



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Room 8 Newsletter

Term 1 2019



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Happy New Year and a warm welcome to the 2019 school year. Thank you for all your support during my unforeseen absence end of last term. Rishab (my son) and I are both recovering from our loss. I hope you all had a great holiday and feel refreshed to start another year. Welcome to Yasmeen (finally a girl in our class), Taylor, Arhaam, Sulav and their families to our school. I wish you a successful time in our class. Ms Chrysta and Ms Jo will be in our class too working and assisting the 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 extremely appreciated.



School Bell

The first bell is at 8:35am and then again at 8:40am. If you are late please bring in a late pass from the office. Dismissal is at **2:15pm on Mondays** and **3:00pm** throughout 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 important information about your child that might affect their behaviour or learning at school. Also make sure to check the communication book for any information or notes that may come home.

Absences

If your child is going to be absent on the day please ring the school in the morning or prior, if not 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.

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**

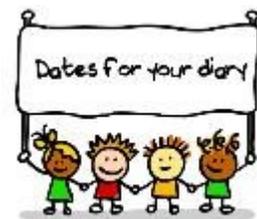
**Monday 11th March
Adelaide Cup Public Holiday**

**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**



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 encouraged and taught 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.

At the end of the day they are supported to pack their bags, picking up their lunch bag, communication book and reader bag. And finally stack the chairs.

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 are supported to participate in the provided fine motor and gross motor activities for the day meeting their individual needs.

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 for the day. We then look at the weather, day and date, marking it on their personal calendar and weather chart. Students also revise the days of the week and the months and sing some familiar songs.

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 to share.

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 Borrowing

The Resource Centre, now called The HIVE, is back in action and we are again able to enjoy using the space and borrow books.



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 to share on Mondays about their weekend activities and experiences.

Reading

Learning to read is an important part of every child's life. Reading to children every day has a positive effect on their cognitive and reading skills.

We will be looking at fiction and non-fiction books, poems, songs and big books through the year. Every day your child will be bringing home a reader. Please ensure that you help your child by listening or reading together each night. Please ensure that you 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. The older students will be bringing home a set of Oxford Sight Words. Encourage them to identify and practise the sounds and words.

Jolly Phonics is a fun and multi-sensory method of teaching phonics that we use in our class. The sounds are taught in a specific order involving actions, songs and stories. The order helps them to begin building words. Children will bring home

their Jolly Phonics sound book. Please sing along and help them learn the song and action for each letter/sound. 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 and 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.



Numeracy

Our program will cover the functional maths and its application in everyday situations. Teaching approaches will depend on the individual skills and levels of understanding. This term the focus will be on: 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. Maths lessons are modified to suit their ability and needs.

Swimming

Our **Swimming lessons will continue** on Tuesdays at the Elizabeth Aquadome. Our lessons are from 10:15 - 11:00am. Swimming lessons for this term commence from Tuesday 5th February. Please send \$3.00 (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 and encourage them to practise dressing independently at home.

Cooking

Children in room 8 have been enjoying cooking over the past 8 years and they look forward to it. We will be cooking fortnightly on Fridays on **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.

Music and Drama with Georgia Yates

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.



Health and PE with Mrs Ryan

The Physical Education program at Parafield R-7 School provides students the opportunity to participate in a wide range of physical activities and learning many sporting skills. Term 1 will involve developing and strengthening students' fundamental movement skills through taking part in 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.

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

I am looking forward to working with your child this term!

During Health lessons we 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.



Auslan with Mrs Krohn

Language Other Than English – Australian Sign Language is the recognised visual language of the Deaf community. During First Term the 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.

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 through 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 which interferes with other children's learning is observed. 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 closed shoes to be worn all the days. Girls are only allowed to wear sleepers or studs as earrings.

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 them 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*

