

Kurunjang Primary School

~Learning Together~

Foundation Newsletter Term 4, 2023

Hello, and Welcome Back.

We welcome you all back to this, the last and final quarter of your child's very first year of schooling. We congratulate all children for their success thus far. They have adapted to school life well following routines and have developed an understanding of how to 'learn' and be 'learners'. They have acknowledged our school values and have all at some stage proven themselves as superheroes as they practice these values. We hope that the children are all well rested and are super charged ready to consolidate skills in this final term. The term will be jam packed with a variety of learning experiences including our excursion to Animal Land Farm and other exciting whole school community events.

Learning Together and School Values

Our main focuses this term continue to work on collaboration, school values and our school environment; establishing a positive and orderly learning environment; learning our expectations for behaviour, encouraging respectful social interactions and problem-solving skills as well as supporting independence through school routines.

We explicitly teach our School Values of Respect, Resilience, Responsibility, Empathy, Excellence and Effort and how these can be demonstrated in the playground and classroom, for example using equipment safely and taking turns.

Arrival and Dismissal Times

The school gates are open from 8:30am but please be aware that students go unsupervised in the yard until 8:40am when staff begin Active Supervision.

Students can enter their classrooms from **8:50am** when the music begins. This is the time when students come into our classrooms so they can organise themselves for the day and begin their morning routine. Encourage them to blow you a kiss and wave goodbye from the door as they have grown in confidence and responsibility for managing themselves in their classroom.

The bell rings at 9:00 a.m. which is when the roll is marked for the morning period of the day and lessons begin. Please ensure that your child has arrived by then. Please note some specialist lessons and school activities begin at 9am so please make sure your child begins school on time so they don't miss out on anything. Should you be arriving after 9:00 you will need to get a late pass from the office.

Should you wish to speak to your child's teacher you can do so between 8:40am to 8:50am or from 3:10pm to 3:20pm.

Please make sure you do not pick up or drop off your child using the internal corridor to ensure consistency with all students. We thank you for your cooperation.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is important for many reasons. It helps to establish routines, connect with friendship groups and consolidate learning from the previous day.

If your child is absent please contact the school or classroom teacher or go straight onto Compass so a reason can be documented. Entering this information on Compass also prevents chasing you up with paperwork to later fill out.

Reading Logs & Take Home Reader

Your child should now be in good routine for changing their Home Reading Books each and **every** morning. They should be reading with another person within the home each afternoon or evening. We understand that it can be difficult to sometimes find the time, but we urge you to try your best and encourage your child to read just the same. They could read to you while you're cooking, or they could read to a teddy or call a relative and read to them over the phone. It is so important that they see words in print daily and that they

practice skills learned at school. They also need to adopt a healthy respect for books and reading as being a valued hobby.

If your child has borrowed a book that they find difficult to read ask them to gain meaning from looking at the pictures for information. Ask them if they can identify words that might go with the picture. Ask them to create their own story that would explain the pictures.

Accidents happen, so please let us know as soon as possible if you notice that any of the take home books have been damaged or lost so that we can organise a replacement.

Hats and Water Bottles

As we are a Sun Smart school it is school policy that your child has an appropriate hat (broad brimmed) as part of their school uniform for all this term and well into next year. Students without hats will spend play times under shaded areas as per the school policy and department guidelines. This limits their ability to play in the Foundation playground and to mix with their friends, so please try to purchase a hat as soon as you can. Please ensure your child's hat is clearly labelled with their name.

The weather is beginning to heat up, so we encourage students to bring water bottles (filled with water) to stay hydrated during the day. Students can access their water bottles during class time but other drinks such as cordial, juice, milk etc. can be had only during recess and lunch time.

COMPASS, Mathletics and Reading Eggs

Have you signed up to COMPASS? **COMPASS** is our main platform for communicating school related information. Information on how to sign up for COMPASS was included as part of your child's Transition Bag, received during their transition session at the end of 2022. Teachers report on an aspect of student learning approx. every 2 weeks and this is sent via COMPASS for parents to access. Please see our office staff for your login details.



Students have also each received a subscription to **Mathletics** and **Reading Eggs**. Usernames and passwords were provided to you in Term 1, however if you need another copy please let your child's classroom teacher know.

Seesaw

Classroom teachers in Foundation use **Seesaw** to provide a glimpse of your child's learning in the classroom via photos and work samples. Login details have been provided to you. Please make sure that once you receive your login details, you set up Seesaw on your device as soon as possible to ensure that you are not missing any important updates.



Please let us know if you require a new QR code to sign in. Your QR code can be used multiple times, so feel free to sign up any family members that may be interested.

Spelling & Homework

Homework is on again this term beginning in week 2 with activities and spelling to be completed over a two week period. **You are welcome to return the Homework Book weekly to be checked, however we please ask that you ensure that the Homework Book is returned on the date mentioned at the bottom of that fortnight's Homework Grid.** Students will be given loose homework and spelling sheets if they have not handed their homework into their teacher for correction.

