



Government
of South Australia

Department for Education
and Child Development

Room 1 Newsletter

Term 1 2020



Dear Families,

Happy New Year and welcome to Learning Community 1 and a very big welcome to those of you who are new to our school. We hope you all had a wonderful summer break and were able to find some time to relax. We are looking forward to getting to know you as the year goes on. Tess Narcys will be teaching from Monday to Wednesday and Katherine Tsouvalas will be the teacher on Thursday and Friday.

Developing a sense of belonging, not only within the classroom but the entire PGR-7 community will be a priority in first term. We will be spending time getting to know one another while developing and maintaining respectful relationships. There will be a strong focus on celebrating all successes and achievements to build confidence and to ignite a love of learning. As the classroom teachers, we will ensure that the learning environment is one where your child will feel valued, safe and cared for.

We invite you to come into the classroom to have a look around and see what we have been learning. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child, please feel free to talk to us, write a note in your child's diary or arrange a time to meet.

Personal Belongings

Please ensure your child brings a bottle of water to school each day. Please also remember to name all items belonging to your child. This ensures that if something is misplaced there is a greater chance of it being returned to the correct child.

Take Home Folders & Home Learning

In your child's *Take Home Folder* you will find a *Sound Book* and a *PGR-7 Diary*. This folder will be taken home each night and needs to come to school each day. *Home Learning* is a vital part of your child's learning and is a great chance to connect and engage with your child.

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. We will do our 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 us in the morning as some days it may not be a priority. Don't forget to share achievements and celebrations.

Readers will start coming home as of Week 5/6. Readers 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.

For Your Diary

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

**Tuesday 11th February
Acquaintance Night
Channel 9 Weather Report**

**Tuesday 25th February
No Pen Day**

**Monday 9th March
Adelaide Cup Public Holiday**

**TUESDAY 10TH MARCH
PUPIL FREE DAY**

**Saturday 21st March
Harmony Day**

**Monday 30th March - Friday 3rd
April
Interview Week**

**Wednesday 8th April
Casual Day with
gold coin donation**

**Thursday 9th April
Last Day of Term 1 with
Early Dismissal**

**Friday 10th April
Good Friday**



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Working Together

Comments and Feedback to:
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Reading Tips

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

'The more that you READ, the more things you will KNOW. The more things that you LEARN, the more places you'll GO.' Dr Seuss



Organisation and Independence

Please encourage your child to be organised and independent each morning. Children are to place their bag in their locker and bring in their folder and drink bottle. Folders are to be put in the allocated basket and drink bottle on the shelf. Once signed in, the children can then complete the mornings' activities. The children will then gather on the floor to begin our day together with the roll, daily schedule and calendar.

When your child is away and lateness

The first bell will ring at 8:35am indicating that it is time to head to classrooms. A second bell will ring at 8:40am, it is expected that all children are in their classrooms at this time.

It is crucial for all teachers to keep an up to date roll book with all absentees recorded and reasons given. You will receive a text message if your child is absent from school with out a prior notification.

When your child is away, either ring the office to let us know or write a note in your child's communication book. Reasons for students being away are recorded as well as the number of days absent. If you know in advance please let me know and we can record accordingly. All students who arrive at school after 8.45am are required to visit the office and sign in. They will receive a slip which needs to be given to me for my records.



LITERACY

This term in English we will be revising and re-focusing on the following areas; concepts of print, daily word work, Jolly Phonics, syllables, rhyme, letter formation, sentence formation and structure, information report writing and recount writing. Students will also read every day.

The majority of learning will take part during Book Making. This is where children develop the habits and dispositions of authors and write and illustrate books independently. Through book making their

skills as writers will develop as they experiment with writing fiction and non fiction books.

NUMERACY

In Maths this term, students will consolidate their understanding of numbers using a variety of problem solving and recording skills. We will look at counting forwards and backwards to 20 from any starting point and learning numeral identification to 20. Through hands on and engaging activities children will learn to subitise small collections of objects. Finally we'll aim to achieve counting on, trust the count and patterning.



OUR WORLD

We will be exploring our world through Society and Environment, History and Science. In the beginning weeks we will be learning all about our school values, being kind to ourselves and others. We will be celebrating families and what makes us all special and unique. During these lessons we will be working alongside the other Reception classes with Miss P, Miss Bright, Mrs Tidswell and Mrs. Hector. Working together will allow your child to develop new friendships as well as keep in touch with existing ones. These lessons will foster group work and collaborative learning.

Health & Physical Education (PE) Wednesday Kylie Neilson

The students will learn to identify their strengths and how these contribute to their personal identities. Students will learn how to positively respond to challenges by using growth mindset strategies. Throughout the term students will explore similarities and differences between individuals and why diversity and inclusion are celebrated and respected. Students will identify and practise emotional responses that account for their own and others' feeling including:



- describing their own strengths and achievements and those of others, identifying how these contribute to personal identity
- practising strategies to use if they experience a problem or need help with a task
- describing ways to include others to make them feel they belong
- Identifying and practising emotional responses that account for our own and others' feelings

During PE students will participate in a sequential fundamental movement skills unit (running, throwing, jumping, catching, kicking etc). Students will also have the opportunity to complete a 'Striking and Fielding Games' unit (cricket, baseball etc), where they will develop their sport-specific skills, particularly; throwing, catching and two-handed striking, in an authentic sporting environment. This will include:

- practising fundamental movement skills and movement sequences using different body parts
- participating in games with and without equipment
- cooperating with others when participating in physical activities
- testing possible solutions to movement challenges through trial and error
- following rules when participating in physical activities

Auslan **Tuesday** Kylie Neilson

Language Other Than English – Australian Sign Language is the recognised visual language of the Deaf community. During First Term the Yr 1 students will be reviewing basic greetings, including the manual alphabet to recognise own name, numbers and colours, and expanding Auslan vocabulary and grammar features through various class related topics. The students will learn through sign games, songs, video, the use of IT equipment and class interactions using the target language

Music & Drama **Friday** – 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.

This year in music and drama I will be using Class Dojo with students and to communicate to families. You will soon receive an email to join the class. If you have any problems at all, please feel free to come and speak with me in Room 22.



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 us 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/>

Come and Chat

Please come and see us about anything that you would like to discuss - either about your child's work, behaviour, or any other issues or achievements. We love to celebrate and share special moments.

Short chats are great before or after school, longer chats are important too however, we would need to book a time. Just write a note in your diary requesting a time that best suits you or ring the school.

Many thanks
Tess Narcys and
Katherine Tsouvalas

