



Welcome to Kindlehill

Parent Handbook

The Practicalities



Kindlehill School

1. Term dates and school hours	3	9. Assessments and Reporting	14
Term dates for 2026	3	A) Teacher observation	14
2. After School Care	3	B) Child/Student Studies	14
3. Attendance	4	C) Student Reports – Kindy, Primary and High School and Senior School	14
4. Absences	4	D) Literacy and Numeracy Screens	15
5. Transport – Getting Here	5	E) NAPLAN	15
A) Public Transport	5	F) Parent-Teacher interviews	15
B) Parking	5	Graduations High School and Senior School	15
6. What your child will need for the day at school	5	10. Music Program – Gurunggu Bayumi	16
A) Food + Dietary Requirement	5	A) Instrument Program	16
B) Clothing	6	B) Ensembles:	16
C) Lost Property	6	C) Lunch time concerts	17
7. Wellbeing	6	D) Tuneful Tuesdays	17
A) Child safe statement	6	11. Other Curricular Activity	17
Medications	6	A) Language – Dharug Dalang	17
B) Communication	7	B) Eurythmy	17
i) Contact details	7	C) Craft	17
Class Teachers	7	D) Class Plays in Primary School	18
Guardians	7	12. School Fees	18
ii) Policies and Protocols	8	A) What is Included in School Fees	18
iii) Newsletters	8	B) Payment Arrangements	18
iv) Teacher Meetings	8	C) Bursaries and scholarships	19
v) Parent Portal	9	D) Additional Costs for families	19
vi) Parent Class Evenings	9	13. How to get involved	20
vii) WhatsApp	9	A) Festivals and Celebrations	20
C) Curricular activities that support student well-being	9	i) Autumn Fair and Open Day	20
i) Camps/Excursions:	9	ii) Winter's Night	21
a) Bus	10	iii) Spring /Autumn Equinox	21
b) Equipment and Gear	10	B) Graduations	21
c) Volunteer Code of Conduct	10	The Kindy Graduation	21
d) WWCC on camps	10	The Class 6 Graduation	21
ii) Gardening	11	Graduations High School and Senior School	21
iii) Screens/Online Safety	11	C) Volunteering	22
D) Notifiable and Infectious Diseases + Vaccinations	11	D) Craft Group	22
8. Additional Support for students	12	E) KinFolk - Growing our Village	23
A) Positive Behaviour Policy	12		
B) IEP's and Support Plans	12		
C) Literacy Support	13		
D) Numeracy support:	13		
E) Classroom Support/ Teacher Assistant	13		
F) Social Support	14		

All the Practicalities

1. Term dates and school hours

Term dates for 2026

- Term 1: Tues 27th Jan – Wed 1st April
- Term 2: Mon 20th Apr – Fri 26th June
- Term 3: Mon 20th July – Fri 18th Sept
- Term 4: Mon 12th Oct – Fri 11 Dec

Term dates are included in the fortnightly newsletter sent to parents and carers. They can also be found on the Kindlehill website.

The Kindy, Primary and High School day is from 8:45am-2:45pm, Monday to Friday.

Little Kindy is Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:45am to 2:45pm

Teachers are available for supervision of students from 8.15am with the class teacher. All students should let their teacher know they have arrived and each class will have an arrangement about before-school supervision.

2. After School Care

Kindlehill offers an After School Care service, Monday - Tuesday afternoons in the playgroup room.

This service offers children a lovely extension of their school day from 2.45pm – 5.45pm, with delicious homemade food, and plenty of activities and free play.

Please contact Meredith Mallin our After School Care Coordinator for further information at care@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au or via After School Care number 0434 775 781.

After School Care Enrolment form can be picked up from the office, sent out to you upon request to care@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au and are included in the enrolment. Please make sure you include all relevant Human Services CRNs on the form so you can receive the childcare subsidy if eligible.



3. Attendance

Regular attendance is critically important. Studies have consistently shown that poor attendance is related to lower academic achievement and lack of engagement with learning. Research also indicates that poor attendance patterns tend to persist over the time of the schooling.

There are many factors which contribute to good attendance and absences. Student wellbeing, engagement and teaching practices are the key predictors for good attendance at school.

