

**Foundation Newsletter**

**Term 1, 2023**

**Welcome!**

We are so proud of all our Foundation students for a fantastic start to their schooling life. There are so many smiling faces and enthusiastic learners! Our Foundation teachers for 2023 are Danielle Ahern, Amy Butler, Jane O’Donnell, Lyndal Ryan and Edison Potts (team leader).

As you are aware, this year is the first time in our school’s history that we have had 5 Foundation classes. We thank everyone for their flexibility at the beginning of the year as class lists and staffing changed, and we hope that you are as excited as we are for all five of our Foundation classes.

**Learning Together and School Values**

Our main focuses this term are to get to know each other 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**

Just a reminder that students should be at their classroom’s external door, ready to start their school day with their morning routine at **8:50am** every morning. Teachers will open their external doors at **8:40am** every morning to allow for students to enter the classroom as the school gates unlock at the same time.

Students finish their day at **3:10pm,** and leave via the external classroom doors. Please make sure you do not pick up or drop off your child using the internal corridor to ensure consistency with all students. If you need assistance with directions to the external classroom doors, particularly for those classrooms not facing the front of the school, please speak with your child’s classroom teacher for assistance. We thank you for your cooperation.

**Reading Logs & Take Home Reader**

Those familiar to our school will be aware that this year we have made the switch from Student Planners to Reading Logs. Students are encouraged to read a different book each night and record it in their Reading Log. Teachers will check the Reading Log of students every day as part of our morning routine. We have a range of suitable Take Home Readers in each classroom for students to take home with them in their blue reader bag.

Don’t be concerned if your child can’t read the Take Home Reader as they are still learning, however encouragement to point to each word as you read together, using the pictures for clues about what is happening, and making connections to topics and their own experiences will help with discussions about books and are all great skills to practise with your child.

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**

Please ensure your child has an appropriate hat (broad brimmed) for school. Students without hats will spend recess and lunch under shaded areas as per the school policy and department guidelines. Please ensure your child’s hat is clearly labelled with their name. As the warm weather increases, we also encourage students to bring water bottles to stay hydrated during the day. Student’s are able to access their water bottles during class time. Other drinks such as cordial, juice, milk etc. can be had 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 also receive a subscription to **Mathletics** and **Reading Eggs**. Usernames and passwords will be available to you later this semester so that students can access these subscriptions.

**Seesaw**

Classroom teachers in Foundation use **Seesaw** to provide a glimpse of your child’s learning in the classroom via photos and work samples. Log in details will be provided to you at your child’s Parent Teacher Conference. 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.

**Prep Bag**

The Department of Education provides every Foundation student in the state a ‘Prep Bag’ containing books and other literacy resources, as well as information for parents to support literacy. The red bag, which can be used as a library bag, was given to you during your child’s Foundation Interview. Please note, all items in this bag, including the books, are for you to keep. If your child did not receive a bag during their Interview time, we will be providing you with one as soon as more arrive. Thank you for your patience!

**Learning Focus for Term 1**

In **Reading & Writing,** students will focus on early reading behaviours, such as knowing the correct way to hold and use a book; learning about the difference between pictures, letters, words and sentences, learning to read and write their names and identify the letters of the alphabet.

In **Maths**, students will count how many days we’ve been at school. We record this using a variety of equipment, including bundling sticks; writing the number; tally marks; abacus, number line, money and on a number chart. The students are already looking forward to their 100 Days of School party! They will spend the term learning even more about counting and place value.

In **Inquiry & SEL** (Social and Emotional Learning), students will explore a range of problem solving lessons taught through the school wide Respectful Relationships program and will practice a range of self-regulation skills. Students will also be provided with the opportunity to use their natural motivation to play as a context for learning during **Investigations**. During these sessions, students inquire and learn using their imagination to explore, experiment, discover, collaborate, improvise and create.

**Specialist classes**

Please be advised of the Term 1 Specialist timetable. Students require a library bag to borrow and must return library books at their next session. You are able to use the red **Prep Bag** as a library bag. Please ensure that appropriate footwear is worn on PE days and you have provided us with an art smock for Visual Arts. Please bring along an art smock and library bag to school as soon as possible. If you have already done so, thank you.

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| **Class** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| **Foundation****Potts** | Performing ArtsLibrary | Science | Visual Art | PEAuslan |  |
| **Foundation****Ahern** | Performing ArtsLibrary | Science | Visual Art | Auslan | PE |
| **Foundation****Jane** | PEAuslan | ScienceLibrary | Performing Arts | Visual Art |  |
| **Foundation****Amy** | Performing Arts | ScienceAuslanLibrary |  | PE | Visual Art |
| **Foundation Ryan** |  | AuslanLibrary | ScienceVisual Art | Performing Arts | PE |

In **Visual Art,** students will be encouraged to investigate some of the tools of drawing such as pencils, crayons and oil pastels. They will explore a variety of different lines used to achieve a range of effects when drawing and will investigate techniques for colouring in.

In **Performing Arts,** students will explore drama and learn about how they can make drama to communicate ideas and stories. They will share their drama with peers and experience drama as audiences. Students will also learn about safety in dramatic play and in interaction with others.

In **PE,** Students will focus on the fundamental movement skills of running, hopping, galloping, skipping, dodging, jumping and balance. A major focus will be on explicitly teaching the fundamental movement skills of throwing (rolling and underarm) and catching (using arms/chest). Students will also consider the importance of following rules, sharing equipment and space safely.

**Upcoming Events**

**Family Fun Afternoon:** Wednesday 15th February

**Parent Teacher Conferences (Student Free Day):** Wednesday 22nd February

**School Photo Day:** Wednesday 1st March

**Labour Day (Public Holiday):** Monday 13th March

**Last Day Term 1 (Early Dismissal 2.10pm):** Thursday 6th April

**Student Free Day:** Monday 24th April

**ANZAC Day: (Public Holiday):** Tuesday 25th April

**First Day Term 2:** Wednesday 26th April

**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. We are available for a quick chat after dismissal at 3:10pm.

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 1.

The Foundation Teachers,

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