



Term 1 Information

Dear Families,

A very warm welcome to the new year to families. Welcome to our new Reception students who are just starting their school journey. We also welcome back our Year 1 students who have already had a taste of school life. We hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break together.

Room 1 has 2 teachers. Donna Read will be in the classroom on Monday and Friday and Lily Brammer will be in on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We have spent several days together in the holidays getting to know each other and have been very busy setting up the room for the year ahead.

To get the new year underway here are a few notes which we hope will help us all settle smoothly into school.

Before school please encourage your child to play on the pavement as this is the only area where there is a teacher on duty from 8.30am. Children may come into the corridor to put their bags away after 8.30am. They will then go out to play until the bell rings at **8.55am**. This is when the school day begins. Children are also welcome in the room to organize themselves for the day before this time when a teacher is present. Children need to bring in their reader bag, fruit and water bottle and put them on their tables. Please encourage them to do this themselves.

Stationery - Students will be given most of their books in the first two weeks. We will be providing labels and plastic covers for most of the books. Students will be sharing pencils, textas, glue sticks and scissors. Children do not need to bring their own pencils and/or pencil cases from home.

News/Sharing Day -

An important part of our literacy program is oral language so news/sharing days are planned with language activities which provide your child with opportunities to practice the skills needed to be a confident speaker, a good listener and thinker. Now and again we may ask your child to bring a special item from home. Please keep a lookout on the notice board in the corridor. Also note that if toys are brought for sharing they must remain in the classroom during play times.



Water Bottles containing **water** only are encouraged and can be kept on students desks for easy access whilst they are working. There will also be a red container in the classroom where bottles can be kept if drinks are frozen. All other drinks must be kept in bags and can be drunk in the corridor or outside. **Please ensure all bottles and lunch boxes are named.**

Allergies- We have several students in our block this year who have severe food

allergies. For this reason our room will be a **nut free** classroom and we ask that your child does not bring any product containing nuts to school. This includes museli bars and nutella. Your support in helping to keep these students safe is very much appreciated.

Spending Money - We prefer for students to give their canteen spending money to us in the mornings to look after. We will record the amount and hand back money at play times. This is a safer option than keeping it in their bags or open pockets.

Fruit Break- We encourage students to bring a piece of **fresh** fruit or vegetable each day to place on their desks with their water bottle. Dried fruit, canned fruit or fruit in jelly is discouraged. They will eat this during sharing time, around 10.00am, and it will give them the energy needed to help them focus and concentrate on their learning, until the next break. Students generally eat their own fruit during this time.

Readers will be read each day at school. All Junior Primary students borrow 5 readers which they keep for the week. Your child will bring their readers home each night. Please spend 10-15 minutes listening to your child read at least 1 of their books each weeknight and then fill out and sign the Home Reading Record inside their folder. The Home Reading Record contains lots of ideas and tips for when hearing your child read. **Student reading progress is especially evident when practice at home**



and school is a daily routine. Your child will change their readers on their sharing day each week. Reception students will have letter sounds to practice at home and some students will also have sight words to practice later in the term. Please tick each word when they get it correct, without help.

Library books will also be borrowed each week. We will visit the library as a class each Friday to borrow. Please use the supplied library bag to protect the book on its journey to and from school. Library books should not be kept in student's reader folders as they are too heavy and break the folders.



Boomerang Books are named because they go home each night and return to school the next day. They are one of the ways you can communicate with us and vice versa. Please remind your child to show any written notes from home to one of us. We will sign it to let you know that your note has been read and will reply if needed. Boomerang books with notes can be put in the blue tray on the teacher's table.

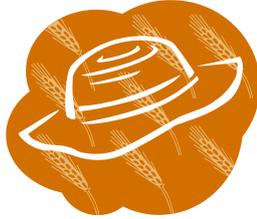
A large carry case is used for carrying readers, reading record books, Boomerang books and notices. Please check and return to school daily. Also encourage your child to keep it in their school bag when not using it.

Illness- If your child is not well please keep him/her at home as illness can spread quickly. If your child



needs medication, do let us know so we can advise you of the process. Do not leave any medication in lunch boxes or bags. Following any absence, it is a DECD requirement that you write an explanation note in your child's Boomerang book, speak to one of us or phone the school so we can complete our roll books. (The roll book is a legal document).

Tissues- The donation of a box of tissues from each family, helps to stop the spread of germs from runny noses! Thank you!



Helping in the classroom- We would love your support in the classroom in any way but especially listening to reading and/or sight words. There will also be opportunities to come on excursion, or help with cooking later in the year. Adults working with students do need a Criminal Check and to complete volunteer training. Please enquire at the office or speak to one of us you are interested.

Early Collection- If you need to collect your child early or during the day for appointments please remember to go to the office first for a sign out slip, which can then be given to the teacher to record in the roll book.

Late arrivals- We encourage you to be at school **before** the bell at 8.55am, so your child does not miss the start of the day. If you do arrive after 9.00 please get a late slip from the office and you or your child give it to the class teacher.

Head Lice- These annoying little critters are a fact of life anywhere there are children in close contact with one another. We understand how frustrating and difficult it can be to get rid of them too. Please check your child's hair weekly and keep hair tied back. If you do find lice (live) or nits (eggs) please treat your child's hair before sending them back to school. Also please let one of us know, and a note will be sent home to all families. Confidentiality is ensured.

No hat/No play- Please make sure your child has a sun safe hat (named on the inside) to wear at school every day. Students without hats are required to stay under the blue sails at playtimes. If the temperature at lunchtime is 37 degrees or above the children will play in their classroom under teacher supervision.

Premier's Reading Challenge- Your child has the opportunity to take part in the PRC this year and further information will be coming out at a later date. It is a fantastic opportunity for your child to be rewarded by the Premier of SA for reading or being read just 12 books before September. Your support is needed to read to your child and then fill in the title, author and sign the sheet for each book. It can also be a book you share together from home or borrowed from the school or public library. When the sheet is completed it is given to one of us or Dawn in the library. Children completing the challenge in the first year receive a certificate and bronze medal in the second year. From then on Silver, Gold, Champion, Legend and in their 7th year a Hall of Fame medal.

Dates to Remember

Thursday 6/2 Volunteer training

Tuesday 14/2 - Acquaintance Night
Friday 10/3 Pupil Free Day
Monday 13/3 - Adelaide Cup Day
Tuesday 21/3 Harmony Day
Friday 24/3 National Day against Bullying
and Violence
Monday 3-7th April Interviews
Friday 7/4 Sports Day
Friday 13/4 Last day of Term

Questions/Concerns- We hope these notes will answer some of the queries you may have about our routines and we shall do our best to keep you informed about class happenings as the year progresses. Please do not hesitate to speak to one of us if you have any concerns. After school is generally the best time except TUESDAYS when we have Staff Meeting.

Acquaintance Night- is on the 14th February from 5-5.30pm. Please save this date as we will be talking more about our routines, answering questions and explaining how you can help your child to have a successful year at school.

Questionnaire - These were given out on the first day of school. Thank you to the families who have returned these promptly. If you haven't done so please return these to us as soon as possible.

Collecting children-

The corridor is a popular place to meet your child at the end of the day but being the first classroom in the



building means the corridor can be very congested at the end of the day. If your child is confident enough to meet you outside after school in a special spot this is a great way to build their independence and would help ease the congestion.

Finally, do come and introduce yourself and other family members or friends who may be picking your child up from school. We are looking forward to meeting you all and getting to know your child and family.

We are also looking forward to working as a team to make this year an exciting and positive learning time for everyone.

Kind regards
Lily and Donna