



# WARRAGAMBA PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Karina Shepherd  
Principal

9 February 2017

## Primary Maths Groups

Dear Parents/Carers

As you know, we are continually addressing the Literacy and Numeracy needs of students at Warragamba Public School in order to enhance learning outcomes for all students. As part of 'Bump it up' last year, we implemented the Synthetic Phonics Program to improve student achievement in Literacy with a focus on spelling.

Based on the analysis of school data it was evident that we needed to enhance student's knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical concepts in the Primary years. Therefore, students in Years 3 to 6 will be placed in fluid and flexible 'ability' groups for Mathematics. Ability groups reduce the learning gap in classes, between the students working at, below or above expected learning outcomes for their grade/stage. Maths groups will allow for teachers to focus on the specific needs of the group rather than splitting their time between different ability groups. It will build student confidence and allow them to be successful.

### What does this mean for your child?

- Students will work in groups with others of similar ability.
- Teaching will be targeted to the abilities of the students in that group.
- More teachers will allow for smaller groups
- Flexibility to allow students to move between groups to ensure the work is targeted to their achievements.



### At Warragamba Public School, we aim to:

- Enhance knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical concepts.
- Prepare children to use mathematics in the wider world.
- Enjoy mathematics.
- Become independent mathematics learners.
- Be able to apply knowledge and skills to mathematical tasks.
- Provide equal opportunities for all children.
- Provide opportunities for students to excel and not have a ceiling of achievement.
- Provide support for students who require it.



### What staff will be involved?

#### Stage 2 Teachers

Mrs Luc  
Mrs Chisholm  
Mrs Amoroso

#### Stage 3 Teachers

Mrs Cleary  
Miss Key  
Mr Bruny  
Mrs Merrick

#### Support Staff

Mrs Bogart  
Mrs Fyffe

Please understand that your child may have anyone of these teachers, not necessarily the teacher on that particular stage.

### How will it work?



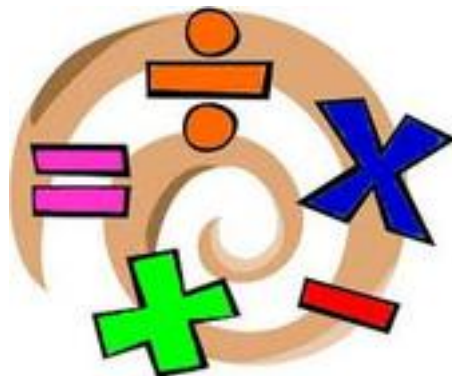
Students in Years 3-6 have been assessed on their ability in Number. Students have been grouped based on their ability to complete number tasks. Each group has been allocated a group name with a mathematical theme. The name of the group does not identify the level of the group. Each day at 12:30pm students will go to their primary Maths group. This will occur Monday to Thursday. Each Friday, students will remain in their classroom during this time. Maths lessons will focus on word problems and how we can use Newman's Analysis to solve these problems. These groupings are flexible and will allow for fluidity between the groups.

### When will Maths Groups Start?

On Monday 12 February, students will be placed into their Maths groups. Over the next few weeks, there may be the need to shuffle a few students around to ensure students are being catered for correctly.

### Reporting on Achievement

Teachers will assess students in line with DET and school policies. Each semester parents will receive the child's report as per previous years. The only difference will be that the Maths comment will be written by the Maths group teacher. Parents of students who are working 'Above' or 'Below' stage level will be contacted over the next few weeks. This will also be documented in the child's school report. Each Maths group will be assessed based on the working level of that group.



We value your continued support at Warragamba Public School. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact the front office to arrange a time so that Mrs Shepherd, Mrs Luc or Mrs Cleary can meet to discuss the concerns.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Cleary  
Assistant Principal

Mrs Luc  
R/Assistant Principal

Stage 2 & 3 Teachers

Mrs Shepherd  
Principal