



2018 FOUNDATION INFORMATION BOOKLET

WOW! What an exciting start of the year! We hope you and your child have settled into school well! We have tried to condense as much information as we can into this booklet but it is impossible to include absolutely everything. Please feel free to ask your child's teacher if there is anything you are unsure of or would like clarified.

HOUSE COLOURS- Each of the students have been allocated to a school 'house'. Waratah is red, Banksia is green, Jacaranda is blue and Wattle is yellow. Points are allocated for good work/behaviour during the week and then monitors collect and tally them and announce the winners at assembly. Your child's house group has been taped to the front of their Reader covers.

SPARE CLOTHING/UNIFORM - It is always a great idea to have a spare pair of underwear, shorts/skirt and socks in their school bags, just in case your child has an accident at school and needs to be changed. We do have some extra uniforms and underwear. If your child comes home in spare uniforms we ask that you wash this and send it back as soon as possible so that we maintain stock in the cupboard.

PREP 2018 T-SHIRTS – If you have not yet received yours please see your class teacher. Just a reminder that these may only be worn on Fridays.

SHOW AND TELL - The students will be given the opportunity to participate in 'Show and Tell' sessions every second week. A note with dates has been sent home to let you know when a Show and Tell session is coming up and if the students need to bring specific items or whether they have free choice. It is a good idea if the students have thought about something they would like to say about their show and tell item, rather than just presenting it to the class. Practising at home is encouraged to build confidence when presenting.



NUDE FOOD - Each Tuesday is Nude Food Day. Children who have a wrapper free lunch have their names put into a draw and the lucky winner is awarded a small prize at Assembly.

YOU'RE A STAR AWARDS – Each Friday at Assembly one child from each class is awarded a certificate for outstanding work or behaviour. We endeavour to get through the whole class before the end of Term 2. Foundation parents will be notified the day before if their child is going to receive this award.



SUPER 6 SCHOOL VALUES – We are very proud of our School Values of Responsibility, Respect, Resilience, Integrity, Co-operation and Excellence. Each week a student from the Foundation area that displays one of these values is awarded a special award at Friday's Assembly.

LINING UP BEFORE SCHOOL – Thank you for your support in encouraging your children to be independent by carrying in their own school bags and organising their belongings. They have been very impressive. Please remember that students should not bring their school bags into the building before school as there is no supervision in the corridor. We also ask that parents do not stand in the line with their child as it makes the area even more crowded and a little scary for our students. If your child is having difficulty separating in the mornings please see your class teacher. It can happen on occasion and your child settles down within moments of you leaving. We of course would phone you if they continued to be upset.

FRUIT SNACK – At around 10am each day we have a ‘Fruit Snack’. We would appreciate if you could pack your child 1-2 serves (fresh fruit or chopped vegetables) in a separate container than their snack/lunch. As part of their ‘Start of Day Process’ students place their water bottle and fruit snack on the table first thing in the morning. The ‘Fruit Snack’ break is often eaten whilst on the mat so we ask for non messy foods. Bananas, apples and carrots are good because they are quick and easy to eat.



CLASS REPS – Thank you to those who have volunteered to be a class rep! If you would like to help out, please see your class teacher. Jobs include collating contact lists and organising out of school social events.

COMMUNICATION

Compass

In 2018 we have introduced COMPASS. Usernames and passwords were sent home early this term. Please contact the Office if you misplaced yours. The Compass Parent Portal is an integrated, online portal that allows you to access information about our school. Compass includes many different features, including the ability to:

- Monitor your child’s attendance, and enter an explanation for absence, lateness/leaving early;
- Communicate with your child’s teachers;
- View school calendar;
- Access the newsletter;
- Book Parent/Teacher conferences and ‘Meet and Greet’.

It is crucial we have up to date information in regards to your correct email address and current family circumstances (each parent at an alternative address will need to provide separate details).

SeeSaw

Seesaw gives families an immediate and personalized window into their child’s school day (only you can see your child’s work and photos). Seesaw empowers students to independently document their learning with built-in creative tools, and provides an authentic audience for their work.

SeeSaw login details will be sent home shortly.

PHOTOS

Feel free to take photos of your children, however it is School Policy that photos of other students are not published on social media, without parental permission.

EXTRA FOUNDATION ASSISTANCE

This year we are very fortunate to have the extra assistance of Miss Lundy and Mrs Hibbens who will work in an Intervention/Extension capacity with students across the level. We are also lucky enough to have Integration Aides in the morning. Kerry, Kath and Faye will work within classes with supporting individual and small groups of students.



LITERACY

Corridor Reading

Corridor reading is well under way – thank you to those parents who have helped so far with this!

The corridors are incredibly crowded first thing in the morning so we would like to ask that parents/grandparents who are coming in for reading **wait outside for 5 minutes** while the students come in and get organised.

Our books are broad banded. The students select from an assigned colour band that contains books from 2 to 3 different levels so they are experiencing a range of books. We also hope this will lessen the competitiveness and comparing between students that a numbered reading level tends to encourage. Lots of support and encouragement is the key!

Every day 4-6 students are assigned to read with the teacher rather than in the corridor with the parents. You will know when your child has read with their teacher as we will place a stamp in their reader. We regularly test the students on benchmark books to see how their decoding strategies, comprehension, fluency and expression are progressing. This allows us to assess whether or not your child is ready to move to the next broad band level of books.



During this reading time we will also test the students on how well they read their word/phrase lists (begins Monday 19th Feb).

There are regular times throughout the year when we need to do additional Reading Assessment tasks. During this week your child may not have the opportunity to have their word list checked.

