



Government
of South Australia

Department for Education
and Child Development

Room 4 Newsletter

Term 1 2018



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Happy New Year and welcome to Learning Community 4 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 myself. This will be my sixth year at Parafield R-7. I have taught lovely Receptions each year. I live locally with my husband and two sons, who are 16 and 14. Ky is heading in to Year 11 this year and is paving the way towards an electrical apprenticeship. Ash will be starting Year 9; he loves gaming, cooking and baking. Ash loves talking to his Nan and Great Gran about recipes and they often swap tips and tricks. Paul and I are the happiest when our boys are happy. We love watching them become young men and often wonder where the time has gone. As you are very well aware, the years pass by so quickly. I remember their first day of school as though it was yesterday! We have two dogs at home, Ninja and Tilly and they often get up to all kinds of mischief when left on their own.

I love teaching and feel incredibly proud to call myself an educator. I understand and value the importance of developing real relationships with my students to allow them to see their full potential. Your children are all very important to me. I feel very privileged to be your child's teacher this year.

As school is a very new experience for your children, it is important that in the beginning weeks we spend time helping them to become familiar with both the class and whole school environment, routines and expectations. 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!

DIARY DATES

Week 2

Thursday 8th February
R-7 Assembly

Week 4

Wednesday 21st February
Acquaintance Night 6:00pm
in the hall

Thursday 22nd February
R-7 Assembly

Week 6

Thursday 8th March
R-7 Assembly

Week 7

Monday 12th March
Adelaide Cup HOLIDAY

Week 8

Wednesday 21st March
Harmony Day
Thursday 22nd March
R-7 Assembly

Week 9

Friday 30th March
Good Friday (HOLIDAY)

Week 10

Monday 2nd April
Easter Monday (HOLIDAY)
Tuesday 3rd- Friday 6th
Parent Teacher Interviews

Week 11

Thursday 12th April
R-7 Assembly
Friday 13th April
Last day of Term 1
Early dismissal 2:00pm



Parafield Gardens R-7 School
23 Shepherdson Road,
Parafield Gardens, SA 5107
Tel: 8258 1816 Fax: 8281 5857

Working Together

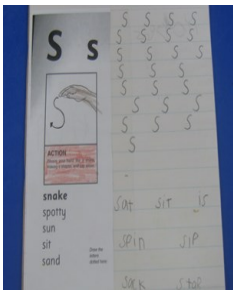
Comments and Feedback to:
Dani.Tidswell42@schools.sa.edu.au

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 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



An example of the 'S' page

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 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 in the mornings. 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 next to it. The children can then complete the mornings activities after which they will gather on the floor to begin our day together with the roll, daily schedule and calendar. Your child 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.

Library Borrowing Day is Monday

This year your child will be borrowing library books to take home from the classroom. This is due to the Resource Centre being out of action as building works will be taking place.

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, when it is expected that all children are in their classrooms.

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.

English

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.

Guided reading sessions and modelled writing will also be a strong part of our literacy program. As the children developed their phonological awareness, we will begin applying that knowledge in our writing and reading. During this term, this will be a modelled process allowing students to learn the structure, sequence and spelling as a group. Each day they will also plan or reflect on their experiences during Nature Play through Bookmaking. Our shared reading will allow us to explore text structure and key features. These elements will also be encouraged during Bookmaking.



Mathematics

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.

Learning Community 4 and 5 will be doing lots of Maths exploring and learning together during our Maths rotations activities. 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, Miss Tess 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:

- 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 - valued traits that are 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.playengland.org.uk/about-us/why-play-is-important/>

Music & Drama – Miss Georgia Yates WEDNESDAY

This term in music, students will focus on beat and musical opposites through dancing, singing, movement activities and playing untuned percussion instruments. They will explore different ways that sounds are 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.'

Health & PE - Ms Kylie Neilson TUESDAY

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.

Vietnamese– Ms, Nhan Chau MONDAY

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 however, we would need to book a time. Just write a note in your diary requesting a time that best suits you or ring the school.

kindest regards

Dani Tidswell

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**