CLASS INFORMATION BOOKLET

2016

Ms Hill   Room 16   Year 2/3
Welcome to Room 16!

I anticipate a great year in Room 16 with lots of exciting learning experiences for the children. I am privileged to have a very diverse and wonderful group of children this year. I look forward to guiding them as they develop into confident and independent learners, able to adapt to different social situations and learning environments.

Teaching Philosophy

I aim to provide a safe learning environment where children know that their teacher is approachable and always ready to assist them. Focusing on the task at hand, I want children to have fun, be happy in Room 16 and learn that mistakes are a normal part of life. I encourage children to use initiative at home and at school so that they become increasingly independent and less reliant on parents.

Contact

Parents may contact me via email when it is not possible to speak briefly before and after school. Christine.Hill2@education.wa.edu.au. You may send in a note with your child or leave a message at the school reception and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Class organisation.

Currently, the children in Room 16 are divided into four equal groups of six with both Year 3 and Year 2 children in the same group. However, this structure may change as I become more familiar with the various personalities. Rather than pairs in rows, I prefer the ‘U’s shaped desk plan, or groups so that children can share information and work collaboratively. I do ask children to keep their hats in their school bags to prevent them being misplaced or ‘borrowed temporarily’ by other children who do not want to miss out on playing outdoors.

As the cohort is made up of both Year 2’s and Year 3’s, I will carefully select appropriate content that is specific to each year level, making sure I differentiate set tasks for the various ability levels. Year 3 children will commence weekly NAPLAN preparation classes in Week 2, each Thursday with myself while Year 2’s will continue on with their regular program of work. I see this as a huge advantage as I will be working with a small group in order to target specific areas of concern in literacy and numeracy.

Teaching Methods

I like to teach in a fun and relaxed atmosphere so that the children are eager to learn and curious about life around them. iMaths is an excellent program that can be accessed at home via the website www.fireflyeducation.com.au/maths. The passwords are as follows;

Year 3 = sleep401       Year 2 buzz688

Maths concepts taught are consolidated in our ‘maths corner’ where children explore and investigate, using a hands-on approach as they circulate through a range of tactile activities.

Reading skills are reinforced through the Cars and Stars program. These books are designed to teach specific reading strategies and increase comprehension of texts. It is used across the school and has produced some great results as children use individual books appropriate to their ability level.
• **Specialist classes**
Library – Friday 11.05-12.05  
Music – Wednesday 8.45-9.45  
Art – Monday 11.05-12.05  
Sport – Thursday 2-3

An information booklet regarding specialist subjects will be available on the school website in Week 2. Health will be taught and assessed by Mr. Grey and lessons are on a Tuesday at 9.45-10.45.

• **Homework**
For the children in Room 16, homework will consist of three separate areas;

1. 15-20 minutes of independent reading every night. Please encourage your child to keep hold of their book until it is completed, even if this takes longer than expected.

2. Look Cover Write Check words. Spelling words which are assessed the following week.

3. Times tables. 1 – 6 for Year 2’s and 1-12 for Year 3’s.

Please log onto ‘Hit the Button’. This is an on-line, interactive numeracy based program that can be used for all four operations - addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

• **ICT / Computer skills**
Children will be working through a cyber-safety program in Term 1 which will be taught across the whole school. After this, they will be instructed in basic computer skills and will also participate in an on-line anti-bullying activity. During the latter part of the academic year, I hope to integrate History with ICT and guide children towards a Power point presentation for parents.

• **School Website / School App**
You will find lots of important information via our school App – ‘Updat-ed’. Instructions on how to download this are on our website. Having this application on your phone will give you instant information regarding all school activities and events so that your child can get the most out of this year.

• **Absences / Attendance**
It is not ok to stay away! This has become a priority for the Department of Education and as a teacher I am required by law to carefully record all absences. You can use an on-line form via the school website, phone the school on 9405 4007, speak to myself in person, send in a note or email me. I will follow up after 3 days of an unexplained absence so please keep me informed, when possible. With family holidays and long term absences, parents are required to notify the Principal in writing and I will provide some learning activities to be completed whilst your child is away.

• **Incursions / swimming lessons / excursions**
If you do receive a note regarding an activity that requires payment, you have the option to pay on-line or send in the cash to myself. Please make sure the money is secure and labelled with your child’s name. Prompt payment really assists us to organise great learning experiences. I would like to take children on a Science based excursion this year and will let you know as soon as possible about this.
• **Newsletters**  
School newsletters are published on-line, fortnightly on Fridays on odd weeks. For example, week 3, week 5. You will receive an alert email and there is also information on the school App, ‘Updat-ed’.

• **Canteen**  
The canteen is open from Tuesday to Friday. Parents can order lunches online with instructions on our website. Tuesday is waste free as we encourage children to think about their planet by reducing all packaging.

• **Bullying**  
Our school has a ‘no tolerance’ policy. Please contact me regarding any incidents that are ongoing and concerning, to myself and I will do my best to resolve them.

• **Graffiti**  
Please do not allow your child to draw, scribble or doodle on their personal school equipment, as I want like to highlight the importance of great presentation and pride in their work and belongings.

• **Uniform and school hats**  
All students must wear the school uniform available from Uniform Concepts in Joondalup. This year it is compulsory for children to wear a bucket hat, a wide brimmed hat or a Legionnaires style hat. Caps are no longer considered to support our school sun-smart policy.

• **Classroom Organisation**  
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) is a major focus of the WA Department of Education and children need a basic understanding of the specific terminology involved when studying these subjects.

We have a Science word wall and a Maths word wall in room 16. After collectively examining the meaning of unfamiliar words, children will pin words onto these word walls, with the aim to increase children’s specialised vocabulary.

Mrs. Gray will be continuing to support children who find language difficult. Her timetable has been carefully constructed to minimise interruption to core subjects.

• **Supporting Positive Student Behaviour**  
Please take a look at our Levels of behaviour chart in the classroom. The green area represents desirable behaviour and is where most children really want to be. However, working with the children, we have identified unacceptable behaviour and the consequences for that. I draw regularly on my CMS Level 1 and 2 Behaviour management training that emphasises the prevention of negative behaviour by building positive and supportive relationships with children. CMS specialists recognise the initial signs of negative behaviour and force the focus back to the teaching and learning environment.

• **Public Speaking**  
The children in Room 16 will participate in a public speaking program called ‘All About You’ which will replace News. Each week, I will display a different subject which children will address, on their elected day, the following week. The questions are specifically designed
to promote self-reflection. I will explicitly teach how to address an audience, how to project their voices and speak with confidence.
• **Freddy the Teddy**

Our loveable class mascot has become a permanent resident of Room 16. Children will take turns to bring Freddy home for the evening but are not required to write about this. A child may occasionally want to sit alone, briefly and cuddle our shared mascot. This simple toy brings some comfort when a child is distressed and has also allowed me to communicate with children, through Freddy, when they cannot express their feelings. He is a wonderful buddy and with my help, urges the children to make the right choices.

• **Communication**

As a teacher, I have achieved the best results when parents have worked with me towards our shared goal of changing behaviour and improving academic performance. If you are concerned about an issue, please do not hesitate to contact me so that we can arrange a meeting time. I look forward to your support throughout the year and hope that 2016 will be an enjoyable and valuable learning time for all.

Thank you!

Ms. C. Hill