**The ABC’s of Kindergarten**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

 We urge you to take the time to read through this handbook. (Yes, we know it is long!) It contains a lot of information about your child’s classroom. We have tried to include information on everything a parent might like to know. We hope you will use it as a guide throughout the year.

**A**

**Arrival-** The students will line up outside the front doors. The Welcome Bell rings at 8:32 am and school begins at 8:40 am.

**Attendance-** Kindergarten is a continual learning experience, with each day’s learning built on the day before. So, it is imperative that your child be here when he/she can. If your child must be absent, **be sure to call or email the office the day of the absence and if you know in advance please let myself and the office know.**

“**All About Me” -** During the first week of school each child will receive a template that they will complete and return. The sheet will share information about your child so their classmates and teachers can get to know them better. The “All About Me” page will be used throughout the year to help us achieve our Social Studies goals including how we are all unique and how we belong within our community.

**B**

**Birthdays-** You are welcome to bring a special healthy snack on the day we celebrate your child’s birthday. We usually celebrate during the afternoon, so please drop off your child’s birthday snack by lunch time. \*Please note, due to Covid-19 policies, this is on hold for now.

**BrightSpace-** BrightSpace can be used as an online learning platform, as well as a way for us to communicate with families. We post things such as: pictures, monthly newsletters, and calendars. BrightSpace can be thought of as our online classroom.

**C**

**Conferences-** Two times throughout the year, we will meet to discuss your child’s progress. The booking for these conferences will be done online and more information will be provided closer to the date.

**D**

**Dismissal-** Each day your child will be dismissed from our front doors at 3:13 pm. Children who ride the bus will be escorted to the buses, until later in the year when students are comfortable and familiar with their bus routine. If you are picking your child up from school, PLEASE say goodbye to your teacher before leaving so we know you have taken your child from the line. Safety is my major priority when it comes to daily dismissal. If someone else is picking up your child on any given day, please send me a note/email and let me know.

**Differentiated Instruction-** All children are unique and special. Students in our classes are at many different instructional levels and learn in a variety of ways. The children will be taught so that their individual needs will be met.

**E**

**Early Pick Up-** If your child must be picked up early you must sign them out at the office first. If you can let me know ahead of time, I will try my best to have their things ready to go.

**Email**- We use email as one of the primary ways to communicate with each other. We will often send out last minute updates and reminders so please check your email the night before your child comes to school. We try our hardest to respond to emails in a timely manner, however, if it is an emergency or a change in dismissal arrangements, please contact the office.

**F**

**F.I.S.H Folders-** **F**amily **I**nvolvement **S**tarts **H**ere: Each morning your child should bring their F.I.S.H folder to class and he/she will bring it home at the end of each day. You can expect to find any new newsletters, letters from the school, permission forms, classroom work etc. in the folder. Please empty out the folder before each class so we know you are receiving the most current information.

**Field Trips-** The Kindergarten students will be taking field trips this year. Details will be provided when the time approaches. Permission slips must be signed and returned to your child’s teacher before the field trip in order for your child to participate. Field Trips are a great volunteering opportunity, and you will be emailed a link to sign up for volunteering. This will ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate. The information for each field trip will be sent out as it approaches, so look for details in the monthly newsletter. \*Please note, due to Covid-19 policies, this is on hold for now.

**G**

**Gym-** Each class will have a phys. ed period in the gym once a week. During this time we will practice various sports, gross motor skills, and whole class games.

**H**

**Hand Hygiene-** As we continue to follow Covid-19 Protocols, students hands will be sanitized at various times throughout the school day to maintain safe and clean hand hygiene.

**Hands-on Activities-** The best way to help children learn is to make learning fun. We are not the kind of teachers that assign seatwork for the majority of the day. We like to provide fun, meaningful, hands-on activities that help students learn important concepts.

**Home Practice-** Throughout the year we will be sending home some extra practice sheets to reinforce the letters and concepts that we cover at school. These are also great ways to help children further develop their fine motor and printing skills.

**I**

**Independence-** Your child is in Big School now! This is a time for him/her to learn responsibility. Please allow your child to do things independently at school and at home. We expect your child to be able to walk in by himself/herself, unpack their backpacks, and be ready for the day. We ask that you say your goodbyes at the front door and the students will walk down as a class.

**J**

**Journals/Buzz Books**- Each morning the students will come in and write in their Buzz Book. For the first couple of months, we focus on printing our names using proper letter formation. As the year goes on, we begin to print simple sentences.

**K**

**Kindness-** Students in our classrooms are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class, as well as others in our school, with kindness and respect.

