

Term 2 R/1 Class Newsletter

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Here we are in the middle of Term 2 and time is flying by. The children are settled, happy and engaged with their learning. We have a lovely, calm atmosphere in our classroom as the children are well behaved, helpful and caring of each other. As their teacher, I am thrilled with the way they are responding to their learning and I enjoy every day with them. We have a lot of fun. They are all confident in answering questions about anything and they are keen to have their own turn to speak. They are persisting with their written tasks and their fine motor skills are improving week by week.

We still start the day with "Learning Through Play" and this is a valuable time for the students to develop their social skills as they interact with each other. It's a good time for me to observe their behaviour, also. We have a painting table set up which is very popular during this time, as is the keyboard and Lego. Some just choose a book and read. I play relaxing music very softly throughout the day which also creates a relaxed environment.

In **Maths** we are still focussing on our numbers 1 – 10. Some students are still learning to identify which number is which. They can count to 10 but don't recognise the matching number. It will help greatly if you can have the students use the number cards that were sent home in their "Take Home" bags. They need a lot of repetition to embed their learning. We are also continuing with 2D shapes, identifying them in the classroom and outside. Some 3D shapes, such as a cube, will be introduced too. We are also sorting and classifying shapes. I constantly use the learning clock to show students when things will occur and they are becoming familiar with "o'clock" and "half past".



Miss Heather our Room 4 teacher..



We made some drums after we saw PLANET RHYTHM.





We had Pies for our "P" party



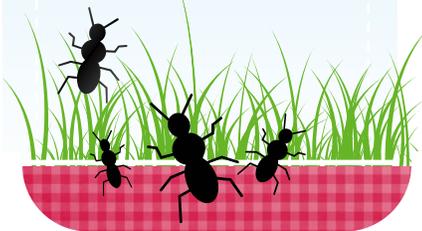
We made a pretty tin for Mother's Day



We made masks for "The Gingerbread Man"



Jeffrey loves being a little teacher.



In **Literacy** we are still working on phonics and most students have mastered the first six sounds of the "Jolly Phonics" programme. These are: s, a, t, i, p, n. If you can ask them to tell you things that start with these sounds it will help with their learning. They can also show you letters in any printed material, even junk mail (e.g. show me an 's'). We do shared reading with a big book every day and the students can identify rhyming words very quickly. They are learning to put three sounds together to make words (e.g. h-a-t / hat; s-i-t / sit) and some students can do this very quickly. I can see some rapid improvement in all students. They love to have a go. We have been learning the "Gold" words in our Magic 300 sight words and some students are now reading the next level of "Red". I will send this set home in the "Take Home" bags with a new book. In our journals where the students draw about their weekend and I write the sentence that they tell me, some are still tracing my writing and some are now copying on a line below. We have had some treats as part of our phonics. We had tea and toast for the sound of 't'. We had pies, pizza and pancakes for the sound of 'p' and sausage rolls for 's'. We are still using the mini whiteboards to practise writing the numbers and letters. Some students are still learning to write their names and are getting close to succeeding. The whiteboards are excellent for learning because work can be erased easily. It's a very non-threatening way to practise written tasks.

We are constantly focussed on the "You Can Do It" keys which are on display in the playground. They are: "Getting Along"; "Resilience"; "Persistence"; "Organisation" and "Confidence".

I'm attaching the newsletter from Term 1 as some of the new students wouldn't have received it and it will remind you of what we are all about in Room 4. You will see our class rules and information about absences in it. Again, I would like to remind you that you are most welcome to visit us in Room 4 any time. You may like to come and see what your child is doing at school. Also, again I will mention that I'm happy for you to come and see me or phone me if you have any concerns at all. Don't stay at home worrying about something that could be fixed with chat.

Regards,

Heather Steer
Year R/1 class teacher

