

Room 6 Newsletter

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 the Boomerang Book in the appropriate box

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.

Healthy Snack

We incorporate 'Fruit and vegie breaks' into our daily routine. We aim to have our 'Fruit and vegie. 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. 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, nuts, 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 Vegie 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 students 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.

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 Boomerang book or the office know via a phone message, text message or Skoolbag.

Boomerang Books

This book is used for communication between home and school. Students should bring it home each day and return it the next morning. If there is a message for the teacher, the students need to place it in the Messages box and if there are no messages it stays in the reader folder.

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..

Sight Words

Students who require sight word have been given them. 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 have been allocated according to where they were up to last year. We are using the Oxford Sight Word list. 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 Ms. Angela Princi will be taking the students three times per week for a lesson in each of these subject areas : Art, Technology and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and Shannon Leonards will be taking the students once a week for Japanese.

Parent Volunteers

I am asking for parent volunteers to help with reading first thing in the morning, which is held from 9 am. This usually only takes approximately 20 minutes of your time. If you would like to support our learning in the classroom in other ways eg taking a small group for cooking 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. The next volunteer training will be held on Wednesday 15th February. 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.

Acquaintance Night

This will be held on Tuesday 14th February and for the Junior Primary classes the time is 5-5:30. Parents will meet as a group with their child's teacher where the teacher will provide a broad outline of learning, expectations and how you can help your child at home.

If there are concerns or issues which need time for a discussion, please make an appointment to speak with me at a mutually convenient time.

I am looking forward to meeting you, and working together this year.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Robyn Mills

English

- Reading—daily reading with both fiction and non-fiction books ; continual revision of phonograms; guided reading; Big books ; teacher reading of class novel ; reading strategies/concepts of print; parts of a story : aspects of comprehension Making Connections and Questioning
- Writing- Handwriting lessons and structure of Recounts and Procedure : improving sentence structure ; Spelling
- Vocabulary - activities to assist students understand what they read—activities to extend student's vocabulary

S.O.S.E.

- Establishing class rules and organisation
- Class meetings + class monitors

Technology / I.C.T.

- Robotics _ Beebots
- Straw Rockets
- Jack and the Parachute
- Germs
- Moon Rover Challenge
- Computer names and basics

Overview Term 1 2017 Room 6

Science

- The Brain (incorporating aspects of the body with a direct link eg healthy food)

The Arts

- Visual Art lessons with Angela Princi doing
- Super-hero based art
 - Math in art
 - Japanese 'sumi-e' art
 - Colour mixing
 - Colour wheel/fish/mice
 - Patterns in art
 - Rainy Day / Sunny Day pictures
 - Mothers' Day Art
- Music

Health

- Growth Mindset
- Personal hygiene
- Child Protection Curriculum (Staying safe)
- The Wellbeing classroom

Geography

- 'Places have distinctive features'
- 'People are connected to many places'

Physical Education

- Fitness
- Cricket coaching
- Sports Day
- Ball skills

Japanese

- Basic introduction in Japanese
- Location of Japan and comparisons with Australia
- Japanese New Year celebration
- How to say colour words and answer simple questions in Japanese
- Hiragana alphabet
- Japanese culture

Maths

- Strategies for mental computation
- Skip counting—by 2's, 5's and 10's
- Simple addition and subtraction problems
- Numberlines
- Patterning

