Welcome to kindergarten at Kareela Public School.
This booklet ‘Kindy Kids 2016’ supplements the ‘Parent Handbook 2016’.

These booklets will hopefully answer all those questions you have about your child’s first year at ‘BIG’ school. However, if the answer is not here, or in the handbook, please do not hesitate to ask your child’s teacher.

In your child’s first year at school, he/she will:

LEARN LOTS,
MAKE FRIENDS, AND
HAVE FUN.

Kareela Public School
Freya St
Kareela NSW 2232

Phone: 9528 5444; 9528 5015
Fax: 9528 3484
E-mail: kareela-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: kareelaps.nsw.edu.au

Principal: Mr David O’Connell
DAY 1 IN KINDERGARTEN

LISTEN to your child’s concerns and discuss them together.

BE POSITIVE AND ENCOURAGING. Show enthusiasm about school and reassure your child that he/she will be safe and that you will collect him/her in the afternoon.

BE PREPARED TO ‘LET GO’ when your child is taken to his/her classroom.

BEST START: KINDERGARTEN ASSESSMENT

You will be given a day when you will need to bring your child to the kindergarten rooms for the BEST START: KINDERGARTEN ASSESSMENT. This is an assessment by the kindergarten teachers of your child’s literacy and numeracy skills. These assessments will be on:

- Thursday 28 January 2016
- Friday 29 January 2016

WHEN TO START SCHOOL:  Monday 1 February 2016

- Kindergarten children with siblings commence at: 9.15am
- Kindergarten children with surnames A - K commence at: 9.45am
- Kindergarten children with surnames L - Z commence at: 10.00am

WHAT TO WEAR AND PACK

- Full school summer uniform;
- Recess, lunch and drinks;
- School jacket;
- Raincoat and hat;
- Spare underwear in a plastic bag; and
- A 600ml plastic bottle of water.

PLEASE LABEL ALL PROPERTY

WHERE TO GO ON MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2016

- Meet your child’s buddy in the front quadrangle.
- You and your child will be taken to the kindergarten rooms.
- Help your child to put his/her bag on the bag rack outside the kinder rooms.
- Settle your child at a task in the room. The buddies and kindergarten teachers will care for your child.
- Leave your child as quickly as possible.
WHERE TO COLLECT YOUR CHILD

- **Be on time** to collect your child in the afternoon to avoid feelings of anxiety and abandonment.
- Wait in the front quadrangle, **away from the path, steps and classrooms.**
- The kinder children will be escorted to the front quadrangle by the teachers and will wait with the children until all children are collected.
- If raining, please collect your child from the classroom.

If at any time you cannot bring your child to, or collect your child from school, then tell the teacher the name of the person who will be doing this for you. Also, remember to tell your child if someone else is collecting him or her.

NB. For the first month of term 1, the kindergarten children will finish school at approximately 3.00pm.

IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

- Help your child to put his/her bag on the bag rack outside the kinder room.
- Take your child to the playground.
- If your child’s buddy or a friend cannot be found, take your child to the teacher on duty.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Kareela Public School
Freya Street
Kareela NSW 2232

**Ph:** 9528 5444 and 9528 5015  
**Fax:** 9528 3484  
**Mobile:** 0407 060 444  
**Email:** kareela-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au  
**Website:** www.kareelaps.nsw.edu.au

**Before and After School Care (BASC):** 9524 3711 / 0407 251801

**School Staff**

**Principal**  
Mr David O’Connell

**Assistant Principals**  
Ms Sonya Bruyn  
Mrs Melanie Gooding (Rlg)  
Mrs Shellee Whiffin

**Office Staff**

**School Administrative Manager**  
Mrs Adriana Fleming

**School Administrative Officers**  
Mrs Robyn Walker (Mon – Thurs)  
Mrs Joanne Flitcroft (Tues,Wed)  
Mrs Lorraine Sabbagh (Fri)

**Office Hours**  
8.00am - 3.30pm
School Hours

9.10am - 3.15pm
Morning assembly is at 9.10am. All students are expected to arrive at school between 8.40am and 9.10am.
There is no supervision in the playground before 8.40am or after 3.15pm. If children arrive at school prior to 8.40am they MUST sit on the seats outside the administration block. Playing in the school grounds is not permitted after 3.15pm.
*Children who arrive more than a few minutes before 8.40am are required to book into before school care.

Recess Time

11.10am - 11.35am

Lunch Time

Monday to Friday: 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Home Time

3.15pm (Kindergarten 3.00pm for February 2016)

KINDERGARTEN: A GOOD FIRST YEAR

AGE CONSIDERATIONS FOR STARTING KINDERGARTEN

NSW law requires all children to start school by their 6th birthday. Most children start kindergarten before they turn six. In government schools, children are entitled to begin school in the year they turn five as long as their birthday falls on or before 31 July.

