



## STAGE 3 Parent Information Guide 2023

Welcome to Castle Cove for what we know will be an exciting year of learning. We especially welcome all Stage 3 families and students who are new to our school, and hope that that you and your children have settled in well.

### Contact Information

#### Stage 3 Teachers

*Sue Hiblen* Senior H [susan.hiblen@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:susan.hiblen@det.nsw.edu.au)

*Jo Hull* Senior J (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) [joanna.hull@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:joanna.hull@det.nsw.edu.au)

*Tim Blazey* Senior J (Thursday, Friday) - [tim.blazey@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:tim.blazey@det.nsw.edu.au)

*Anne Layton-Smith* Senior L - Assistant Principal- [anne.layton-smith1@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:anne.layton-smith1@det.nsw.edu.au)

#### Year 5 and 6 (Stage 3) Team Leader

*Anne Layton-Smith* Senior L- Assistant Principal- [anne.layton-smith1@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:anne.layton-smith1@det.nsw.edu.au)

### Stages of Learning:

The 4 stages of learning in primary school are:

- EARLY STAGE 1- Kindergarten
- STAGE 1- Years 1 and 2
- STAGE 2- Years 3 and 4
- STAGE 3- Years 5 and 6

Learning areas in primary school include:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Human Society and its Environment (HSIE) (History and Geography)
- Creative Arts
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)
- Languages- optional for schools

## **General Organisation**

### **Newsletters and Weekly Emails**

Please read the school newsletter and weekly grade emails for all school information. Stage 3 teachers will send out a weekly email each Monday. Occasionally P and C fundraising information will be sent out by P and C volunteers. However, information about school matters should only be communicated by the class teacher, the executive team or the school office.

### **Communication**

If you have any concerns or wish to make an appointment for a meeting, please email class teachers directly. Any urgent matters can also be communicated to the office. Please note that our whole school staff meetings are scheduled on Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoons.

### **Seesaw**

Throughout the year some of your child's work will be posted on Seesaw for families to view at home.

### **Pick Up / Drop off Routines and Late Arrival / Early Departures**

1. **Late arrivals** - parents please bring your child/ren to the school office. Staff will sign them in and take them to their classroom
2. **Early departures** - parents please come to the office. Staff will sign your child/ren out and collect them from their classroom

### **Notification of Absences**

If for any reason, your child is unable to attend school, please email the teacher (Cc the office) or phone the office. An explanation of any absence must be provided to the school within 7 days of that absence.

### **Fruit/Vegetable Break**

Each morning, students will have a **small** fresh fruit or vegetable snack while they are learning. They will also be encouraged to use the bathroom at this time. Please do not pack fruit lollies or dried fruit to eat during this time.

### **Birthdays**

If your child wishes to bring in a mini treat to share with the class, we recommend small, individually wrapped item such as ice blocks (the school's preference), small packets of popcorn, mini cupcakes or biscuits. Please be mindful of students with allergies. We are a nut aware school.





**Library**

Library will be taught by Ms Jacobs. Please make sure that your child has their library bag on the day their class will be visiting the library for a lesson and to borrow books of interest to read at home for pleasure.

**Scripture and Ethics**

Scripture (combined Protestant, Catholic, Jewish) and Ethics lessons take place each Wednesday. Students who are not attending a Scripture or Ethics group go to non-Scripture, where they will be supervised by a teacher.

