

Room 2 Newsletter

Term 1 2023

Welcome to the 2023 school year. I hope that you and your family had an enjoyable and relaxing break over the Christmas and New Year period. It has been great meeting many parents in the first few days and I look forward to meeting other parents and caregivers over the course of the next few weeks. I am really looking forward to working with your child this year, developing routines and helping your child fulfil their learning potential.

Here is some information that may help you.

Class/School Routines

Each day your child needs to bring:

- Clear reading folders
- Drink bottle with water
- A healthy fruit snack to eat at 10am
- Recess and Lunch

The children line up outside our classroom when the bell goes in the morning at 8.55am. **It is important that students arrive on time as our learning starts at 9.00am each day and this allows the children time to unpack before the day begins.**

Northern Block

The Northern block is your child's learning zone from the moment they step through the door and since Covid, parents have been restricted from coming inside. Although this may seem harsh to parents, it has been extremely positive for students as they become very independent with unpacking bags and preparing themselves for the day. As a result, we are

continuing with these parent restrictions and greatly appreciate parents staying outside the building when we walk the children inside in the morning, and waiting for your child to come outside in the afternoon at the end of the day. I understand this may be hard, especially for the parents of the new Reception children but thank you in advance for your cooperation with these procedures. I will be in the yard in the morning and come out with the children in the afternoon if you need to speak to me.

Good news for parents is that we will be holding an acquaintance night in Week 2 and this will give you a chance to come into the classroom so you can see and get a feel for their learning environment and ask any questions about the year.

I also will be inviting you to ask questions via Seesaw. If you have a question it is possible that another parent may have the same one and that way everyone will have heard my answers to general questions as I will post the questions and answers so everyone can see them. Questions relating to individuals will be kept confidential.

Curriculum

Literacy – Each day we have a dedicated Literacy block first thing in the morning and at times after recess as well. This block includes 45 mins explicit, uninterrupted teaching of synthetic phonics through Read Write Inc where the children will be learning the Set 1 speed sounds as well as learning to orally blend words and 10mins practicing Phonemic awareness skills which are designed to hone in on and explicitly teach the skills the children specifically need to help them improve or learn how to read and write. Other lessons include guided reading sessions and oral and written literacy lessons.

Contact me!

Seesaw is our main form of communication and I thank everyone who has joined our class group so far. I will endeavour to respond promptly between the hours of 7.30am – 5.00pm each school day. Please remember that I'm not always able to check and respond to Seesaw messages during teaching time, so if it is a matter of urgency please make contact through Deb in the front office.

Alternatively, my email address is: Belinda.fulton398@schools.sa.edu.au

Maths – This year I will be teaching Maths using the units developed by the Department for Education. These include teaching of all skills and knowledge in the Australian Curriculum. The children will be involved in daily maths chats designed to reinforce and embed number concepts, as well as explicit skills teaching time each day.

Other learning areas – The children will have lessons in HASS (History and Geography), Health, P.E – (Mr Hahn), Japanese (Kim Sensei), Science and Technology (Ms Princi) and The Arts (Ms Holmes) including Dance, Drama, Music throughout the year.

High Expectations

All teachers at Ingle Farm East PS have high expectations for all students. In Room 2 each child is supported to meet their full potential. Both myself and the SSO's who work in the room expect the children to follow the class rules which align to the school values of Respect, Responsibility, Communication, Safety and Teamwork. At this point of the year we have just started unpacking what these values and the rules mean and use positive reinforcement to 'reward' positive behaviours. As is only natural, there will be times when a child may not follow one of the class rules and if this happens the child will receive a reminder or an appropriate consequence to refocus them.

Children need to be actively involved in their learning and understand what and why they are learning a particular skill in any subject area. To help facilitate this I clearly state the learning intentions for each lesson (WALT – we are learning to). Learning intentions are brief statements that explicitly describe what the students should know, understand and be able to do as a result of the learning and teaching.

I then use success criteria (WILF - what I am looking for) to describe, in specific terms and language meaningful to students, what successful attainment of the learning intention looks like.

Learning intentions and success criteria have great potential to benefit students learning by removing any ambiguity and help to keep the lesson focused.

