



Government  
of South Australia

Department for Education  
and Child Development

# Room 8 Newsletter

## Term 1 2018



### Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Happy New Year and a warm welcome to the 2018 school year. Rishab (my son) and I had a relaxing week away in Middleton. I hope you all have had exciting and special times together. Welcome to Jeff, Matthew and their families to our class. I wish you a lovely time in our class. Ms Chrysta and Ms Jo will be in our class working and assisting our students through the week.

### Just a few reminders:

#### Kiss and Drop

Kindly drop your child at the **Kiss and Drop** point near Room 8 gate. It helps minimize the morning disruption and maintain an easy flow to the morning routine. This also gives the children the confidence and independence to get organised. I will be able to have a quick chat in the morning before school, if you need to see me but please remember to use the communication book. Your support is much appreciated.



#### School Bell

The first bell is at 8:35am and then again at 8:40am. If you are late please bring in the late pass from the office. Dismissal is at **2:15pm on Mondays** and **3pm** the rest of the week.

#### Communication

Each day your child will bring home their communication book in their reader folder. Please use the communication book to give us any information about your child that is important to his learning or his day at school. Also make sure to check the communication book for any information from us about your child or notes that may come home. We are in the process of printing new school diaries to use in Room 8. These will be available in week 3. In the meantime please contact me if needed.

#### Absences

If your child is going to be absent on the day please ring the school in the morning otherwise you will be receiving a text from the school alerting you that your child has not arrived at school. If you are aware that your child is going to be absent on certain days due to specialist or medical appointments please make sure you write a note in the communication book.

#### Office Pass

If you are bringing your child to school and you are late, please ensure you get a late pass from the office before coming to class. Likewise if you are collecting your child early from school you need to inform the office and wait in the office for your child to come to you.

### What's on this term

#### DIARY DATES

#### Week 2

**Thursday 8th February**

**R-7 Assembly**

#### Week 4

**Wednesday 21st February**  
**Acquaintance Night 6:00pm**

**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)**

#### Week 11

**Thursday 12th April**

**R-7 Assembly**

**Friday 13th April**

**Last day of Term 1**

**Early dismissal 2:00pm**

The Ladies of Variety will be holding some events this term which we hope to attend. We will inform you regarding the dates.

## Morning Routine

Each day at the beginning and end of school, children are encouraged to independently complete a routine. At the beginning of the day children are expected to unpack their own bag - placing their communication book on the teacher's table, lunch bag and drink bottle in the grey tub near the sink, place lunch orders in the lunch box, reader bags in the tray, place their school bag in their personal locker and help unstack the chairs. Once organised children can choose from a variety of Fine Motor skills and gross motor activities.



*Fine motor skills* are achieved when children learn to use their smaller muscles, like muscles in the hands, fingers and wrists. Children use their fine motor skills when **writing, holding** small items, **buttoning** clothing, turning pages, eating, cutting with scissors, and using computer keyboards.



*Gross motor skills* are those which require whole body movement and which involve the large core stabilising muscles of the body to perform everyday functions, such as **standing and walking, running and jumping, and sitting upright** at the table. Gross motor skills are to help with body balance, strength and coordination.

Children then gather on the carpet to be greeted and the day's program is shared. A child is assigned for each day of the week to be the **Star of the Day** who assists in little jobs around the class; we then go through the day, date and weather; revise the days of the week and the months.

Following the carpet time the children are encouraged to have some fruit. Please promote our **fruit time** by packing a small container of cut up fruits and vegetables or dry fruits.

**Colourful and crunchy fruit and vegetables are an important and enjoyable part of your child's diet. Both vegetables and fruits contain essential nutrients that are important for their health, growth and development. If you eat and enjoy fruits and vegetables together with your children everyday they will usually follow your example.**



## Library

Resource Centre will be closed while the new building project commences. Your child will be able to borrow a variety of Library books which are being kept in class.



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

Children need to wear their hats every recess and lunch in accordance to the school's Sun Safe Policy which states **NO HAT NO PLAY**. If children do not wear their hat they will be asked to stay in a specified shaded area. Hats can remain at school in your child's tray.

## Curriculum Areas

**Literacy** skills are incorporated into a variety of learning experiences throughout each day such as Oral presentation, Jolly Phonics, Reading, Handwriting and Modelled writing

Oral presentations increase children's confidence and encourage questioning and public speaking skills. To ensure this happens, please help your child prepare for this weekly task.

Children are allowed to bring in any items which may assist them with their talk such as photos. Any toys or items brought to school will not be allowed outside of the classroom to prevent loss or damage. Everyone will be presenting on **Tuesday**.



