club does not open until 8.20am and students who are not attending this should not be at school before 8.30am when teachers are on duty. Carnivals and excursions are normal school activities and children are required to attend on these days.

Uniform

All students are expected to dress in the correct uniform. We ask parents to encourage their children to keep the latest fashion to wear on the weekend and remind them that belonging to a school is the same as belonging to a team, where uniforms are expected to be worn. Most children wear the basic uniform, however accessories are often overlooked. Our policy is “no hat, no play”, therefore all children are expected to wear a school hat while outside. We also expect children to wear sensible sturdy shoes that are safe for sport and running around at play times. A reminder that no fluoro coloured shoes (including laces) and socks are to be worn and it is preferred that shoes are black. We ask that no fancy or dangly ear rings are worn for safety reasons, and once the weather starts to cool that children wear the correct red jumpers (with their names clearly labelled on them). We understand that, at times, there may be a reason as to why your child cannot wear the correct uniform and a note sent in explaining this reason would be appreciated by the teacher. Year 6 students have their own special shirt which can be purchased and a note has been sent home outlining this information. The new school shirt is now available to purchase.

Equipment

Teachers have sent home a list of equipment they wish your child to have in their classroom. The school has provided some of the equipment your child requires, however it is essential that your child comes organised with these items from home as it will assist them in their daily routine. Lessons can be disrupted and valuable time wasted while children search for equipment to complete their lessons if they do not have it. Also be aware that many of these items require replacement during the year. Teachers may send home a note during the year reminding parents of any equipment your child has used and needs to have replaced.

Excursions

Parents will receive ample notice of upcoming excursions/incursions. This year our three-day excursion will be to The Great Aussie Bush Camp at Kincumber. We try to keep excursions to a minimum due to financial commitments, however we find they are a great source of information and enjoyment to the children who obviously learn better by first hand experience. Please be aware that children who exhibit behaviour which is of concern may not participate in activities, including excursions and carnivals, outside of the school grounds. A note regarding expression of interest for our camp has already been sent home. If you are having financial difficulties and would like your child to be considered for placement please see the front office.

We may also organise a Geography based excursion later in the year due to the Geography syllabus incorporating field study work in our outside community. Plenty of notice will be given of dates and pricing.

Behaviour Expectations

All teachers in Year 5 and 6 have quite high expectations of the children in their class, and expect that the children will follow the school expectations of **‘I am Safe, I am Respectful, I am a Learner’**. The main emphasis is on all children becoming more responsible for their own behaviour, and by following class and school rules they are able to attain rewards as the year progresses. We also encourage the children to be honest to their parents, and explain any reasons why they may need to attend Time Out. The Stage Supervisor will send home a letter or make a phone call to parents if there are concerns with behaviour which need to be discussed.

This year Stage 3 are continuing to operate the incentive program VIP Points, where students can obtain points for displaying the correct behaviour and ‘fines’ can also be imposed by staff if the child’s behaviour warrants this. At the end of weeks 3, 6 and 9 each term points will be added up to see if the child has achieved the privilege to participate in reward time. This program is not replacing our School Levels system, however is being used in conjunction with it.

Homework

Homework for Stage 3 will be designed to encourage regular study habits. The development of these habits is the shared responsibility between home and school. Students will receive a Homework grid each term. They are expected to return their homework on Fridays with at least 1 homework activity from the grid completed alongside their completed Mathematical homework sheet that they will receive weekly. Students are also encouraged to regularly practise their times tables and spelling words. Project work, when set, will be given longer to complete. If, for some reason, your child cannot complete homework please supply him/her with a note. If your child has any difficulty with homework, please make sure they approach the teacher early in the week for further explanation. You are not assisting your child if you do the homework for them, however by looking over it with them shows that you are concerned and you have an interest in what they are learning at school.

Leadership Opportunities

As the students embark on their final years at Primary School it is important that they be given the opportunity to model good leadership skills to the younger members of the school. In Year 6, students have been asked to apply for Prefect and Library Monitor positions, however all members of the Stage have the opportunity to apply for positions such as Sports Captains, Student Representative Council members, Tech Mechanics and reading helpers. We hope that all Year 6 students will take on the role of Peer Support leaders sensibly, with Year 5 students acting as co-leaders.

Some expected costs

Stage 3 camp which will be held in Term 3. This will cost approx. \$330-\$350, however this will be determined when we have our final number of students attending. Parents may pay this off throughout the year. As we need to verify numbers well in advance a note has been sent home so places may be held and the cost locked in.

The cost of end of year celebrations for Year 6, eg Yearbook, gift to school, Farewell and Party day depends on our fundraising ability throughout the year.

We have a number of events already being planned. We ask that each family tries to assist us, even if this means volunteering to sell cakes, cook sausage sizzles, selling chocolates, etc. The more we share our tasks, the easier it is for all concerned!

Year 6 committee- Parent volunteers are asked to attend several meetings to discuss the organisation of the fundraising events. Any ideas greatly accepted!

This list is by no means exhaustive. If you have any questions during the year please refer them to your child's teacher or supervisor, who will be only too happy to assist. We look forward to your continued support during 2020.

Stage 3 Staff