



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education
and Child Development

Learning Community 5

Term 1 2018



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

A very warm welcome to the beginning of the school year. This is such an exciting time for you and your child, as your child begins their schooling for the first time. There are 18 children in Learning Community 5 (LC5). I am very excited to be teaching reception children. I have been teaching at Parafield Gardens R-7 School since 2004. I have a passion for early years education and believe that by providing a strong and positive foundation for children, has a tremendous influence on them as life long learners. Your child will be working very closely with their peers in Learning Community 4. Dani Tidswell (teacher in room 4) and myself work collaboratively to provide your child with a safe, positive and fun learning environment.

Communication

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. Each day your child will take home their diary in their communication folder. This serves as the main form of communication and needs to come to school everyday along with their sound book.

Absences/Lateness

If your child is absent, please write a brief explanation in your child's diary explaining their absence or phone the school office. If your child is absent and we have not heard from you by 10:00am you will receive an SMS asking for a response. It is a departmental requirement that all absentees are recorded and reasons given. If your child is late to school he/she needs to collect a late slip from the office **BEFORE** coming to the classroom. **For the safety of the children always report to the front office if dropping off recess/lunch for your child or collecting your child before 3pm.** We would greatly appreciate your cooperation with these school routines.

Morning Routine

Children need to place their bag on a hook outside the classroom, place their drink bottle (**WATER only**) on the shelf provided and place their communication folder and diary in the baskets provided. Any recess and/or lunch orders need to be put in the canteen box, with spending money to be handed to me for safe keeping. Once organised the children can sit on the carpet and wait for the roll to be called.

I ask that you encourage your child to do the morning routines on their own as this promotes responsibility and independence.

Please send a **bottle of water** with your child **every day**. The children will have snack time (piece/s of fruit/vegetable) at around 9:30am each morning. It is important for all children to have **healthy choices** in their lunch box. It would be great to see at least one piece of fruit/vegetable in their lunch box each day. This notion supports the school's Health and Wellbeing framework and fosters concentration and energy levels. Juice and milk drinks are for outside at recess and lunch times only.

Please ensure all your child's personal belongings are CLEARLY LABELLED.

Children need to wear their hats every recess and lunch throughout the school year, in accordance with the school's Sun Safe Policy which states **NO HAT NO PLAY**. If children do not wear their hat they will be asked to sit in a specified shaded area. Hats can remain at school in the basket provided. They can be taken home on Friday if you want to wash them, but must be returned to school on Monday.

What's on this term

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
Thursday 5th April
R-7 Assembly

Week 11

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
Cecilia.Hector976@schools.sa.edu.au

AREAS OF THE CURRICULUM

ENGLISH

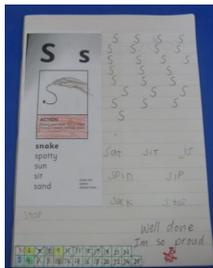
The children's literacy program is based on *Jolly Phonics*. This program centres on teaching sounds in a sequential order which enables children to form and write words using a fun and exciting approach. The children will be taught the 42 main letter sounds. These sounds, along with the letters that relate to them, will be the primary focus for this term.



The Literacy program also includes guided reading sessions, modelled writing, poetry and songs. I will use a range of texts to develop a variety of literacy skills. We will explore a variety of genres of writing eg procedures, narratives, and reports. During Bookmaking they will reflect and write on experiences they have had during Nature Play. The children will listen to, read and view a variety of texts, with the purpose of entertaining and informing.

Sound Book

Your child's sound book will act as the foundation for their literacy program. It will be sent home every night with your child and needs to be returned the next day. The children's sound book will contain the actions and examples of words for each sound. Your child is to use their sound book in the following ways:



- ◆ practise writing the letters on the lines using correct formation
- ◆ perform the actions that relate to the sound
- ◆ share with you the songs taught in class

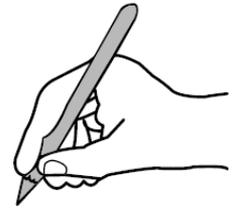
As the children develop their phonological awareness, I encourage you to write 2 or 3 letter words using the sounds they have learnt. For example, the first 3 sounds introduced are 's', 'a' and 't'. The following words can be made from these sounds, **as**, **at** and **sat**.

