

# CLASS INFORMATION

# BOOKLET

# 2017



Pre-primary/Year 1 – Room 2  
Mrs McGrath

# Welcome to our Pre-primary/Year 1 classroom.

## **Classroom Philosophy**

I am a caring, patient and highly organised teacher that has a never-ending passion for teaching. I believe that each child is a unique individual and I aim to create and nurture a positive and caring learning environment for all children where their educational, social and emotional development is promoted. I believe in providing children many opportunities to develop strong foundations in early childhood particularly in literacy and numeracy. I differentiate my instruction to cater for both different year levels and abilities and support children to reach their full potential. I look forward to a happy and successful year with your support and cooperation.

## **Teaching Methods**

Multi-age classrooms provide a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn and consolidate a range of skills and build upon their strengths in a positive, nurturing and safe environment. They also focus on the development of communication and social skills, cooperation, responsibility, independence, patience and leadership.

Both Pre-Primary and Year 1 programs operate within the classroom. Teaching is usually conducted in year levels or small groups, especially in literacy and numeracy, which enables me to work with each individual child and provide additional support when needed.

## **English**

- Cars and Stars – the Cars and Stars program (Comprehensive Assessment of Reading Strategies and Strategies to Achieve Reading Success) is a comprehensive reading program that aims to develop comprehension and reading skills and improve literacy.
- Guided Reading – Guided reading is an instructional approach that involves the teacher working with small groups of students as they learn how to use a range of decoding and independent reading strategies successfully.
- Jolly Phonics (Pre-primary) – The Jolly Phonics program introduces students to the sounds of the alphabet and teaches the blending and segmenting of sounds to support reading and spelling.
- Spelling (Year 1) – spelling is based on the Letters and Sounds program where sounds are introduced in a sequential manner.

**Maths** – the children participate in the Oxford Maths program which provides opportunities for consolidation and extension activities.

## **Morning Routines**

Pre-Primary children will have a number of activities to complete in the morning. These include revision of the alphabet and letter sounds as they are introduced. Reading activities will be introduced later in the year. They will also have name writing and number writing activities to do.

Year 1 children should organise their own belongings (this includes sharpening pencils and tidying their tray) to prepare for the day. The children will also have some reading activities and number writing activities to complete. It would be appreciated if Parents/carers could assist their child in the morning by reinforcing correct pencil grip and formation of all letters and numerals.

## **Homework Routines**

Your child has been provided with two small exercise books.

- The first is your child's diary and contains a section for important notes and reminders and a reading log to record their daily reading. You are welcome to jot down any messages or queries that come to mind. If you have written a note, it

- would be appreciated if you could remind your child to place their notes book on my desk at the beginning of the day.
- The second contains the tricky words your child needs to learn (Year 1). Pre-primary children have a section for revision of sounds, words and sentences.

### **Reading (All students)**

Daily reading is an important part of our program and reinforces skills learned at school. A reading sheet with helpful hints has been placed in your child's diary. You will also be provided with a bookmark which contains a variety of pre-reading, during reading and after reading questions. The questions are also sequenced from easiest (level 1) to hardest (level 4). Ask your child a few of these questions each day from the different sections and assist your child if required by looking at the pictures or re-reading the story. Remember to praise and encourage your child's efforts often.

### **(Pre-primary)**

During the term, reading books will be sent home with your child. This is a great opportunity for ***you to read to them***. Parents/carers are asked to write in the date, name of book and sign the reading record sheet in your child's diary after you have read to your child each day. The most important aspect of home reading is enjoyment. You can help your child by:

- Talking about the cover, pictures, and what they think the story may be about.
- Reading the book to your child and pointing to each word as you read.
- Read the book together.
- Have your child tell you the story using the pictures.
- Your child may gradually be willing to read some words independently as their skills and confidence grows.

### **(Year 1)**

Your child will bring home a reading book every day and he/she is expected to read daily. Parents/carers are asked to write in the date, name of book and sign the reading record sheet in your child's diary after your child has read each day. The reading record must be signed in order for your child to be issued with a new book.

