



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education

# Room 8 Newsletter

## Term 1 2020



### Dear Parents and Caregivers

Happy New Year and a warm welcome to the 2020 school year. I hope you all had a great holiday and feel refreshed to start another year. Welcome to Manya, Trent, Xavier, Alysha and their families to Room 8. We are fortunate to have Ms Chrysta and Ms Jo assisting the students through their learning and we wish you all a successful year.

### Just a few reminders:

#### Kiss and Drop

I strongly urge parents to drop your child at the **Kiss and Drop** point near Room 8 gate to promote confidence and independence and get organised for the day. It also helps minimize the morning disruption and maintain an easy flow to the morning routine. 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 or make a time to see me. 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** 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.

#### Late 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.

#### 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,

### 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**

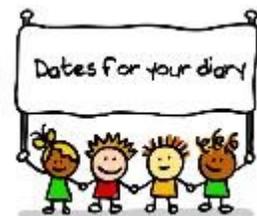
**Saturday 21st March**  
**Harmony Day**

**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**



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, 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; 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

We will be borrowing library books on Mondays. Please ensure you return the book by Monday so your child can borrow a new book to enjoy with you.

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

Reading is important because it develops the brain.

Our reading program through the year is enriched with big books, fiction and non-fiction books, poems and songs.

Each day your child will bring home a reader, so we ask that you help your child by listening or reading together each night. We will change readers according to their needs each week. The older students will be bringing home a set of Oxford Sight Words and Fitzroy readers.

**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 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=eCjYB07aSU> for the correct order of the songs.

Reading aloud with children is known to be the single most important activity for building the knowledge and skills they will eventually require for learning to read.

Marilyn Jager Adams

## 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** program will cover the functional maths and its application in everyday situations. The teaching approach 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 4th February. Please send \$3.10 (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 also please encourage your child to practise dressing independently at home.

### Cooking

Children in room 8 have been enjoying cooking for the past few years and 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 fork and knife 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.**

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.

### Music and Drama -with Selena Britz

This term the class will be introduced to percussion instruments. Children will learn how to name the instruments and how to group them according to how they are played. The class will learn to play the instruments correctly, keeping a steady beat to the music as they play along. In Drama, the class will focus on facial expressions and body language. They will learn how to convey emotions through the expressions used on their faces and through their body language and gestures.

### Health and Physical Education with Miss Neilson

The Term 1 Health component will include:

- the development of a Growth Mindset
- setting goals for the year ahead
- identifying personal strengths
- understanding similarities and differences
- the importance of making and learning from mistakes
- celebrating diversity
- using mindfulness to calm our thoughts and feelings
- gaining a deeper understanding of nutrition in order to lead happy and healthy lives

The Term 1 Physical Education component will involve:

- introduction – safety rules, expectations, the 'why' of PE, building a 'healthy community of learners', implementing a Growth Mindset.
- fundamental movement skills – body management skills, locomotion skills, manipulative skills (i.e. running, jumping, throwing, catching, kicking etc.)
- athletics – Students will learn a variety of track and field events, including: high jump, long jump, shot put, discus, relays, sprints etc.)
- striking and fielding – Students will build upon and further develop their understanding of striking and fielding-based games, such as: cricket, baseball, softball and t-ball. They will continue their improvement of the fundamental movement skills used within these types of games, while experiencing authentic and rewarding sporting environments. The students will be given the opportunity to enhance their skills in batting, bowling and fielding, while playing a range of engaging games.

### 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.

As a teacher I would like to see all children enjoy learning, take risks, get along, be kind to one and other, make friends and be happy.

Growth mindset is promoted in our class to build self esteem and confidence to attempt any challenge big or small.

I believe that with your continued support and cooperation we can make your child independent and their learning a great success.

Looking forward to a fabulous year of learning.

*Kind regards  
Rosaline Singh*

