

Dear Kindergarten Parents:

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year!

Gradual Entry is provided for by the Provincial Ministry of Education and is designed to allow young children the opportunity to more slowly acclimatize to school. There is much to experience; new friends, new environment, new routines, and new expectations. It allows for a deliberate and measured introduction of classroom routines within a slowly increasing length of day.

We understand that following the varied hours of gradual entry can be challenging for busy families. We are hoping this carefully designed framework, and early notification will allow for appropriate arrangements. Gradual entry represents many important philosophical beliefs about young children and learning. Kindergarten teachers will be able to work with all students, ensuring that the groupings are as harmonious as possible. Setting up classrooms involves much consideration. Kindergarten teachers will meet and interact with small groups before designing classes. Personalities, capabilities and gender will all be considered. We greatly appreciate your understanding and patience through the Gradual Entry process.

This letter is arranged into the following four sections:

- Gradual Entry - The Increasing Day
- Gradual Entry - Daily Descriptions
- Gradual Entry - The Schedule
- Gradual Entry - Student Groups

We know that initially there will be 'information overload,' but there is much to consider. Thank you for supporting your child during this transition to school. Creating a positive beginning is important for each child. We look forward to establishing a strong home/school bond and providing your child with a wonderful Kindergarten year!

Any questions can be sent via email and we will get back to you as soon as possible. To contact us: please e-mail mccue_c@surreyschools.ca , smith_tara@surreyschools.ca , ashley_k@surreyschools.ca or myers_b@surreyschools.ca. See you in September!

Sincerely,
Colleen McCue, Tara Smith, Kylie Ashley & Bruna Myers



Gradual Entry - The Increasing Day

Date	Time at school
Tuesday, September 3 rd	30 minutes
Wednesday, September 4 th	1 hour
Thursday, September 5 th	1 hour
Friday, September 6 th	2 hours
Monday, September 9 th	2 hours
Tuesday, September 10 th	3 hours
Wednesday, September 11 th	3 hours
Thursday, September 12 th	4 hours
Friday, September 13 th	4 hours

Gradual Entry - Daily Descriptions

Tuesday, September 3rd

Our first day of school will be a 'check-it-out' visit. The Kindergarten teachers, Ms. McCue, Mrs. Ashley and Mrs. Myers, will be working with all the kinder students. The entire Kindergarten group will be asked to enter into Ms. McCue & Mrs. Smith's classroom (room 401). The outside door will be open, so please escort your child into the classroom. Assure your child that you will be returning, and that you will be just outside enjoying a coffee, compliments of our PAC.

The shape of the half hour Tuesday morning:

- 10:00 Child arrives and enters with parent
- 10:10 Parent leaves for coffee outside
- 10:20 Teachers confirm student registration
- 10:25 Children are arranged into their groups of A, B, C, D
- 10:30 Children are dismissed to a waiting parent

***A Note About Supplies**



The Kindergarten program relies upon the teacher to assess classroom needs and purchase materials and/or consumables for the students. This is made possible through an online payment of **\$45.00** from the kindergarten parents. These funds may be used to purchase items such as: pencils, erasers, scissors, markers, crayons, glue sticks, tissues, note books, scrap books, cooking supplies, craft supplies, holiday gift materials, photo developing and other various necessities. We share all of our supplies in Kindergarten.

If this cost presents a hardship, please do not hesitate to contact the office. A fund is available to support those in need at Ocean Cliff. Family confidentiality will be respected. You may pay online (see attached) during the first week of school.

Wednesday, Sept. 4th - Monday, Sept. 9th

For the next four days, students will be assigned to a specified mixed group. The groups will visit both classrooms.

The children will be learning:

- 1.) entry procedures
- 2.) the classroom/school environment (where to locate the washroom, office, library, etc.)



For arrival, children come to the Kindergarten doors, wait with their parents and once the bell rings, the child will be invited inside.

On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings, please say goodbye to your child at the door and encourage your child to enter the classroom independently.

