



Government
of South Australia
Department for Education

Room 23 Newsletter

Term 1 2021



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to all families. I hope that Term 1 will be the start of a productive learning journey for all Year 1 and Year 2 students. Because my focus this year will be to achieve the best learning outcomes for each child, I will differentiate the Year 1 and Year 2 curriculum, so that it meets the specific needs of every student.

Clearly, reading is an important part of any child's education. Here is something for you to ponder...Oscar Wilde once said, "If one cannot enjoy reading a book over and over again, there is no use in reading it at all". This is especially important for children who are reading from Level 1-20, because it consolidates their reading strategies and increases confidence. I encourage all parents to spend time discussing their child's reader as much as possible. This will not only help develop language skills, but will also work towards achieving a minimum reading level of 12 and 21 (the respective Year 1 and Year 2 levels which are the suggested guideline for our students.). **A useful tip:** when the children are reading difficult words, ask them to **SAY THE SOUND OUT LOUD - NOT THE LETTER**. By using this method you can hear if they are reading correctly. Please also support your child to regularly practise their sight words. Your child will soon bring home an information book which includes Oxford Sight Words, strategies for helping with spelling and other useful content.

Your child's PGR-7 Diary has several purposes. Firstly, it 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. **IF YOU WRITE ME A MESSAGE, PLEASE ASK YOUR CHILD TO BRING IT TO MY ATTENTION THE FOLLOWING MORNING.** The Diary is also a Spelling Log Book. The children will have a new spelling list each Friday and will also be tested on the previous week's words each Friday. (We will start this in the next week or so). I encourage parents to help their child in preparation for this weekly spelling test.

I am sure you are all aware of the **Jolly Phonics Program** in which our children were involved last year. The homework component of this will continue this year, so I would be very grateful for your support with this.

If you would like to **cover your child's books, please take them home on a Friday and return them the following Monday, ready for your child to use.** Children like to choose novelty covers, but please make sure that each book is clearly labelled and therefore easily identifiable.

As you know, schools have a legal obligation to monitor the attendance of our students. To this end, the office will send parents and caregivers an SMS after 10:00am if your child is absent and we have not received notification. If your child is late they will need to go to the office to collect a late slip, which they will pass on to me. In the interests of the children's safety, we would like to minimize the number of adults on our school grounds. For this reason we ask that if you need to communicate with your child during the day (to drop off lunch or to collect them early) please go to the front office and the matter will be followed up from there. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this matter.

DIARY DATES

THIS TERM ASSEMBLIES ARE HELD ON THURSDAY OF WEEKS 2, 4, 6, 8 and 11 at 9:00am in the Hall

**Monday 8th February
Acquaintance Night and AGM**

**Monday 8th March
Adelaide Cup Public Holiday**

**Tuesday 10th March
PUPIL FREE DAY**

**Tuesday 23rd to Thursday 25th
March
Music Incursion**

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

**Friday 2nd April
Good Friday**

**Easter Monday
Monday 5th April**

**Wednesday 7th April
Casual Day with
Gold Coin Donation**

**Friday 9th April
Last day of Term 1
with Early Dismissal at 2:00pm**



PERSONAL ITEMS

Water bottles must come to school every day with water only in them please. However, it would be helpful if you could put something cold inside the lunch box such as a small ice pack to keep the food fresh. Please name all items belonging to your child. This ensures that if something is misplaced there is a greater chance of it being returned.



ENGLISH Jolly Phonics is an important component of our English curriculum. Students need to learn all sounds, tricky words and read high frequency words with automaticity. Each day students will complete 10 minutes of phonological awareness learning with the Heggerty program. Reading is also an integral part of our curriculum. The students will read daily in combinations of peer, self or to an adult. The children will be involved in the daily focus of correct letter formation and dictation. Our genres include Narrative and Persuasive Text as part of the Brightpath framework.

