



Government
of South Australia

Department for Education

Room 8 Newsletter

Term 1 2021



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to the 2021 school year and to Room 8! I especially welcome our new families beginning their journey with us at Parafield Gardens R-7 School. We are very fortunate to be having Morteza, Jhye and Abdul join us in Room 8 this year. Room 8 is a busy and exciting place to be and I am really looking forward to navigating a year full of amazing learning experiences with your children!

A little bit of history for families who are new to working with me. I began my teaching career in 2018, having my first teaching contract out in the country! In 2019 I returned to Adelaide, undertaking relief work in a number of different schools in Term 1. In Term 2 I became a part of the Parafield Gardens R-7 staff teaching Year 4's for the remainder of 2019 and 2020.

Which brings us to 2021, where I cannot wait to be the new teacher in Room 8! We will continue to have Ms Chrysta and Ms Jo as additional support in our classroom to help us with our learning.

If you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to make a time to come in to have a chat with us. We strive to work together with families to achieve the best possible outcomes for individual students. It is important that your child has an enjoyable experience at school and feels safe.

Kind regards,
Jessica Cobb



Miss Cobb



Ms Chrysta



Ms Jo

What's on this term

This term assemblies are held on Thursdays at 9am in the Hall in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, 11

Diary dates:

Week 3

Monday 8th February
Acquaintance Night
Governing Council AGM

Week 5

Tuesday 23rd February
No Pen Day

Week 8

Monday 8th March
Adelaide Cup - Public Holiday

Saturday 21st March
Harmony Day

Week 10

**Monday 29th March -
Thursday 1st April**
3 Way Learning Conversations

Friday 2nd April
Good Friday - Public Holiday

Week 11

Monday 5th April
Easter Monday - Public Holiday

Wednesday 7th April
Casual Day
with gold coin donation

Friday 9th April
Last day of Term 1
Early dismissal at 2pm

Room 8 Information

School Bell / Uniform

The first bell is at 8:35am and second bell 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.

Children must wear a navy top and shorts/pants each day. Their hats must be worn 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 locker. Please ensure all your child's personal belongings (jackets, drink bottles, etc) are clearly labelled.

Absences / Late

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.

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.

Communication Book

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.

ClassDojo

I have also developed a Room 8 ClassDojo account for 2021. This is an app where I will be sharing regular class updates, photos, achievements and reminders for families. This is a great way to engage with our learning at home and have photo prompts for conversations with your child. You are also able to contact me through ClassDojo via private message and I will endeavour to get back to you promptly. If you have not yet signed up for ClassDojo, your log-in details are pasted in your child's communication book.



Morning Routine

At the beginning of the day children are encouraged and taught to independently unpack their own bag - placing their folder in the tray, lunch box and drink bottle in the grey tub near the sink, put lunch orders in the lunch box and place their school bag in their personal locker. Once organised, children can choose from a variety of different play activities that are set up in our outside courtyard (weather permitting). These activities encourage their oral language development.

Children are then supported to participate in the provided fine motor and gross motor activities for the day suited to their individual needs.



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.

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 2nd of February. Please send \$3.20 (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. Please encourage your child to practise dressing independently at home.



Library Borrowing

As a class, we will be visiting and borrowing from the library each **Monday**. I ask that you please make sure your child is returning books on time so that they have the opportunity to borrow new books to share with you each week.



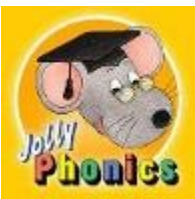
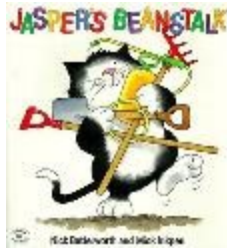
Term 1 Curriculum Overview

Literacy

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

Our reading program through the year is enriched with big books, fiction and non-fiction books, poems and songs. The first big book we have begun exploring together is *Jasper's Beanstalk*. You may have seen a copy of this book in your child's folder. That is for them to keep and practice reading at home with you. We will be using a new big book fortnightly to focus our learning around. Children will also be bringing home readers in the coming weeks.



Jolly Phonics

This 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 a Jolly Phonics sound book to help them learn and remember the song and action for each letter/sound.

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

We will be covering 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 place 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.



Specialist subjects

Wednesdays:

Health and PE with Stephanie Ryan

In term 1 students will be focusing on keeping healthy, safe and active. Students will begin with 'getting to know you' games and activities to help them gain familiarity and confidence amongst their peers and environment.

In Health students will study the concept of Growth Mindset, undertake Growing with Gratitude exercises, as well as learning vital social skills to aid relationships and friendships, including identifying feelings and emotions. Students will also study Sun Safety, learning about the dangers and effects of the sun and how to keep themselves safe in line with the Sun Smart Program.



In Physical Education students will partake in various games that will support the development of their fundamental movement skills, including running, skipping, hopping, jumping and leaping. Students will participate in various striking games, including tee-ball and cricket, which will promote both individual growth and positive social skills in students, including team work, sharing, cooperation and communication.

Fridays:

Music and Drama with Georgia Thomson



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.

Visual Arts with Kirsty Dimitropoulos

This term in Visual Art students will explore the first three elements of art: colour, line and shape through visual storytelling. They will create art in response to a range of books including: *Mix it Up*, *The Pencil*, *The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes*, *Dot* and *Beautiful Oops*, to name a few. Students will experiment with a range of mediums including paint, pencils, textas and crayons to create original artworks.

