

# Newsletter

## Maryland Public School

John T Bell Drive Maryland NSW 2287

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Web: <https://maryland-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/>



Our P & C Association meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm  
All parents and community members are welcome to attend  
Our School Council meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6.00pm

### Skills for Life

Respect

Responsibility

Excellence

Safety

**Tuesday, 5 February 2019**

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome to 2019!

Welcome back to our returning students and families, welcome to our Kindergarten students and their families, and a warm Maryland welcome to our new students and families for 2019.

Our year got off to a smooth start with the smiling faces of our Year 1-6 students arriving ready for the new school year last Wednesday. Following that, on Thursday we met our 41 Kindergarten students ready to begin their educational journey with us. The teachers were very excited by the calmness and confidence of our youngest students. Congratulations to all for the excellent start to the 2019 school year!

On Friday, we were able to form our classes for 2019. We thank you for your patience as we confirmed our enrolment numbers, checked, double checked and triple checked our draft classes to ensure all students' needs were taken into consideration.

If you did not see the attachment about classes on the Facebook page or Skoolbag Ap, it is included for your information in today's newsletter and I urge you to read it. It may answer some questions for you and will outline the considerations and complexities of forming classes.

Thank you to the teaching staff and executive for their work in ensuring the best possible outcomes for our students this year.

### Car Park Update

As communicated last year via the newsletter, the staff car park **is not open for OOSH drop off and pick up between 7am and 3.45pm**. During these times, the car park is only open to Maryland Public School staff.

Parents / community members will be able to use the car park **only before 7am and after 3.45pm** to drop off and pick up from OOSH or to participate in other after school activities (dance / karate in hall etc).

This is effective now. We appreciate the support of those who have already made adjustments to their drop off / pick up routines. Access to the school grounds for these times is through the pedestrian gate on John T Bell Drive (near the admin building).

As outlined previously, these changes are in response to recommendations from our Work, Health and Safety directorate.

These changes will be reviewed when we have our new car park gate installed (possibly April).

We thank you for your ongoing support in helping to keep our kids safe.

### Coming up

Tomorrow Swimming Carnival (Years 2-6)  
18 February School Photos (information to come)  
Week beginning 18 February - Parent information meetings - times as follows;  
Stage 2: Monday, 18 February 5pm – 5.45pm  
Stage 1: Tuesday, 19 February 5pm – 5.45pm  
Stage 3: Wednesday, 20 February 5pm – 5.45pm  
Early Stage 1: Thursday, 21 February 5pm – 5.45pm

### STAFFING 2019

School Executive	Position
Mrs Annette Van Egmond	Principal
Mrs Melissa Khay	Deputy Principal (Leader of Pedagogy Mon-Wed)
Mrs Lorraine Williams	Assistant Principal – Learning Support
Mrs Kim Mackay	Assistant Principal
Ms Megan Blanch	Assistant Principal
Miss Kira Gleeson	Rel Assistant Principal Special Education (Shared with Ms Berg)
Ms Cindy Berg	Rel Assistant Principal Special Education (Shared with Ms Gleeson)
Teaching Staff	Position / Class
Mrs Mackay	Kindergarten – KKM – Stage Leader ES1 / S1
Mrs Oughton	Kindergarten – KDO (ES1 Curriculum Coordinator)
Mrs Toll	1/2PT
Miss Clunes	1/2TC
Mrs Conn / Mrs Fuge (Fridays)	1/2SC
Mrs Groth	1/2DG
Mrs Garven	1/2SG (Stage 1 Curriculum Coordinator)
Mrs King	2/3RK
Ms Blanch	3/4MB – Stage Leader S2 and S3
Miss Brown	3/4TB
Miss Ward	3/4KW (Stage 2 Curriculum Coordinator)
Mr Blyth	5/6BB
Mr Newling	5/6MN
Ms Duff	5/6JD – (S3 Curriculum Coordinator)

