

Room 4 Newsletter 2018

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.

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'.

A Request

As there is a student in the class with a nut allergy I am asking that the other students DO NOT bring nuts to school and refrain from nut based sandwich fillings ie Peanut Butter, Nutella. Your

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

In the reading Record book there is a space for parent messages. 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.

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 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 and Simon Harris will be taking the students once per fortnight for two lessons of Health and P.E.

Footsteps Dance

The school has subsidised bringing Footsteps Dance to our school this year. For the next four weeks each class will have a weekly lesson on a Tuesday and these will begin in week 2.

Parent Volunteers

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. 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 6th February at 5 o'clock in the hall and 5:15—5:45 in classrooms. 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 CAFÉ—Daily 5
- 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
- Harmony Day

Science

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

Technology / I.C.T.

- Computer names and basics
- Tasks using Kid Pix
- Learning the basics of Word
- Accessing websites appropriate to our area of study

The Arts

With Caitlin Costello

- Dance
- Drama

Also Footsteps Dance

Overview Term 1 2018 Room 4

Maths

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

Numberlines

- Patterning



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

Geography

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

Health

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

Physical Education

- Fitness
 - Footsteps Dance (Weeks 2-5 inclusive)
 - Sports Day
- With Simon Harris
- Gross motor skills
 - Game skills