To complete the spelling words for the week, students will use the **LOOK, SAY, SPELL, COVER, WRITE, CHECK** program for each word. For example, if the word "said" is on the spelling list, your child will:

LOOK at the word first;

SAY the word aloud;

SPELL the word out loud using the letter names (not the sounds they hear);

COVER the word with their hand;

WRITE the word in the space provided for that day;

CHECK the word for accuracy.

Word:	Monday:	Tuesday:	Wednesday:	Thursday:	Friday:

Discuss with your child whether they spelled the word correctly. If they were incorrect, praise them for their effort and attempt, re-assuring them that it is okay to make mistakes - it's the way we learn.

Also included in your child's Homework Book is a copy of their Reading Eggs and Mathletics logins. These were previously provided to you during Term 1. Please note that using these platforms is not a compulsory part of homework, but we encourage you to use them to support your child's learning.

Learning Focus for Term 4

In **Reading & Writing**, students will continue to develop their skills and competency as readers and writers. They will be exposed to a variety of literature and then be encouraged to use these books to create their own written pieces. Students will continue to explore different types of writing through Language Experience and Investigations. They will develop vocabulary through reading and the introduction of the Geography Inquiry units of work.

In **Maths**, students will continue to practise counting forward and backwards to 20 and beyond. They will continue to develop their understandings for data, length, time and addition and subtraction.

In **Inquiry**, students will explore a Geography Unit on how and why people are connected to their place and other places? Students will explore their surrounds through maps, landmarks and the features of their location.

During **SEL** (Social and Emotional Learning) and **Investigations**, students will continue to work on their ability to play together fairly, using negotiation skills, responsibility and regard for rules and respect for others.

Specialist Classes for Term 4

Please note the Term 4 Specialist timetable. Students require a library bag to carry borrowed books in and must return the library books at the following session. Please ensure that appropriate footwear is worn on PE days and that long hair is tied up on Kitchen Garden sessions.

Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Foundation Potts	Performing Arts	Kitchen Garden Auslan	Science	Library PE	Visual Arts
Foundation Ahern	PE	Kitchen Garden Performing Arts	Visual Arts Science		Library Auslan
Foundation Jane	P.E. AUSLAN	Science Kitchen Garden	Performing Arts Visual Arts		Library
Foundation Amy	Performing Arts	Kitchen Garden	Science	P.E	Visual Arts Library Auslan
Foundation Ryan		Science	Kitchen Garden Performing Arts	Visual Arts	PE Library Auslan

During **Visual Art**, students will continue exploring the mediums used in collage and working on their Van Gogh inspired artwork. Students in Foundation will also use the holiday season as inspiration to explore the process of modelling using air dry clay to create their very own tree ornament.

During **Performing Arts**, students will be learning to dance and sing to many songs. They will also be learning how to play percussion instruments.

During **Science**, students will complete a unit called 'That's my Hat!' They will recognise that objects are made of different materials and the differences can be seen and felt. They will understand that some objects are made from natural materials and others are man made and can be used for different purposes; eg, looking at the effect of rainy weather on various materials and use this information to help select appropriate materials for making waterproof hats.

During **P.E.**, students will participate in a modified athletics unit with a focus on learning some basic techniques of running, jumping and throwing.

Students will revise the fundamental motor skills of throwing, catching, kicking and bouncing.

While participating in minor team games, they will learn to consider, support and encourage others to share equipment, and to adhere to rules that aid participation and cooperation.

During semester 2 in **Kitchen Garden** the students will be learning about what vegetables and fruits are and the different parts of a plant. We will be learning about what plants and what people need to grow. They will also be planting seeds, making play dough to practise kneading, rolling and cutting skills and learning about making healthy food choices.

Upcoming Events

Splatacular	Friday 13 th October
Assembly	Friday 27 th October
Foundation Breakfast	Friday 3 rd November
Curriculum Day – Report Writing	Monday 6 th November
Melbourne Cup day Holiday	Tuesday 7 th November
Common Professional Practice Day	Wednesday 8 th November
Assembly	Friday 10 th November
Djerriwarrh Festival	Saturday 11 th November
Animal Land Farm Excursion	Thursday 23 rd November
Assembly	Friday 24 th November
Mini Athletics F-2	Wednesday 29 th November
Whole School Christmas Activities	Wednesday 6 th December
Arts Show & School Concert Day 1	Wednesday 6 th December
Arts Show & School Concert Day 2	Thursday 7 th December
Assembly	Friday 8 th December
Meet your Teacher 2024	Thursday 14 th December
Class parties	Friday 15 th December
Final day for students	Thursday 19 th December
Final day for staff	Friday 20 th December

Communication with Teachers

If you need to speak to your child's teacher, please make an appointment to meet with them at a suitable time to ensure your discussion can be in-depth and avoid interruptions. Alternatively, you can phone the school on 9743-0633 and leave a message for the staff member to call you when they are available.

Please feel free to contact your child's teacher to arrange a meeting outside of these times as we are more than willing to discuss any issues or concerns.

We look forward to **learning together** in Term 4.

The Foundation Teachers,

Edison Potts, Danielle Ahern, Jane O'Donnell, Amy Butler & Lyndal Ryan