On Wednesday mornings for Term 1, we will have **'Noisy Reading'** for the first 15 minutes. Parents or caregivers, who are available, are invited to gather a small group of children and read aloud. This is an important part of our day. It is more about savoring shared reading than proving or improving reading ability.

Parents are strongly encouraged to interact with any children needing an adult reader. We ask parents to share their adult discussions with each other after departing. At the signal (our gathering song), we ask parents to say good-bye so that we may start with our calendar activities. We don't expect all parents to arrive each day, but it is an especially soothing transition from home to school when a parent can be present, especially during September.

For picking up your child, please be on time. This is crucial for your child's trust in being left at school. Parents are asked to wait at our outside doors and, if driving, escort their child to the car. We do not want any children to be unattended in the pick-up area.

Tuesday, Sept. 10th and Wednesday, Sept. 11th

For the remainder of the week, the routines that they will be practicing are:

- 1.) entry procedures
- 2.) recess procedures
- 3.) lunch procedures



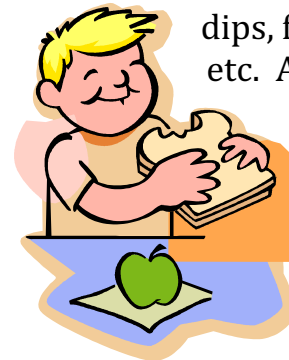
For learning recess routines, your child will need to bring a healthy snack. Please **DO** send cut fruit, veggies, cheese, crackers, etc. Ocean Cliff Elementary is 'Nut-Aware.' We ask that snacks **do not contain any nuts or peanut butter.**



We also wish to encourage the use of a water bottle as opposed to juice boxes. In the efforts of developing environmental consciousness, we encourage LABELED, reusable containers that are brought inside a labeled, reusable lunch kit. The lunch kit should be brought inside a labeled backpack; one that is large enough for shoes, homework, library books and lunch kit.

Several years ago, Ocean Cliff Elementary adopted a reversed lunch procedure where the children go out to play first, then return to eat their lunches. We find that the children are eating more of their food **after** playing with their friends. For our 'long recess' and lunch at 11:47 a.m., all the children will be going outside for 25 minutes of supervised time on the playground. When finished the outside time, the supervisors will collect students, visit the washroom, and return to classes for lunch. In September, we will be working with some "big buddies" (older children) to assist the students (as well as the teachers and supervisors) to ensure the Kindergarten students are comfortable following the lunchtime procedure.

Your child will need healthy food. We encourage veggies and salads, yogurt, thermoses for soups and pasta, sandwiches we ask **no nuts or peanut butter** are part of the lunch. There are no facilities to heat food, but children have good success with the stubby thermoses. Again, we prefer the idea of a reusable water bottle for beverages.



dips, fruit etc. Again There with

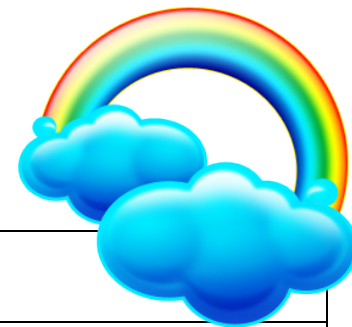
Thursday, Sept. 12th

From Thursday onward, the children will need to arrive with their healthy recess snack and lunch in their backpacks. It can be very helpful for your child if you can help them to know **which food is their snack and which food is their lunch**. Some parents put snacks and lunches in separate containers. School can be a bit overwhelming when students are learning so much important independence. Knowing what they are having for snack and what is for lunch can greatly help their confidence. The teacher will encourage your child to eat their "healthy snack" in the morning and save any treats for lunchtime. Thank you for your support!



The children will need to bring a pair of **inside running shoes** (**preferably velcro**) labeled with their name to wear and leave at school. They must be in running shoes while in the gymnasium. Sandals, flip-flops, Crocs, and boots are not considered safe footwear for P. E.