At Kindlehill we are keen to support students and their families to ensure regular attendance. Early attention to developing concerns with students is a critical part of preventing difficulties. Your teacher may reach out to you to set up a meeting to explore the concern. Families can also reach out to teachers, the High School Coordinator or the Principal to discuss plans to support their child to attend school regularly.

4. Absences

It is a requirement of the NSW Education Standards Authority that parents explain the absence of a child/ student from class. Families will receive an automated email on the day their child is absent.

Families can reply to the email and provide an explanation for the absence.

If your child arrives late they will be required to go to the office first so the school can register their arrival.

If you know your child will be absent in advance please email community@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au and send a copy or cc the class teacher and/or High School Coordinator.

For extended periods of absence, families will need to speak with the Principal.

Early Leaving

If your child is leaving school early, please advise class teachers/ High School Coordinator and community@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au

We ask that the parents of primary school aged children ensure they have a clear handover with the class teacher.

5. Transport – Getting Here

A) Public Transport

Kindlehill is located within walking distance to a bus stop and Wentworth Falls train station. Trains depart regularly in both directions. The bus departs from Blaxland Road. Details about bus and train services are available at the Transport NSW website <https://transportnsw.info/routes/train>. Families are encouraged to utilise public transport.

B) Parking

We kindly ask parents to park safely and securely on the edges of the road being courteous and mindful to our neighbours. Please do not park across all driveways in the street.

In the case of large events and/or maintenance work onsite, the School will provide parking advice in the fortnightly newsletter. Please follow parking instructions carefully as the safety of our neighbours and school community is important to us.



6. What your child will need for the day at school

In the Primary school all materials are supplied including pencils, fountain pens and art materials. In the High School students are expected to bring a kitted out pencil case. All other materials and equipment are supplied.

A) Food + Dietary Requirement

Children should bring healthy food for morning tea and lunch with little packaging and a water bottle. Regarding the disposal of waste, we support the principles of refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle in the classroom.

At Kindlehill, we support children to eat the lunches that their families have provided, rather than share food. This ensures that any dietary requirements are taken care of and that families can ensure children are benefitting from the choices they are making for their own families.

If children have special dietary requirements please include these on your enrolment form and keep both the Class Teacher and the office updated about any changes.

Nut Protocol – class teachers will inform parents and carers if nut allergies require “no nuts in the classroom” adherence.

B) Clothing

Children should arrive at school in clothing which protects them from the sun, is comfortable and ready for the broad range of fun and educational activities they will experience in their day – running, gardening, skipping, woodwork, tree climbing and play. Children will need a broad brimmed hat and may need to play in the shade when the hat is left at home.

We ask that children and young people wear clothes that are free of logos and images that promote violence and hatred.

The children need clothes to suit the climate and changeability of mountain weather, especially to be warm enough on colder days. We need clothing to provide coverage to be sun-safe. For younger children, it is a good idea to keep a change of clothes in their bags. A plastic bag, for wet clothes, is helpful.

C) Lost Property

Lost Property is stored at the school during the term both on the hooks outside the classrooms, or in the cupboard near the Pizza Oven. We have an end of the term collection time where student and families have the opportunity to collect lost property. After this all lost property will be donated to local OpShops.

7. Wellbeing

A) Child safe statement

Kindlehill is committed to providing a child safe environment where all children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives.

Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Medications

All prescribed medications that need to be administered at school will require a parental agreement. These are available by contacting the office at community@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au



For Camps, families need to complete the Emergency Contact, Medical information and Parental authority form and include any medications that need to be administered during the camp. This form will be emailed to all families as part of the preparation for camp. If you require an additional copy, you can contact community@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au. A prompt response is helpful.

Every person involved in Kindlehill has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make. Kindlehill is committed to working continuously for the well-being of all children.

