

Room 3 Term 2 Newsletter

Welcome back after an extended holiday break due to the Covid-19 situation we are all currently living through. I hope you and your family had a chance to relax together and enjoy each others company.



We began this term by offering a blended learning approach balancing onsite learning, with the children who are/were learning at home. I am pleased to report that we are slowly returning to normal with most children in Room 3 back at school. To those parents making the choice to continue learning from home it is vital you touch base with me each day with a photo of some work your child has completed, sent to me through Class Dojo. This will help me to report on your child's learning later on.

Northern Block Closure

Although we are almost back to normal we will continue to have the Northern block closed to parents and encourage parents not to gather in large groups outside as well. I have been extremely pleased with the children's ability to enter the classroom and prepare themselves for the day independently, and enjoy the conversations with the children who once were shy and would hang back with their parents instead of entering the classroom.



If you would like to see me for any reason you can make an appointment via Class Dojo and we can catch up then or come to the outside windows and I will happily chat to you that way.

Personal Leave

From Wednesday Week 3, I will be taking personal leave for at least 4 weeks. Tara Mather will be taking the class, giving the children continuity as Tara took my class when I was unwell earlier in the year. Tara and I have met and discussed the learning program the children will be engaging with. As Tara was my student teacher previously, she understands how the classroom runs and will do a great job while I am away. Tara will use Class Dojo as I do and answer any messages you send to her.

I have attached a term overview outlining the areas of learning for the term along with some reminders and term dates.

Belinda

Reading Homework

We began our Read Write Inc lessons on Wednesday last week. The children are grouped according to their needs with some now working on using "Fred fingers" to spell words as well as "Fred talking" to decode new words. Others are revisiting the Set 1 speed sounds to continue moving these sounds into their long term memory. It is important that these sounds are revised regularly for this to happen and while we do this each day in class you can help your child practice these sounds at home. All children have the sounds in their homework books as well as a pack of sounds they can use to make words with.

We have also started learning some high frequency word. High frequency words are quite simply those words which occur most frequently in written material, for example, "and", "the", "as" and "it". Some of the high frequency words can be sounded out using basic phonic rules, e.g. "it" is an easy word to read using phonics. However, many of the high frequency words are not phonically regular and are therefore hard to read in the early stages. These words are sometimes called tricky words or sight words.

I have put the first 5 high frequency words in the middle of their homework book with a list of activities that you may use to help them practice them. Try and not read these words in the same order all the time otherwise the children are remembering the pattern rather than recognizing the words.

Some children now have 'readers' they are bringing home to practice their reading skills. Please do not be tempted to read the book to them the first night they bring it home - encourage them to "Fred talk" the words and blend the sounds together. Reading each book at least 3 times also helps the children become more fluent readers.

For those children without readers please continue to read stories with your child each night. While you are doing this you can be asking them questions about the story or even ask them to point out some of the speed sounds they are learning, so they can see the connection between words and the sounds.

I would also dearly love all parents/caregivers to fill in their child's reading diary each time they read, aiming for at least 3x a week, so we can keep updating our Home Reading wall to show the wonderful reading your child is doing.

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Breakfast Club:

A quick reminder that Breakfast Club is closed until further notice due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Drink bottles:

Although the weather is cooler it is still a good idea for the children to have a water bottle at school. Easy access during the day minimises disruptions to work time. It is also handy when the children have tickly throats so they can sip on water if necessary – sipping water is better for sore throats than cough lollies, as these can cause damage.



Tissues:

With the cooler weather and winter approaching I am sure we will have many runny noses in the class. If you have not done so already we would appreciate the donation of a box of tissues. Thank you to those families who have already sent a box in.



Premiers Reading Challenge

Each year children can participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge by simply having their parents complete the sheet when they have read a book or have shared a book with their parent.

The challenge is to promote the love of reading with children and to encourage good reading habits early. The recording sheets were sent home at the beginning of the year however you can ask myself or Tara for a new one if you can't find yours. When the forms are complete please return them to school with your child.

Happy reading!!!



Class Dojo:

Thank you to all the parents who have signed up to Class Dojo, it certainly makes it easier to message parents and give out information. A reminder that it is a legal requirement to notify the school if your child is away, so using Dojo is the easiest way to inform us. We can then make sure the roll book is filled out correctly. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Important Term Dates

Week 2

Tuesday 5th May - Governing Council

Wednesday 6th May - Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden lesson

Thursday 7th May & Friday 8th May - Mother's Day Stall

Week 5

Wednesday 27th May - Reconciliation Week begins

Week 7

Monday 8th June - Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

Wednesday 10th June - Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden lesson

Week 9

Friday 26th June - Pupil Free Day

Week 10

Friday 3rd July - Last day of term - dismissal time 2.05pm