

FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER - TERM 1

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a very special year ahead as your child embarks on their learning journey at Woodlands. We are very impressed with how confident and settled they seem already! Here is some information that might be handy for a smooth term ahead.

FOUNDATION STAFF

FC – Rachel Caveney

FWh – Justine Whyte

FWa – Devin Walker

FD – Emma Davis

FW – Kristy Wheeler

FI – Vicky Isom

(Yes there are a few FW's in there, take care to use the correct one!).

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 15th March – Open Afternoon – 3:15pm

Wednesday 20th March - School Photos

Wednesday 20th March - Parent Helper's Literacy Course - evening

Wednesday 27th March – Grandparent's Afternoon - 2:45-3:15pm

Friday 5th April – Easter Hat Parade (Grades F-2) - 9:15am

Friday 5th April - Last day of term 1 – 2:30pm finish.

HOME READING

Please make sure your child **reads, and practises their sounds and tricky words DAILY**. We have found our most successful readers are those students who have developed an excellent home reading routine. Keeping up to date with learning their tricky words is the key to faster progress in reading. Please make sure that you **date and sign your child's reading log each night** as this allows us to track the wonderful effort they are putting in.

ENGLISH

Our focus for Speaking and Listening is developing our oral language skills, particularly before we start writing. We like to give children the opportunity to talk to a partner about what they would like to write. Show and Tell is a perfect chance for informal talking in front of the class.

Our Jolly Phonics program has started, and we are covering 3 letters/sounds each week. Your child could show you the Jolly Phonics hand signal for each letter sound. By the end of this term we expect students would be able to recognise most letters of the alphabet and know their associated sounds. Our main Reading Strategies this term will be "Eagle Eye", "Lips the Fish", "Stretchy Snake" and "Chunky Monkey". A bookmark explaining these strategies will be sent home soon. Each Monday we do Journal Writing, so please discuss with your child a few highlights from your weekend before they come to school.

We will soon start the Lexia computer program, which is also a wonderful home revision for Literacy. (We are practising our logging-on at school first!)

MATHEMATICS

This term we will focus upon Number Sense– covering numbers to 20. This will include oral counting, quantities, number formation and counting patterns. Later in the term we will be exploring Time (days of the week) and 2-Dimensional shapes as part of our Measurement Unit.

To assist with your child’s numeracy development at home, please encourage your child to practise the correct formation of the numbers to 10, and support their attempts at oral counting. The “On the Road” talking tasks are pasted in the student’s Take Home Books each week to revise mathematical concepts in real-life situations.

INQUIRY UNIT

The Foundation Inquiry Unit for this term is **Me and My Family**. The central idea is Sharing my story helps me connect with people and places. We will be looking at the following key questions over the term:

1. Who am I?
2. Who is in my family and what is my family history?
3. What makes a place special?
4. How can we look after the places that are special to us?

In Week 9 the students are lucky to have their Grandparents (or special person), to visit our class for the afternoon. We will enjoy sharing an activity with them, and showing off our classroom.

WELLBEING

Please ensure you pack a **spare change** of undies, socks and shorts in a plastic bag if you haven’t done so...even children who have never had an accident may do so with the distraction of other exciting activities! This term we will introduce the students to the **Woodlands THRIVE program** – developing the children’s ability to recognise and express their own emotions and develop empathy for the feelings of others. The values in the program are linked to our weekly THRIVE awards. An amazing book we are using this term is “Have You Filled a Bucket Today?” Ask your child how they have filled a bucket.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

It is fantastic to see many families have connected to the **Seesaw App** to allow them to view photos and videos of their children learning, and look at some wonderful work samples. If you are having trouble connecting please see your child’s teacher as we feel it is a very valuable communication tool.

If there are urgent messages (i.e. picking up arrangements changed), please ring through direct to the office, as Foundation teachers don’t often have spare time to check our Seesaw, emails or voicemails during the day! Don’t forget we are always available for a chat at the door after school. (Or make an appointment if you need longer). **We truly value our partnership with you to do the best for your child.**

We are looking forward to a hard-working and amazing term, and thank you for your support in settling your child into school routines.

The Foundation Team : Kristy Wheeler, Vicky Isom, Devin Walker, Emma Davis, Rachel Caveney and Justine Whyte