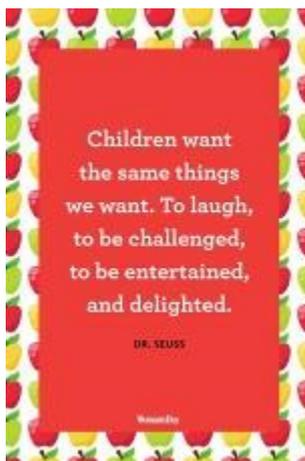


### Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to term 1. For many of you this is your first schooling experience with your child and I am privileged to be a part of your child's journey this year. For those of you who I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet, my name is Alana Papahristos and this is my 8th year as a reception teacher. I have been a member of the Parafield Gardens community for 9 years working in a variety of roles and being appointed to an early years position for the past seven years. So far, I'm very pleased to see how well the children have settled in to their new class. Every child is becoming more confident and independent in the classroom and it's wonderful to see lots of new friendships begin to blossom! This year we will be taking advantage of using alternative working spaces and the environment to optimise student learning and promote engagement, such as using the courtyard learning space and alternative seating. Please carefully read through this newsletter as it contains useful information about what you should expect this year and how to help your child be well prepared. Acquaintance night, on Tuesday the 11th of February, will also allow for us to provide a more comprehensive overview, as well as an opportunity to chat and discuss any questions.



### Communication

In week 4 your child will take home a diary and a school folder. The diary will be used as a form of communication between myself and you so please ensure that your child brings it to school every day. The diary also contains sight words that your child needs to practise 2-3 times every night in the following weeks. This folder will also include newsletters, notices and their 'sound book'. Please check your child's folder every night for information. For the first 4 weeks if you have any questions or information I need to know, please come and see me after school.

### Absences/lateness

If your child is absent please ring the school, email or let me know the reason as soon as possible. If your child arrives at school past 8.40am, could you please go straight to the front office to get a late pass as I would have already submitted the role electronically. It is critical that all lates and absences are recorded to ensure that data is up to date.

### Food and drinks

Please ensure that your child has a bottle of water, recess and lunch every day at school. We also have a healthy food break at 9.50am, so could you also please include a piece of fruit or vegetables in their lunchbox everyday. There are two boxes in the classroom labelled where the children can put their drinks and lunch box.

Please come in and introduce yourself over the next few weeks and don't hesitate to contact me or make an appointment with me if you have any questions or concerns.

Alana Papahristos

### DIARY DATES

**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**

*Always have a go!*

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

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

As the children enter a new social environment they are expected to be kind and respectful of adults and their peers and encouraged to make new friends, to share and take turns. We will be using 'Bucket Fillers' as a positive reinforcement method to promote good behaviour. More information will be sent home in your child's folder.

In the classroom we will be learning about and working to establish 'growth mindsets', which is crucial to learning in the early years of school. A growth mindset encourages students to believe that they can learn more and develop new skills if they work hard and persevere. Rather than giving up if they do not succeed the first time, children with growth mindsets will see challenges and mistakes as opportunities to improve their own learning and skills.

Children will also be encouraged to become independent learners and this includes becoming familiar with classroom routines.



## Daily Routines

Adjusting to a new classroom may be difficult for some and children will be exposed to a lot of new information during the first term of school, however, it is important that we help to foster the children's independence and organisational skills. You can help your child be successful by encouraging them to follow a morning routine of unpacking their own schoolbag – including their Take Home Folder (later in the term), drink bottle, placing any lunch orders in the lunch box and beginning their morning activities.

## Homework

Readers will start coming home as of Week 9. 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.

## 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 book. When you come across an unknown word, pause, prompt (look for clues, read-on, sound out) and always praise. In term 1, the school will be running some parent workshops to assist parents with how to successfully support their child's reading. Please look out for this information in the next few weeks if you are interested.

Students will also need to practise their Oxford Sight words. When your child can confidently read each word without pausing they know that word by sight! These can be found in the children's diaries but if your

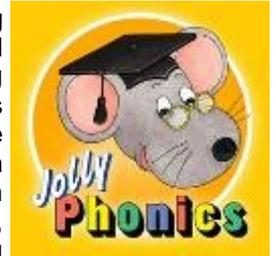
child is finding the writing too small, come and see me and I can give them a different copy to take home. I will highlight the sight words they know in their diaries twice a term. Children will also be given a Sound Book in week 2, where children can practise the daily Jolly Phonics sound that we have learnt in class. Children are encouraged to practise the formation of the letter and share the songs and actions with families.