Mrs Wingrove	5/6DW
Mr Wells	5/6AW (Opportunity Class)
Ms Berg	K/6CB Support Unit Leader (IO class)
Miss Gleeson	K/6KG Support Unit Leader (MC class)
Mrs Attwood	K/6CA (AU class)
Mrs Foster	Library
Mrs Shaw	RFF / Library
Mrs Dalais	ESL / Learning and Support / RFF
Mr Manners	RFF Science / Learning and Support
Mrs Fuge	RFF / Learning and Support
Mrs Williams	Learning and Support / Student Services (Support Staff Leader)
Ms Krause	School Counsellor
Mrs Willcox	Itinerant Support Teacher - Hearing
<b>Admin and Support Staff</b>	<b>Position</b>
Mrs Carolan	School Admin Manager
Mrs Dulvey	School Admin Officer
Mrs Wiggins	School Admin Officer
Mrs Montgomery	School Admin Officer
Mr Higgins	General Assistant
Mrs Davies	School Learning Support Officer (K/6KG)
Mrs Grey	School Learning Support Officer (K/6CA)
Mrs Bone	School Learning Support Officer (K/6CB)
Mrs Cox	School Learning Support Officer (mainstream)
Mrs Woodcock	School Learning Support Officer (mainstream)
Mrs Bourke	School Learning Support Officer (mainstream)
Mrs Rochester	School Learning Support Officer (mainstream)
Mrs Buffier	School Learning Support Officer (mainstream)

Have a wonderful week everyone,

Mrs Van Egmond ☺

#### Canteen Closed Wednesday, 6 February 2019

Please note that our school canteen will not be open for business tomorrow. As most of the school will be at the swimming carnival, the canteen will be closed.

Please ensure all students attending school tomorrow (Kindergarten and Year 1) bring their fruit break, recess and lunch.

Thank you.



<https://www.facebook.com/MarylandPublic>

## Calendar

### Term 1 – Week 2

Wednesday, 6 February 2019	2019 Swimming Carnival
Friday, 8 February 2019	2pm Primary Assembly

### Term 1 – Week 3

Friday, 15 February 2019	2pm Infants Assembly
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### Important Dates for Your Diary

Monday, 18 February 2019	Individual and Class Photos 5pm - 5.45pm Stage 2 Parent Information Evening
Tuesday, 19 February 2019	5pm – 5.45pm Stage 1 Parent Information Evening
Wednesday, 20 February 2019	<b>9am Cut-off for Grey and Gold Cards to be handed into the office for next week's Whole School Assembly</b> 5pm – 5.45pm Stage 3 Parent Information Evening
Thursday, 21 February 2019	Zone Swimming Carnival 5pm – 5.45pm Early Stage 1 Parent Information Evening
Friday, 22 February 2019	2pm Primary Assembly
Wednesday, 27 February 2019	2pm Whole School Assembly
Friday, 8 March 2019	2pm Infants Assembly
Friday, 15 March 2019	2pm Primary Assembly
Friday, 22 March 2019	2pm Infants Assembly
Friday, 29 March 2019	2pm Primary Assembly
Friday 5 April 2019	Cross Country 2pm Infants Assembly
Wednesday 10 April 2019	2pm Whole School Assembly

### AWARD WINNERS FROM PRESENTATION DAY 2018

<b>Senior Citizenship</b>	<i>Ella S</i>
<b>Junior Citizenship</b>	<i>Ava H</i>
<b>Stage 1 Citizenship Award</b>	<i>Mia M</i>
<b>Leadership Award</b>	<i>Cadence C</i>
<b>Integrity Award</b>	<i>Bailey L</i>
<b>(Callaghan College Scholarship)</b>	
<b>Gerry Goodger</b>	<i>Daneby H</i>
<b>Encouragement Award</b>	
<b>Kay Perry Literary Award</b>	<i>Rosamond Z</i>
<b>2017 School Dux</b>	<i>William R</i>
<b>Performing Arts - Choir</b>	<i>Chelsye McN</i>
<b>Performing Arts - Senior Band</b>	<i>Lucinda P</i>
<b>Performing Arts - Junior Band</b>	<i>Jennifer N</i>
<b>Performing Arts - Junior Dance</b>	<i>Mia W</i>
<b>Performing Arts - Senior Dance</b>	<i>Bella J</i>
<b>Sportsperson of the Year</b>	<i>Kaihem H</i>
<b>Sport Representatives</b>	<i>Sahra G</i>
	<i>Kaihem H,</i>
	<i>Latesha W,</i>
	<i>Tyler F</i>
	<i>Heron</i>
	<i>Heron</i>
	<i>Heron</i>

