



Government  
of South Australia  
Department for Education

# Room 3 Newsletter

## Term 3 2020



### Dear Families,

Welcome back! We hope that you all had a nice break and found some time to relax and enjoy! Hopefully many of us are back to some sense of normality now and back to regular routines!

We are very happy to say that the students in Reception had some great success last semester! After a challenging start, everyone has settled into their class routines, have begun to develop friendships and have achieved some fantastic learning. We are looking forward to another successful and exciting term ahead.

Parents will still not be permitted in the school classroom or corridor due to restrictions but this has positively impacted on the children's organisation and independence skills. We understand that you may need to speak to your class teacher at times and we are more than happy to make an appointment before or after school or via email if you would like to discuss your child's progress or any concerns you may have.

### Attendance

It is very important that your child is on time each day to school at 8.35am as some of our most important routines, English and Maths occurs first thing in the morning. If you are late please ensure that your child has a late pass which is issued by the front office staff. An SMS will be sent to parents/ caregivers if the school has not been notified *prior to 10:00am*.

### Homework

To ensure that students are reinforcing ideas learnt during class time, students in the Early Years classes are required to practise their tricky words and read to a parent or caregiver **each night for 10 minutes**. Knowing these words will instantaneously help students' fluency in reading. Please practise sight words with your child regularly as part of your nightly homework routine. These sight words will be checked at the **beginning and end of each term**, as stated in the school literacy agreement. We also suggest parents spend **5 minutes** using the sound cards each night to practise their Jolly Phonic sounds. We understand your children may know their sounds but it is beneficial to still practise them for automaticity.

All students will now be swapping over levelled readers on **Monday, Wednesday and Friday**. This encourages them to develop their fluency. We will continue to use Running Records to test your child's reading and as they develop their comprehension, accuracy and fluency they will progress to the next reading level. You will be informed when they move up a level.

**Kind regards,**

**Alana Papahristos, Tash Bright, Cecilia Hector and Dani Tidswell**



Students farewelled our pre-service teacher, Ezra Glazbrook, at the end of last term. We wish her the best for her future teaching career.

### What's on this term

**WEEK 2 ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD IN THE HALL ON FRIDAY 31ST JULY**

**THE REMAINING ASSEMBLIES WILL BE HELD IN THE HALL ON THURSDAY OF WEEKS 4, 6, 8, 10 at 9:00am**

**Photo Day  
Thursday 30th July**

**Early Years Swimming  
Tuesday 11th - Friday 14th  
August**

**No Pen Day  
Tuesday 18th August**

**Science Week  
15th - 23rd August**

**Scientific Bubble Show  
Thursday 3rd September**

**SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY  
MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER**

**STUDENT FREE DAY  
TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER**

**3-Way Interviews  
Monday 14th to 18th  
September**

**Dental 4 Schools Program  
Monday 21st September**

**Casual day with gold  
coin donation  
Wednesday 23rd September**

**Early Dismissal at 2:00pm  
Friday 25th September**

## Routine and Communication

This term all routines and methods of communication will remain similar to Term 2. This means your child will take home their diary, a reader, folder and tricky words each night. In the morning children will be able to choose their learning spot for the day. This promotes different interactions with different children each day and caters for a variety of learning needs.

## Reading

As mentioned last term your child will be expected to read every night with you or an older sibling. The following ideas will support your child's learning:

- encourage your child to have a go at guessing a word
- ask your child to look for clues such as a picture
- allow your children to pick up their own mistakes
- read the sentence and get your child to mimic you

## Tricky words

In your child's folder you will find the little booklet, we gave out in Term 2 which is full of words that can't be decoded called 'tricky words'. I ask that you read 3 words every night and give the word a tick once you think your child knows it by sight. Remember these are tricky words and cannot be sounded out; they need to be learnt by sight as this will help them with their reading. If they have finished the tricky words, they can begin accessing the sight words which can be found in the diary. They are decodable words and the children are allowed to sound them out. I will test your children twice a term and will practise the Tricky Words daily as a class.

## Literacy Jolly Phonics

We will be continuing our work with the *Jolly Phonics* program throughout this term. To continue this learning all reception students will be working alongside each other in groups with similar ability and learning styles. Each child has undergone assessments to provide us with information to place your child in the group that best suits their individual needs, knowledge and understanding. There are 4 Jolly Phonics groups, so your child may be taught by Miss Bright, Mrs Tidswell, Mrs Hector or Miss Papahristos during these lessons.

