



Room 4 Newsletter

4ever learners

Term 1

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

I would like to welcome you and your child to my room. We expect to have a very busy year engaging with a community of learners. I would like to give you some information to ensure a smooth start to the year.

Before School

The Northern Building is open from 8:30 in the morning to allow students to come in and put their belongings inside. They may choose to play outside- only on the pavement area (including the yellow playground), where a teacher is on duty, until the first bell goes at 8:55 when the students must go to their classrooms.

Morning Routine

We have a regular morning routine to ensure that children quickly settle into their classroom. This is as follows:

Students are asked to:

Put reader folder on their desk (folders will be put in the reader box after our morning reading time).

Find their lead pencil.

Read a book quietly to themselves or an adult or participate in using some activity equipment, or alternatively they may go outside to play until the bell rings

Sit on the carpet when the bell rings.

Students are given the opportunity to change readers during our reading time and during library borrowing time.

Our building

Our building door opens at 8:30am, however once the second bell sounds at 8:55am, our building becomes a learning zone and remains that way until the end of the day bell sounds at 3:05pm. We kindly ask that all parents and caregivers remain outside of the building until the end of the day bell sounds and your child will come out to meet you. In wet weather parents are able to wait under the trees or under the Resource Centre verandah. Thank you to those parents who have respected our request and are meeting their child/ren outside of the building.

Staff toilets

The staff toilets which are located just outside Room 1 are strictly for staff use only !

Parent/Teacher communication

In the 'Home Reading Diary' there is a section which enables you to write a note to the teacher – this includes reasons for absences. Students need to bring this book home (in their reader folder) and it comes to school in their reader folder each day. If there is a message for the teacher, the students need to give it to the teacher and if there are no messages it stays in the reader folder.

Absences

We are legally required to provide a reason for a child's absence. If your child is away from school please let me know via a note in the Reading Record book or the office know via a phone message, text message or Skoolbag.

As it is a legal requirement that we keep a record of attendance and lateness and follow up any unexplained absences or frequent lateness to school, please use this book :

- To inform us of any medical or other appointments your child may need to attend
- To write reasons for absences or late attendance
- To make an appointment to speak with me if you have an issue to discuss
- If you would like to support our learning in the classroom by listening to reading, taking a small group for cooking etc.
- To inform me about anything which may affect your child's learning at school eg. Family issues, loss of a pet etc..

Healthy Snack

We incorporate 'Fruit and veggie breaks' into our daily routine. We aim to have our 'Fruit and veggie. break' at approximately 10am. This break is of about 5 -10 minutes duration and gives the students an opportunity to get a drink of water and have a quick snack (ie one piece of fruit). We are asking that each child bring to school each day a bottle of water, clearly labelled with their name, which they can leave on their desk, and a small amount of either / or fruit and vegetables that they can eat very quickly during this break time. It is imperative that students bring their own bottle of water as they are not permitted to go out of the room on a regular basis to get drinks.

Suggestions for snacks to eat during this time include celery and carrot sticks, fresh fruit, rice cakes, cheese or cheese sticks, tomatoes and mushrooms.' I also allow students to have a small tub of yoghurt or cheese and crackers during our 'Fruit and Veggie break', however packaged or processed foods and sugary or salty snacks are not suitable for eating during 'Brain Breaks'.

Naming Belongings.

Could you please assist your child to take responsibility of their own belongings ie.

Lunch boxes, drink bottles, clothing, by clearly marking your child's name on them. We have a lost property box outside our classroom where your child may look for any lost items.

Toys at School.

During this year I will be strongly encouraging students not to bring toys to school for a number of reasons, these being

- They are a distraction to school work
- The toys are the students' responsibility and if they get lost or are broken, students invariably become upset
- They can be the cause of conflict between students
- The school is not responsible to cover the cost of replacement or mending of broken toys

If students are playing with toys during learning time, then I give the students a warning and tell them to put it in a safe place where they will not play with it. If the student continues to play with the toy then I confiscate it until the end of the day. It is also a school rule that 'swap cards' are not permitted at school. In the past there have been instances where younger students have not understood the process involved in 'swapping' cards and have become upset when they have realised the consequences of their actions. Also if these cards are at school there is the risk of them being lost or stolen. This activity is best left for home amongst their friends. If there are any questions, please see me.

Spending money

There is a 'spending money' box on my desk. If your child has spending money it is preferable for them to keep it in there until

playtime. The process is that the child retrieves his/her spending money bag (a zip lock bag with his/her name on it), puts the money in the bag and can then retrieve it during eating time.

Sight Words

Students who recognise more than 400 sight words will not be given any more as that is all there is. For the other students, sight words will be allocated to them allocated according to where they were up to last year. We are using the Oxford Sight Word list. This will be done in the next two weeks. Just a reminder that sight words need to be recognised and spoken on sight by the student, which is different from spelling words where students use the 'look, cover, write, check' way of remembering them. When your child says the sight word correctly then you can put a tick in the appropriate box. When each box on the sheet of words has 5 ticks, then the sheet of words is changed for the next one.

Library borrowing

Students will be able to borrow books during our class library borrowing time which is on Friday mornings.

Other teachers

This term Mrs. Caitlin Costello will be taking the students twice a week for a lesson in the Arts, Shannon Leonards will be taking the students once a week for Japanese, Angela Princi will be taking the class for Technology and Dylan Baker will be taking the students for P.E.

Parent Volunteers

If you would like to support our learning in the classroom in other ways eg taking a small group for cooking, listening to reading etc. please let me know. Parents working in the classroom are required to have completed the Parent Volunteer training and have had a criminal history check. If you wish to become a parent volunteer, please see Matt or Deb for

information.

Donations of Tissues

As tissues are not included in our classroom allocation of materials, we are asking that each child brings a box of tissues. If everyone donates a box this usually supplies the class for the whole year.

If your child is having a problem at school

- Discuss the issue with your child. It may be possible for you to help your child find a solution. If not then
- Request a meeting with the teacher.

It is more helpful and sets a good example to your child if you remain calm and positive about working together to work out a solution.

Regards,

Robyn Mills

Important term dates

19 th February	AGM Student Disco
8 th March	Pupil free day
11th March	Public holiday
21 st March	Harmony Day
29 th March	Sports Day
1 st to 5 th April	Parent interviews
12 th April	Last day of term