**L**

**Label-** Please label the following: jackets, backpacks, lunch boxes, headphones, and indoor shoes. **Other materials, such as: crayons, markers, pencils, etc., please do not label.**

**Late Pick Up-** If you are 10-15 minutes late picking up your child, they will be waiting in the office. We may have meetings or conferences scheduled after school, so we cannot always wait with your child until you arrive.

**Library-** We will go to the library once a week. The students will get to check out one book to take home. Please help your child take good care of this book and return it so they can check out a new one.

**Lunch-** The students will eat lunch first (11:35 – 11:55) and then go out for recess (11:55 – 12:18) afterwards. As the year progresses, they will join the rest of the school (recess, then lunch). We encourage the students from the very beginning to eat the healthiest part of their lunch before their special treats. \*Please note, due to Covid-19 policies, there may be changes to this schedule.

**We are a nut aware school. Once we know all of the students, we will update you on any allergies to consider.**

**Learning Centers -** Every week we will have Learning Centers.The students will rotate through the centers for about 15 minutes per station. The children will complete many fun activities such as: printing, phonemic awareness games, listening centers, letter recognition, numeracy games/activities, art, etc.

**M**

**Masks-** Students will be expected to wear a mask at school. We also ask that students and parents/guardians wear masks during arrival and dismissal routines. Please ensure your child has extra masks (at least 2) in their backpack, as we change them throughout the day.

**Medication-** If your child needs to take medication during the school day, you must drop the medicine off at the office and fill out a form. The office staff are the only employees allowed to administer medication.

**Music-** Music is a very important part of our classroom. We firmly believe that children can use music as one form of expression. We will learn a variety of fun, educational songs that we are sure you will hear at home throughout the school year!

**N**

**Numeracy-** Numeracy/Math lessons are typically hands-on activities that are fun and meaningful. We will be covering the following units: Sorting, Patterning, Numeracy for 1-10, 2D & 3D Shapes, Shapes, and Informal Measurement.

**O**

**Online Website-** On our school website ([www.davidsoncreekelementary.ca](http://www.davidsoncreekelementary.ca/)) you will find our school calendar, as well as information about our school wide events. Please refer to our school calendar regularly to keep updated on events happening school wide.

**P**

**Parties-** We will have several holiday parties throughout the school year. You will receive an e-mail with a link for you to sign-up for food. This ensures everyone has an equal opportunity to contribute to the class. You will be sent the link closer to the date of the party. \*Please note, due to Covid-19 policies, this is on hold for now.

**Q**

**Questions-** Please feel free to contact us anytime you have questions. You can do this in a variety of ways. You can send us a note in your child’s FISH folder, call us at school 780-467-5557 or you can email us. We want to be there to help you in any way we can.

**R**

**Report Cards-** Currently students receive two progress reports throughout the school year and one report card in June.

**S**

**Scholastic-** Every month we will be sending home Scholastic Book Club flyers. Your participation in this program is purely optional. **If you wish to order please make your payment online at Scholastic.ca.**

**Snack-** Please ensure that you send a healthy snack with your child’s lunch each day.

**Special Person/Star Student-** Each child will be assigned a Star Student day multiple times during the year. Each school day there will be a Star Student that is responsible for bringing an item for Show and Share, as well as helping out with special jobs in the classroom.

**Staggered Entry -** We will be starting the year off with staggered entry to allow our students a chance to be introduced to school with less students in the class on their first day. This will happen during our first week of school. Your child’s specific day and time will be shared with you in June.

**T**

**Technology-** Our classroom is equipped with lots of great technology! Your child will explore learning through iPads and a team board.

**Transportation**- During orientation in the fall we will confirm with you how your child will be going home for the remainder of the school year. If you want your child to take the bus you must contact Transportation at central office (780-417-8151).

**U**

**Understanding-** If you have any concerns or questions, please ask me.

**V**

**Volunteering-** At the beginning of the school year we will send home more information informing you about volunteer opportunities, such as field trips and classroom parties. **We encourage you to find alternate arrangements for younger siblings while you volunteer.** Your help makes the difference between a good program and a great one. \*Pending on Covid-19 policies.

**W**

**Word Wall Words-** Also known as **Snap Words**. We will learn new words throughout the year. It is great practice to review these words during your home reading time. We will include any new words in our monthly newsletters.

**X**

I am so **EXCITED** to be teaching your child this year!

**Y**

**Year-Long Learning and Fun-** I am looking forward to working with and getting to know each one of you. Your child will learn a lot this year and is going to have lots of fun in the process.

**Z**

**Zooming-** Kindergarten is jam packed with lots of things to learn. I feel confident that your child will be successful in learning these skills if we work together. This will be “Z” best year ever!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Santerre