B) Communication

i) Contact details

Email and Personal Mobile Numbers of Executive Team and Chair of the Board

■ **Principal and High School**

Coordinator:

Erica Chaperlin
erica@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au
0423 988 169

■ **Assistant Principal**

Lynn Daniel
lynn@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au
0403 441 327

■ **Business Manager**

Andrew Robertson
business@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au
0447 869 704

Email addresses of Class Teachers and Guardians

Class Teachers

■ **Kirsty Edwards**

kirsty@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au

■ **S'haila Bernard**

shaila@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au

■ **John Higgins**

john.higgins@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au

■ **Lynn Daniel**

lynn@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au

■ **Bec Tyson**

Bec.tyson@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au

Guardians

■ **Sarah Daniel**

sarah.daniel@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au

■ **Stephanie Dawes**

stephanie.dawes@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au

■ **Leanne Clark**

leanne.clark@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au

ii) Policies and Protocols

The Kindlehill website contains a number of policies, which can be referred to at Kindlehill Policies - Kindlehill School, NSW Wentworth Falls.

This includes Communications Protocol which provides guidelines about how to raise concerns. The Communications Protocol is available on our website.

If a serious complaint is to be made and the communication channels outlined in the Communications Protocol have not resolved the grievance, please enquire with the Principal as to the Complaints Policy.

The School's Complaints Policy is available on the website [Complaints-Policy-website19.5.pdf \(kindlehill.nsw.edu.au\)](#). This details the process for making and resolving a serious complaint or grievance. Procedural fairness is the basis of this policy.

iii) Newsletters

School Newsletter - This is shared fortnightly and provides important information about the events and activities of the School, opportunities for parent involvement as well as insights into what lies behind the educational approaches typical to Kindlehill. Newsletters are sent via email and are available on our website.

Class News - Each teacher provides regular updates via email within the term specific to the class. Invitations to volunteer, information about lessons, excursions and camps are communicated via Class News.

iv) Teacher Meetings

In Primary School we encourage parents and carers to keep in touch with their children's progress, to regularly come and look at their children's work, and to promptly raise any concerns or questions with the teacher. Teachers are available for conversation after school and more formal interviews can be arranged at any time of the year.

If it is urgent, families can contact the Office direct to speak with the Principal or email the relevant teacher for a meeting time for less urgent matters.

In High School parents and carers can contact the Class Guardian and/or the High School Coordinator to raise concerns or pass on any important information.

We ask that we all work mindfully to protect the security and well-being of the children, by maintaining a positive, supportive, friendly, respectful and cooperative school environment through positive and early communication of any issues.

v) Parent Portal

The School utilises a Parent Portal app called CarerOrbit app. This is used for updating your contact details, absence notifications, School calendar notifications, and Camp/ excursion information. Details on how to sign up the CarerOrbit app are provided at the time of enrolment or otherwise can be obtained from the Office directly.

vi) Parent Class Evenings

Teacher-parent/carer evenings are held at intervals throughout the year providing an opportunity for families to gain an insight into the overall educational and social progress of the class.

vii) WhatsApp

In many classes families have established a WhatsApp Group. If you wish to join, contact your Volunteer Parent Coordinator and they will ensure you are added. These are parent run groups. All information about events at School will be communicated to families via emails and newsletters.

C) Curricular activities that support student well-being

At Kindlehill, in addition to our communication between home and family, a significant part of ensuring student well-being is through our curriculum. All aspects of our curriculum seek to respond to the needs of the developing child. Learning is delivered through rich, imaginative experiences with a focus on beauty and kindness.

i) Camps/Excursions:

There is no substitute for experience! Outdoor education is a vital part of the Kindlehill School education. Camps and experiences in outdoor education are an important way for students to connect with nature and develop a lifelong interest and respect for the natural world. Students also add to their backpacks life skills and capacities such as a sense of adventure, resilience, teamwork and resourcefulness in solving and overcoming difficulties.

Parents and carers are provided with excursion notification forms each term by their teacher or via the portal.

Classes in the Primary School will as a general rule participate in at least one camp per year. These camps can range from one night in Class 1 known as the Class 1 Sleepover at school to a two-week camp in the High School.

