

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Room 10, 2019! It is an exciting time for us all as your child begins school. Maree and I are looking forward to getting to know the children, and you, as we begin this learning journey together. The home - school partnership shows your child that you value and have interest in their learning, which is reflected on how they look at their learning as not just isolated to school. The book bag is where we put all flyers and notices, please look in the bag daily.

In line with current trends and research, the year 1 rooms will be working together in a Play Based Learning programme which will be in operation at the start of the day. Some time may be outside so named old shoes or gumboots could be left at school each week for this purpose.

Each morning, please help your child to settle to activity or ask the teacher to help. It is easier for your child if you say goodbye and leave before the 8.55 bell.

Below is some information that I hope you will find helpful:

### Reading

- Please would you take the time to read the letter at the beginning of the reading notebook concerning home reading - it covers most of the questions we are asked.
- There should be two reading books to come home each afternoon. One is a familiar book and the other will be the new text we have read during the day. The most important thing to achieve is pointing to each word as it is said. Asking your child to find the repeating word on each page will help reinforce the learning of this sight word. Please write the date, title, and then your signature in the Home-Reading notebook which can be checked the following day.
- Your child will bring home some basic word cards in their **Home Practice Books**. Please help your child to read the words in order to memorise them. When your child consistently recognises each word it will be changed for a new card. They will be regularly tested on these words and the teacher will highlight the words they still need to learn. These words can be made into games such as snap, concentration etc to help your child to learn them. Once they can recognise the words they can start learning how to write them.
- Home Practice Books will come home every day with sounds and letters to learn. Please revise all of the sounds each night. The key part is the letter name and the corresponding sound ( eg. ffff rather than feh is the sound). The main focus is to practise saying the rhyme, letter name and sound. The children do not need to write at this stage, but you could talk about or encourage them to draw something that starts with that sound. Please return the alphabet book to school each day.
- Poetry books go home on Friday afternoon. Please return on Monday.
- Wednesday is our Library day. You read the books to the children. Repeated reading of the book your child has chosen is encouraged, as it provides so many opportunities to enhance reading experiences, and develop great lifelong habits!

Water bottles (named please) are encouraged in class - but must be just water please. Spills encourage ants and other insects. This can be placed on the blue trolley at the back of the classroom each morning.

Brain Food Break - We have a brain food break about 10.00 am every day. The idea behind this is to boost flagging energy levels as by morning tea time it may have been over 3 hours since breakfast. The children need a small, healthy snack that can be consumed in a few minutes.

Some snack suggestions are:

- ❖ Raisins/sultanas/dried apricots/other dried fruit
- ❖ A peeled mandarin, some grapes/strawberries/apple slices
- ❖ Crackers with cheese/hummus/peanut butter/vegemite
- ❖ Carrot or celery sticks
- ❖ Half a sandwich

Please put this in a small named separate container so your child is aware of which item of food is for their brain food break. There will be a named space on the blue trolley to place the brain food on arrival.

### **Lunches**

Ez - lunch orders are available daily from the website. Subway orders are available on the last Friday of a term only. Orders must be in before 9 am. Sausage sizzle is every Thursday. It is \$1.50 per sausage. Please hand the money to me in the morning; the sausages are brought to the classroom at lunchtime.

Healthy eating is an important focus; it is great to see the children with their healthy lunches. Lollies and chocolate are not permitted as school food. We love to see fruit in lunch boxes, many children prefer apples chopped or quartered rather than a whole piece of fruit to tackle.

We are aware of food sensitivities and allergies and actively discourage children sharing food. In line with our Enviroschool initiative, we are intending a Zero Waste policy - any wrappers or containers will be returned home in the lunch box.

**Parent Help** - Once your child is settled into school please see me if you are available to regularly help in the classroom. If you are unable to assist during class time then would you consider helping by:

- Putting away reading books at a time to suit you e.g. before school or 2.45, when you are dropping or picking up your child.
- Taking home resources / games that may need to be put together / coloured in and/or cut out at varying times.

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

The teachers will be carrying out testing to ensure we cater to your child's learning needs, particularly in literacy and maths. Information will be coming home after a few weeks concerning interviews for us to discuss how your child has settled in and the initial testing we have covered.

Keeping up with news; few paper notices will come home. You will need to log in to the school website for team and school newsletters. Please ask at the Office if you need help.

To help your child gain independence in settling into school you could let them carry their bag, hang it up and then remind them to take out their book bag and put it in their chair bag and bring in their water bottle rather than doing it for them.

Any questions or queries do come and speak to either of us or jot them down in their home reading notebooks.

Kind regards,

Jane Dundas and Maree Cutfield