

Term 1 R/1 Class Newsletter

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

I'm pleased to have this opportunity to let you know what's happening in Room 4 this term. We are halfway through the term and the class has settled into the new school year. I have always believed that if a child is happy at school they will want to learn, so I aim to have a happy atmosphere to foster this. If your child can arrive at school to start the day at 9:00 a.m. it gives them the opportunity to settle into the day because we start each day with "Learning Through Play" and the students are expected to work **cooperatively**.

We have regular morning routines after the activity session. We put our pegs on the behaviour chart and change the day, date and weather chart. If the students make more positive choices and work well, their peg goes up a step at a time. If they reach the top they have a pick from our "Special Box" at the end of the day. We have a few class rules which we sing in the morning. Please ask your child to **sing** and **clap** them for you.

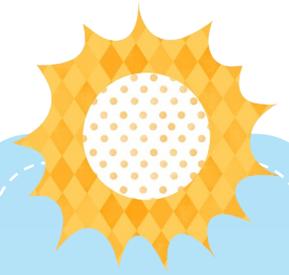
In our room we: listen to the teacher
: do our best work
: follow instructions
: are kind to each other
: have four on the floor

This is a rule in our classroom.

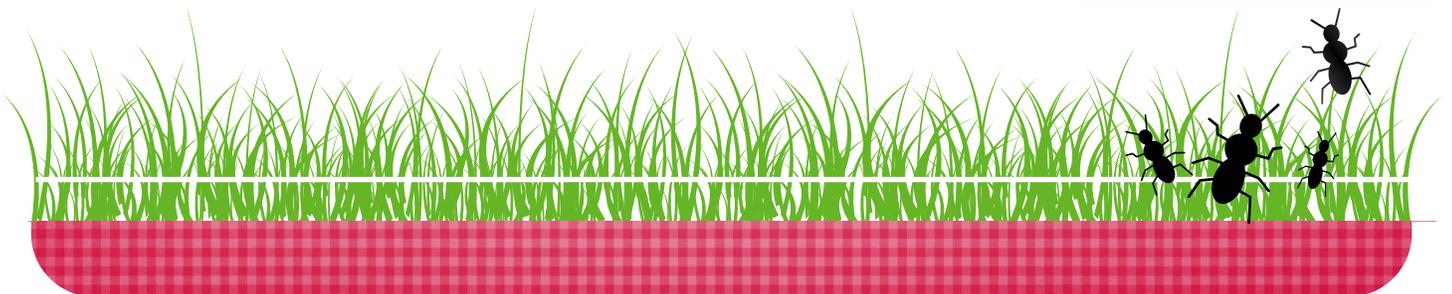
We often sing a few songs for a break, many of them counting / action songs. I have just bought a keyboard and the students are allowed to play it as long as they are careful. They enjoy the opportunity to create their own music!

Socially, we are working on being a **good friend** by being **kind** and **helpful**. We also discuss **respecting** and **supporting** each other. As a class we have many discussions about the skills we need to achieve positive interactions and friendships.

Academically, the students are showing good progress with listening and speaking in oral lessons and they all try their best when they are working on writing / drawing tasks. I'm planning lessons which are visual and tactile. I am building up the visual resources in the classroom to help students with their learning. It is important to have charts and other displays for students to refer to. We are doing a lot of **oral** work in both **numeracy** and **literacy** to help build their **vocabulary** which will help them with **reading** and **writing**.



Miss Heather our Room 4 teacher..





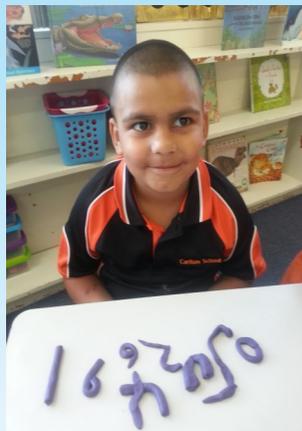
Music time..



We painted a snake..



We love our activity..



Damon and his play dough numbers..



We are also using mini-whiteboards frequently so students can practise their numbers and letters in a non-threatening way. They can easily erase them and try again. I often write the numbers with dots / dashes for them so they can trace for practise, also. This is something you can do at **home** with your children to **help** them with their writing.

In Maths we are learning about the numbers 1 – 10, not just counting to 10 but being able to read, order, write and count objects to match the numbers. We are also learning about patterns and 2D shapes but **numeracy** is the main **focus** for this term.

In Literacy we are **focussing** on **phonics**. We are using “Jolly Phonics” which is a resource we use on the Smartboard. We have started with the sound of ‘s’ and will start ‘a’ this week. The students enjoy the interactive lessons. There are also “Jolly Phonics” learning games on the two classroom computers that support the phonics programme. We also access “Reading Eggs” on the computers in the Library and in the classroom. The students work at their individual level as they progress through the lessons. We do regular class reading using big books and the students enjoy joining in repetitive phrases / verses. With the help of our SSOs I aim to have students read, or be read to, individually each day.

It is appreciated if you **phone** the school when your child is away due to **sickness**. Also, if for any reason your child leaves school and arrives home please call the school **immediately** to let us know that they are safe.

Please feel free to come into our classroom (Room 4) any time. You are most **welcome** to come and see what your child is doing. Also, and most importantly, please come to school to see me if you have any concerns at all. Most concerns or problems can be resolved with a chat. I will value what you say and acknowledge that you know your child best. If we **work together positively** then school will be a happy place for them to be. With a good school / home relationship, punctuality and good attendance your child’s learning will be enhanced and **good progress** can be made.

Regards,

Heather Steer
Year R/1 class teacher

