

Room 1 Newsletter - Term 1 2017

Welcome to MPS!

Welcome to all our new children who are beginning their school journey at MPS this term. If you already have children here, welcome back from the holidays, and if you are a new family, welcome and thank you for choosing MPS.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to ask!

Coming Dates

MPS Whanau Picnic Thurs 2 March
EOTC (Education Outside the Classroom)
Wk 5 - Wk 6
Three Way Learning Conferences Wk 3
Disco Wed 12th April
Last Day of Term One Thurs 13th April

Photos for MPS Website and Newsletter

We often place photos of the students on our website. If you do not want your child's photo to be used, please contact the office and let us know.

Independence

One of the biggest things your child will learn in their first year of schooling, is independence. This is a vast area that covers everything from self-management skills to social skills in the play ground. Your help in the area of independence is appreciated immensely by us. Think about how you can give your child responsibility and independence. You can help by encouraging your child to:

- pack/unpack their own bag
- help with jobs at home
- get dressed/undressed by selves
- put on/off shoes by selves
- talk about their feelings and problems in order to solve minor conflicts by themselves (using I statements).

PMP

Junior classes participate in a physical programme aimed at improving children's school work abilities. It runs Mondays through Wednesdays from 9:00-10:30am, and Mrs Karen Cox is always on the look out for keen parent helpers. Let us know if you are interested.

Curriculum

During the first 4 weeks and regularly throughout the term we will be focusing on class rules, school rules and the MPS expectations to promote learning and develop social skills through making good choices and positive behaviour. The topic we will be covering this term is 'All About Me'. The children will get to know each other, share information about themselves and their families, learn social skills and explore what makes everyone unique and special.

MPS is very proud to be an Enviroschool. This means we teach the students how to look after their environment - in particular the things we do at MPS to provide for a healthy future (worm farm, compost, gardening, Reduce/Reuse/Recycle).

For *Literacy*, our main focus, as always, will be for the children to learn their phonics. This knowledge underpins both Reading and Writing, and is ESSENTIAL.

For *Maths* this term, we will cover three strands:

- Geometry - 2D shape recognition and sorting
- Number Knowledge - Reading, counting, ordering numbers forwards/backwards
- Number Strategies - Simple number story problems using addition/subtraction
- Statistics - Creating and reading simple graphs

Home Time

Thanks to those people who are happy to wait outside at home time - there are several good reasons for it. We pride ourselves on making sure we know who the kids are going home with to keep them safe, but it is difficult with people coming and going in the door. Often the new children find it hard, as they want to run out and see their mum, and then get upset because maybe she is not there yet.

It is also a very hectic time of the day, making sure everyone is packed (independently) and notices are given out.

Homework

Your child has homework every night and it should be signed and returned everyday. Please read the inside cover of the Alphabet Book for the details. If you have any queries, please come in and see us, as we are only too happy to clarify.



PLEASE NAME YOUR CHILDS

UNIFORM AND SHOES! Remember that a uniform is just that - a uniform! Therefore it's the same as everyone else! By not naming it, you are making your child's job of looking after it harder, and our job of locating it when lost, harder! Please send your child to school wearing shoes they can take off and put on themselves. Thank you.

Swimming

Term 1 is the only time we officially teach Swimming as part of our PE Curriculum, so let's make the most of the glorious weather and get wet! Send your child's togs and towel everyday in a plastic bag regardless of the weather (it always changes during the day!).

Please remember that if your child has had diarrhoea or vomiting to let us know. They may have to miss out on some swimming days but this helps us to keep our pool healthy for all.

Hot Weather

Thanks for providing wide brimmed sunhats for your child. Children without hats have very boring break-times under the shade sails. Hats with a tie of some kind under the chin are useful, as they stay on better when the children are running around.

Nits

Ahh yes, we are forever on the look out for these nuisance creatures. Just a reminder to be vigilant and do let us know if you've found some, and we will send a note home so everyone can be checked.