### House Points

**Athletics House**  
**Swimming House**

### 2019 Student Executive

<b>Captains</b>	<i>Kayla B</i>	<i>Riley W</i>
<b>Vice-Captains</b>	<i>Latesha W</i>	<i>Hunter K</i>
<b>Prefects</b>	<i>Matilda I</i>	<i>Matthew C</i>

**2019 House Leaders****HERON**

<b>Captain</b>	<i>Zoe G</i>	<i>Ben B</i>
<b>Vice Captain</b>	<i>Grace F</i>	<i>Dane Q-G</i>

**IBIS**

<b>Captain</b>	<i>Amy K</i>	<i>Liam C</i>
<b>Vice Captain</b>	<i>Ava VDL</i>	<i>Brodie C</i>

**KINGFISHER**

<b>Captain</b>	<i>Hunter S</i>	<i>Marnie J</i>
<b>Vice Captain</b>	<i>Roy C</i>	<i>Ava P</i>

**SWAN**

<b>Captain</b>	<i>Lilly H</i>	<i>Lincoln S</i>
<b>Vice Captain</b>	<i>Ava H</i>	<i>Raferty D</i>

**OFFICE NEWS****Dogs On School Grounds**

We wish to remind everyone that **dogs are not permitted anywhere on the school site.**

**Book Packs**

Book packs are being distributed to classes for use. Payment for the book packs is due by **Friday, 22 February 2019.**

**General Permission Notes**

The general permission note is being sent home this week. This note needs to be returned to class teachers as soon as possible.

**Attendance**

The school has a legal obligation to monitor and record student attendance. If your child is absent from school it is important to tell the school and provide a reason for the absence.

**To explain an absence you may:**

- Send a note, fax or email to the school
- Use the school App
- Telephone the school, or
- Visit the school

Class teachers will contact parents or carers of a child in their class who has been away for **two or more days** and no explanation has been received. Lateness is recorded as partial absence and must be explained in the same way as other forms of absence.

**Newsletter**

Newsletters are emailed each week to parents. It is our preferred method to email. If you do not have an email address or you would prefer a paper copy please return the slip below as soon as possible.

**Newsletter Return Slip**

I would prefer a paper copy of the newsletter.

Name:.....

Youngest Child's Name:.....Class:.....

**School App**

The School App for iPhones, smart phones and iPads is available free from the iTunes store or Google Play store. All parents and family members are encouraged to download and access the app.

The calendar will be regularly up-dated and alerts will be provided reminding parents of events and activities.

**Just a reminder for parents who already use the school app, you need to go to the set up section in the app and change the year your child / children are in.**

**Mozzie Alert**

Due to the warmer days there has been a large number of children being bitten by mosquitoes.

Please spray your child every morning before attending school. Students may bring their own roll-on mosquito repellent. **NO SPRAY** repellents are permitted.

**Head Lice**

We have had a number of notifications regarding head lice. Please check your child's hair regularly and treat if required.

**Make Online Payments (Preferred Method)**

Payments can be made online using either a Visa or Mastercard credit or debit card. The secure payment page, hosted by Westpac, is accessed via **our website** by selecting

**\$ Make A Payment** tab at the bottom of the page.

You can pay for any school activity that you would normally pay for via the front office.

**Please note any P&C, Fundraising or Canteen activities can only be paid with cash placed in an envelope with child's name and activity written on the front of envelope.**

When you access the Make Online Payments you must enter:

- the student's name, and
- date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. No student's details are given to Westpac. As a consequence, payments for each child need to be made separately. (There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice Number but these fields are not relevant to Maryland PS). You must also enter details about who is paying.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit / debit card details are captured in a secure manner. These details are not passed back to the school.