Some children require additional support to participate in our camps and so families are encouraged to contact class teachers, or High School Coordinator and Class Guardians early to ensure an appropriate plan can be put in place in advance.

a) Bus

Our buses are a tremendous resource for outings, library visits, excursions, swimming lessons, bushwalks and camping trips. The bus is driven by a licensed teacher or a driver chosen by the teachers. The Bigger bus requires an LR licence.

b) Equipment and Gear

Example of items required for students to bring on camp

- A small tent 2-4 Person or swag
- Sleeping bag
- Small pillow
- Sleeping mat
- Lunch and morning tea for the first day
- Cup/plate/cutlery and teatowel
- Large water bottle
- Torch or head torch with new battery
- 1 Plastic bag for wet gear
- Rain jacket and wet weather gear
- Shoes for bushwalking
- Swimmers
- Towel
- Toothbrush and paste and toiletries

- Hat: beanie for the cold and broad-brimmed for the sun
- Sunscreen
- Change of day clothes
- Warm clothes for evening
- Pjs
- Pen and pencil for notes and sketching
- Card games, board games, books

For High School Camps, phones stay on the bus and can only be used with the permission of the Camp Coordinator.

c) Volunteer Code of Conduct

All volunteers are required to complete a Code of Conduct form for excursions and helping in the classroom.

d) WWCC on camps

A Working With Children Check is required if you are assisting on a camp or staying overnight with a class. These are easily obtained from Service NSW and are free for parent volunteers. All parent volunteers are briefed on child protection and their reporting responsibilities prior to attending camp or excursions.

ii) Gardening

Being outside and in the Garden is an important and productive way we can look after ourselves. In the early years, gardening is all about the doing – being in the hard work of creating and maintaining a garden. In the Primary School the focus shifts to gardening as a way of producing food sustainably. Most classes will participate in weekly Gardening classes. The High School participates in courses such a Permaculture design certificate.

iii) Screens/Online Safety

The imagination, so vivid and wonderful in the play of the child, is a precious resource.

This is why at Kindlehill we endeavour to make the School environment “a television and computer game-free zone”. We encourage the children to play games from their own imaginations. If we surround children with kindness, with the wonders of nature, we give them the gift of imaginative freedom. Freedom to imagine a world that is peaceful, kind and joy-filled.

As part of this, we request that parents consciously monitor and review their children’s access to devices.

We support families to have a conversation around expectations of playdates and to discuss whether the digital world such as playing online games, movies and watching television are part of the planned activities for visits. Parents can reasonably expect that there is good supervision around phones and computers.

We strongly urge families to delay their children and young people’s participation in social media as long as possible.

Mobile phones are not to be used during the day without the specific direction of a teacher. They are to be kept in bags when at School. Any important messages can be relayed through the office.

D) Notifiable and Infectious Diseases + Vaccinations

There are many infectious diseases that affect children and young people’s physical well-being. Information on the following infectious diseases is available on the NSW Health site:

The school has to notify the Public Health Unit for the following vaccine preventable diseases:

- diphtheria
- haemophilus influenzae type b infections
- measles
- meningococcal type C
- mumps
- pertussis (whooping cough)

- poliomyelitis (Polio)
- rubella (German measles)
- tetanus

Notifying cases of these vaccine preventable diseases to the public health unit by the school principal is a requirement of the NSW Public Health Act 2010.

NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended and funded for adolescents by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) in a school-based vaccination program, including:

- diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (dTpa)
- human papillomavirus (HPV)
- meningococcal ACWY.

This is voluntary and at the discretion of the families.

8. Additional Support for students

A) Positive Behaviour Policy

We are committed to promoting a safe and supportive learning environment for every child. Discipline at Kindlehill is about guidance and about positive support. The Positive Behaviour Policy details the approach taken to discipline at Kindlehill for Primary and High School students. In High School, students discuss and agree to the Positive Behaviour Agreement.

B) IEP's and Support Plans

An Individualised Education Plan is a plan which lays out the special supports and/or reasonable accommodations that a child requires in order to succeed and flourish at school.

A child is eligible or may require an IEP when they are experiencing challenges at school. This could be as a result of a learning or developmental disabilities, or social and emotional problems.

Families can contact their Class Teacher or Class Guardian to discuss the need for an IEP or a teacher may make an assessment that an IEP would be useful to support a child in their learning.

C) Literacy Support

Based on the Teacher's observation and information obtained through the screening of phonemic awareness and reading in class 2, 3 and 4, students may be offered a Literacy Support program from the Multilit Suite of Programs including Minilit and Maqlit. These programs are reading programs delivered in small group or 1:1 settings with a teacher or a support teacher. Students may also access some additional Reinforced Reading Support during the week.

Your class teacher should be in contact with you regarding any benefit your child may receive with participation in these programs. If these programs are relevant for your child you are welcome to make a time to speak with the Literacy Coordinator regarding your child's inclusion in the program.

