



Government
of South Australia

Department for Education

Room 28 Newsletter

Term 1 2021



Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you all had a wonderful break. I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with your child in Year 3/4. We have a fun space to work in, some great units of work in store and most importantly a class of wonderful children on their journey to becoming self-directed, powerful learners. It's going to be a fantastic year!

My name is Jo Waugh and I will be your child's Year 3/4 teacher for 2021. I look forward to getting to know your child and your family throughout the year. Please feel welcome to come in and introduce yourself after school. If you have any questions, worries or information you would like to share with me about your child and their learning please don't hesitate to contact me.

To begin the 2021 school year we will be working on lots of important activities that help us get to know each other and to help us to build effective relationships. We will look at our school PEACE values, discuss learning expectations and work together to establish our classroom rules.

Communication, absences and arriving late

I believe that communication between home and school is crucial to maintain an effective and productive learning environment for students. As mentioned above, please feel free to contact me by phone, Class Dojo, email or pop into the classroom after school. If your child is absent, please contact the school to inform us. You can do this by calling the front office, sending me an email (joanne.waugh497@schools.sa.edu.au), writing a note in your child's school diary or replying to the SMS you receive on the morning of their absence. The classroom is always open on the first bell at 8:35am. By 8:40am the students should be in class and ready to begin the day. If your child arrives after 8:45am they will need to go to the office and collect a late slip before continuing to class.

Diaries

Every student will receive a school diary within the first few weeks of school. It is an expectation that students will use this diary to write any important notes and/or reminders and to record their reading each night at home. Please feel free to use your child's diary to write any messages or notes to me if needed. Diaries will be collected every few weeks along with homework books for checking.

Class Dojo

This year I will be using Class Dojo to send notes, reminders and updates about our classroom! If we need to resume home learning at any stage, this will be our main method of contact. Please turn on notifications or check the page regularly to keep up to date with what is happening in Room 28.



Hats and water

Hats **must be** worn during recess, lunch, PE lessons and any outside activities. Please make sure your child has a hat available at all times. Please make sure your child's hat is **clearly** labelled with their full name. If your child does not currently have a hat, they are available from the front office for \$7.00. Please ensure your child brings water to school each day; they will be able to fill their drink bottles as required during the school day. If your child has any special health or dietary requirements please let me know.

What's on this term Diary dates

**This term assemblies are held
on Thursdays at 9am in the Hall
in weeks**

2, 4, 6, 8, 11

Week 2, 3, 4 and 5

Wednesdays
Cricket Clinic

Week 3

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

Week 5

Tuesday 23rd February
No Pen Day

Week 7

Monday 8th March
Adelaide Cup Public Holiday

Week 9

**Three Way Learning
Conversations**

Week 10

Friday 2nd April
Good Friday Public Holiday

Week 11

Monday 5th April
Easter Monday Public Holiday

Week 11

Wednesday 7th April
Casual Day with gold coin donation
**Friday 9th April
Last day of Term 1
Early dismissal at 2pm**

Always have a go!

Remember **mistakes** are
stepping stones to **learning!**

Reading

Please ensure **reading is a priority at home**. Students should be reading each night for a minimum of 10 minutes. Students are able to read in a variety of ways including reading to self, reading to an adult and/or reading to a sibling. Students are encouraged to read aloud as much as possible as it helps to develop fluency and increases their vocabulary and comprehension. It is also important for a child to hear other people read aloud as often as possible to help them to develop and understand fluency, rhyme and humour.

“The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you’ll go.”
-Dr. Seuss

Homework

Students in the Primary Years are expected to complete regular homework. Students will be given a matrix grid where they can select an open-ended activity each week. **Please encourage them to take their time, use their imagination and creativity and put in their best effort for all homework tasks.**

Students will be receiving homework in week 3. This will involve tasks to help them consolidate their learning and prepare for new learning topics. Homework books will be collected every few weeks for marking.

Specialist subjects

This year we will have Health/PE, Auslan and Music and Drama as our specialist subjects.

- ◆ **Health and PE - Monday - Matthew Cuconits**
- ◆ **Auslan - Tuesday - Kylie Neilson**
- ◆ **Music and Drama - Wednesday - Georgia Thomson**



A note about Health/PE from Mr Cuconits

My name is Matthew Cuconits and I am extremely excited to continue working at Parafield Gardens R-7 School this year. I look forward to working with all students during 2021. In health lessons; students will learn about the dangers and effects of the sun and gain a greater understanding surrounding the Sun Smart program. Students will also be involved in exploring the concept of safety, as well as taking an in depth look at the health benefits of physical activity. The term 1 Physical Education component involves the following:

- ◆ an introductory / getting to know you session aimed at making all students more comfortable with their peers and environment.

- ◆ fundamental movement skills – Students will be applying fundamental movement skills through the sport of athletics. They will learn a variety of track and field events including high jump, long jump, shot put, discus, sprints, 800m run and relays. They will also have the opportunity to try out for the SAPSASA athletics team.
- ◆ striking and fielding – Students will apply various striking, fielding and catching skills through the sports of cricket and Tee ball.