Under payment options, you enter the activity or item for which you are paying. Write a title in the Payment Description that will enable the School Staff to match your payment with the school activity or item.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. You can print your own receipts or have the receipt emailed to

your email account. This gives you immediate proof that you have paid for the item.

The next morning, details of the payments are passed to the school where they will be matched against your child's account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by us.

#### Payments Made Directly to School Office

If making a payment directly to the school office Eftpos is the preferred option. Cash payments require the correct amount payable as we do not have change. If the correct money is not provided the difference will be receipted to the child's account as fees in advance.

#### Reward and Recognition

Student achievement is rewarded, recognised and celebrated within our school community by students working towards earning their BRONZE, SILVER or AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE in each stage.

To achieve each level students must collect a number (refer to chart below) of Maryland Merits (grey) cards or gold cards (handed out in Friday's assembly).

- The value of Gold Cards = 2
- The value of Grey Cards = 1

Students may collect a combination of grey and gold cards towards each certificate.

For example a student in Early Stage 1 qualifying for their Bronze Award may have 3 grey cards and 2 gold cards or 5 grey cards and 1 gold card or any number of combinations as long as it equals 7. They then hand these in to the office and their Bronze Award will be handed out the next **whole school assembly** which is held on Friday afternoon from 2.00pm. They would then start collecting and earning grey and gold cards towards their Silver Award.

Stages 1, 2 and 3 earn their Award for Excellence over a two year period, Early Stage 1 have one year.

#### Stage Attainments

Stage	Bronze Certificate	Silver Certificate	Award for Excellence
Early Stage 1	7	Bronze + 8 = Silver	Bronze + Silver + 10 = Certificate
Stage 1	15	Bronze + 15 = Silver	Bronze + Silver + 20 = Certificate plus School Badge
Stage 2	15	Bronze + 15 = Silver	Bronze + Silver + 20 = Certificate plus a Pen
Stage 3	15	Bronze + 15 = Silver	Bronze + Silver + 20 = Honour Student, Certificate and Medallion in a case

**We recognise that some students may have qualified for their Bronze, Silver and Award for Excellence for their stage at the end of last year. In order to recognise this, students will have until Monday, 11 February 2019 to hand their 2017 and 2018 dated cards into the school office.**

#### Whole School Assemblies

Whole school assemblies have been changed to Wednesdays this year. The dates for these assemblies are advertised in the calendar of the school newsletter.

Students are presented their Bronze, Silver and Award for Excellence at these assemblies.

To enable the office staff to process these awards students must hand their merit cards (grey and gold) into the school office by 9am the Wednesday before the whole school assembly.

The cut-off date for our first whole school assembly in Week 5 (Wednesday, 27 February) is **9am Wednesday, 20 February 2019.**

#### EARLY STAGE 1 NEWS

Kindergarten have settled in very well and are quickly learning the routines for school. All students will be assessed individually over the next couple of weeks. The Best Start assessment provides teachers with information about the skills and knowledge that each child brings to Kindergarten. A report will also be provided to parents. More information about the Best Start assessment is available on the Department of Education website.

A separate note regarding a language / speech assessment will be sent home soon, as we plan to screen Kindergarten students this term.

A general information note will also be sent home this week. Book packs have arrived and we will begin to use these in classes this week.

An information evening will also be held on Thursday, 21 February at 5pm. I look forward to meeting you on this evening.

Mrs Mackay (ES1 Leader)

#### STAGE 1 NEWS

Stage 1 students have been grouped into 5 classes. Lots of planning and discussion was put into the many decisions made to ensure all students were placed in the correct classes. All students have settled well and are working hard. The Stage 1 information session will be held on Tuesday, 19 February at 5pm. The Stage 1 team looks forward to meeting you all. This is an opportunity to meet your child's teacher and hear about what they will be learning throughout the year. There will also be time for questions at this meeting.

A general information note will also be sent home this week. Book packs have arrived and classes will begin to use them this week.

