Lakemba Public School

Leapfrogs

Kindergarten Orientation and Transition
The staff, students and parents of Lakemba Public School welcome you as you are about to become members of our School. We care for children and hope that family members will support school activities and assist us to provide opportunities for all students to do their best.

Teachers are vitally concerned about the welfare and safety of our students.

We believe that each student should know what is expected of them so that they can learn within a caring environment that fosters cooperation, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and excellence.

We do this by:
- providing a balanced curriculum
- providing a caring student welfare program, attending to special needs and interests
- developing student self esteem
- recognising individual student differences and attending to different levels of development
- sharing expectations
- encouraging high levels of parent involvement

Lakemba’s Vision Statement

Our vision is to provide Quality Teaching in a welcoming, positive, stimulating environment where student learning experiences are relevant, clear and meaningful. Expectations are high, enthusiasm for learning is nurtured and responsible risk taking is both valued and encouraged. Consistent communication exists between the school and community and technology is integrated into the learning environment to equip our students in meeting the challenges of work and life.

Our vision and beliefs are pursued through carefully considered processes and policies and by annual management plans specifying strategies for continuous improvement of school organisation, students, staff, parents and resources. Further information about these is contained in this document as well as in the school’s Parent Information Handbook.

When reading this and other information parents should realise that, in following a core curriculum with enrichment work for students, classes may use different activities and approaches. What happens in KD may not happen be exactly the same as in KH. What happens in Kindergarten or Year 2 one year my not happen the same way the next year because children are different.

The more we understand your child, the more we can help. Tell us about anything that may affect learning and behaviour at school. This includes things like family illnesses, an unhappy incident and family problems. Do this by sending a note to your child’s teacher or talking with us privately. All information is treated with confidentiality.
Lakemba’s Rules and Values

**CORE RULES**

Show respect to yourself, others and the Environment

Be Fair and Caring

Be Responsible for Yourself

Be on time - be at school by 9am

Wear your uniform every day

**CORE VALUES**

Co operation

Respect

Responsibility

Fairness

Caring

Excellence – always do your best
Leapfrogs

Leapfrogs is a transition to school program for preschool aged students. This program runs for two days (Thursday and Friday) from 9 am to 11 am over 4 weeks during Term 4. This is an intensive program which prepares new children to come to our school.

While the children are attending Leapfrogs parents are offered information sessions that help give them information they need to prepare their children for school.

Many interagency groups also support our parent program by delivering sessions to parents.

Parents must remain at the school during all Leapfrogs sessions.

The First Weeks at School

Starting school brings many changes to the lives of most children. They are moving from the less restricted life of home, day-care or pre-school and need time to adapt to this. Each child is unique and will make the adjustment individually. School should be a joyful experience. Kindergarten, the first year, is the time in which children develop positive attitudes towards learning, social skills and the foundation for academic achievement. Together, we can help them settle happily into school life.

During the early weeks much time is spent learning about school, for example:

- learning to be part of a large group.
- learning to respond to adults other than their parents.
- learning to share the teacher’s time and attention with other children.
- learning to mix with many other children.
- learning to share with other children.
- learning basic routines about eating and playing, moving from place to place, attracting the teachers attention.
- learning about other places in the school such as the library, the canteen and the office.
- learning to care for school and personal belongings.
- learning how to take messages with a partner.
- meeting the teachers and other members of the school community.
- working with other teachers.

The Learning Program

The teaching and learning program includes a broad range of activities covering all areas of the curriculum. Many experiences and activities are based on play, particularly in the first term. They develop manipulative skills, understanding of concepts and social skills such as communication and interpersonal relationships. They also provide the teacher with many opportunities to assess the stage of development of each child in order to prepare programs to meet individual needs.
Developing Independence

Some children will commence school able to do many of the following things, while others will take longer to learn them. Can your child:

- Obey and follow simple instructions from other adults?
- Say his or her first and last name clearly to others?
- Recognise his or her first name in print?
- Identify own belongings and care for them?
- Pack away games and activities?
- Put on and take off shoes and socks, jackets, raincoats, etc and manage clothes at the toilet?
- Use a handkerchief or tissues correctly?
- Recognise the need to go to the toilet and ask to do so?
- Use a toilet alone (and, for boys, use a urinal), including flushing?
- Wash hands after using the toilet?
- Identify playlunch (“little lunch”) and lunch (“big lunch”)?
- Unwrap and eat packed lunch and manage lunch box, drink bottle, etc?
- Handle small amounts of money for ice blocks etc. at the canteen?

We keep a small stock of spare uniforms and underclothes for children who have a "toilet accident". If this occurs to your child please ensure that the spare clothing is washed and returned promptly. It is advisable to put a spare pair of underclothes in your child's bag.

Other Times: Other Teachers

Two or three times a week your child will have a different teacher for an hour or two. This will happen when the class teacher has his or her two hours per week of non-teaching time for special preparation, marking, parent interviews, curriculum development, etc. It will also happen in Scripture time when your child will go the Scripture class with a visiting lay teacher or will be supervised by a teacher in a non-scripture group. Another regular teacher is the teacher/librarian who works with the class teacher in preparing and teaching class programs.