Individual Learning Goals are another way in which the children are encouraged to focus on their learning and a way of celebrating their successes along the way. Each child will have an achievable individual learning goal in Writing, Reading and Maths tailored

to their needs, which I am happy to discuss with you in 3 way conversations later in Term 1. These will also be sent home to you via Seesaw so you know what goal they are currently working towards. The children are involved in choosing these goals and are asked to reflect on them during lessons and during conferencing sessions with me where they are given specific feedback on how they are going and specific help in knowing the next steps needed to achieve the goal.

This year I am linking our 'lucky dip' box to the learning goals. When your child achieves one of their goals their success will be celebrated by having a chance to choose a prize from the box.

Regular Attendance – is the key

Regular attendance is vital for your child's learning, however if your child is unwell please keep them at home. This gives them the chance to recuperate and also means they won't spread the bug to other children. If they are away please let me know either via Seesaw, email or text/ring the school.

Why going to school is important?

Children who attend school every day and complete year 12 have: better health; better job opportunities; higher income across their lives. There is no safe number of days for missing school. Each day a student misses puts them behind.

Home Reading

Reading is a fundamental skill that needs to be fostered regardless of age or ability. It is essential for all students to spend time at home either being read to or practising their reading each day. At the start of the year I understand that most/all children are not able to read so at the moment it is important they have books read to them. When you read to them you are modelling positive reading behaviours and gives them a chance to engage in important talk about the story they hear as well. Your child will bring home a small book each day from a selection in the class so you can read it to them. Please set aside 5/10 mins a day where you can sit quietly and comfortably with your child and read it to them and talk about the book. This is intended to be an enjoyable time together to help foster a love of books. When we start Read Write Inc in week 2 they

will also bring home the speeds sounds they have been introduced to so they can practice these too.

Recording Reading: Your child will bring home a school diary this year. When you read to your child it would be great if you recorded the title of the book you read on the specific day, as this gives me an indication of how many parents are reading to their child and what books they are listening too. I will also attach the speed sounds your child is learning during the week so they can practice them at the same time.

Reader Bags: These carry the diaries and small books home safely to you. I will also insert notices that need to go home as well. Please check your child's reader bag each night and put the diary and books back in it so can come to school each day.

Problems at School

If your child is having a problem at school

- Sit down and talk with your child. Ask your child to explain the problem from his/her perspective, so that you can support them as you work through the issue.
- Request a meeting with me to discuss the problem if necessary.
- Ask questions, don't be afraid to ask questions or request more information.
- Keep a positive attitude. Always remember that you and I are working together to help your child.

Other important information

Tissues: The donation of a box of tissues from each family is greatly appreciated. It certainly helps to stop the spread of germs from runny noses! Thank you!

Drink bottles: The children are welcome to keep their water bottles on their desk, if possible could you wrap the bottles in a flannel or small towel if frozen, so they do not leave wet patches on the desk. **Water only, in lesson times please.** Any juices or cordials to be kept in bags outside for recess and lunch time only. **Please ensure all bottles and lunch boxes are named.**

Spending money: Whether you decide to give your child money to spend in the canteen is up to you however, if you do send some along I would prefer that students give their canteen spending money to me in the morning to look after. I will keep it in a bag labelled with their name and hand back the money at play

time. This will help avoid the disappointment of lost money.

Uniform: it has been great seeing all children smartly dressed in school uniform, well done! **No hat – no play!** Please ensure your child has a sun safe hat (named) to wear at school every day, these will be required if the UV levels are 3 or above. Students without hats are required to stay under the new COLA (covered learning area) at playtime. If the temperature before recess or lunchtime is measured at 36.1c or above, all children will play in their classroom under teacher supervision. The children will keep their hats in the trays under their desk for easy access.

Library books: will be borrowed each Wednesday. To avoid our reader bags falling apart it would be great if each child could have a library bag, this can be as simple as a plastic shopping bag, to carry their library books in.

Early collection/Late arrivals: 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. When you give this to me I can then record it in the roll book. If you do arrive after 9.00 you will need to get a late slip from the office which is then given to the teacher.

If at any time you have a concern or question about your child and their learning, please don't hesitate to contact me so we can discuss your concerns or to arrange a meeting. After school, is generally the best time to meet, except on a Tuesday when we have our staff meeting. It is important that the relationship between school and home is strong, to support your child and their lifelong learning.

Belinda ☺