



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education  
and Child Development

# Room 3 Newsletter

## Term 1 2018



### Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Happy New Year and welcome to Learning Community 3 and a very big welcome to those of you who are new to our school. I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and were able to find some time to relax. I am looking forward to getting to know you as the year goes on.

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and tell you a little about me. I am going into my 8th year as a teacher, with experience in Adelaide and London. I have taught Nursery, Receptions and Year 1 for the past 8 years. This is my second year at Parafield Gardens R-7 and I very much look forward to working alongside you to ensure your child has a happy and successful year.

As I will be teaching Reception and Year 1's, a lot of the first term will be developing a sense of belonging, not only within the classroom but the entire PGR-7 community. We will be spending time getting to know one another while developing and maintaining respectful relationships. There will be a strong focus on celebrating all successes and achievements to build confidence and to ignite a love of learning. As the classroom teacher, I will ensure that the learning environment is one where your child will feel valued, safe and cared for.

I invite you all to come into the classroom to have a look around and see what we have been learning. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, please feel free to talk to me, write a note in your child's diary or arrange a time to meet. Please don't forget to share moments we can celebrate!

### **Personal Belongings**

Please ensure your child brings a bottle of water to school each day.

Please also remember to name all items belonging to your child. This ensures that if something is misplaced there is a greater chance of it being returned to the correct child.

### **Take Home Folders & Home Learning**

In your child's *Take Home Folder* you will find a *Sound Book* and a *PGR-7 Diary*. This folder will be taken home each night and needs to come to school each day. *Home Learning* is a vital

### **For Your Diary**

Assemblies are held on  
Thursday of Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8  
and 11

#### **Week 3**

**Wednesday 21st February**  
Acquaintance Night & AGM at  
6:00pm in the Hall

#### **Week 7**

**Monday 12th March**  
Adelaide Cup Long Weekend

#### **Week 8**

**Wednesday 21st March**  
Harmony Day

**Friday 30th March**  
Good Friday

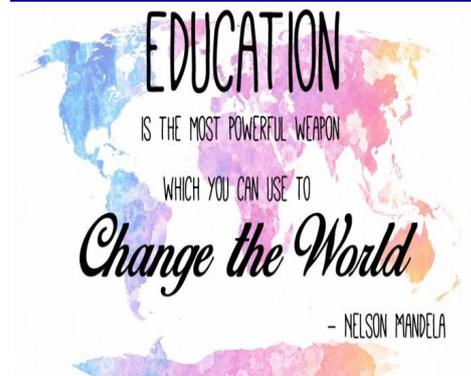
**Monday 2nd April**  
Easter Monday

#### **Week 10**

Parent Teacher Interviews

**Thursday 13th April**  
Last day of Term 1

**Monday May 1st**  
Term 2 Begins



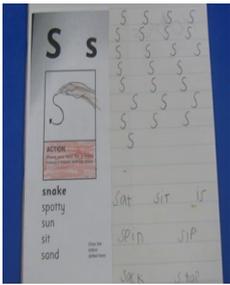
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*Working Together*

Comments and Feedback to:  
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part of your child's learning and is a great chance to connect and engage with your child.

*My Sound Book* - The foundation of our literacy program is *Jolly Phonics*. As part of this program, each child will take home the corresponding sound in their *Sound* book. We focus on one sound each day. You will find printouts in your child's book. These have capital and lower case letters and demonstrate the correct letter formation, I ask that your child;



- practices writing the letters
- shares with you the songs taught about the sounds during lessons
- performs the actions that relate to the sounds

Your child will bring home a PGR-7 Diary in the coming weeks. The *PGR-7 Diary* is designed to be a link between school and home. You will find valuable information to help you support your child at home as well as a reading log and a place for written communication. I will do my very best to check this each day however, please let your child know when you write a note in their communication book so that they can inform me in the morning. Don't forget to share achievements and celebrations.

Readers will start coming home as of Week 5 or 6. Readers will be changed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Having the reader over two nights will allow your child to have a stronger knowledge and understanding of the book as well as develop valuable confidence and fluency.

### **Reading Tips**

Before reading with your child, talk about the cover, the title, the pictures, and discuss what the book may be about. While reading, reflect on the book so far and imagine what will happen next. When you have finished reading talk and ask questions about the books. When you come across an unknown word, pause, prompt



(look for clues, read-on, sound out) and always praise.

**'The more that you READ, the more things you will KNOW. The more things that you LEARN, the more places you'll GO.'** Dr Seuss



### **Organisation and Independence**

Please encourage your child to be organised and independent each morning. Children are to place their bag in their locker and bring in their folder and drink bottle. Folders are to be put in the allocated basket and drink bottle on the table above. Once signed in the children can then complete the mornings activities. The children will then gather on the floor to begin our day together with the roll, daily schedule and calendar. Reception children will wear a Flying Starters badge to identify them as new members of our school community who may need a little extra support or guidance.