Personal Belongings

Please label **everything** your child brings to school. All clothing, lunch boxes, drink bottles, etc. must be clearly marked with your child’s name. Expensive games or toys must not be brought to school.

Food

**Quantity:** Some children are given too much food with instructions that it must be eaten. Please monitor your child’s food needs regularly. Whilst it is reasonable to expect that the food you provide will be eaten you should be flexible about this. Some days your child may not be hungry. Some children eat little at school. For any child in good health this is not something to worry about.
Suitability: As part of our Health Program children are encouraged to eat healthy foods. You are asked to supply healthy foods which your child enjoys. The foods may need to be varied from time to time.

Lakemba Public School has a **no nut policy**. Due to the fact that we have several children allergic to nuts and nut products we request that no child brings to school any food that contains nut products i.e. nutella, peanut butter etc. The Canteen also has a no nut policy.

**Money**

Students should not bring spending money to school for the first term.

When they do bring money to spend they should bring a small amount. They do not need money to spend every day.

At times students bring money for excursions and other payments. This money should be sent in an envelope with your child’s name and class on the front. It is important to allow your child to deliver this envelope to their teacher themselves. It is good practice in responsibility and independence. Please encourage your child to hand the money to the teacher first thing in the morning and not to leave it in their bag.

**Notes**

Often notes are sent home with the students. It is important to encourage your child to be responsible and give the notes to you rather than you find it in their bag. *Lakemba Link*, the school newsletter, is sent home fort nightly.

**Painting Shirts**

Your child will be doing a lot of art and craft and may often become messy. To reduce the amount of paint and paste on clothes, we ask that you send an old pull-on T shirt to cover the uniform. From experience we have found that the plastic art aprons do not give adequate protection. Despite the best of intentions, paint does get on uniforms. If this does happen it is recommended that clothing be washed separately in cold water.

**Home Reading Program**

All Kindergarten will participate in a Home Reading program starting in term 2. Each child is able to borrow a book to read at home under parental supervision. The book should match the child’s level of development.

We hope this has helped you understand a little more about your child’s first year at school. If you have any concerns please talk to the Assistant Principal, Infants and/or your child’s teacher.
You and Your School

Contact between home and school is of utmost importance. Functions which enable parents to meet teachers and one another occur throughout the year. Parents are encouraged to make time to build a positive relationship between home and school. Your interest will assist greatly in your child becoming a happy member of Lakemba Public School.

Do become a member of the P & C as soon as possible. Doing so will help your child and make friends for yourself. Information on meetings appears in the school Newsletter which comes home with your child.
Ideas to Help Your Child Settle into School

Encourage your child to attempt the things mentioned below, but don’t worry if your child can’t do all of them. Talk to the Kindergarten teacher, and together you can support and assist your child’s learning.

Language
- Talk to your child often and listen to them talk. Teach your child to say their name clearly. Then attempt to teach your child their address, phone number and birthday.
- Talk to other people about familiar objects and events
- Encourage your child to answer and ask simple questions.
- Teach your child to use simple sentences to make their needs known.
- Help your child to follow simple instructions
- READ TO YOUR CHILD. Read a bedtime story and ask questions about the story as you read.
- Encourage your child to use books for enjoyment or for looking at pictures. Take your child to the local Library.
- Make sure your child uses a variety of things (pens, pencils, paintbrushes, sticks in the dirt) to draw, to scribble or to write.
- Teach your child simple songs and encourage them to join in singing.
- Help your child to recognise their name in print.

Mathematics
- Help your child to recognise that numbers can be used to count.
- Show your child numbers in the environment e.g. supermarket, road signs.
- Help your child to use words such as many, a lot, more, less.
- Help your child to identify things in a group that are the same and different.
- Show your child shapes and talk about them.
- Help your child to differentiate between opposites - up and down, under and over, in front and behind, day and night.

Personal/Social Skills
- Make sure that your child can use the toilet independently.
- Teach your child to say their own name and address.
- Help your child to adapt to unfamiliar settings and new experiences by taking them to new places that they are not familiar with.
- Teach your child to finish a task AND tidy up afterwards.
- Help your child to play cooperatively with other children – share and take turns.
- Make sure your child can sit still to listen to a story for a few minutes.
- Encourage your child to share an adult's attention with several other children

Physical Skills
- Let your child dress themselves, even though it takes time. Your child needs to learn to put on their clothes, socks, shoes and jacket.
- Show your child how to throw a ball, skip, hop, jump and climb.
- Use scissors to cut along a straight line.
- Play variety of indoor and outdoor activities.
- Put on and take off their jumpers, shoes, socks.

Overall it is important to encourage your child to do things for themselves so that they grow in independence. Don’t do too much for your child in areas where they are capable of doing things for themselves.