Starting school is a major step in a child's life. A happy and successful first year promotes a positive attitude towards school and learning. Any decision about whether or not to start a child should focus on his/her needs and readiness. If any parents are in doubt, they should speak to the child's preschool teacher and/or make an appointment to speak with the Principal.
PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR KINDERGARTEN 2016

Talk to your child about school in a positive way - it is important that children feel happy and relaxed about starting school. Explain that they will make a lot of new friends and have a lot of fun learning new and interesting things.

✔ Start each school day right.

Ensure that your child is:

- well-rested;
- well-nourished;
- wearing the school uniform;
- prepared for weather changes;
- punctual; and
- sure of collection details.

✔ Share the excitement of starting school.

- Visit your child's classroom.
- Encourage children to talk about their day.
- Show interest in any work they bring home.
- Take an active part in school life.

✔ Label all items your child will bring to school.

- a school bag;
- a lunchbox and plastic drink bottle;
- a raincoat and hat; and
- school clothing such as jumpers and hats.

✔ Encourage your child to repeat his or her:

- first and last name;
- parents’ names;
- phone number; and
- address.
Help your child to be healthy by:

- having regular health checks, including hearing and eyesight;
- ensuring that they can toilet independently and understand the importance of
  washing their hands;
- reminding them to cover their mouth when they sneeze or cough;
- ensuring that they always have a hankie or tissue and know how to use it;
- insisting on correct posture when sitting in a chair;
- updating their immunisation; and
- packing a healthy recess and lunch.

Teach your child to be safe. Show your child:

- the safest way to school;
- how to cross roads safely; and
- how to use the pedestrian crossing.

Encourage your child to develop helpful habits by:

- having them put things away after use;
- teaching them to listen;
- having them follow simple directions;
- giving them small jobs;
- teaching them ways to get along with others;
- reminding them to wait their turn and share materials;
- teaching them to recognise and look after their own belongings; and
- ensuring that they can dress themselves; this includes putting on and taking off
  outer layers such as jumpers and raincoats. It is also good if they can do up their
  own shoelaces. For safety reasons, kindergarten children should have raincoats not
  umbrellas.

Develop your child’s independence by encouraging children to:

- pack their own bag;
- carry their own bag;
- hand in any notes, money or lunch orders; and
- look for lost property.
Help your child to learn by:

- showing them that learning is fun;
- giving them lots of time and opportunity to play;
- listening to them;
- answering their questions or helping them to find the answers;
- sharing books, TV shows and videos together and talking about them;
- selecting suitable books, tapes, TV, video and computer programs;
- providing them with a variety of materials to make things;
- singing songs and saying rhymes together;
- having them help you do everyday things.

Don’t forget to:

- give your child practice in saying his/her name, address and phone number. Once school begins make a point of finding out your child’s teacher’s name and make sure your child knows this too;
- talk about the length of a school day in a way your child will understand to prepare him/her for the experience of a whole day at school; and
- talk about the difference between 'play times' and 'lunch time'. Show your child what food you have packed each morning and say when you expect it to be eaten.

Home and School:

You are your child’s first teacher. Your child tries to copy the way you talk and everything you do. Before your child learns to read and write, he or she must be able to talk and listen well in whichever language is spoken at home. If your child mixes some English words with your language, don’t worry; talking, whichever way it’s done, helps learning.

Learning to talk and listen well starts with you at home.

In your language and in English try to:

- talk to your child about what you’re both doing;
- listen to your child carefully;
- answer many of the endless questions;
- read or tell a story every day, maybe at bedtime;
- borrow children’s books and toys from your local library;
- teach songs, rhymes, jingles, the names of colours and of parts of the body;
- sort and match collections of things like fruit, clothes; and
- ask your child to follow simple instructions, such as “Take off your shoes and put them on the verandah”.
Allow your child to:
- cut, paste and sort objects to assist skills of manipulation;
- help you when you are cooking, explaining the ingredients and what you are doing;
- draw, paint and model with playdough;
- play with water and construction toys;
- play outdoors;
- dress up;
- use chalk or thick crayons to draw pictures or patterns on large sheets of paper;
- roll, throw and catch a large ball;
- do jigsaw puzzles; and
- use the computer.

What else can you do?
Help your child to:
- learn and use basic manners;
- recognise their name when written;
- write their own name;
- hold their pencil correctly;
- get used to opening and closing lunch and drink containers;
- be assertive and communicate their needs clearly;
- become accustomed to being separated from family (including siblings).