### **Spelling (Year 1)**

On Monday each week, your child will bring home a list of spelling words to learn. Your child is required to practise their spelling words using the look, sound, cover, write, check method. The children have been practising this in class. The children will be tested each Friday.

### **Tricky Words (Year 1)**

Your child will be provided with a list of high frequency words to learn to read and spell correctly. These words cannot usually be sounded out and need to be learned by sight.

**All – reading books, diaries and spelling sheets must remain in your child's folder and should be returned to school daily.**



## **General Information**

### **Absences/Attendance**

Any absence from school must be supported by an explanation – this can be by note, email, phone call to the office (9405 4007), or by using our online absentee form from the link on the home page of our website. Explanations must be made within three days of the student returning to school. Family holidays during term time must be notified in advance and in writing to the principal.

Children leaving the school grounds must be signed out at the office (you will be given a slip to return to me) before you collect your child.

Children who arrive late (after 9:00) must go to the office for a late note before coming to class. Children also require a note if they are unable to participate in sporting activities.

### **Art Shirts**

To protect your child's clothing it is essential that he/she wear an old shirt to cover their clothing. Please send this in as soon as possible if you have not already done so.

### **Assembly**

Assemblies are held once a fortnight on Thursday or Friday morning. Please be prompt as on Assembly mornings the children will line up at 8:35am. The children will be supplied with an assembly mat.

### **Bags**

Please provide a large school bag to fit a lunchbox, drink bottle, library bag and change of clothes.

### **Birthdays**

We love to celebrate the children's birthdays. Small cakes or treats can be provided if you wish your child to celebrate their birthday at school (no nuts or nut products please). Please speak to me prior to providing these so that children's allergies can be considered.

### **Bullying/graffiti**

The school has a zero-tolerance policy to both bullying and graffiti. In the case of the former, please contact the classroom teacher in the first instance if you believe that it is occurring. The sooner we know about it the sooner we can deal with it.

### **Canteen**

The canteen is open on Wednesday to Friday. Children ordering their lunch will need to take their order to the canteen before school, or alternatively you can place an on-line order through the school website. Please ensure all lunch orders have their year level and Room 2 written on the bag. Class helpers will collect the lunch orders at lunch time.

### **Change of Clothes**

Please ensure your child has a spare set of clothes including underwear in their bag in case of accidents.

### **Child Profile Sheets**

Can you please complete the child profile sheet and return it to the school as soon as possible. This ensures we can contact you should the need arise.

### **Classroom Organisation**

The children are responsible for their personal belongings which are stored in their small or large trays. Please ensure that your child has all the book list requirements and they are clearly labelled with your child's name. I will store any spares for later use as needed. Let

me know if you are having any difficulties supplying this equipment. A note will be sent home at the end of each term advising you of any items that need to be replenished.

### **Drink Bottles**

All children require a large drink bottle of water to use during class time. Water bottles should be placed on the table inside the classroom and not kept inside their school bags.

### **Dropping Off & Collecting Students**

Parents/carers of Pre-primary students are required to drop off and collect their child at the classroom door. To ensure your child's safety parents/carers must stay with them until the classroom door is opened at 8:30am.

Please let us know (in writing) if you have arranged for someone other than yourself to collect your child at the end of the day. If you find yourself running late or you have not advised staff earlier that your child is to be picked up by someone else, please contact the school.

### **Fruit Time (Pre-primary and Year 1)**

To encourage healthy eating habits, your child should be provided with a healthy snack (fruit, yoghurt etc) that can be eaten at fruit time (Pre-primary) or recess time (Year 1).

Other acceptable foods are dried fruit such as sultanas and apricots, cheese, salad and vegetables. Due to allergies children are not allowed to share food.

Children find some fruits such as oranges and apples, easier to manage if they are cut up and wrapped in glad wrap or placed in a suitable container. All food should be placed in a suitable container.

### **Head Lice**

Head lice (nits) are a constant problem in schools. Please check your child's hair regularly and inform the school of any outbreaks. To help prevent the spread of head lice please ensure your child's hair is tied back securely.