In the High School we have a Literacy Support Teacher 4 days a week who provides individualised support for students focussed specifically on writing and assessment tasks.

D) Numeracy support:

Children may require additional support in Numeracy. At Kindlehill we have teachers conduct the SENA regularly on their classes to identify areas in the maths scope and sequence that need strengthening. In Sage 3 we provide some additional support in a small group or 1:1 session for students who require it.

In the High school, students have access to Homework Club where a mathematics teacher is available for additional support to complete homework and consolidate maths areas of concern. Students also receive individual tutoring sessions as required.

If you have questions or concerns about your child and the level of support they are receiving please contact your Class Teacher or Guardian to arrange a time to discuss.

E) Classroom Support/ Teacher Assistant

In order to support students who may have additional support needs, a Teacher Assistant may be in the classroom for part or all of the day. The ways in which this person supports students will vary according to the needs and the concerns identified for the classroom.



F) Social Support

We offer a Morning Tea Social Support in the Library most days which provide a structured social activity such as a playing a board or card game with the support of an educator.

We also offer a targeted social support program which offer specific students the opportunity to spend time with other children. This is designed to build self-esteem, promote positive communication for children experiencing loneliness and building connections between children.



9. Assessments and Reporting

A) Teacher observation

One of the foundations of assessment in a Steiner School is the deep valuing of the class teacher's or Guardian's knowledge of the student. The central role of observation in understanding the child is a critical aspect of student assessment. Teachers are available for discussion about your child's progress throughout the year.

B) Child/Student Studies

The teachers also participate and lead Child Studies for children in the school.

We encourage parents to raise concerns early and to attend Parent-child interviews.

C) Student Reports – Kindy, Primary and High School and Senior School

Kindy reports: Children in the Kindy Garden receive an annual report in Term 4 which describes for the families their social and learning progress over the year.

Written reports on the Primary School children's progress are given twice a year in accordance with NESA requirements. They will give a detailed description of the units of work covered, and will offer a good description of student's progress in Numeracy and Literacy.

These do not replace the important conversations between families and teachers about their children and young people. At the time or near to report being sent out, families will be invited to attend Parent-Teacher interviews.

High School students receive detailed reports twice a year and these become a record of the scope of study and of individual progress in the High School years that can be used to support application to other programmes on leaving Kindiehill. The High School is registered but not accredited. Students completing Year 10 do not receive a ROSA (Record of School Achievement). The substantial progress report and Certificate of Completion are sufficient for students to enter their choice of school for Year 11.

Buran Nalgarra is Kindiehill's innovative and exciting Senior School Program. It is registered with NESA, meeting educational requirements through a non-HSC/ATAR pathway to further studies and work.

D) Literacy and Numeracy Screens

At Kindiehill, to ensure that all children have access to any additional support they may need for their learning, we conduct a phonemic awareness, reading and spelling screens in Class 1, 3 and 4. These screens are intended to help us recognise who may benefit from some additional support and guide us in the type of support we can offer. This typically involved the Multilit suite of programs including Minilit and Maqlit.

E) NAPLAN

NAPLAN stands for the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy. NAPLAN is a series of common literacy and numeracy tests conducted annually across Australia for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Participation in these tests is at the discretion of the Parents and Guardians. Most of the testing, excluding class 3 Writing test occurs online.

F) Parent-Teacher interviews

Graduations High School and Senior School

These are offered twice-yearly and are an opportunity for families to reflect on the report and their child's progress.

10. Music Program – Gurunggu Bayumi

For more detailed information please refer to Gurunggu bayumi – Children, Toward the Music on our website: kindlehill.nsw.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023-Musical-instrument-program-06.pdf

A) Instrument Program

At Kindlehill, music is not an added extra. It is essential to the well-rounded development of students. To learn an instrument and be part of a musical social collaboration is a wonderful and enlivening aspect of a Steiner education.

In the Kindy garden there are songs, bush instrument bands, dances and movement.

In Class 1 students are introduced to the sweet recorder and the marimbas, including composition.

In Class 2 students are ready for rounds and simple parts.

From Class 3 onwards, students begin learning violin in group classes.