And:
- always be positive about school;
- visit the school beforehand and become familiar with the setting;
- talk about kindergarten naturally in conversation;
- speak to your child’s teacher if your child has any special needs; and
- don't leave all school forms and questionnaires until the last moment.
**Arriving at School in Future Weeks**

On arrival at school, help your child to put his/her bag outside the classroom and then take your child to the playground to find his/her buddy or a friend. If your child is anxious please see the teacher on duty.

Over the coming weeks, help your child to develop independence by allowing your child to come into school on his/her own and then proceed to the playground.

**Wet Weather Mornings**

If it is raining in the morning before school, please take your child to the classroom.

**Attendance at School**

Children must attend school every day unless they are sick or for other special circumstances. An Application for Exemption from Attendance at School should be completed where absences will exceed twelve days. Forms are available from the school office and should be returned there once completed.

If children arrive late to school, parents must sign-in children at the school office. If children leave early from school, they must be signed-out by parents at the school office. Please note: children cannot sign themselves in or out as they are under age. Please ensure you accompany them to the office.

If children are absent from school, a note must be supplied to the class teacher on return to school. **Please phone the school if your child will be absent for more than two days.**

**Out of School Hours (OOSH) Care**

Operated by Tom Thumb Kindergarten and available on the school premises.

Opening Hours: Mondays to Fridays
- 7.00am - 8.40am
- 3.15pm - 6.00pm

The centre offers children a range of educational and recreational activities.

Contact Nos:  
Dane (Coordinator) 0407 251 801  
Tom Thumb 9524 3711

Children are escorted during term 1 to OOSH at the conclusion of the school day. Please inform your child’s teacher about attendance.

**Birthday Celebrations**

Birthdays can be celebrated at school. All cakes are to be taken to the office. Please send in small cakes to share, not one large cake that needs cutting. Please ensure all food is nut free.

**Health Care Plans**

If your child has any health concerns, including asthma or food allergies, please inform the school so that an individualised ‘Health Care Plan’ can be developed.

**Healthy Food**

It is vital that your child begins each day with a nutritious breakfast. At school, in accordance with Department of Education policy, our school has a ‘Healthy Food’ canteen and children are also encouraged to bring healthy food to school for recess and lunch. Healthy alternatives for lunch are advertised throughout the year in the school’s newsletter. **Lollies and sweet drinks are not encouraged and chewing gum of any kind is not permitted.**
Home Readers
Your child will be matched to text in the first weeks at school and given a suitable reader to read at home. Please praise your child for his/her efforts, write an encouraging comment in the yellow home reader book and return the books to your child’s bag.

K–6 Assemblies
Assemblies are held in the school hall. Parents are most welcome to attend especially when your child’s class is presenting their class item or when your child is receiving an award. Please move into the hall and be seated on the seats at the back of the hall. The times for assembly change depending on whether it is the summer or winter sport program. Always check the newsletter each week for assembly times.

Your child’s teacher will inform you when your child’s class is performing an item at assembly. Please try to be present at this assembly as the children love to see family members encouraging their efforts, and as you know young children love performing in front of an admiring audience.

Library
Your child will be notified which day is library day. He/she will need a library bag in which to borrow library books. School library bags are supplied during library lessons in the first weeks of school with the cost invoiced in Term 1.

Lunch Orders
Each year the canteen aims to provide lunch orders for students 2 – 3 days per week. The provision of lunch orders is dependent on the availability of volunteers. The canteen committee will advertise for volunteers through the school newsletter in term 1. Canteen opening arrangements and menu will be provided once this process is complete.

When sufficient numbers of parents volunteer to assist in the canteen, the procedure for ordering lunch is as follows:

- write your child’s name, class and lunch order on a lunch bag with money inside;
- deposit the bag before 9.10am in the letterbox outside the canteen.

News
Your child will be given a specific day for news and may bring in one item of interest to share with the class. Please do not send in valuable toys.

Notes
All notes must be given to the class teacher, not the office unless a letter box number has been specified on the note sent home. All money must be in a sealed envelope, labelled with your child’s name, class and purpose.

Nut Minimisation Policy
Our school has a nut minimisation policy. Nuts of any kind and peanut butter and Nutella sandwiches are not permitted at the school.

Parent Newsletters
It is important that you read the parent newsletter distributed online each week so that you will be informed about school activities. To sign up go to: www.kareelaps.nsw.edu.au/newsletter

Parking
There is no parking on the school site. The car parks in both Freya St and Westward St are for school staff only.

Entry is only permitted before 7.30am and after 5.00pm for parents using OOSH.
Toys
Only small, inexpensive, non-electronic toys may be brought to school to play with during the lunch break. No responsibility will be taken by the school for lost, damaged or missing toys.

Uniform
All students are expected to wear full school uniform, including a school hat. The school policy is ‘No hat, play under the shade sail’.