



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education

# Room 1 Newsletter

## Term 1 2019



### Dear Families,

I would like to welcome you to Parafield Gardens R-7 School! My name is Allira Willington (the students call me Mrs Allira) and I will have the pleasure of being your child's teacher this year in Room 1! This will be my 9th year teaching at Parafield Gardens R-7 prior to that I worked in childcare while completing my Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. I strongly believe that establishing a strong, positive learning mindset in the first years of schooling greatly supports students to become lifelong learners. The beginning of the school year is always exciting and I am looking forward to getting to know your child and hope that you and your child are anticipating a wonderful year!

The next few weeks will be a time of adjustment for your child. They will be learning and taking in a lot of new information, adapting to new time schedules, rules and expectations and making new friends. This can be overwhelming, so expect your child to be more tired and need extra sleep.

I like to foster independence in the classroom and encourage all children to be responsible for their own belongings and work toward completing morning routines (e.g. unpacking their schoolbag) on their own. This supports children's confidence in the classroom, it would be fantastic to see families encouraging these behaviours. Each day your child will need to bring to school:

- fruit snack
- recess
- lunch
- water bottle
- hat
- homework bag



### Communication

I believe that parent-teacher communication is a critical factor in supporting your child's learning and encouraging success in the classroom. Acquaintance Night will be held on the Wednesday 13th of February when I will provide more information about the classroom curriculum and we will have an opportunity to discuss any questions. You will also receive a classroom newsletter each term providing a curriculum overview, important dates and information about what we've been doing in the classroom. You will also receive a school newsletter each fortnight. Your child will begin taking home a diary, which you can be used to pass general information and notes on to me (I just ask that you remind your child to bring me their diary to check if there is a note). Feel free to alternatively contact me via email. Also, please ensure to check your child's bag each night as there will be important notes and information sent home regularly.

In order to allow me to better understand and support your child, I would like to ask if you could spare a few minutes to jot down some of your thoughts about your child. You may send your letter into school or via email. What are his/her greatest achievements or strengths? What are his/her favourite things to do? How does he/she learn best? Are there any areas which he/she finds challenging? How does he/she socialise with others? What are your hopes for the year ahead? Feel free to include any information that you would like me to know.

**Allira.Smits576@schools.sa.edu.au**

### Absences/Lateness

Parafield Gardens R-7 School  
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Parafield Gardens, SA 5107  
Tel: 8258 1816 Fax: 8281 5857  
www.pgardens.sa.edu.au

*Working Together*

### DIARY DATES

**THIS TERM ASSEMBLIES ARE HELD ON THURSDAY OF WEEKS 2, 4, 6, 8, 11 at 9:00am in the Hall**

**Wednesday 13th February Acquaintance Night & AGM 6:30pm in the Hall**

**Tuesday 26th February No Pen Day**

**Monday 11th March Adelaide Cup Public Holiday**

**Friday 29th March Partnership Pupil Free Day**

**Monday 1st to Friday 5th April Parent Teacher Interviews**

**Wednesday 10th April Casual Day with Gold Coin Donation**

**Friday 12th April Last day of Term 1 With Early Dismissal at 2:00pm**

*Always have a go!*

Remember **mistakes** are stepping stones to **learning!**

Comments and Feedback to:  
Allira.Smits576@schools.sa.edu.au

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 3:00pm.** We would greatly appreciate your cooperation with these school routines.

### Curriculum

To ease your child's transition from preschool to school we offer a play-based learning program, which promotes inquiry, discovery and experimentation. This allows children to engage in meaningful, hands-on learning experiences, which support their language, social, fine and gross motor skills, whilst also encouraging creativity, collaboration, problem solving and the development of self confidence. Your child will participate in Investigative Play sessions on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. During these sessions your child will have opportunities to interact and collaborate with students from other Reception and Year 1 classes and engage in various learning experiences based on the curriculum goals and individual or classroom inquiries.



### 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, handwriting, bookmaking, 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 e.g. procedures, narratives, and reports. During writing sessions 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.