Writing

Monday mornings are dedicated to writing. At this stage we are encouraging students to draw something they did on the weekend and then 'have a go' at writing a few words and letters. Writing is a difficult process, but through encouragement and support they have begun to put pencil to paper! We encourage the use of our phrases to begin the writing and then assist the students to record the sounds they can hear in the words they wish to write. Recording even the initial sound at this stage is someone to rejoice, and we are even happier when they identify more.

These sessions usually begin with modelled and shared writing where we will write about something we did on the weekend – demonstrating the sounding out process and discussing punctuation. We invite the students to assist where they can, identifying individual sounds and their corresponding letters.

We will be inviting parents to assist with this writing session starting from Monday 19th of March. Unfortunately younger siblings cannot come along during writing sessions.

Literacy Groups and CAFÉ reading

Literacy groups are run 1-2 mornings a week – the days will depend on each class's timetable. They will start in Term 2. For literacy groups, the students are split into like-ability groups. Each group completes 2 set literacy tasks each day.



We run a Literacy program throughout all year levels called CAFÉ reading which stands for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanding vocabulary. In Foundation we introduce CAFÉ reading by incorporating it into our literacy rotations. Each week we select a specific strategy from one of the CAFÉ areas. We will do a mini lesson using this strategy and then incorporate it as best we can into

literacy tasks. One consistent task is a teacher directed task or Guided Reading (the group will read a text with the teacher that will provide them with opportunities to learn and practise reading skills and strategies.) Other tasks will involve partner reading (EKK - Elbow to Elbow, Knee to Knee, I read to you and you read to me), literacy games, comprehension tasks, online Literacy tasks (iPads) and listening to stories. We require at least 3 parent helpers per morning for these rotations as the teacher is kept very busy with the guided reading group and thus is not available to assist the other 3 working groups. Lists will go up outside the classrooms, so if you can spare a morning a week or fortnight we would greatly appreciate your help.

We do ask that toddlers are not brought into the classroom during Literacy groups as they can be a huge distraction to the students working. We understand that many of our students have younger siblings and that many of you are not in a position to help because of lack of carers – we did have some parents last year that assisted fortnightly – they paired up with another parent and in their ‘week off’ they looked after that parent’s younger child and then swapped roles the next week.

MATHS

In our Wednesday testing sessions we implement an Early Numeracy test. This gives us an insight into the children’s current understandings in numeracy and allows us to find a baseline level to start teaching from.

From analysing the test data we decide the best way to group the children for Maths groups. The students are placed into like ability groups. This enables us to provide ‘point of need teaching’ / ‘explicit teaching’. Therefore, all students whether they require revision of early concepts or further extension will be catered for. The groupings are not set for the year; they are fluid. Students may be moved into another group if their needs change.



We use the Envision Maths program to pre-test students prior to each topic. Depending on the results and the student’s needs, they may change groups. Applied Maths topics such as Measurement, Time and Chance and Data are also covered within these streamed Maths groups.

Maths groups will begin once the Wednesday testing days are finished and students begin full-time. Currently the students are working on Shape and Position in Maths classes within their own rooms.

Within our Term Newsletters we will include the Maths concepts your child is working on and ways in which you can assist at home. A note will go home with the name of your child’s Maths teacher at the end of term. In addition to the four streamlined Maths sessions a week, we will be having one session in which the students will be involved in problem solving activities within their own classroom.

Mathletics

The school subscribes to Mathletics; a Mathematics website that allows students to revise concepts at home. The students create a character and work through a range of activities to complete levels. We highly recommend the program and encourage our students to utilise the program as often as they can. We will stick your child’s Mathletics username and password to front of their reader cover, by the end of Term 1. Once your child has mastered all of the foundation level, let us know and we will move them onto the next level.



<http://www.mathletics.com.au/>

INQUIRY

Topics this year will include: You, Me, We, My Senses, Healthy Me/Needs and Wants, Materials, Transport, The Seasons and Animals. We begin with very open / free choice discovery sessions and as the year progresses it gradually becomes more structured. We will challenge students to step outside their comfort zones and try something new.



SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

ICT – Miss Smith

During Foundation, students learn how to login on both iPads and laptops, and begin to use a range of applications and programs. The students develop the ability to control the track pad on the laptops, and learn how to pinch and pull on the iPads. The programs and applications used focus on the development of technology skills while reinforcing literacy, numeracy and problem solving abilities. Coding at this level is 'unplugged' and involves a range of board games and hands on activities.



MUSIC- Mrs Jamison



In Foundation, the focus is on keeping a steady beat using body movements such as clapping, stomping patting etc. and playing percussion instruments in class. Singing games are taught to help children learn to sing in tune and give confidence in performing in small groups.

In December, the whole school participates in a Christmas concert.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION- Mr Anderson

In Foundation we will focus on consolidating locomotion skills like skipping, galloping, hopping and running forwards, sideways and backwards.

Children are also taught how to use the school playgrounds safely which includes learning the motorcycle landing. Students are also introduced to fundamental motor skills such as leaping, dodging, throwing, catching and dribbling.



JAPANESE – Tara Sensei



Japanese at this level makes students aware that language is used for communication and that people outside their classroom and country may have a different culture and language.

Students begin to understand the Japanese language used in the classroom and repeat teacher-modelled language by using body gestures, such as greetings, numbers, colours and classroom rules.

THE ARTS - VISUAL ARTS – Mrs Strong

We are very fortunate to have a beautiful facility for Visual Arts at Parkdale P.S.

The children attend Art for a 50 minute session each week.

The Visual Arts Program is structured to support the Inquiry Units that are undertaken at each level. In 2018 we will also hold an Art Show in Term 3.



Thank you,

Jackie, Brianna, Ash, Lauren and Steph