



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education
and Child Development

Room 19 Newsletter

Term 1 2018



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to Room 19! We have had a fantastic start to the new school year with lots of smiling faces.

SAFETY FIRST

Room 19 is tucked away with a small area to leave our room and whilst the children are warned every day to take care when leaving at each break and at the end of the day, it is quite difficult for them to avoid colliding with other bodies in the small walkway. To avoid injuries to either Room 19 children, parents, caregivers and smaller brothers and sisters we ask that you please stand outside the double doors, to pick up your child. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Absences

If your child is absent please either ring the school or use the Communication Book to share the reason for the absence with us, as we are legally obligated to have this information. If your child is away without you contacting the school with a reason an SMS message is sent to you as a reminder.

When coming to school during the day please make sure that you make your way to the front office **first**, as it is again a legal requirement that the front office knows who is on site.

Arriving on time

Mornings in every classroom are important. This is when each child learns vital routines around reader change over, lunch borrowing and often the start of lessons for the day. The first school bell goes at **8.35am**. Everything that happens after that time is important. It is a time of the day when a child is most ready to learn. What may seem like a small amount of time in lateness certainly adds up over the term and the year. Getting into a routine where your child is responsible for time keeping and knowing when you leave your house to come to school is a great way to teach children time management, awareness of time passing and independence. Please make every effort to bring your child to school on time as this is a precious period in a child's life not to be missed. This is also the time that our older buddies come into the classroom to hear the children to read. It is vitally important that the children have every opportunity to practise reading.

The children have received their new reader folder. This will contain a small spelling book with their words of the week, a reader and their communication book **every day**. At the beginning of each day the children will get their reader folder out of their school bags and put their reader into the "old" reader box by the classroom door. They will then find a new reader to borrow which will go into the blue tub under their name. Part of our early morning routine is the borrowing of each child's reader so it is vital that they have it with them every morning. It is important that the children learn to take responsibility for their own belongings and get into the routine of remembering to pack their bags with their reader folder in it every night.

What's on this term

DAIRY DATES

**Assembly will be held on
EVEN weeks,
Thursday at 9pm in the hall**

**Wednesday 21st February
Acquaintance Night and
Governing Council AGM at
6:00 in the Hall.**

Week 7

**Monday 12th March
Adelaide Cup HOLIDAY**

Week 8

**Wednesday 21st March
Harmony Day**

Week 9

**Friday 30th March
Good Friday (HOLIDAY)**

Week 10

**Monday 2nd April
Easter Monday (HOLIDAY)**

Weeks 10—11

Parent / Teacher Interviews

Week 11

**Friday 13th April
Last day of Term 1
Early dismissal 2:00pm**

The children will also bring their Communication Book for me to go through, to check for messages. This year, in a few weeks, we will be trialling a new Communication Book/Diary which will have lots of information in it about your child's education. Each night children are expected to go through their spelling words and read their reader. In your child's communication book you will find a few fun ways to help your child learn their spelling words. Children do enjoy progressing through their reading levels and truly appreciate the time you spend making sure they read as much as possible and extend their vocabulary.

Literacy

Throughout this term the children will be learning to read with the use of big books, Resource Based Learning, shared reading activities, rhyming books and guided reading activities. We will begin the year discovering the world of Dr Seuss.

This term we will be concentrating on the writing genres of narratives, recounts and descriptive writing. Children will all be writing every day. Spelling will be based around letter blends and the Oxford sight words that they have not yet mastered. We will be doing formal handwriting three times a week.

As the library is no longer operational for individual borrowing, due to the STEM Works, there will be no set borrowing day but the children will have the opportunity to borrow books from the class library throughout the week.

In **Maths** lessons children will be doing work on Number. It is vital that children have a solid foundation in their understanding of the way numbers fit and work together. We will be reviewing and adding to our understanding of Natural Maths strategies and Big Ideas in Number concepts to form a sound basis for all other areas of Maths to be undertaken throughout the year.

In **Science** this term children will be discovering that the world is teeming with animal life. Even the most unexpected places can host a diverse range of creatures. As humans, we share our wonderful planet with many other animals. Taking the time to really look at another species can provide a window into the similarities and differences among living beings, and can help us to appreciate how we are all part of a single, gloriously complex ecological system. In the Schoolyard Safari unit the children will be observing the features and behaviour of small animals. Children will observe the external features of small animals leading to a better understanding of how their features help them survive in their habitats. Through investigations, students learn how animals move, feed and protect themselves. They will also explore and compare the habitats of different animals.

In **Technology** children will be using ipads and a variety of robots to learn coding and practice writing simple algorithms. As part of this process and in keeping with the school's emphasis on Carol Dweck's theories about Growth Mindsets, the children will be

learning how to recognize when their algorithm does not work. They will be learning how to debug their codes and how to recognise when their algorithm does not work.

During term 1 **Health** lessons, students will investigate how to keep healthy, safe and active. There will be a focus on sun safety and the ways in which we can keep protected from harmful UV rays. Nutrition will also be investigated; looking at the different food groups, and how food keeps us healthy. In **Physical Education** students will have the opportunity to participate in dance and a range of body movement explorations. Students will also practice fundamental movement skills both with and without equipment. Participating in physical activity teaches students key learnings such as cooperation, resilience and social skills.

*Please be aware that your child has Health and PE on **Tuesday** and therefore will need to **wear appropriate sports shoes, clothing and a hat to be able to fully participate in lessons.***

Mrs Neilson - Health/PE Specialist Teacher

In **Music and Drama** this term the class will learn how to read basic music notation which will enable them to successfully play simple musical pieces using the boomwhackers. The children will be given the opportunity to compose their own rhythms and will perform these to their peers. In drama, children will focus on facial expressions and body language. They will learn how to convey emotions through the expressions used on their faces and through their body language and gestures.

Ms Britz - Music/Drama Specialist Teacher

This year our **PAL class** is Mrs Foster's Year 4/5 class in Room 33. They will be reading with us and learning community skills through the *Play is the Way* Programme. This term we will also be learning about a variety of Aboriginal artists both modern and traditional.

In **History** children will be examining the recent past, the present and the near future within the context of their own world. Children will be given opportunities to explore how changes occur over time in relation to themselves, their own families and the places to which they and others belong. They examine their daily family life and how it is the same as and different to previous generations.

Naming Clothes

Please make sure your child's clothing is named so that if it is lost it can be returned as quickly as possible.

Communication

Please do not hesitate to come and see me if you would like to discuss your child's education or any other matter that you need me to know. If it is a quick chat in the morning or after school I am more than happy to see you then, but if a longer chat is needed then please book a time that is most convenient to both of us.

Kind regards
Jenny Radoslovich