### **When your child is away and lateness**

The first bell will ring at 8:35am indicating that it is time to head to classrooms. A second bell will ring at 8:40am, with the expectation that all children are in their classrooms at this time.

It is crucial for all teachers to keep an up to date roll book with all absentees recorded and reasons given. You will receive a text message if your child is absent from school without a prior notification.

When your child is away either ring the office to let us know or write a note in your child's communication book. Reasons for students being away are recorded as well as the number of days absent. If you know in advance please let me know and I will record accordingly. All students who arrive at school after 8.45am are required to visit the office to receive a late slip which needs to be given to me for my records.

### **Literacy**



The main focus for term 1 will be developing phonological awareness through the program *Jolly Phonics*. *Jolly Phonics* centers around the teaching of sounds in a particular order, which enables children to form and write words using a fun and exciting approach.

There are 40+ sounds in the English language. These sounds and the letters that relate to them will be the primary focus this term in literacy. The letters are introduced in an interesting and sequential way, involving plenty of actions and stories. We will be exploring rhyme, syllables and word building to compliment and further develop phonological awareness.

The majority of learning will take part during Book Making. This is where children develop the habits and dispositions of authors and write and illustrate books independently. Through book making their skills as writers will develop as they experiment with writing fiction and non fiction books.

### **Numeracy**



We will be focusing on developing number knowledge, making groups, sorting and patterning. As part of measurement, we will be looking at day/night, days of the week, months of the year and seasons through our class calendar, songs and games.

The range of games are designed to support the whole school program Big Ideas in Number. The activities are play based, interactive and hands on. We will be singing together, sharing our mathematical knowledge and thinking and having a great time.



### **Our World**

We will be exploring our world through Society and Environment, History and Science. In the beginning weeks we will be learning all about our school values, being kind to ourselves and others. We will be celebrating families and what makes us all special and unique. During these lessons we will be working alongside the other Reception classes with Miss P, Miss Allira, Mrs Tidswell and Mrs. Hector. Working together will allow your child to develop new friendships as well as keep in touch with existing ones. These lessons will foster group work and collaborative learning.

### **Classroom Environment**

This year the classroom environment has been designed to aid children in developing independence, trust, cooperation and respect. By creating a calm and inviting learning environment, the transition from home to school each morning is eased.



As Early Years educators, we are passionate about play and the benefits it has for our learners. Research has evidenced the importance of play for a child's overall development of intellectual skills, thinking and motivation. Our classrooms are designed to promote opportunities for children to follow their interests and passions as well as the development of social skills and oral language in line with the Australian Curriculum.

Studies have shown that:

- engaging in active play encourages the development of language skills. A child's vocabulary grows and develops as they play together with peers and interact with adults.
- participating in play supports the development of literacy skills, such as listening skills and sound recognition
- play is associated with the development of social and emotional skills and the ability to develop positive relationships
- as children play with each other they learn to get along, communicate their needs, cooperate and resolve conflicts
- play fosters creativity and imagination which are valued traits, vital in the modern world
- using imagination, children are able to find solutions to a variety of problems they encounter

The set up of the classroom is designed to provide opportunities to develop these necessary skills.

Please come and see me if you have any further questions about the classroom environment. Below are some studies regarding the benefits of a playful learning environment if you'd like to look into this further.

<http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/our-publications/every-child-magazine/every-child-index/every-child-vol-16-3-2010/play-based-learning-free-article/>

<http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nqsplp/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Environment-makeover-campbell-street-workshop-240312.pdf>

[http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nqsplp/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/EYLFPLP\\_E-Newsletter\\_No12.pdf](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/nqsplp/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/EYLFPLP_E-Newsletter_No12.pdf)

<http://www.playengland.org.uk/about-us/why-play-is-important/>

### **Health and Physical Education with Mrs Neilson - Health/PE Teacher**



During term 1 in Health lessons, students will investigate keeping 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 researched, including 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.*

### **Music & Drama – Miss Georgia Yates**

This term in music students will focus on beat and musical opposites through dancing,

singing, movement activities and playing un-tuned percussion instruments. They will explore different ways that sound is made, eg. hit, plucked, blown or shaken. Students will develop their singing voices through games and imitation.



In drama students will learn to develop a character through varying the pitch and pace of their voice. They participate in process drama activities where they will learn how to become 'Superhelpers.'

### **Vietnamese – Ms, Nhan Chau**

Children will be introduced to the Vietnamese language and culture.

### **Come and Chat**

Please come and see me about anything that you would like to discuss - either about your child's work, behaviour, or any other issues or achievements. I love to celebrate and share special moments.

Short chats are great before or after school. longer chats are important too but will require you to book a time. Just write a note in your diary requesting a time that best suits you or ring the school.

### ***kindest regards***

***Tess Narcys***

*A child can teach us three things:*

- 1) to be happy for no reason**
- 2) always be curious**
- 3) to fight tirelessly for what you want**