### **ICT/Computer**

During our computer sessions we will be completing some activities on cybersafety to ensure that students understand how important this is when accessing the Internet, both here and at home.

We will be learning computer coding using materials sourced from code.org. Students will learn through problem-solving how to write code in order to have the computer do something that they have planned.

### **Incursions, swimming lessons and excursions**

These occur from time to time during the year and payment should be made as soon as possible with the return of any permission slips. See the Contributions and Charges sheet on the school website for more details.

All money for excursions or activities should be placed in a sealed, named envelope and placed in the top green tray on my desk. Alternatively, these can be paid for online through the school website. Permission notes must be provided even if paid online.

### **Jewellery**

It is school policy for all children not to wear jewellery. If they have pierced ears they are only allowed to wear small studs or sleepers. **This policy includes tattoos and nail polish.**

### **Library**

The children will be visiting the library weekly. If your child does not have a library bag or plastic shopping bag to protect their library book they will not be able to borrow.

## **News**

An important part of our Oral Language Program is news telling. Your child will be provided with a news book. Please ensure they are prepared for their news day by completing their news plan and provide opportunities for them to practise prior to coming to school. This term the children are required to bring in an item from home that relates to the weekly topic. News will commence in Week 3.

## **Newsletters**

These are published on the website fortnightly on Friday commencing in Week 2. If we have your email address on file you will receive an email alert to indicate that the newsletter has been published and links to it. Important information is always placed in the newsletter.

## **Parent Interviews**

I am happy to discuss any concerns you may have regarding your child. It would be appreciated if you could arrange a time to see me so we can talk privately and without interruption. Similarly I will contact Parents/carers if I am concerned about any child's progress.

Please let me know if your child is having any problems at home or if there is a change in circumstances which could affect your child's learning or behaviour. This will make it easier to understand if your child is unsettled.

## **Parent Roster**

The children enjoy having their Parents/carers on roster and would love to show you their fantastic work. The parent roster will commence in Week 5 and operates in the morning a few days each week. The roster will be displayed in the classroom.

## **Printing**

Please see your child's diary for correct pencil hold and the style of printing used.

## **Portfolios**

During the year samples of your child's work will be placed in a portfolio. This will be sent home at the end of each semester. The semester 1 Portfolio must be returned to school at the beginning of the following term and will be returned to you at the end of the year.

## **School Hours**

Start 8:45. The classroom door will open at 8:30am. Please ensure your child is at school by 8:30 each morning to allow enough time to change their reading book and organise themselves for the day. The children will also have activities to complete in the morning when they arrive at school.

Finish 3:00. If your child is being collected by someone other than yourself, verbal or written permission must be provided.

## **School Website/School App**

The school website and the app are your 'one stop' shop for information about the school, including events, upcoming activities and online forms. Please download the school app as soon as possible from either the iStore or Google Play. The app's name is Updat-ed and it is free to download. Further instructions are on the website.

## **Sick Children**

In the interest of other children and staff, if your child is unwell can you please keep them at home.

## **Sunscreen**

Please ensure your child has sunscreen applied prior to coming to school. Sunscreen is not provided by the school.

## **Supporting Positive Student Behaviour**

The children have been given clear guidelines for behaviour and expectations in the classroom. The focus in the classroom is on positive reinforcement in the form of stickers, reward charts, and verbal praise for appropriate behaviour. Appropriate behaviours have been discussed using the 'Monster Manners' behaviour charts where the children sorted a range of behaviours into those that are acceptable (above the line) and unacceptable (below the line).

## **Toys/Valuables**

Children are not to bring toys or valuables to school except for special occasions or news telling. This avoids upsets when things are lost or broken.

## **Uniform and School Hats**

School uniforms must be worn each day. They are available from Uniform Concepts in Joondalup. The school has a *no hat-no play in the sun* policy – only bucket, broad-brimmed or Legionnaires styles are permitted. Caps are no longer part of the school uniform. Year 1 children who do not have a hat are required to remain in the undercover area at both recess and lunch.

