

Junior Newsletter Term Two

Welcome Back:

Welcome to the Junior Unit. We hope you had a very safe and happy holiday. This is the second of our Junior Unit Newsletters for 2008.

Settling into school routines:

It is a major focus in the Junior Unit to help students develop the qualities of organisation and independence. As a result, we ask parents to encourage their children to enter the main building or portable classrooms independently each morning. This will give students the chance to unpack their bag and complete morning routines.

If you need to communicate with your child's classroom teacher in the morning, please write a note in your child's diary or come inside before the 9:00am bell. Teachers are in their classrooms from 8:45am each morning. If you require an extended conversation with a staff member, please make an appointment by either ringing the school or writing a note in your child's diary.

Morning and afternoon routines:

Children are not permitted to come into the buildings before the music starts in the morning. If it is raining an announcement will be made after 8.45am for students to come inside. There is a teacher on duty outside in the morning from 8.45am and children needing to be at school before this time can be booked into Before School Care which is held in the Multi Purpose Room. There are teachers on duty at each gate in the afternoon until 3.45pm and children remaining in the grounds after this time will be taken to After School Care. Children are not permitted to play on the playground equipment after school unless supervised by a parent.

Classroom Helpers:

Thank you to all our dedicated classroom helpers who have worked in classrooms in Term One. If you need to make any changes to the times you are available in classrooms this term please let your child's teacher know.

Deep Knowledge Unit:

Our unit of work this term is entitled Amazing Inventions. In this unit of work students will investigate how people have used inventions to make life easier and discuss which inventions we use in our everyday lives. Amazing Inventions is a unit of work where students observe, generate questions and create observations. They will learn about forces, mirrors, light and sound. Students will be involved in lots of investigations where they will pose their own questions and carry out investigations to gain an answer.

Homework:

Homework helps students by complementing and reinforcing classroom learning, fostering good lifelong learning and study habits, and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

It is another opportunity for parents to participate in their child's education. Parents, in partnership with the school, should encourage their children to establish good homework routines from early primary school. The government requirements state that homework in the early years of schooling should not exceed 30 minutes a day.

Students in the Junior Unit are required to complete 15 minutes of home reading each day. Students will bring home "Take Home Books" that are a couple of levels below what they are reading in the classroom. Take Home Books should be achievable and provide students with a feeling of success. Students will change their books from boxes in the classroom or from the library. Some students will have extended texts or chapter books that take more than one night to read, however we do ask that you still send the book to school each day and record the reading in the school diary. Many children may choose to borrow books from the local library, read books from home or read from a newspaper. All of these are fine, but still need to be recorded in the diary. Diaries will be checked daily.

This term our homework consists of:



Reading – 5 times a week for at least 15 – 20 minutes.

Show and Share – Please refer to the Show and Share outline. This term we have linked our Show and Share focus to a different THRASS phoneme (sound) that we are learning. Students are being encouraged to find a thing around the house that has a particular sound in its name.

Spelling - Students will also bring home 'Challenge Words' to learn. These words will be based on the Magic Words that make up a large percentage of our written words. Words will also be found in classroom writing and our Deep Knowledge Units. Our assessment will be made through analysis and observation of each student's writing. Your child will have a list of activities that they may like to complete to help them to learn their spelling words. We encourage you to spend at least 10 – 15 minutes two-three times a week learning these Challenge Words.

Deep Knowledge – Students may also be expected to complete some homework relating to our deep knowledge unit during the term.

Healthy Eating:

Students are encouraged to have a bottle of water on their table throughout the day. They are also allowed to bring along fresh **cut up** fruit in a container to eat throughout the day as a snack. **Please ensure that the fruit has been cut up!!**



Peanut Butter:

We have several children in the Junior Unit who are **very** allergic to peanut products including peanut butter, Nutella and any other nut products. To ensure their safety we ask that parents do not give their child peanut butter in either lunches or snacks, as even a tiny amount could be extremely dangerous.

You Can Do It:

This term the foundation that we will be learning about is organisation. **Organisation** means setting a goal to do my best in my schoolwork, planning my time so that I'm not rushed and having all my supplies ready.

- 🌀 Before leaving home he/she makes sure that everything he/she needs is in his/her bag.
- 🌀 Carries his/her own things.
- 🌀 Wants to do his/her best.

- 🌀 Listens to parents and teachers when being told to do something.
- 🌀 Puts away things that are left lying around.
- 🌀 Puts away an activity when finished using it before beginning a new activity.
- 🌀 Gives parents/carers any notes or important messages from his/her teacher.
- 🌀 Planning time to get things done.

School Bags:

Please encourage your child to find a safe and sensible spot around the school ground to leave his/her bag in the morning. We are encouraging students to move their bags away from the ramp area between the two buildings and around classroom doors.

Hats:

In Terms One and Four children need to wear wide brimmed hats every time they are outside. While it is not compulsory to wear a hat during Term Two and Three, we strongly encourage students to continue wearing their hats during play time outside.

School Diaries:

These will be checked daily and can be used for communication. For example, absence notes as well as for recording daily home reading.



Reading Challenge:

It is great to see so many students participating in the Reading Challenge. It would be great if you could encourage your child to take part and continue to select books to bring home during Library time. Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions about the challenge.

School Pick Up:

Please arrange a meeting spot around the school to meet your child at the end of the school day. It is important that students know exactly where they will be met.

Valuables brought to school:

Just a reminder that students/parents are advised not to bring valuable items to school as they can become misplaced or lost. Our insurance does not cover personal items brought to school.

Absence Notes:

If your child is away for any reason could you please fill in an absence note in the back of the student diary. It would be appreciated if you could tear/cut this note out and place it underneath the clip on the appropriate date.

Physical Education:

Students are welcome to bring along their runners to school on the days that they have Physical Education. Students are not allowed to wear them to school and must only bring them along to change into before their specialist class.

Student Absences for Family Holidays

School no longer means students sitting at their desks doing one page after another in their workbooks. Students work together in groups, and a lot of the learning is 'hands-on'. When a student misses activities like this, he/she can't really make them up by doing set work-sheets on their holiday.

If you are planning a break during school time then keeping a journal is an excellent assignment for a vacation. It's a chance for your child to exercise his/her writing skills, and then share notes with classmates when he/she returns.

Web-Sites to use at home

There are many useful web-sites that you can access at home and use with your child to practise skills learned at school.

<http://www.rainforestmaths.com>

<http://www.prongo.com>

<http://www.factmonster.com>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools>

<http://www.starfall.com>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com>

These are just a few of the sites you might like to try at home.

Important Dates and Events

Tuesday 22nd April - Curriculum expo for parents (see attached information sheet)

Friday 25th April – ANZAC Day holiday

Monday 28th April – Curriculum day

Tuesday 29th April – Bush Dance

Friday 9th May – Crazy Critter Night (see attached information sheet)

Thank you

Junior Unit Teachers

Junior L – Classroom Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	Computer Lab
10:00	Writing	P.E	LOTE/DRAMA (Week 2)	Unit P.E	Reading
Recess					
11:30	LOTE (Week 1)	Writing	Art	Writing	Writing
12:30	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
Lunch					
2:30	Deep Knowledge	Deep Knowledge	Writing	Deep Knowledge Music (Week 1)	Deep Knowledge Assembly