



FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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Helping at School

If you wish to volunteer at school or accompany us on excursions through the year you are required to have a police check. This is to protect you and the students in our school you will be assisting. Police checks for volunteers are free and can be downloaded from the SAPOL website. You will need our Volunteer Organisation Authorisation Number which can be obtained from Fi or Sonya at the Front Office.

English

This term we have revised the first seven groups of letter sounds and are now learning the eighth group. It is fantastic to see how well our Foundation students are progressing with their decoding, handwriting and spelling. Soon it will be time to start taking home decodable reading books. Students who know all the sounds in a letter sound group and the golden sight words will start bringing home books in the second half of this term. Please practise sight words each school night. There are ideas in the letter at the beginning of the book.

Junior Primary Assembly

The Junior Primary classes will be leading an assembly on Friday 2 June at 9am in the school hall. Please put that date in your diary so you can come along and join us as we lead the school in worship and share our learning with you.

Unit of Inquiry—How we organise ourselves

We have just completed this inquiry and books will be coming home in the next couple of weeks. During this inquiry students have had the opportunity to learn first hand from guest speakers and through excursions. Being able to see and do things yourself is a powerful learning experience and Michael and I have both enjoyed watching the development of student understanding during this inquiry.



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Unit of Inquiry—How we express ourselves

Our new inquiry focusses on using signs and symbols to communicate messages. This unit is the focus of an Action Research project Michael and I are involved in to include Digital Technologies in inquiry learning. We will be investigating different ways we use signs and symbols to communicate, including how code is used to give instructions in apps and computer programs.

Reporting

At the end of this term you will receive a copy of your child's Semester One Report. The Australian Curriculum specifies the knowledge, understanding and skills to be taught and learned within a given subject area from Kindergarten to Year Ten. Each curriculum area is accompanied by an Achievement Standard. Achievement Standards refer to the depth of understanding, demonstrated by students within a given subject. A national approach requires all States and Territories to report student achievement using the letter ratings A-E, where a 'C' rating indicates that a student is performing at the standard expected of students in that year group. The learning standard described by each of the Achievement Standards embodies high expectations of learning achievement. To be awarded a "C" grade using these standards represents a significant achievement. Information about the Australian Curriculum for Foundation students is attached to this newsletter. Please don't hesitate to ask either myself or Mrs Skinner about the Australian Curriculum and school reports if you need more information.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up Zone

Staff supervise this area, outside the Anchor Room, from 8:30am to 8:45am and from 3:10pm to 3:15pm each school day to assist parents and caregivers who wish to drop children off in the morning and pick them up in the afternoons without stopping or getting out of cars. Please enter through the northern driveway, the entrance and exit signs are clearly displayed, stopping where the teacher is on duty. Please do not overtake cars in the line. If you are waiting for your child in the afternoon with others behind you. Please park your car so that others can exit the pickup zone.



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Physical Development

When children start school, most children can manage everyday living skills such as dressing, toileting, cleaning teeth and eating. They have also usually developed good hand-to-eye coordination and can cut along a line with scissors, colour drawings between the lines and draw pictures with increasing detail. To help your child feel confident to do the tasks they need to do for themselves at school it is important to encourage them to have-a-go at most tasks with supervision as required.

Physical skills such as climbing, balancing and kicking, along with threading, holding pencils, accurately hitting keys on the computer are all important to your child's school life and learning.

To support your child's physical development some suggestions are listed below:

- Make some time for outdoor play everyday.
- Provide bats and balls and play games with your child to help them develop sporting skills for later on.
- Provide pencils, crayons, paints and paper for drawing and painting.
- Provide materials such as blunt needles and buttons to thread and kits such as Lego to help children use their small muscles.
- Find playgrounds that are increasingly challenging.
- Provide some time with computer games that improve hand-to-eye coordination and fine motor skills.
- Organise swimming lessons for your child.
- Check that your child can see well (both close up and long distance.)
- Ensure that your child can speak clearly and hear well.

Yours in Christ,
Sue Denholm