

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to Room 19! We have had a fantastic start to the new school year with lots of smiling faces. All of the children have settled in really well. The year will be jam packed with lots to do.

SAFETY FIRST

Room 19 is tucked away with a small area to leave our room and whilst the children are warned every day to take care when leaving the room it is quite difficult for them to avoid colliding with other bodies in the small walkway. To avoid injuries to either Room 19 children, parents, caregivers and smaller brothers and sisters we ask that you please stand outside the double doors, to pick up your child. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Absences

If your child is absent please either ring the school or use the Communication Diary to share the reason for the absence with us, as we are legally obligated to have this information. If your child is away without you contacting the school with a reason, an SMS message is sent to you as a reminder.

When coming to school during the day please make sure that you make your way to the front office, as it is again a legal requirement that the front office knows who is on site.

Arriving on time

Mornings in every classroom are important. This is when each child learns vital routines around reader change over, lunch borrowing and often the start of lessons for the day. The first school bell goes at **8.35am**. Everything that happens after that time is important. It is a time of the day when a child is most ready to learn. What may seem like a small amount of time in lateness certainly adds up over the term and the year. Getting into a routine where your child is responsible for time keeping and knowing when you leave your house to come to school is a great way to teach children time management, awareness of time passing and independence. Please make every effort to bring your child to school on time as this is a precious period in a child's life not to be missed.

During this time children will bring their Communication Diary for me to go through, to check for messages. This is also the time that our older buddies come into the classroom to listen to the children read. It is vitally important that the children have every opportunity to practise reading. Children do enjoy progressing through their reading levels and truly appreciate the time you spend making sure they read as much as possible and extend their vocabulary.

Children have already received their new reader folders and in it you will find their new Communication Diary. This is where notes may travel between work and home. It is also where you can record what your child is reading and how they are going from your observations working with them. Starting next week children will be bringing home a new reader and a small spelling book. The 5-10 minutes that you spend hearing your child read makes a huge difference to their enjoyment of reading and their improvement in decoding and comprehension. Please spend some of that time questioning your child about what they have just read so that they work on their comprehension skills whilst they are reading with you.

What's on this term

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!**

I will be testing your child's reading in week 4 and 8 each term. To increase reading levels your child needs to successfully read 95% of the words correctly and understand what they have read. Each test has a few questions at the end. These questions are about the children's ability to recall what they have read but also understand what it means. The children will need to successfully answer these questions before they go up a level.

Literacy

This term we will be concentrating on the books of Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler and Lynley Dodd. These books are fantastic for teaching children to predict rhyming patterns and listen for the sounds in words, whilst being fabulously fun to read.

This term the children will be honing their skills at writing narratives. We have learnt the template that must be followed when writing a narrative and now the children will be learning to improve their stories and allowing their imaginations to run wild to create stories that are descriptive and interesting to read. Students will also be working on improving their knowledge of the language required when writing an interesting recount based on their life both outside and inside the school.

Our library borrowing time will be

In **Maths** lessons children will be working through Natural Maths strategies to add and subtract numbers. We will be making sure that our numbers are written correctly and the patterns which can be found in the 100 grid. Children will be working on their Big Ideas in Number strategies and learning to spot amounts of objects without counting them.

In **Science** this term the children will be studying a Primary Connections unit called Schoolyard Safari. Students will be observing the features and behaviour of small animals so that they can get a glimpse of the diversity of animal life. Children will explore small animals leading to a better understanding of how their adaptations help them survive in their habitats. Through investigations, the children will learn how animals move, feed and protect themselves.

In **Technology** children will be introduced to a variety of iPad apps to teach them to write procedures and simple algorithms to make the school robots perform in the way they want them to. They will be learning that robots will only do as they are specifically told to do. This will require a growth mindset often because part of writing codes means that debugging the code is an important skill to learn

During term 1 **Health** lessons, the children will learn about the dangers and effects of the sun and gain a greater understanding surrounding the Sun Smart program. Students will also be involved in exploring the concept of safety and keeping safe, as well as taking an in depth look at the health benefits of physical activity.

The **Physical Education** component involves the following: Introductory getting to know you session aimed at making all students more comfortable with their peers and environment.

Fundamental movement skills will be developed through Cricket. The following skills will be practised and developed over a 5 week unit; Catching, throwing, batting, bowling. Students will also learn the rules of the game and how to score.

*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.***

Stephanie Ryan- Health/PE Specialist Teacher

Welcome back to Parafield Gardens R-7 **Music, Dance and Drama** programme. This term our students will be learning what beat, pitch and rhythm is, and how to read, write and play a variety of rhythms and pitches, experimenting with their voices, and percussion instruments. Students will begin to learn how to sing to a pitch. In Drama our students will learn different ways to develop character roles by changing voice, facial expression and body language. With these skills, students will explore Process Drama by acting out a variety of familiar stories with improvised endings.

Amanda Drury - Specialist Music/Drama Teacher

This year our **PAL class** is Mrs Foster's Year 5 class in Room 33. They will be reading with us and joining us every second Thursday morning this term to learn some Kauria language as we learn about ourselves and our PALs.

In **History** the children will be learning about how their world is different from the past and how it might change in the future. The children will explore how changes occur over time in relation to themselves, their own families, and the places they and others belong too. Students will be learning to pose questions about past and present objects, people, places and events. They will be learning to sequence familiar objects and events.

Naming Clothes

Please make sure your child's clothing is named so that if it is lost it can be returned as quickly as possible.

Communication

Please do not hesitate to come and see me if you would like to discuss your child's education or any other matter that you need me to know. If it is a quick chat in the morning or after school I am more than happy to see you then, but if a longer chat is needed please book a time that is most convenient to both of us.

Kind regards

Jenny Radoslovich