



# Foundation Newsletter Term 1 2017

## Dates to remember:

- Mon 13th - Labour Day
- Fri 17th - School Fun Run
- Tues 21st - Responsible Pet Ownership Incursion
- Thur 23rd - Harmony Day and whole school Incursion
- Fri 24th - Show & Tell (A picture you have drawn or painted at home)
- 31st - Last Day of term 1: **2:30pm** dismissal
- Tues 18th **April** - Term 2 starts
- Fri 28th April - School Photos
- Thur 4th May - Grandparents Day
- 8th –19th May - Prep Swimming (days and times TBC)

## **REMINDERS**

### **Website**

Please look on our school website for copies of notices we send home.

### **Blue Notice Bags/Readers**

Please return to school each day. Please check each evening for any notices.

### **Fruit / Vegetable Snack**

Please supply your child with a piece of fresh fruit and/or vegetable each day. We stop for a break mid morning. Students place their fruit snack on their table on arrival each morning. Fruit snack should be quick and non messy, as students may be working whilst eating.



### **Skool Bag app**

Please ensure you have downloaded this app to your smartphones. A great way to keep up to date with school news!

Please ensure you send a note or email to your class teacher if your child has been away or intends to be away (e.g. an appointment)

## **WELL DONE!**

A big thank you to all parents who have supported their child with a smooth transition into primary school. It is wonderful to see so many students come into class smiling and following our 'morning processes' showing responsibility by putting away their own bag, organising notices and putting fruit and drink bottles on the table. Please wish your child a goodbye in the line and not walk them into the corridor. It is important to arrive on time. If you arrive after the bell, please sign your child in at the Office, and then take them to their class.

## **MATHLETICS**

Over the next week your child will come home with their Mathletics username and password stuck on the reader cover. We also encourage you to copy it down and keep next to the home computer for quick access. This is a fantastic site that helps students practise concepts they are learning at school. More information can be found at <http://au.mathletics.com/#/home>

## **WWCC**

All helpers of corridor reading, Literacy groups, excursions etc. require a current Working With Children Check. Please show this to your child's teacher so they can mark it off. A photocopy is also required at the Office.

## **WRITING HELPERS (MONDAYS)**

We love helpers in the classroom! On Monday mornings we run a writing session from 9:30—10:30. We would appreciate the assistance. Please add your name to the list outside your child's classroom. Unfortunately we can't accommodate pre schoolers and babies.

## **MATHEMATICS**

As a level we are now working in Maths Groups. Four times a week your child will visit their Maths teacher (the 5 Foundation teachers) who will assess, plan and report on their progress. This is also a great opportunity for your child to get to know students from other classes and work in like ability groups.

We start each concept with a pre test so we can work out the starting point for students in our groups. Each concept ends with a post test and then we can review and go over any 'misconceptions'. During our level meetings we look through results and move any students to other groups, if necessary.

Our Maths Newsletter went home last week with your child's initial Maths teacher and has further information.

## **FUN RUN**

A reminder we will be having our school Fun Run on Friday 17th March. This is a major fundraiser for the school. All students should have come home with their information packs and sponsorship form. Please see the Office or your class teacher for extra forms. On the day students are encouraged to dress up in their most colourful (and school appropriate) outfits. A gold coin donation is required. Ensure they are wearing sneakers too! Throughout the day there will also be games, a sausage sizzle and icy pole and certificate on completion of the Fun Run.

## READING

Preps are not allocated homework, but we do expect them to read their take home book every night and to spend some time practising the list words that are inside their reader covers. On their designated 'reading to the teacher day' they will be tested on these words to see if they are ready for the next list. Please note that we do not test the words in order so the children cannot simply memorise the list, and we do expect them to be able to recognise the words instantly (not to sound them out and then read them).

As mentioned in an earlier note, the book boxes are organized into coloured bands, each colour covering 2 or 3 reading levels. When we feel that a child is reaching a high level of competence with the coloured books they are reading we will do a 'benchmark' reading test with them to determine their level of proficiency and this will help us to decide whether they need to move up to the next coloured box. This test does not simply assess a child's ability to read the words in the book, but also determines their level of understanding. We also take reading fluency into account. It is completely normal therefore for a child to spend a few months on one coloured box, particularly at the beginning of the year when they are still building a basic sight vocabulary.



## READING HELP

We have a collection of helpful hints in a purple magazine folder outside Ms Sell's room. Please help yourself! If you can't collect send an email to your teacher and they will send home in the reader bag.

**In the event of an emergency we now require all Classroom Helpers to sign in. Sign in sheets are located outside the classrooms.**

## SPARE CLOTHES

Please pack a spare pair of underwear, socks, shorts/dress and t-shirt in your child's school bag. Accidents sometimes happen and we unfortunately do not stock spare clothes at school.

## COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS

Please note Miss Tipping's email address has changed.

[sell.jacqueline.m@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:sell.jacqueline.m@edumail.vic.gov.au)    [duff.caroline.c@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:duff.caroline.c@edumail.vic.gov.au)    [beglau.brianna.b@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:beglau.brianna.b@edumail.vic.gov.au)  
[muir.aisling.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:muir.aisling.a@edumail.vic.gov.au)    [tipping.lauren.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:tipping.lauren.a@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## NUDE FOOD

Each Tuesday is Nude Food Day at school. Please encourage your child to help pack their lunchbox with no wrappers. Students with 'nude food' receive a raffle ticket, which is drawn on Friday assemblies.

## TIREDNESS & TEARS

Your child may be becoming more tired and teary than usual as the term draws to a close. As are the Prep teachers!! The prep day is very busy. They are not only learning literacy and maths, but social skills and the rules and processes of the school. Your child may come home, have little to share and be quiet or extra tired. This is very common. However, if you have any concerns please see your class teacher.

## END OF TERM

The term has certainly rushed by but we are so proud of all the wonderful 2017 Foundation students! Our last day of term is Friday 31st with a dismissal time of **2:30pm**.

Many thanks,

Jackie, Caz, Brianna, Ash & Lauren