## Term 1 Show and Tell topics

- Week 3 A favourite toy.
- Week 4 Pictures of you when you were younger.
- Week 5 My Family
- Week 6 Free choice
- Week 7 My pet or favourite animal
- Week 8 My favourite food
- Week 9 My favourite colour
- Week 10 My favourite book
- Week 11 Free choice

## Reading

**Learning to read is an important part of every child's life.** We will be looking at fiction and non-fiction, poems, songs and Big books. Every day your child will be bringing a reader home, please ensure that you help your child by listening or reading together each night. I urge you to

acknowledge your child's reading with a comment or even a smiley face in the reading diary provided. We will change readers according to their needs each week. Along with the reader a set of Oxford Sight Words or phonics book will also be sent home. Encourage them to identify and practise the sounds or words.

**Jolly Phonics** is a fun and multi-sensory method of teaching phonics. The sounds are taught in a specific order involving actions, songs and stories. The order helps them to begin building words as early as possible. Children will bring home their *Jolly Phonics* sound book, please sing along and help them learn the song and action for each letter. Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCjJYB07aSU> for the correct order of the songs.



### Handwriting

Children will participate in handwriting lessons each week. Writing is an essential skill for children, therefore handwriting lessons are important as it helps with their letter/sound recognition and correct letter formation, pencil grip, and finger spacing. Encourage your child to hold their pencil correctly. They will focus on the letter formation of lower and uppercase letters.

### Numeracy

This program will cover the functional maths and its application in everyday situations. Teaching approach will depend on the individual skills and levels of understanding. This term the focus will be on the calendar, number patterns, counting strategies and number value. Lessons will enable the children to recognise, record and use numbers. The children will sort, classify and count objects using concrete materials to support their learning.

### Swimming

Our **Swimming lessons will continue on** Tuesdays at the Elizabeth Aquadome. Our lessons are from 10:15am - 11:00am. Swimming lessons for this term commence from Tuesday 6th February. Please send \$2.75 (pool entry money), bathers, a towel and a small packed recess in a bag that is easy for your child to carry. Please clearly label all of your child's clothing. Please encourage your child to practise dress and undress independently at home.



### Cooking

I have been teaching cooking for the past 7 years in Room 8. The children always enjoy this lesson and look forward to it. We will be cooking fortnightly on Fridays even weeks. A small fee of \$2 will be collected to cover costs. During our cooking lessons children identify a variety of fruits and vegetables and foods from different cultures; learn to use a knife appropriately and other skills like grating, peeling, cleaning up and even how to use a knife and fork appropriately to eat. **Our cooking lessons will commence from week 4 this term.**



Healthy eating is given a high priority in our class, therefore please be mindful of what you pack for your child. If you have any questions about our healthy eating practices please feel free to discuss them with me.

**Please send a drink bottle with water only. If any issues please see me.**

### Class behaviour management

is based upon positive reinforcement, reward and praise. The major focus is upon RESPECT and COOPERATION. We have been refreshing and learning our class rules and routines. Our older students have been great role models displaying the expected behaviour. A copy of the class rules will be provided for your reference. The class rules are revised when needed to ensure clear understanding of behavioural expectations. Students receive stickers throughout the day and get to choose a special prize from the reward box when they have completed the sticker chart. Children are sent to the 'Thinking Chair' in the classroom when inappropriate behaviour interferes with their learning and that of the other in the class. The child is firstly warned before being sent to the 'Thinking Chair'. If inappropriate behaviour persists the student will be removed from class and will be sent to a buddy class. If they fail to behave after returning from buddy class they will be sent to the office for office time out.



### Uniform

Please make sure that your child is dressed in school colours (navy t-shirt and navy shorts) and appropriate shoes to be worn all the days.

## Health and PE with Mrs Neilson

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

## Music and Drama -with 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 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.'

## Class Rules

- ◆ I will follow the teacher's instructions.
- ◆ I will use the 5L's.
- ◆ I will walk in the classroom and keep myself safe.
- ◆ I will use my inside voice.
- ◆ I will put my hand up to talk.
- ◆ I keep my hands to myself.
- ◆ I will use my strong words "**Stop, I don't like it**" when others don't treat me with respect.

- ◆ I will keep the class tidy.
- ◆ I will use manners, say 'please', 'thank you', 'sorry', 'excuse me' 'pardon' and 'May I'
- ◆ I will stop, look and listen to the teacher.

My expectation as a teacher is to have each child working confidently and independently at a pace that is appropriate and successful for each individual student, while continuing to challenge them. I would like them to enjoy learning and take risks and get along and respect each other.

I believe that with your continued support and cooperation we can make your child's learning a great success.

Looking forward to a year of great learning !

*Kind regards  
Rosaline Singh*