Mrs Mackay (Stage 1 Leader)

## BAND NEWS

Welcome back to our returning and new band students! Due to the swimming carnival this week, our first rehearsal will be at 8am Wednesday, 13 February (Week 3). Students will receive their instruments on this day. New students are not required at the 8am rehearsal and will receive their lesson during the day. For families who wish to join the band community this year, permission notes can be found at the front office.

We are looking forward to another great year full of music and fun!

Mrs Garven & Mrs Shaw (Band Coordinators)

## SPORT NEWS

Welcome back to another busy year of sporting activities.

### Swimming Carnival

The annual Swimming Carnival will be held at Wallsend Swim Centre this Wednesday. The early swimmers - 100m and medley will begin at 8.30am. All other students will leave school at 9.00am. The 50m events include the 4 strokes - freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly. These events will qualify for the Crossroads Zone Carnival held on Thursday, 21 February. A 25m event will be included for all age divisions however this is not a zone event. Volunteer time keepers please see Mrs Wingrove. All spectators are welcome. Those students and parents wishing to remain at the pool, after the carnival, will need to exit and re-enter the pool due to safety regulations. Early leavers need to have their names marked off the roll by Mrs Dulvey. The swimming ribbons will be awarded at the whole school assembly in Week 5.

Wallsend Pool have requested that colour zinc is not to be used on students.

NO food from outside shops (eg: Mc Donalds, Pizza, Henny Penny, Subway etc) is to be brought into the swimming complex. There are full canteen facilities available.

If you wish to take your child home from the pool, please go to Mrs Dulvey who will be near the recording office to have your child marked off. Children will only be permitted to leave with their parent if they have given Mrs Dulvey a note stating that they are permitted to go home with another person. If this is the case please ask that adult to bring ID with them. All notes must be handed to Mrs Dulvey at the pool in the morning when they first arrive.

### PSSA Trials

Throughout the year PSSA trials will be held for individual sports. Those students who play at a representative or high level will be eligible for trial selection.

### Knights Knockout

Mr Blyth will be organising trials for the junior and senior team this term.

### Cross Country

The school Cross Country will be held on Friday, 5 April.

Mrs Wingrove (Sports Coordinator)

## PRELOVED UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

### Opening Hours

- Tuesday Mornings 8.30am until 9.00am
- Thursday Afternoons 2.15pm until 2.45pm

Carmen & Alisa ☺☺

## NEW UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

### Opening Hours

- Tuesday 8.30am - 9.30am
- Thursday 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Visit the website by clicking on the link below to order uniforms online.

<http://www.countryfeelinguniforms.com.au/>

## CANTEEN NEWS

Volunteers urgently needed for canteen. Without volunteer support the canteen may be forced to close on certain days. If you can help out on any of the dates required (even if it's only for 1 hour) please contact the canteen asap.

Your support is very much appreciated.

### Canteen Roster Term

Day	Date	Name
<b>Week 2</b>		
Wednesday	6 February	Lesley, Robyn, Kass
Thursday	7 February	Kristie, Lyndell
Friday	8 February	Jamie, Amands S, <b>1 Volunteer Needed</b>
<b>Week 3</b>		
Monday	11 February	Carmen, Alisha O
Tuesday	12 February	Carmen, Sheree
Wednesday	13 February	Lesley, Robyn <b>1 Volunteer Needed</b>
Thursday	14 February	Janelle, Lesley, Cher
Friday	15 February	Jamie, Sharna, Kass, <b>1 Volunteer Needed</b>
<b>Week 4</b>		
Monday	18 February	Carmen, Cath
Tuesday	19 February	Carmen, Amy
Wednesday	20 February	Lesley, Robyn, Kass
Thursday	21 February	Kristie, Lyndell
Friday	22 February	Jamie, Esme, <b>2 Volunteer Needed</b>

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### St Patrick's Wallsend-Shortland Parish Sacramental Program for 2019

Parents / carers of children in year 3 and over 2019. To continue the process of your child's Sacraments of Initiation (*begun in Baptism*) parents are invited to attend an:

**Information Night in  
St Patrick's School Hall on Monday, 11 February  
2019 at 7.00 pm**

This meeting will be facilitated by the Sacramental Team

To enrol your child / children please phone Wallsend Presbytery on 02 4955 9575 or email:

Wallsendshortlandparish@mn.catholic.org.au

### Maryland Fletcher Football Club

Maryland Fletcher Football Club, are seeking kids from 5 to 18 years of age, to come play soccer with our club for the 2019 season. We are a family based club. We have a registration day on Wednesday, 13 February from 6.00pm until 8.00pm, at Fletcher Community Hall, Kurra Drive Fletcher.

Parents and guardians are also welcome to play with our senior teams of all age men & women, plus over 35's and Zone league teams.

For more information, please email the club on [marylandfletcherfc@newcastlefootball.net.au](mailto:marylandfletcherfc@newcastlefootball.net.au) or contact our registrar Troy Standen on 0431 364 897.



The Shortland Pandas invite you and family members to join our small family orientated club in the new 2019 season. We encourage children from 4 years to participate in sports and parents to volunteer and get involved in the running of the club.

Shortland United will be participating in the Active Kids Program which will entitle parents/guardians to receive \$100 per eligible child to contribute to the cost of playing football. We also offer a payment plan.

Registration Dates are:

Sunday February 3<sup>rd</sup> 10am – 1pm Lower Tuxford Park,  
King Street, Shortland  
Sunday February 10<sup>th</sup> 10am – 1pm Shortland Hotel,  
Restaurant Area  
Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup> 10am – 1pm Lower Tuxford Park,  
King Street, Shortland  
Sunday February 24<sup>th</sup> 10am – 1pm Shortland Hotel,  
Restaurant Area

If you have any questions or require additional information please contact us on:

[shortlandufc@newcastlefootball.net.au](mailto:shortlandufc@newcastlefootball.net.au)

OR by calling -

- Registrar – Carly Powell – 0435 201 492
- Registrar – Tom Jones - 0432 445 591
- President – Ross Buxton – 0421 000 597



# JOIN THE FUN



**Junior Blasters kicks off at Fletcher in Term 1**

Starts: **Monday 11th February (4.30pm–5.30pm)**  
**All boys & girls aged 5 to 8 years are welcome**

Venue: **Kurra Oval, Fletcher**

Fee: **\$99 (includes participant pack)**  
*Redeem your Active Kids voucher to participate at NO cost*

For more information and to register online please visit [www.playcricket.com.au](http://www.playcricket.com.au) and search 'Fletcher'





## Class Structures- FAQ and Answers

### **What is a multi-age or composite class?**

A composite class is where children from different year groups or stages are placed together in one class. Families are composite with adults and children of different ages and stages. How many of your adult friends are the same age as you?

### **The children in the composite class / cross stage class may study different topics from the single stage class. Should I be worried?**

There is no need to be concerned. Different classes can be studying different topics and still cover the syllabus outcomes. Topics are used to provide relevant context, case study, inquiry or example for teaching the key concepts in each subject area. For example 'Antarctica' is a topic. It is an example of a much broader concept of Endangered Environments. This allows the teacher to choose the most relevant example for their students.

### **How can a teacher teach two stages at once?**

The curriculum in NSW is organized as a learning progression from Kinder to Year 12. Students can be anywhere along this progression. This curriculum is broken into stages, which usually correlates to two years of learning. Students are expected to achieve particular goals or outcomes by the end of each stage.

The following examples show the expected outcomes for Reading and Viewing in Stage 2 and 3.

- Stage 2 Reading and Viewing: Uses an increasing range of skills, strategies and knowledge to fluently read, view and comprehend a range of texts on increasingly challenging topics in different media and technologies.
- Stage 3 Reading and Viewing: Uses an integrated range of skills, strategies and knowledge to read, view and comprehend a wide range of texts in different media and technologies.

You will note the expectation for Stage 3 is more challenging and complex. It is quite possible for students to be studying the same text with a completely different set of expectations. It is not the age of the child that determines what students are ready to learn next. If that were the case every child would learn to walk, talk or read at the same age.