## School Reward System

Level 1 Class based and individualised reward systems	
	<p>Students are encouraged to exhibit positive behaviour aligned with the School Expectations and can receive rewards such as praise, house points, table points, class dojo points, non-verbal actions (thumbs up), class money, marble jars, choice boards and class games.</p>
Level 2 Castle Cards	
	<p>Acquisition of Level 1 rewards may be used to redeem a Castle Card. Castle Cards are also awarded for positive behaviour in the classroom and playground.</p>
Level 3 Merit Certificates and A-Day Awards	
	<p>Students trade 10 Castle Cards with their teacher for one Merit Certificate. Merit Certificates are also awarded at fortnightly assemblies for positive behaviour in the classroom.</p> <p>A-Day awards are given at the end of each semester for two of the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Citizenship</li> <li>- Attitude and Approach to Learning</li> <li>- Creativity</li> <li>- Academic Achievement and Excellence</li> </ul>
Level 4 Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards	
	<p>Students trade 10 Merit Certificates or A-Day Awards at the office to receive a Bronze Award at a school assembly.</p> <p>When 10 more Merit or A-Day Awards are traded in, the student receives a Silver Award.</p> <p>When 10 more Merit or A-Day Awards are traded in, the student receives a Gold Award. The Gold Awards are awarded at the end of each term at the Gold Assembly. Students also receive a school patch and attend a morning tea with the principal and their families.</p>
Award Cycle Two	
	<p>Once a Gold Award has been awarded, the cycle starts again, and students are awarded with Bronze 2 Award, Silver 2 Award and Gold 2 Award. Each subsequent Gold Award is issued with a badge and students and families are invited to a celebratory morning tea with the principal.</p>

### Timetable and Routines for Stage 3

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English groups	English groups	English groups Maths groups	SISA (odd weeks) English (even weeks)	English groups
Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
Home class	Maths groups	Maths groups 12:35pm 3-6 Scripture/Ethics	Maths groups	Maths groups
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Home class Assembly	SH Home class SJ Science SL Library	SH Library SJ Home class SL Science	SH Science SJ Library SL Home class	Sport

### The Middle Schools Years at Castle Cove PS

This program aims to support each student's growing sense of responsibility and independence as a learner in preparation for high school. We differentiate learning to cater for a range of abilities across Stage 3.

Teachers support the students in managing their own learning. The Year 6 students develop their leadership skills through additional responsibilities, as big buddies to Kindergarten students and being role models to the Year 5 students in their home class. We also have a keen awareness of the changing emotional, social and physical needs as students move from childhood to adolescence and how these changes impact the students as learners.

The students are taught in groups for English, with one composite upper stream and two grade groups, and streamed groups for Mathematics lessons. Lessons are differentiated according to ability. The programs across the classes are similar, but it is the depth and breadth of learning experiences which vary in differentiated groups within a class, designed to suit the needs of the students. Other subjects (Science, Library, History/Geography, Creative Arts, PDH and Handwriting) are taught in home classes.

The students will have a school diary to assist in developing their organisation skills in preparation for high school. They will be expected to plan their time to complete assigned homework tasks around co-curricular and out of school activities.

Stage 3 students are encouraged to develop their leadership skills. In 2023 we are continuing our Year 6 Peer Leader committees – Environment, Sport, Buddies and Communications. Year 5 will be given an opportunity to participate in the Peer Leader program in Term 4.

## **Homework**

Castle Cove Public School have developed evidence based homework tasks to provide strong support for student learning.

Homework is an increasingly valuable part of learning for students moving through Stage 3. It trains students to plan and organise their time and to develop a range of skills in identifying information resources. It establishes good study habits, concentration and self-discipline and aids students in their transition to high school. Students have the opportunity to use an online diary through the student portal.

### **Year 5/6 Homework Requirements**

Daily Home Reading (compulsory)

Maths Mastery Badges (compulsory)

Soundwaves Kids (optional)

Wushka (optional)

Mathletics (compulsory)

Major projects (compulsory)

In addition to these homework tasks, teachers may assign occasional additional tasks to support learning programs.

### **Premiers Reading Challenge**

This is compulsory for all students. Students are expected to borrow and record the books they have read online.

### **Mathletics**

Tasks are assigned weekly and reinforce the content taught in class.

### **Reading**

Students should read for 20-40 minutes each night. Reading can include the Premier's Reading Challenge.

Students who are not yet independent readers have access to Wushka online levelled readers at

[www.wushka.com.au](http://www.wushka.com.au).