We believe that this approach will ensure that each child continues to learn at a faster rate. We are very excited about this program and can't wait to watch the students' learning growth.

## Grammar

We will continue learning about grammar throughout the term, focusing on nouns, full stops and capital letters. This will be supported by the implementation of *Jolly Grammar*, which coincides with *Jolly Phonics*.

## Guided Reading

The students will begin guided reading sessions which will be conducted in small groups. The groups will be organised according to their reading ability and students will be exposed to a variety of texts and activities.



## Book Making

We will be continuing with our Book Making this term to develop our writing skills. In Book Making the children become authors of their own books. Book Making offers an authentic, purposeful writing experience. The children write both fiction and non-fiction books on topics that interest them. They apply their personal knowledge and skills to create incredible texts. They pay attention to details like title, author, text features and illustrations. They always keep in mind the audience and what makes a book interesting. It has been wonderful to see the children being incredibly engaged and motivated to be the best author they can be. They find inspiration from our favourite texts and authors as well as their own experiences.



## Oral Language

This term we will not have particular topics for each week but the children will be presenting their books from Bookmaking to the class every EVEN week and have free choice every ODD week. The days they are rostered on is the same as the previous term.

## Numeracy

This term we will continue to focus on strategies and number work twice a week. We will continue learning how to count forwards and backwards from 1-20, double numbers, rainbow factors, near doubles and learning to add small quantities using concrete materials and two dice faces. We will be continuing with a focus on statistics and data for week 1-4. During week 4-10 we will be focusing on shapes.

## STEM

This term our STEM subject will be student led. The topic will be chosen depending on the students' wonders, with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics being incorporated into the students' chosen topic.

## Investigative Play

This term for STEM the children will be involved in investigative play where they will be able to have the opportunity to engage in different Science (Physical Sciences), Mathematics and Technology activities in purposeful ways that allow them to reinforce and develop their learning. We will also have STEM challenges, which will support the development of the children's problem solving and team work skills. The children will also have the opportunity to be involved in learning through construction play, arts, craft, drama, music and a variety of other activities that connect to our curriculum areas.



## HASS History/Geography

We will be investigating Indigenous cultures and stories and the significance of 'special places' throughout traditional stories and the Indigenous community. We will explore and learn about the following inquiry questions:

- Why are the Aboriginal and Torrens Strait Islanders significantly linked to the land?
- Who are the Kaurna people and why are they important to South Australia?
- What is the Aboriginal culture and traditions?

## Music and Drama with Belinda Mentha

This term in music students will continue reading rhythms using ta and titi and also introduce a silent beat, za. They will use xylophones to play simple melodies and continue practising beat. Later in the term, they will participate in activities using this year's Music Count Us In song ready to perform as a whole school in Term 4.

In drama, students will participate in Process Drama, where the students become "superhelpers" to solve problems within drama scenarios

## PE & Health with Kylie Neilson

We had a busy Term 2 focusing on ball skills, team work and net games. It was fun trying to get a rally happening! While in Health we constantly revisited hygiene as well as learning about our 5 senses.

This term we will have lots of fun learning about striking a ball and in Health we will be looking at different ways to keep ourselves safe.

## AUSLAN with Kylie Neilson

Even though we had an interesting start to Term 2, we were very productive in our Auslan lessons. It was great watching the children learn new signs and gain confidence in communicating with their hands. We focused on animals and numbers and we started to learn how to play card games in Auslan.

This term we will be focusing on families and all the important Auslan signs for family members! I'm looking forward to another busy and productive term!

## Swimming lessons at the Elizabeth Aquadome Tuesday 11th August - Friday 14th August

Just a reminder that swimming is in Week 4. Please complete and return the forms, that were sent home in week 1, with payment (\$25) to the front office by **WEDNESDAY 5th AUGUST**. It is vital that the medical form is also filled out and if any medication is required it must be named and given to the class teacher with instructions. If your child has asthma they will need to have an 'Asthma Action Plan' documented from the front office.

**Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions, parents will not be allowed to attend swimming lessons. This is in line with the strict government guidelines relating to capacity and social distancing limitations for the Elizabeth Aquadome.**

Over the next few weeks, it would be greatly appreciated if you could support your child in being able to dress him/herself independently.

## Highlights from Term 2