Students are at many stages of readiness in any classroom, regardless of whether the class is a straight class or a composite class. Teachers cater for differences in readiness by grouping children according to purpose and setting curriculum goals appropriate to the needs of the students.

### **Why group?**

It all depends on purpose. Grouping can be based on:

- Readiness
- Interests or
- Different ways to learn, such as collaborative groups, independent study, peer tutors, the internet etc.

We now have a curriculum that is developmental stretching from Kinder to Year 12 in all Key Learning Areas. Students can be anywhere along this continuum so grouping students according to ability, achievement and / or readiness makes a lot of sense.

Groups can be formed full time or part time. Groups can be formed within classes, across classes or can operate as withdrawal groups. Grouping in Maths and Reading is formed on the basis of readiness so that students are learning content that is 'new'. That is, the content is just difficult enough so students are challenged but not so hard they want to give up.

Research tells us that grouping in Maths and Reading is highly effective in terms of student learning and growth. Groupings can be formed within the class, within stages or across stages. Groupings can be full time or part time or just some of the time.

**Will the children in the composite class / cross stage class get the same opportunities as the children in the single stage class?**

Children in all classes will follow programs constructed to help them progress at their own level, regardless of whether or not they are in a composite class or single year stage class. In addition the school will make every effort to involve children in any one year group in activities, which bring them all together. However it is important that the natural identity of each class is maintained and the school will ensure this happens.

My child has been put in a composite class with students from a stage or year below him/her. Is he/she being kept back?

No, this is certainly not the case. You can be confident that classes have been constructed to make best use of available staff, resources and space. Children will progress through learning experiences appropriate to their developmental level.

**My child's friends are in another class. What should I do?**

You should be assured that your child's teacher will be sensitive to the needs of children in his/her class and will be encouraging the class to develop working relationships with each other. It is important that children learn to adapt and not be fearful of change. Children usually make friends very quickly and can cope far better than adults imagine. Children will spend time in the playground mixing with their friends and there will be many opportunities for your child to continue to be involved with his/her whole year group including some curricular activities and social activities such as playtimes.

**Can I refuse to have my child in a particular class?**

No. The management of the school is the responsibility of the principal. Class structures are formed with a great deal of consideration, consultation, understanding and knowledge of our students. We understand parents only want what they believe is best for their child, as do we.

**Are the classes set for the year?**

We have formed classes based on the enrolments we have at this time of the year. In very exceptional circumstances, classes can sometimes be restructured at any point during the year.

### **How can I help my child adjust to their new class?**

The teachers and school executive consider each child's academic, social and emotional needs when forming class placements. While friendship groups are considered in forming classes, friendship groups are not the basis for constructing classes. This is an opportunity to support our children to develop resilience, to grow as involved, collaborative and caring citizens. We need to help children know that they can:

- learn to make new friends
- learn to work with people other than their friends
- learn new routines
- learn that they can adapt and change
- learn to explore the world with courage.

Some children adjust well to change. Others find it harder. Your child will look to you for guidance. Be positive and reassure them that adjusting to change takes time. Let them voice their concerns but try not to step in to solve the problem for them. It takes a lot of time and thought to put new classes together. Moving your child to a different class might seem an easy solution but it is not always possible. It is important that your child's year begins on a positive note and that we all work together to build strong and supportive partnerships.

### **If you need to discuss any concerns or issues in regard to your child you should:**

1. Firstly have a chat with the class teacher then-
2. If you need to discuss the matter further please make an appointment with an Assistant Principal: Mrs Kim Mackay - ES1 and Stage1, Ms Megan Blanch – Stage 2 and Stage 3, Support Unit classes Miss Kira Gleeson or Ms Cindy Berg (Shared Relieving Assistant Principal position) or Mrs Lorraine Williams and Melissa Khay who are also available to support.

If the matter remains unresolved or requires further attention please ring the school office on 4955 9430 and make an appointment to talk with Mrs Annette Van Egmond, the school principal.