



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education

# Room 4 Newsletter

## Term 1 2018



### Dear Families,

Happy New Year and welcome to Learning Community 4. A very big welcome to those of you who are new to the Parafield Gardens R-7 School community. We are so pleased that you have selected our school to support and guide your child and your family through their primary education. As I am sure you are aware, we are a United Nations Global Peace School. This prestigious title encompasses our view of your child and education. We see your child as our future and wish nothing more than to see them happy, healthy and successful. We look forward to getting to know all the children and creating rich and valuable relationships. We understand that the beginning stages of school life can be very overwhelming (for both the children and families) and we hope that we can work together to prioritise the school transition. We strongly believe that if your child feels safe and happy, they will flourish across all areas of school.

My husband Paul and I have 2 children and remember the challenges we faced during this time. My sons are now 18 and 16. Ky finished his formal education last year and is entering the next stage of his life. He has just started a full-time electrical apprenticeship. Ash is starting Year 11 and has moved to a Tech College to prepare for his desired career as a chef. I remember their first days of school very well. Ky was confident and comfortable, ready to play and learn until things became challenging. Ash was not keen at all to start school. He started very slowly and loved it in the end. I often reflect on their journey and the saying, 'It takes a village to raise a child' could not fit more perfectly. Paul and I could not have raised our boys without the care, patience and support of their teachers and our community. I hope that I am able to help you wherever needed along the way.

I absolutely love teaching and am very proud to call myself an educator. It is a privilege that I take very seriously. I feel so much joy when surrounded by curious little people. This inspires me to make learning fun, interesting and joyous. As school is a very new experience for your children, it is important that in the beginning weeks we spend time helping them to become familiar with both the class and whole school environment, routines and expectations. 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 teacher, I will ensure that the learning environment is one where your child will feel valued, safe and cared for. I invite you all 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 me, write a note in your child's diary or arrange a time to meet. Please don't forget to share moments we can celebrate!

### 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:  
Dani.Tidswell42@schools.sa.edu.au.

## Our Learning Community

Cecilia Hector and Learning Community 5 will be a big part of our year. Cecilia and I are incredibly lucky to have an open door between the 2 learning spaces. We plan and work collaboratively and often bring the 2 classes together. We have been working this way for the past few years with great success. We believe that we are able to offer more support to the children and to each other. We draw from each other's individual experiences and feel that we are able to provide more rich and rigorous learning opportunities for the children. The children are able to rely on the support, care and love of both of us.

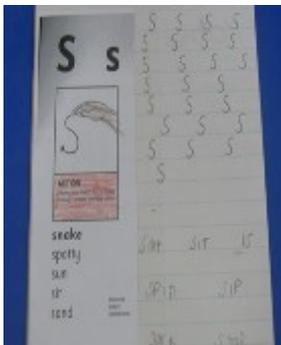


## Take Home Folders & Home Learning

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.

*My Sound Book*- The foundation of our literacy program is *Jolly Phonics*. As part of this program, each child will take home the corresponding sound in their *Sound book*. We focus on one sound each day. You will find printouts in your child's book. These have capital and lower case letters and demonstrate the correct letter formation, I ask that your child:

- practices writing the letters
- shares with you the songs taught about the sounds during lessons
- performs the actions that relate to the sounds



An example of a 'S' page

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. I will do my 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 me 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 or 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.

## 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**

# Jolly Phonics

## Literacy

The main focus for Term 1 will be developing phonological awareness through the program *Jolly Phonics*. *Jolly Phonics* centers around the teaching of sounds in a particular order, which enables children to form and write words using a fun and exciting approach. There are 40+ sounds in the English language. These sounds and the letters that relate to them will be the primary focus this term in literacy. The letters are introduced in an interesting and sequential way, involving plenty of actions and stories. We will be exploring rhyme, syllables and word building to compliment and further develop phonological awareness.

Guided reading sessions and modelled writing will also be a strong part of our literacy program. As the children develop their phonological awareness, we will begin applying that knowledge in our writing and reading. During this term, this will be a modelled process allowing students to learn the structure, sequence and spelling as a group.

Each day they will also plan or reflect on experiences they have during Nature Play in their Bookmaking. Our shared reading will allow us to explore text structure and key features. These elements will be encouraged during Bookmaking.



### **Numeracy**

We will be focusing on developing number knowledge, making groups, sorting and patterning. As part of measurement, we will be looking at day/night, days of the week, months of the year and seasons through our class calendar, songs and games.

Learning Community 4 and 5 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 activities are play based, interactive and hands on. We will be singing together, sharing our mathematical knowledge and thinking and having a great time.



### **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, Miss Tess 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.



### **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 me 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.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/>



### **Organisation & Independence**

Please encourage your child to be organised and independent in the mornings. 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 their drink bottle next to it. 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. Your child will wear a flying Starters badge to identify them as new members of our school community who may need a little extra support or guidance.



### Health & PE– with Josh Parsons

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 & 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.

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

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.

### Come and Chat

Please come and see me about anything that you would like to discuss - either about your child's work, behaviour, or any other issues or achievements. I 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.

*kindest regards, Dani Tidswell*

*A child can teach us three things:*

- 1) To be happy for no reason**
- 2) Always be curious**
- 3) To fight tirelessly for what you want**