In Class 5, students can choose to diversify by changing instruments or taking on an additional instrument.

At the Primary School level (up to Class 6), music lessons happen during School time. At the secondary School level (Class 7 and higher), lessons happen outside of normal school hours and are negotiated with music tutors.

B) Ensembles:

A student may be invited to join an ensemble based on their skill development and commitment to practice.

Kindlehill has three main ensemble groups:

- Junior String Ensemble (Classes 3 – 6) lead by Elizabeth Cooney introduces students on how to work and play together under the guidance of a conductor;
- Senior String Ensemble (Classes 7 – 12) also led by Elizabeth Cooney, further develops the students' ability to work and play together with more difficult pieces; and;
- Wind Ensemble (Classes 5 – 7) lead by Bronwyn Kirkpatrick allows opportunity for the clarinets, flutes and saxophones to play harmoniously together.



C) Lunch time concerts

Typically in the final week of the term we hold Lunchtime Concerts where students in the Instrument Program share examples of the musical pieces they have been practising that term. Families are welcome to attend and see their children perform. Details of the Lunchtime concerts are advertised in the school newsletter.

D) Tuneful Tuesdays

Every Tuesday at 8.45am, the whole Primary School gather in the Performance Space to sing together.



11. Other Curricular Activity

A) Language – Dharug Dalang

Kindlehill is supportive of the renewal of local indigenous language initiatives.

In the School with permission of local elder Corina Norman, we sing songs in Dharug Dhalang and are introducing Dharug Dalang in our classes and events.

B) Eurythmy

Eurythmy is an artistic form of movement, particular to Steiner Schools, that strengthens and harmonises the life forces in the young person. It is also a social art and the students learn to work together on complicated forms, to find a common expression of a verse or piece of music. Great concentration is required as are alertness, attention to posture, listening, respectfulness of others, quickness, the capacity to come to inner quiet, and as a whole class to collectively arrive at an open and listening state of being.

C) Craft

Throughout the Primary School children learn craft from knitting, crochet, weaving and woodwork.

D) Class Plays in Primary School

Every year each class will perform a class play. The Class Plays are typically an integrated part of the work the students are doing in the classes. All children will be involved in the play and the decision about parts is not competitive, or audition based but a reflection of the needs of the student.



12. School Fees

A) What is Included in School Fees

Student fees are inclusive of almost all associated educational costs including classroom costs, writing books, paper, folders, pens, rulers, art and craft materials, textbooks, paints and library costs.

In High School, students are expected to supply their own pencil case with pens, pencils, coloured pencils and pencil sharpener, eraser and ruler. Laptops are provided for use whilst at school. The laptops remain at school.

Student fees also include the costs of most camps, trips, excursions, all visiting performances at the school and elsewhere, sporting activities and outdoor education, and bus costs.

B) Payment Arrangements

School fees invoices for Term 1 are sent out in the first week of school, along with a schedule of payments. At Kindlehill fees are collected via a direct debit system called Fat Zebra.

Please contact the Business Manager to discuss any questions or concerns you may have around fees.

C) Bursaries and scholarships

Limited Bursaries are offered through an application process. For more information contact the Business Manager or the Principal.

When a family experiences financial hardship, we encourage you to contact the Principal or the Business Manager to work out an appropriate solution.

Scholarships for Indigenous Students are available annually. Expressions of interest are advertised around August/September each year.

Often second-hand violins are available for purchase from the school community. Elizabeth Cooney and your class teacher can assist with acquiring a violin.

Class 5 students are required to continue with the violin and/or select another instrument, and parents are to purchase their chosen instrument.

Group music lessons are offered to all students at Kindlehill.

D) Additional Costs for families

Class 1 parents are invoiced for a Hohner Alegra recorder at cost price. If your child enrolls later in their Primary School years, they may need to purchase a recorder which can be organised through the school and your class teacher will advise if this is required.

Class 3 parents are required to purchase a violin. Elizabeth Cooney, the Violin teacher will size the violin needed for your child. The class teacher will advise when this is needed.



13. How to get involved

A) Festivals and Celebrations

There are many opportunities to be involved in the life and activities of Kindlehill and to share your skills and care. These are mutually enriching and support a sense of belonging to a creative, resourceful and caring community. Teachers and Class Coordinators will invite your participation in a range of activities and events, and communications about these are provided in regular newsletters.

