January 2023

Dear Flanagan Parents,

Welcome to North Kalgoorlie Primary School (NKPS) for 2023. My name is Mrs Louise Hurst, and I am privileged to be your child’s teacher this year. I am also fortunate to share the teaching and learning with Ms Karyn Best who has been an education assistant (EA)for decades. We have been busy preparing plenty of play-based and explicit teaching and learning opportunities as directed by the Western Australia Curriculum, the Early Years Learning Framework and the NKPS Early Years plan.

I am a third-year, early childhood (ECE) teacher who has been honing skills for more than decade as an EA prior to completing my degree. With guidance from the NKPS and Pre-primary teams, and other ECE colleagues, I will provide your child with every opportunity to play, learn and grow in a supportive and fun environment. I am excited to enrich the programs from 2022 in a fun and playful environment.

Your child’s education is my priority but first I must get to know you both a little better. Enclosed with this letter is a ‘Getting to Know Your Child’ questionnaire which I would appreciate you completing then returning to Flanagan. Please let me know about anything that will help me establish a good relationship with you and your child.

Reminders for the first few days

* Please make sure all your child’s clothing items are labelled. Also ensure that there is a **spare set of clothes packed in their bag in case of accidents.** Things might get messy! 
* Children must bring their own **bottle of water** to school every day from which they will be encouraged to drink regularly. Please no juice or cordial.
* NKPS is a Sunsmart school which means all staff and students must wear **wide brimmed or bucket hats** at school. Those without these hats will have restricted play areas.
* **Fruit Time:**  Children will need to bring in their own fruit for eating. Please send a piece of prepared **fruit (that they will eat) in a clearly labelled bag or container**. This is to be placed on the blue trolley at the classroom doorin the morning along with their water bottle.

Morning Routine: Fortunately, we are no longer operating under COVID restrictions, so parents/carers are welcome to enter classrooms in the morning on the first bell at 8.35am. However, it would be very helpful to say a brief goodbye at the classroom door and then support your child to enter the classroom with their fruit and drink bottle. Ms Best and I will greet them warmly and guide the children to free play activities inside to help them settle into our school routine.

* **Most Importantly -** On the morning of your child’s first day of school, even if you are feeling a

little anxious and nervous, it is important that you put on a happy and excited face for your child. They will take cues from your emotions as to how they should be feeling.

* Help your child to hang their bag on the hook and wait with them until the siren goes at 8.35am. When the doors open, please bring your child to the classroom doors, give them a big hug and a kiss and say goodbye. Reassure your child that you will be back to collect them at the end of the day then leave (this is the hard part for you - less so for the children). The longer you linger or seem unsure about your departure, the more difficult it will be for your child. Rest assured we have a fun, first day planned and your child will come home with a big smile on their face. If you are having difficulty separating from your child, please signal me or Ms Best to assist you. As this is a very busy time, Ms Best will be available outside to collect and check-off the stationery while I welcome the children into our classroom.
* If you wish to chat, I am available after school most days, as the mornings are the time when I like to give the children my attention. However, important information about your child will always be welcomed at any time.

More communication will be sent out to parents as the term progresses and a class meeting is planned for all parents early in the term. Also keep an eye on the NKPS website and check your email for links to **CONNECT** – this is the Dept’s preferred method of written communication between school and home. If you are unsure about CONNECT, please speak to our school officer, Ms Erin Bates, in the front office.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year of fun and learning. See you all soon (Wednesday 1st February 2023).

Mrs Louise Hurst

Teacher, Flanagan Pre-primary