

# Welcome Back Pod 2A!

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome term 1 of 2021. I hope you all had a relaxing and well-earned break and are ready for the New Year! I'd like to start off by saying how excited that I am to have your child in my class this year and that I hope they will grow both as a learner and as an individual.

As you may already know, I have been at Ingle Farm East Primary school for a couple of years in a variety of different roles. I started as a student-teacher working in the 3/4 class with Mr. McGovern and came back as a relief teacher. I was then fortunate enough to have worked on a short-term basis in the 5/6 class last year and the 6/7 class. I also finished the year on a contract in which I worked across all the year levels. I am very excited to have my own class and begin a new role within education this year. I feel extremely fortunate to be given this opportunity as I know I have been welcomed into a safe and supportive environment

The term will begin with a major focus on expectations. We will work on creating a safe and nurturing environment in which we continue to develop, to respect one another and also the environment which we are in. I care about each of the students holistically and want to see them do the best that they can in all areas of their lives. I have high expectations but set achievable goals in which I know the student can succeed. I understand that student wellbeing is crucial to development.

For Pod 2A I want to create a learning environment in which students feel challenged and develop skills they will need as lifelong learners. I want students to develop problem-solving strategies that allow them to be in control and develop a variety of different ways in which they can solve any problem. I often provide feedback to students on how they can improve and encourage them to self-reflect and peer reflect. I believe learning is a lifelong experience in which all of us are involved. I would like the students to see that learning is ongoing and does not finish at the completion of school.

Thankyou.

## Contact:

If you need to contact me in regards to your child. I will be able to respond to messages on Seesaw between 8:30 - 4:00. I will try and respond as quickly as possible to you. If something is going to affect your child's absences such as leaving early or full day absences please ring the school or send me a message on Seesaw so we can record this. If you are unable to get the Seesaw app as an alternative, my email is:

[Bethany.materne530@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Bethany.materne530@schools.sa.edu.au)

## Attendance.

In order for your child to be as successful as possible, attendance is crucial. As a School we have an aim of 95% attendance. Attendance is affected by late arrivals and missing days of school. School starts every day at 8:55am with learning beginning at this time also. As a school we have agreed to begin with a literacy block that is tailored to meet each year level. By missing the start, the students miss out on hearing the explicit instruction and this can impact their time to complete their learning to their highest potential.

# Our Learning

As a school we aim to provide clear learning goals and direction for students on a short term and long-term basis. This will be met by providing clear learning intentions. Often we use the acronym **WALT** – ‘We are learning to....’. Students will be successful when they can meet their success criteria and can answer **WILF** – What I’m looking for.

## English

In Spelling we will be focusing on phonetic sounds with a later focus on prefixes and suffixes. Students will be required to complete a weekly contract in which they will cover the 4 areas of spelling: phonological awareness, etymological knowledge, visual knowledge and morphemic knowledge. These terms are explained below.

In Writing we will have an initial focus on descriptions looking at the seven descriptors: size, shape, colour, etc. This will then lead into Narratives. We will finish off the term with persuasive texts.

Guided reading will be linked closely with writing in having the same text type explored during those lesson times. Students will be organised later into groups with 5-6 peers using reading assessment and areas of focus.

As a class novel we will be reading, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. We will complete discussion and tasks around this.

## Maths

In Maths we will focus on working with numbers and understanding numbers. We will then move into working with the 4 operations. We will then finish off the term exploring measurement.

## Science

In Science we will be focusing on earth and space. This will be focused on the solar system and the way in which planets move.

## HASS

In HASS we are going to be focusing on geography. We will be looking at the world as whole and then focus on the continents: Africa, Europe, North American and South America.

## Visual Arts

We will be working on understanding perspective and exploring the difference in one point perspective and two-point perspective. We will also be discussing colours and exploring colour theory.

## Homework

Students will not be set contract type homework. I do however expect all students to read for at least 15 minutes every night. This will assist in students learning and there has been many positive benefits linked to reading every day. I plan to implement something that will keep students accountable. If your child is still on readers, this will be what will benefit them the most in reading with you.

Although reading will be set, if students do not complete the set work in class to a high standard this will also become homework. I will allow students an adequate amount of time in class to complete this and it teaches students to be responsible and manage their time effectively.

# Expectations

All staff at Ingle Farm East Primary school have high expectations of both students and their behaviours. Students will be exposed to the expectations regularly and reminded so that it becomes a habit and it is known what is expected of them. The following is our classroom expectations:

## **Classroom Expectations**

In Pod 2A we have high expectations and follow our school values: Safety, Communication, Respect, Responsibility and Teamwork. This means we are a community of learners who:

- ✓ Treat every member of Pod 2A (Adults and students) how we would like to be treated.
- ✓ Let each other learn.
- ✓ Always put in effort to our fullest potential.
- ✓ Show responsibility and respect for our learning environment.
- ✓ Communicate in a safe and responsible way.
- ✓ Respect each other by using an inside voice.
- ✓ Respect other's opinions and ideas and allow them to share this.
- ✓ Share equipment and use this both sensibly and responsibly.
- ✓ Work as a Team!

## Literacy Block

As a part of our school plan, we will have a focus on our literacy block. This will mean that we spend the morning block focused on reading, writing spelling, grammar and vocab.

### Reading.

Students will read to their self, to their peer, during guided reading, modelled reading and class reading.

Guided reading is organized into small groups with students of similar reading ability or with a focus that is being explored. Students will be doing this at least once a week in which they will meet with myself or a student services officer. The learning intention for the session is taken from student reading assessments and will be linked with our writing learning intention and focus. This will help students to become a balanced reader that understands what they are reading.

### Spelling

There are 4 knowledges of spelling that assist students in becoming proficient spellers. These are: phonological awareness, etymological knowledge, visual knowledge and morphemic knowledge.

- Phonological knowledge is awareness of the sounds in the English language and how different letter combinations can make different sounds. This will also assist in students reading.
- Etymological knowledge requires student to explore the word origins. Students are able to explore the root of words which will assist them when coming across new vocabulary.
- Visual knowledge encourages students to look at the word as a whole as well as breaking them into syllables and graphemes.
- Morphemic knowledge helps students to explore compound words and the use of prefixes and suffixes to change the meaning of the word.

## Dates

These dates are important for term 1.

- 8/2 - Meet the Teacher - 2:30pm in Pod 2A.
- 15/2 - AGM - 3:30pm
- 23/2 - Governing Council (TBC)
- 26/2 - Assembly
- 8/3 - Adelaide Cup
- 11/3 - Pupil Free Day.
- 16/3 - Governing Council (TBC)
- 26/3 - Sports day
- 1/4 - Assembly
- 2/4 - Good Friday
- 5/4 - Easter Monday
- 9/4 - Last Day - 2:05pm finish.

## Covid- 19

As been advised by the Department of Health, we are still being encouraged to social distance when possible. This will also mean that we are asking parents to remain outside the school buildings. All adults will also need to sign-in manually or use the QR code to assist in contact tracing if they are coming through the front office.

If your child is feeling unwell we will also ask for parents to keep their child home and not send them to school. Students will also have access to hand sanitiser and a place within the wet area to wash their hands.