English

English teaching and learning programs focus on developing students’ skills in:

- Oral language and communication
- Vocabulary
- Reading fluency
- Reading comprehension
- Creating written texts
- Grammar and punctuation
- Spelling
- Handwriting and digital transcription
- Understanding and responding to literature

Mathematics

A student develops understanding and fluency in mathematics through:

- exploring and connecting mathematical concepts
- choosing and applying mathematical techniques to solve problems
- communicating their thinking and reasoning coherently and clearly

Mathematics 3 - 6 outcomes and their related content are organised in:

Number & Algebra	Measurement & Geometry	Statistics & Probability
Whole Numbers	Length	Data
Addition and Subtraction	2D Space	Chance and Probability
Multiplication and Division	3D Space	
Fractions and Decimals	Angles	
Patterns and Algebra	Position	
	Time	
	Area	
	Volume and Capacity	
	Mass	

## Human Society and its Environment (HSIE)

Our topics will be drawn from the History and Geography syllabus and are taught in a two year cycle. This year, students will develop their research, organisation and presentation skills through two main studies:

### **History - Australia as a Nation**

This topic moves from colonial Australia to the development of Australia as a nation, particularly after 1901. Students explore the factors that led to Federation and experiences of democracy and citizenship over time. Students understand the significance of Australia's British heritage, the Westminster system and other models that influenced the development of Australia's system of government. Students learn about the way of life of people who migrated to Australia and their contributions to Australia's economic and social development.

### **Geography - Factors that Shape Places**

Students investigate how people change the natural environment in Australia and other places around the world. They also explore how the environment influences the human characteristics of places. They will examine ways people influence the characteristics of places, including the management of spaces. Students explore the impact bushfires have on Australian people, places and environments and propose ways people can reduce the impact of bushfires in the future.

## Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)

The Sports in Schools (SISA) team will be conducting fortnightly lessons to develop the students' fundamental movement skills and their ability to participate effectively in physical education. Please note that students are to wear full, regular school uniform (including black shoes) and not sports uniform on this day.

In Personal Development and Health, students will learn about safety, health, active lifestyles, growth, development and relationships.

Weekly sport lessons are held on Fridays. These focus on students' fundamental movement skills and sportsmanship. Students wear their sports uniform on Friday.

## Science and Technology

Science is taught by Anjali Rao. The science topics for Stage 3 include:

Term 1- Robotics and Coding. Homework - short research project due to be submitted in Week 8.

Term 2- Chemistry. Homework - Individual Investigation Major Project (*topic of investigation does not have to relate to chemistry*).

Term 3- Adaptations. Homework - short research project due in Week 8.

Term 4- Product Design



*Details of science homework and assignments will be found at <http://ccpsscience.weebly.com/>*

Students have access to iPads and laptops to use in the classroom. In addition, there are desktop computers available in all classrooms and computer lab. Students will develop their understanding of Digital Citizenship and how to be safe online. STEM and coding activities will form part of the technology focus.

Stage 3 students have the use of a school laptop which is kept at school and the student takes from class to class. Students have responsibility for the care and safe use of their laptop and have signed an agreement prior to receiving it. Responsible and safe internet use will be taught frequently throughout the year.

ICT outcomes are embedded in all Key Learning Areas. Foundation computer skills are taught in home class lessons and include skill development and application in a variety of programs as well as file management. Stage 3 students will be using Google Classroom as a platform for many of their lessons.

In Term 2, we will begin workshops that focus on a variety of skills required when planning and filming short films.

### **Creative and Practical Arts (CAPA)**

Students will participate in visual arts, music, drama and dance activities throughout the year. These aspects of the arts will be integrated in the various key learning areas.

### **Extra-Curricular**

Students are offered a broad range of extra-curricular activities, including dance, debating, chess, band, library monitors, sport, Robotics, Earth Kids and Tournament of Minds. They are encouraged to participate to enrich their final years at Castle Cove.

### **NAPLAN**

In 2023 our NAPLAN assessments will occur between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of March. Students will complete the assessments online. Additional information about NAPLAN assessments can be found at <http://nap.edu.au/>

Please note that lessons for Year 6 students will remain unaffected while Year 5 students participate in NAPLAN.

## **CAMP**

This year we have a two night camp in Canberra. The camp is in Term 2, from Wednesday 10th – Friday 12th May 2023, and is a memorable event in the Stage 3 program. In Canberra our itinerary will include Parliament House, Australian War Memorial, National Museum of Australia, Museum of Australian Democracy and other locations which complement our history unit, Australia as a Nation.

**Kind regards,**

Tim Blazey, Sue Hiblen, Jo Hull and Anne Layton-Smith