Please don't hesitate to see me if you have any questions.

Maria McGrath

### **Special Days to Remember**

#### **Monday – Phys Ed (11:05-12:05)**

- ☉ Mr Grey
- ☉ Please ensure your child has a hat and wears appropriate footwear

#### **Monday – Health (12:05-1:05)**

- ☉ Mr Grey

#### **Tuesday – Art (11:05-12:05)**

- ☉ Mrs Abbott.
- ☉ All children require an art shirt.

#### **Wednesday – Junior Sport (12:05-1:05)**

- ☉ Please ensure your child has a hat and wears appropriate footwear

#### **Friday – Computer (9:45-10:45)**

- ☉ Mrs Millard

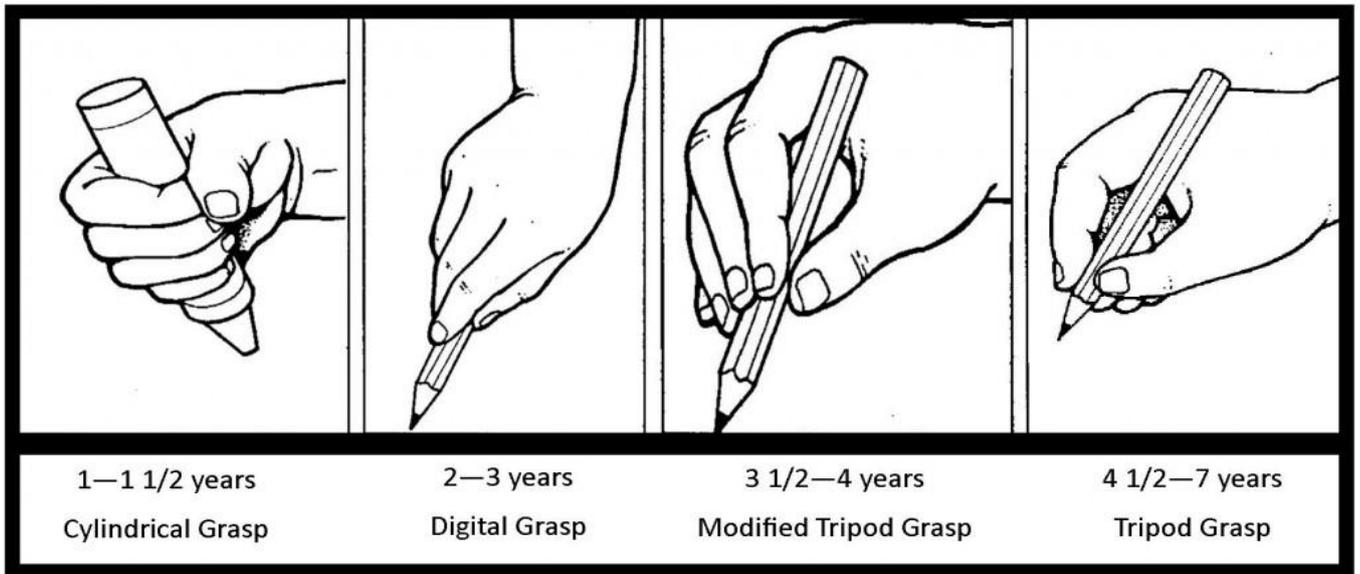
#### **Friday – Music (11:05-12:05)**

- ☉ Mr Hadzic

#### **Friday – Library (2:20-2:50)**

Please remember your library book and bag.

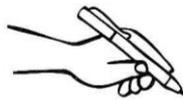
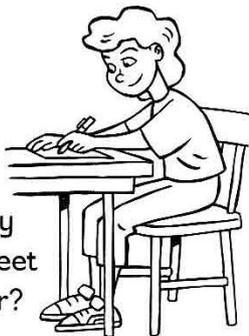
# PRINTING



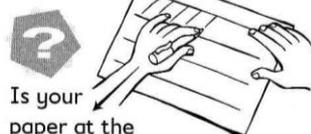
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Are you holding your pen correctly?



Is your paper at the correct angle?