Below is the teaching order for the Jolly Phonics program

Wee		Week	
2	s a t i p	7	ng v oo/oo y
3	n c/k e h r	8	x ch sh th/th qu
4	m d g o u	9	ou oi ue er
5	l f b ai j	10	ar
6	oa ie ee/or z w	11	revision

Handwriting

Throughout the year, during handwriting sessions, the emphasis is on correct formation of letters and digits as well as correct pencil grip. Children will rotate around a number of activities to develop their handwriting skills.



Tripod Grip

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxy
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
XYZ
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Reading

Readers will be handed out from week 6 and 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.

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 book. When you come across an unknown word, pause, prompt (look for clues, read-on, sound out) and always praise.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION



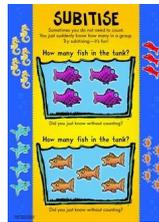
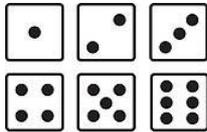
"The more that you
 read, the more things
 you will know. The
 more that you learn,
 the more places you'll
 go." -Dr Seuss

MATHEMATICS

Throughout the year the children will cover a range of numeracy topics including measurement and geometry, statistics and probability as well as number and algebra. This term's focus will be on **number**.

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 children will participate in play based and hands on activities to develop their counting skills, including lots of games with dice. They will learn the 'secret codes' (mental strategies) to support students solve problematized situations eg. subitising (automatically recognising a number pattern ie on a dice), rainbow facts (any numbers that add up to 10), doubles (identifying objects which occur in pairs). We will look at number lines and discuss what number comes before, after and in between and learn to count forwards and backwards from 1-20.



SCIENCE

In Science this term we will focus on biological sciences. This will include students identifying the needs of humans such as warmth, food and water, using students' own experiences. They will recognise the needs of living things in a range of situations and compare the needs of plants and animals.

HISTORY

The children will identify similarities and differences between families. They will recognise how important family events are commemorated. Children will sequence familiar family events in order. They will be encouraged to pose questions about their past and relate a story about their past using a range of texts.



OUR WORLD



In the beginning weeks we will be learning all about our school values, being kind to ourselves and others and celebrating what makes us all unique. During these lessons we will be working alongside the other Reception classes with Miss P, Miss Allira, Miss

Tess and Mrs. Tidswell. Working together will allow for your child to develop new friendships as well as keep in touch with existing ones. Also during these lessons we will be developing our class Code of Conduct. This will provide guidelines and expectations for all class members to follow. 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/>



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 practise 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 **Wednesday** and therefore will need to **wear appropriate sports shoes, clothing and a hat** to be able to fully participate in lessons.*

Mrs Kylie Neilson — Health/PE Teacher



MUSIC

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 sounds are made, eg. hit, plucked, blown or shaken. Students will develop their singing voices through games and imitation.

DRAMA

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.’

Georgia Yates — Music/Drama Teacher

VIETNAMESE

Children will be introduced to the Vietnamese language and culture.

Ms Nhan Chau

Library Borrowing

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.

Library borrowing will be on **MONDAYS.**



Each child will be provided with a new library bag. Please remind your child to bring their library bag to school every Monday. Children can borrow books for up to 2 weeks, but can change them over more regularly if they wish.

Assembly

Whole School assemblies are held fortnightly on **Thursdays** from 9am in the Hall. Please see DIARY DATES on the front page of this newsletter for assembly dates this term. The children in LC5 will host the assembly in term 3. Assemblies usually go for 30-60 minutes. You are most welcome to come along.

Creative Activity

If you have any small boxes (no larger than a cereal box), clean bottle tops, clean plastic containers or any other knick-knacks that the children can use to make and create objects please send them in.

If you would like to speak with me about any issues, concerns or feedback I am available before and after school.

I look forward to working with and supporting you and your child throughout the year.

Regards,

**Cecilia Hector
LC5 Class Teacher**

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<p>Name.....</p> <p>I have received Room 5’s Newsletter sent home on Friday 2nd February 2018.</p> <p>Signed.....</p>
