

# FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER - TERM 1

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a very special year, as your child embarks on their learning journey at Woodlands. We are all 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**

FD – Emma Davis

FE- Emily Eldridge

FI – Vicky Isom

FS – Sammie Simmons

FW – Kristy Wheeler

FWA – Devin Walker

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Friday 28th February** - School Photos

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March**- Open Afternoon – 3:15pm

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**- Grandparent's Afternoon - 2:45-3:15pm

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**- Easter Hat Parade (Grades F-2)- 9:15am

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March**- Last day of term 1 – 2:30pm finish.

## **HOME READING**

Please ensure 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 teachers to track the wonderful effort your child is putting in.

## **ENGLISH**

Our Jolly Phonics program has begun, and we will be learning 3 letters (sounds) each week. Our weekly letters and hand signals will be pasted into your child's Take Home Book, to allow you to revise these sounds, with your child, at home. 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 focus for Speaking and Listening is developing our oral language skills. Show and Tell is a perfect chance for informal talking in front of the class. We also encourage our students to discuss their weekend adventures before they begin writing in their weekly journals. You may choose to discuss with your child a few highlights from your weekend before they come to school.

Our main **Reading Strategies** this term will be

Eagle Eye- Look at the pictures  
Lips the Fish- Get your lips ready for the first sound  
Stretchy Snake- Stretch out the sounds  
Chunky Monkey- Break the word into chunks

Later this term, our students will be introduced to the Lexia Reading program, during their ICT time. This program is a wonderful tool for home revision. More information will be sent home later this term.

### **MATHEMATICS**

This term we will focus on 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 0 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 will invite their Grandparents (or special person), to visit our classroom. We will enjoy sharing an activity with them, and showing them around our amazing classrooms. We can’t wait!

### **WELLBEING**

Please ensure you pack a **spare change** of underwear, socks and shorts in a plastic bag if you haven’t already done so... even children who have never had an accident may do so with the distraction of exciting classroom activities!

This term we will introduce the students to the **Woodlands THRIVE program** – developing the children’s ability to identify and express their own emotions and develop empathy for the feelings of others. The values in the program are linked to our fortnightly THRIVE awards.

T- Try Your Best

H- Be Healthy

R- Relate Well

I- Get Involved  
V- Live Your Values  
E- Enjoy Positive Emotions

**PARENT COMMUNICATION**

It is fantastic to see many families have connected to the **Seesaw App**. This allows families 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.

Please note, if there are urgent messages (i.e. picking up arrangements changed), please ring through direct to the office, as Foundation teachers do not always check their Seesaw, emails or voicemails during the day.

We are looking forward to an amazing term! Thank you for all your support in helping your child settle into the Woodlands routines. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to your child's classroom teacher- our doors are always open!

**The Foundation Team**

Emma Davis, Emily Eldridge, Vicky Isom, Sammie Simmons, Kristy Wheeler and Devin Walker