Gradual Entry - The Schedule 2019



<i>Date</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Teacher / Time</i>
Tuesday, September 3 rd	Kindergarten Students to Room 401	Mrs. Ashley / Mrs. Myers Ms. McCue / Mrs. Smith 10:00-10:30

Wednesday, September 4 th	Group A	Mrs. Ashley/ Mrs. Myers 8:40 - 9:40
	Group B	Ms. McCue /Mrs. Smith 8:40 - 9:40
	Group C	Mrs. Ashley/ Mrs. Myers 10:00 - 11:00
	Group D	Ms. McCue /Mrs. Smith 10:00 - 11:00

Thursday, September 5 th	Group B	Mrs. Ashley/ Mrs. Myers 8:40 - 9:40
	Group A	Ms. McCue/ Mrs. Smith 8:40 - 9:40
	Group D	Mrs. Ashley/ Mrs. Myers 10:00 - 11:00
	Group C	Ms. McCue/ Mrs. Smith 10:00 - 11:00

Friday, September 6 th *bring a small snack	Group A & C	Mrs. Ashley/ Mrs. Myers 8:40 - 10:40
	Group B & D	Ms. McCue/ Mrs. Smith 8:40 - 10:40

Monday, September 9 th	Group A & B	Mrs. Ashley/ Mrs. Myers 8:40 – 10:40
*bring a small snack	Group C & D	Ms. McCue / Mrs. Smith 8:40 – 10:40
*Classes finalized for the year at the end of today		

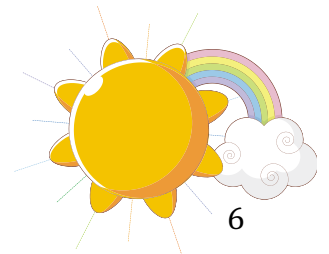
Classes emailed to you tonight

Tuesday, September 10 th	Go to your class ☺ 8:40 – 11:40
*bring a small snack	
	Kindergarten Conferences 1:00 – 4:00

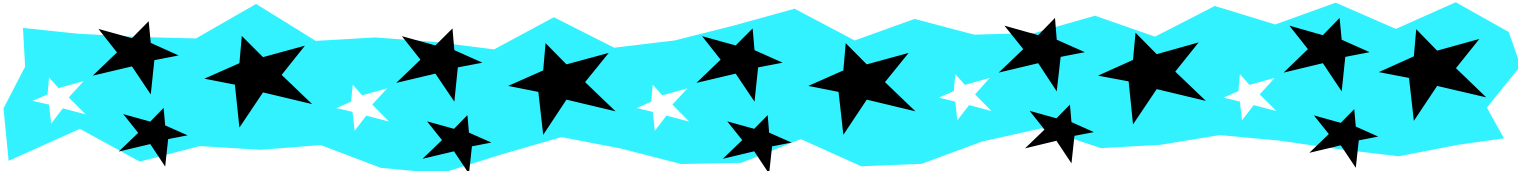
Wednesday, September 11 th	Go to your class ☺ 8:40 – 11:40
*bring a small snack	
	Kindergarten Conferences 1:00 – 4:00

Thursday, September 12 th	Go to your class ☺ 8:40 – 12:40
*bring a snack & lunch	

Friday, September 13 th	Go to your class ☺ 8:40 – 12:40
*bring a snack & lunch	



Thank you!
See you on Tuesday, September 3rd
in the Kindergarten Room!



Gradual Entry – Student Groups

Group A	Group B	Group C	Group D
Kyan A.	Alexander G.	Oliver O.	Elizabeth V.
Riley B	William I.	Lennon P.	Angela W.
Jameson B.	Oliver I.	Christiana P.	Jameson W.
Joseph C.	Mark K.	Kaiden S.	Jingxin X.
Kennedy C.	Amber L.	Mahi S.	Marco Z.
Leola C.	Sophia L.	Mackenzie S.	Ziwen J.
Ayan D.	Wyatt M.	Lillie U.	Mason P.