At Kindlehill we hold important Graduation Ceremonies for Kindergarten, Class 6, Class 10 and Senior School. These are deeply acknowledging of the child transitioning and are celebrated by the whole community.

Plays, performances, seasonal celebrations, open days and fairs, provide a rich opportunity for parents and carers to share in the community life of Kindlehill.

i)Autumn Fair and Open Day

It is a day of celebrating the change in the seasons. As the days turn cooler and we move a little further from the warmth of the sun, we gather together to harness the strength and warmth of community and celebrate the beauty and the abundance of the natural world.

The Autumn Fair and Open Day is also one of the school's main fundraisers. It is organised and supported by the families. Class 2-3 is generally responsible for the coordination of the Autumn Fair and Open Day. All families are invited and encouraged to volunteer and share in the celebration. Classes will display their work. There is typically a delicious lunch available and various craft and activities available for children and their families.



ii) Winter's Night

The longest night is marked with an important festival. It is a festival of hope in recognising that the sun is returning and days are lengthening. The children will prepare for this festival in their classes with activities such as candle and lantern making. Children and their families are invited to come and join in an evening of song, a lantern walk and a celebration of hope. The dates for Winter's Night is typically the Friday Evening as close to June 21st as possible and is advertised in the school newsletter and term calendars.

iii) Spring /Autumn Equinox

These are school based celebrations which acknowledge that the sun is shining equally on both hemispheres of our planet. These moments are celebrated as a way of deepening our connection, strengthening our observation and reverence for the rhythms of the natural world.

Parents are typically invited to share with us.

How the equinox is acknowledged whether in a special celebration or a morning tea will vary each year. Details of the equinox celebrations will be shared in the class and school newsletters.

B) Graduations

We value the importance of celebrating important developmental moments in our children's lives. We celebrate important transitions through mindful celebrations.

The Kindy Graduation

Children and their families who are leaving the Kindy Garden and entering Class 1 will celebrate this with a ceremony at the conclusion of the final term. Families are an essential part of this ceremony. The new Class 1 Teacher is there to welcome them to the next phase in their educational journey.

The Class 6 Graduation

At the conclusion of the Primary School Years there are ceremonies to support students to transition into the High School Years. There is an in-school assembly where the student body welcomes the students to the High school and Primary Students farewell them.

There is also a celebration shared with families and staff during the final week of the term.

Graduations High School and Senior School

In essence, these beautiful and heartfelt ceremonies mark significant personal transitions. The community comes together to witness and celebrate each individual, and to offer the strength of community appreciation and support as they enter into a new phase of life.

C) Volunteering

In the Primary Classes there is often support needed in additional reading practise in the classroom, camps and excursions and special events. The celebrations such as Winter's Night and the Autumn Fair offer important ways families can support the life of the school. For volunteering at Kindlehill, we will require the volunteer code of conduct to be completed.



D) Craft Group

The craft group runs fortnightly from the Playgroup Room on Thursdays from 9.30am on a fortnightly basis. The coordinator is Sarah Humphreys and can be contacted via email at community@kindlehill.nsw.edu.au.



E) KinFolk - Growing our Village

KinFolk is Kindlehill's parent and carer-led organising committee with a mission to build connection, friendship and shared joy among families (past, present and future), and to support school life through social events, festivals and fundraising.

Events are only limited by our collective imagination and include movie nights, working bees, community singing, board game nights, family camping expeditions, mushroom foraging, collective batch cooking, overnight hikes, poetry slams and more!

Participation is voluntary and flexible, and people can contribute in ways that suit their time and capacity – one-off or ongoing – it's all welcome.

KinFolk is for you if:

- You're new to the school and want to get involved in organising cool, fun stuff



- You're an existing parent with a great idea for an event
- You want to model excellent community participation to your children (because that's what it's all about in the end!)

Contact: Penny Jones: pennyjones.writer@gmail.com or 0420 565 546

Acknowledgement



Kindlehill is situated on Dharug and Gundungurra land; we pay respects to the traditional custodians whose cultures and customs continue to nurture this land.

We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart, Truth-telling about the impact and legacy of colonisation, a Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Australian Constitution and a process of Treaty making.



Kindlehill School