## Curriculum Overview

The lessons and learning experiences will be adapted to meet the needs of the Australian Curriculum.

## English

Over the term we will be working to develop children's reading and writing skills by having a big focus on the Jolly Phonics program. Children will be introduced to a new sound each day and will develop their skills in identifying sounds in words, segmenting them and blending them. Children will practise tracing and forming familiar words, like their name, through a range of engaging writing activities. We will also have a large emphasis on correct letter formation and be encouraging children to participate in various fine motor activities to strengthen their handwriting abilities.



Our class author study this term will be Dr Seuss where we will learn about the structure of books and what rhyming means. Big Books and rhymes will also be used to model reading and comprehension strategies.

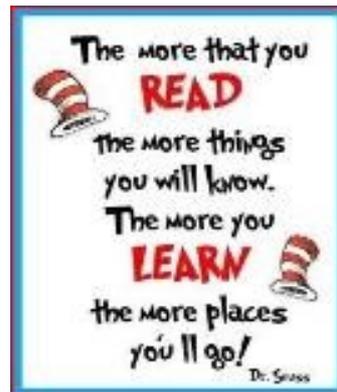
In order to help in developing oral language and boosting confidence, each child will have an opportunity each week to share something from home

in front of the class. This activity promotes children to develop strong public speaking skills, self confidence and provides the opportunity to speak to an audience. We will have topics each week to encourage discussion. Supporting your child by helping to find an appropriate item from home and discussing some ideas to share with the class would prepare

them for their sharing and help to build their confidence in speaking in front of a large group. An item does not need to be brought in every week, items which are 'off topic' will not be shared and I also encourage children not to bring in anything valuable in case it is lost or damaged. Please refer to the 'Sharing Roster' and information, which will be sent home separately.

## Mathematics

This term we will be working towards developing our number knowledge and skills using numbers from 0-20. Subitising will be a large focus, where children develop their ability to instantly recognise the number



of objects in a small group. We will practise these skills using a range of dice games, memory games, flash cards, dominoes and by identifying groups in story books. We will be doing a lot of counting, sorting and organising groups of objects, sometimes involving larger numbers, to develop a strong understanding of quantity. Stories and rhymes will also be used to allow children to make meaningful connections to concepts.

Seeing 5 immediately, without counting 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.



### Health and Physical Education with Kylie Neilson– Wednesdays

Students in reception will learn to identify and describe emotions they experience. Students will practice positive social skills and choices they can make when interacting with others. Students will also practice using strategies that will help them to persist until they are successful. This includes:

- identifying and describe emotional responses people may experience in different situations
- practising personal and social skills to interact positively with others
- identifying personal strengths

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 including:

- 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
- test possible solutions to movement challenges through trial and error
- follow rules when participating in physical activities

### Music and Drama with Georgia Yates - Tuesdays

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.

### AUSLAN with Kylie Neilson - Thursdays

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

### Science

During Science this term we will be focussing on biological science, particularly investigating what people, plants and animals need to survive and grow. This unit will support students to develop their skills in observation and reflection and will also incorporate lots of opportunities for hands on learning experiences, to experiment, make and design models. This will also be incorporated in their *Investigative Play lessons*, where they will learn Science concepts through play.



### Technologies

This term Design and Technology will be integrated throughout Science, Maths and Computing lessons. This allows the students to utilise their problem solving and design skills in a variety ways. Our class will have the opportunity to develop their ICT skills through using iPads, where they will be learning basic computer skills and how to independently load familiar programmes and apps. The class will also be introduced to block coding, where they will get the opportunity to experiment with and program 'BeeBots' and 'Spheros'.

### History/Geography

This term as we get to know each other we will be learning about 'Ourselves'. We will be celebrating all of the things that make us special and unique, our families and cultural backgrounds.



### Visual Arts

This term visual arts will be incorporated into many subject areas to provide engaging learning experiences for the class through using a range of materials and techniques. We will also explore the work of famous artists and, in more depth, the work of a chosen artist.