### Homework

To support your child's literacy development and develop a love of reading I strongly encourage reading together every night. The children will not be taking home levelled readers until term 2 this year after they have been exposed to all Jolly Phonics sounds, however your child will still have opportunities to

borrow library books every Monday and will also take home *Pocket Rocket* readers related to the sounds they are learning in class.

Your child will also be provided with a Sight Word book containing a list of short words that they will need to practise and learn by 'sight' to support their reading fluency.

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

Week		Week	
2	s a t i p	7	ng v oo/oo y
3	n c/k e h r	8	x ch sh <b>th/th</b> 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

## 5 Things to Know About Play

(From The National Association for the Education of Young Children)

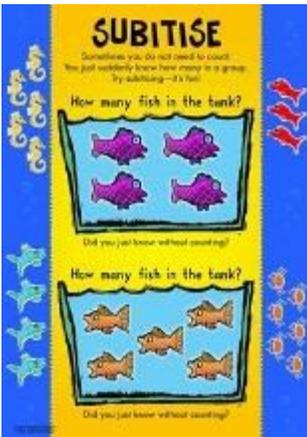
- 1** **Children learn through play.** Children learn and develop cognitive skills, physical abilities, new vocabulary, social skills and literacy skills.
- 2** **Play is healthy.** Play helps children grow and counteracts obesity issues facing many children today.
- 3** **Play reduces stress.** Play is joyful and provides an outlet for anxiety and stress.
- 4** **Play is more than meets the eye.** Play is simple and complex. There are many types of play: symbolic, sociodramatic, functional, and games with rules—to name just a few.
- 5** **Play and learning go hand-in hand.** They are not separate activities. They are intertwined. Think about them as a science lecture with a lab. Play is the child's lab.

## 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**.

We 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 help 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.



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## 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 and Geography

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 retell a story about their past using a range of texts.

## Music and Drama

This term in music students will feel, show and move to a strong beat. They will explore the 4 voices, speaking, singing, whispering and shouting, and sing songs with the class. Students will investigate how different sounds are made using percussion instruments.

In drama, students will use facial expression and movement to become characters and show their reaction to different situations. They will also explore character through varying the volume of their voice.



**Georgia Yates – Music and Drama Specialist Teacher**

## AUSLAN

Language Other Than English: Australian Sign Language is the recognised visual language of the Deaf community. During First Term the Reception, year 1 and year 2 students will be introduced to basic greetings, numbers and colours, and expanding Auslan vocabulary and grammar features through various class related topics. The students will learn through sign games, songs, video and use of IT equipment.



**Kylie Neilson - Specialist AUSLAN Teacher**

## Health and Physical Education

The Physical Education program at Parafield R-7 School provides students the opportunity to participate in a wide range of physical activities whilst learning many sporting skills. Term 1 will involve developing and strengthening students' fundamental movement skills through sporting activities and games that look at improving coordination, strengthening fine and gross motor skills, while learning new sporting activities. Many games will allow students to work cooperatively with others and promote both individual growth and positive social skills.

The P.E. program will allow sufficient time in each unit to provide opportunities for students to acquire an understanding of body control and manipulation to be able to demonstrate and show a progression of their motor skills. Students will practise individually and work with others to refine their range of movement skills including running, skipping, hopping, jumping and leaping to assist them to confidently participate in various games.

Learning to play team games is essential for students to become aware of the spatial requirements needed for safe play, to learn to self-regulate their emotions and to learn to conduct themselves safely.

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.

During Term 1 the Health Education Curriculum for Reception to Year 4 students will cover 'Our Body', 'Emotions/Feelings' and 'Friendship' topics including, learning about our five senses, learning how to look after our body with good hygiene and understanding the importance of being active and taking part in physical activities to keep their body healthy. It is important for students to discuss and learn about differences in body shapes, size, strength and abilities in order to accept it as being 'normal' to be different.

Students will also be learning about social & emotional skills by looking at different facial expressions and body languages and understanding how we can read other peoples' facial and body expressions to get a sense of how they are feeling. This will encourage and support discussions on the topic of 'emotions/feelings' and what it means. It will also assist in learning about relationship topics- e.g. Friendship and how to act and behave accordingly.

**Kylie Neilson - Specialist Health/PE Teacher**

*Kind regards  
Allira Willington*