MATHEMATICS We will begin the year with a focus on The Big Ideas in Number program where students will develop skills in trusting the count and subitising collections in ten frames. We will investigate the counting sequences of 2, 3, 5 and 10. We will also deal with working with calendars; and solve problems using addition and subtraction. The students will also investigate the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

SCIENCE The Physical Sciences will be our focus in Term 1. We will investigate Light and Sound with an emphasis on senses and exploring ways to produce sound. Another component of our learning this term will be the topic of Push/Pull forces. Scientists and engineers study forces to design better bridges and faster aeroplanes. The students will bring this learning to life by investigating the effects of energy and pressure in everyday life around the home, school and wider environment.

TECHNOLOGIES This term we will be working on the digital component of this curriculum. We will focus on coding using Scratch Junior. The students will learn the skills of entering commands such as directionality, inserting background, sound and text as part of the basic steps for writing algorithms.

HASS The History component of this subject will be our focus for Term 1. Our inquiry question is "How has family life and the place we live in changed over time?" We will compare the past to the present using photos and artefacts. Our learning will identify how and why the lives of people have changed.

HEALTH

This year our school is implementing a new well being program called Berry Street. It is an initiative which promotes mindfulness, diversity and inclusivity. Some of these components dove tail well with our school values of working together, making good choices and being respectful.

GROWTH MINDSET

At Parafield Gardens R-7 School we encourage students to have a 'Growth Mindset'. There have always been conflicting arguments about intelligence with some believing that intelligence is something you are born with (nature) and others believing that intelligence can be changed or developed. "...our studies show that teaching people to have a 'growth mind-set,' which encourages a focus on effort rather than on intelligence or talent, helps make them into high achievers in school and in life." **Carol Dweck**



We therefore place an emphasis on hard work, persistence and resilience at this school.

A MATTER OF SAFETY

There are several hundred students entering and exiting our building. To avoid injuries to either Room 23 children, parents, caregivers and smaller brothers and sisters we ask that you please wait outside the external doors to collect your child. You are most welcome to come into the classroom to see me after the initial rush is over. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation with this.

MUSIC and DRAMA with Georgia Thomson

This term in music students will feel and show the beat of songs. They will practise reading and writing rhythms using ta, titi and za. Students will gain confidence when singing solo and perform dances using different levels, direction, shape and tempo.

In drama, students will use facial expression, body language and gesture to become characters and show their reaction to different situations. They will practise showing differing points of view using tableau and mime.



HEALTH and PE with Belinda Mentha

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.



Your child has Health and PE on **Friday** and will need a drink bottle of water to keep hydrated, and to wear appropriate sports shoes, clothing and a hat to be able to fully participate in lessons.

Visual Arts with Kirsty Dimitropoulos

This term in visual art students will explore the elements of art: colour, line, shape, texture, value, form and space. They will create art in response to 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, texas and crayons to create original artworks. Students will showcase their understanding of the elements of art through the development of textural flower collages inspired by Australian artist, Andria Beighton.



BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

Treating each other respectfully is an important value at school. I use a Restorative Justice approach where I ask the children to be involved in being part of the solution. As a whole group, we have discussed: (a) why we need rules (b) what our class and school rules are and (c) the consequences of inappropriate behaviour.

Library Borrowing

This year your child will be borrowing library books from The Hive on a fortnightly basis. This allows for reading consolidation and family circumstances. Please encourage your child to return the books promptly, so that a new book can be issued.



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." -Dr Seuss

HERE IS OUR NEWS ROSTER I will inform you of the weekly themes as the term progresses. We will commence this roster in Week 3 (8th Feb), and the topic will be Free Choice.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Shayaan	Deryck	Anthony	Ryan	Aston
Dawt	Mohamed E.	Mehar	Sana	Sossan
Mariyam	Lukas	Param	Areej	Mohammad R.
Athena	Dania	Laavanya	Azaan	Ashley
Lexie		Brendan		Urooj

It has been wonderful to meet many parents and caregivers during the first few days. If you have any questions or matters that I can help you with, please let me know. I look forward to a happy and productive year with you and your child.

*Kind regards
Sue Pasalidis*



ClassDojo will continue to be used to communicate with you and to share messages, updates and photos from the class. I also use Class Dojo with students to encourage important skills like working hard, team work and participation. It's the easiest way for you to see how your child is doing at school and to get in touch with me. For more information, visit the website at: www.classdojo.com