A note about Auslan from Kylie Neilson

Australian Sign Language (Auslan) is the recognised visual language of the Deaf community. After an interesting year last year, I have decided to make 2021 'The Year of Celebrations' with 'celebrations' as the overarching topic for all content covered. We will be looking at the different cultural celebrations within each classroom, including Deaf celebrations, and comparing the similarities and differences.

During first term, the students will be reviewing greetings, including self-introductions, Finger Spelling their own names and the names of their peers as well as cultural norms within the class and Deaf community. We will be focusing on birthday celebrations this term. The students will learn through sign games, songs, video, the use of ICT equipment, written and signed presentations and class interactions using the target language.



A note about Music and Drama from Georgia Thomson

This term in music students will read, write and compose rhythms using ta, titi, za and tika tika. They will investigate the difference between beat and rhythm and practise their discoveries through playing bordun and ostinato patterns using xylophones. Later in the term students will be visited by Jon Madin, a composer who will work with students to create music using his funky instruments.

In drama, students will use facial expression, body language and gesture to become characters and show their reaction to different situations. Students will focus on creating and sustaining a setting using tableau and mime. They will investigate the effects of tension and focus in dramatic works and apply these to their performances.

Term One Overview

English

In English this term we will be focusing on the narrative genre using the Seven Steps approach. Students will be asked to write an assessment narrative piece by the end of Week 7, which will be assessed and scored using the Brightpath scale. Towards the end of the term and after the narrative Brightpath assessment, we will focus on procedure writing.

At the end of the term, students will be pre-assessed on persuasive writing using the Brightpath scale.

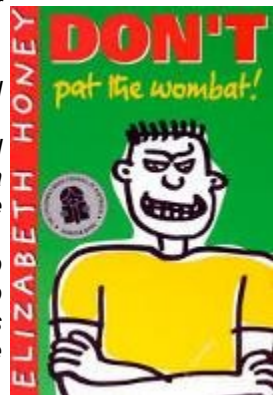
As part of our spelling programme, students will be assessed using the SA Spelling Test and placed into ability level groups. They will complete weekly activities to help them learn, understand and define the words. Students will be tested weekly on Friday mornings.

In Grammar we will focus on punctuation such as capital letters, full stops, question and exclamation marks. We will also be working on reading comprehension and on improving our handwriting.

Our class novel this term will be **'Don't pat the Wombat'** by Elizabeth Honey.

The Coconuts are friends. Womz, Nicko, Mitch, Azza and Mark Rider are best friends. They do everything together and it's school camp time. Jonah, a shy new kid from the bush, tags along with the Coconuts. They're not sure why he doesn't talk much. Whatever Jonah does he's in trouble from one teacher, The Bomb.

The best teachers and nice parents are going to camp and that means leaving Mr Cromwell, The Bomb at school. Another great thing about camp. Camp is great. Jonah is wild fun. There's torches, lollies, great food and wombats and then there's an accident, a teacher has to leave and The Bomb is the substitute teacher. The Coconuts set out to keep distance between The Bomb and Jonah, but Jonah finds himself in a kayak with The Bomb heading for wild water. What happens? Why does Jonah stop talking? What secrets does he hold? A fun read!



Mathematics

For Maths this term students' learning will focus on Number and Algebra. Students will participate in a variety of learning experiences that will explore number, place value, odd and even numbers, addition and subtraction. We will also explore the properties of symmetry. Many of these skills are foundational and an excellent starting point to allow students the best opportunity to continue their learning in Mathematics throughout the year to the best of their ability.

Students will begin to take part in weekly *Big Ideas in Number* lessons and numeracy rotation activities' to build fluency and further consolidate both known concepts and new learning.

HASS

In HASS, students this term will explore the difference between rules and laws in Civics and Citizenship. They will learn about local government, what they do for our

community and why laws are important. Students will develop questions about the society in which they live and locate and collect information from different sources to answer these questions.

Students will also identify the importance of different celebrations and commemorations for different groups. They will be able to explain how and why people participate in and contribute to their communities.

Science

This term in Science we will be using the *Primary Connections* and *Inquisitive* programmes to explore Biological Science. We will be focusing on "Friends or Foes" and through the use of hands on experiences and investigations, students will discover the relationship between plants and animals and how they depend on each other for survival. We will make connections between multiple curriculum areas including English, Mathematics, HASS and Technology.



Technology

In Technology this term, we develop our word processing skills including typing, editing documents, saving documents and inserting pictures into documents. We will also use a variety of search engines for research and learn to navigate a laptop effectively. We will also begin to use programmes such as Typing Tournament.

I believe in working in partnership with you, so we can provide the best learning outcomes for your child. If you have any questions, concerns or issues regarding your child's learning, please contact me. Come and see me, or if you prefer, you can send me an email at joanne.waugh497@schools.sa.edu.au.

Looking forward to a very productive term of learning.

Kind regards
Jo Waugh
Room 28 Teacher

