

Term 1 Newsletter – Foundation (Prep) 2019

Welcome to Kingsbury Primary School! We look forward to working with you to ensure your child has the best possible start to their school life.

Do not be surprised if your child tells you that all they do at school is play! Play Based Learning forms a big part of the Foundation Year. It is during this time that students get to know each other and explore their new environment. It is also the time for developing their skills of co-operation, negotiation and communication. At first, it may not seem very different to Kindergarten, but please keep in mind that the first few weeks of school are a transition period for the students and an opportunity for us to get to know their different personalities and assess their prior knowledge.

In February, students are not required to attend school on Wednesdays unless they are having their Foundation (Prep) Entry Assessment. This will take about an hour and your child will be assessed on their language and counting skills. Parents may wait in the Library while their child is undergoing the assessments. Letters will be sent out to inform you of the date and time of your interview.

Students are required to be at school from 9:00am. The classroom doors will be open from 8:50am and students may come straight in to put away their bags. If your child will be arriving prior to 8:50am and you are unable to wait with them in the playground; students are supervised in the school grounds from 8:45am. If you require earlier supervision the school offers a before school care program.

It has been lovely talking to parents before and after school and we look forward to seeing you help out in the classroom in the near future!

Below is a general overview of this Term:

Mathematics:

Number & Algebra

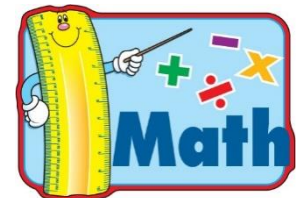
- Counting forwards and backwards to 10 and beyond
- Ordering and comparing groups
- Connecting number names, numerals and quantities initially to ten

Measurement & Geometry

- Days of the week, understanding of terms like 'yesterday', 'today' and 'tomorrow'
- What is longer, what is heavier

Shape

- Identifying common 2D shapes, sorting of objects according to shape.



English:

Reading:

- Concepts of print: how do we read a book, where do we start, which way do we go, what is a word, a letter, a sentence
- Letter recognition and awareness of the relationship between sounds and letters
- Predictions about events in text from looking at the cover and illustration.





Writing:

- Writing their own name
- Upper and lower case letter formation
- Copying modelled writing
- Copying/Writing simple sentences with a beginning focus on capital letters

and full stops.

Speaking and Listening:

Students will develop their speaking skills by actively participating in ‘Play- Based Learning’. There will be a focus on speaking using complete sentences and correct tenses. They will participate in activities like ‘Show and Tell’, ‘Listen and Draw’ or ‘Weekend Share’.

Berry Street Education Model

This term, our unit of work is about ‘Learning to Learn’ including *What happens at school? How can I be a good friend?, What is a rule?* Students will be learning terms and participating in activities such as relaxation/mindfulness, circle time, brain breaks, belly breathing. There will also be a strong focus on our School Values; Respect, Teamwork & Collaboration, Safety, Learning, Friendship.

Weekly timetable:

STEM	The Arts	Health and Physical Education
Monday	Thursday	Thursday

Junior School Home Learning Program

Some of the ways you can help your child at home are:

- Daily Home Reading (more information on this will be sent home later)
- Help your child to recognise and practise writing their name
- Help your children to become more independent. This might involve teaching them how to put on and take off their jumper or pack their bags. **Most importantly they must be able to take care of their own personal hygiene especially when it comes to toileting.**



- Send a **drink bottle** filled with water every day.
- Fruit and sandwiches (or a healthy alternative) for **play lunch** and **lunch**. Fruit break will be introduced throughout the day (ONLY FRUIT AND VEGETABLES).
- **Label all** student belongings clearly by writing their full names using permanent marker.
- Please keep an extra pair of pants in your child’s bag. Sometimes accidents will happen!
- **Hats are compulsory!** Please send a Sun Smart hat every day and clearly label it.



Health and Physical Education/P.M.P with Mr. Money

In the first term of school, Foundation (Prep) students’ Physical Education lessons will focus on body movement including running, skipping and jumping. They will also be introduced to simple ball handling skills such as, rolling, throwing, catching, retrieving and kicking balls of different sizes. Fun games and activities will focus on following teacher instructions, learning the objectives and rules of simple games while co-operating and being fair and safe with others. General body awareness such as balancing, climbing, and rolling as well as other components of the PMP (Perceptual Motor Program) will be included in lessons.

The Arts with Mrs. Cunado

Foundation students will explore ideas, experiences, observations and imagination to create visual artworks based on drawing. Students will focus on drawing with lines, shapes and colours and learn the technique of mark making. The School Values, Art room expectations, routines and the correct use of equipment and materials will also be discussed. If students have an art smock, it is advised that they bring it to Art sessions, as occasionally we will be using paint!

STEM with Mr. Money

Foundation (Prep) students will participate in Science lessons each week. Initially, activities will focus on sharing and building on their knowledge of the world around them, and provide them with a basic appreciation of the concept of Science, how it is used or present in their daily lives. Students will be encouraged to explore and to want to find out more. They will sort and classify different objects, both living and non-living, based on their observed characteristics and build their general and scientific vocabulary.

In Biological Science, students will learn that humans have five senses, which are used to explore and respond to their environment and surroundings. They will learn how their body reacts to the environment through their senses. In Earth and Space Sciences, students will observe and discuss the seasons, weather and climate, how these terms differ and how they are connected. Students will look at types of weather and, for example 'What can / does wind do?' They will investigate changes that occur in the sky and landscape and how daily and seasonal changes affect plants and everyday activities and lifestyles of people as well animals.

Indonesian with Ms. Jap

In Term 1, students will learn to say simple greetings in Indonesian and sing popular children songs. They will learn some Indonesian culture through participating in group activities, such as games and role plays.

Important dates for your diary

February	All Wednesdays are pupil-free days for Preps (during February only)
February 12th	"Getting to know your Child" interviews
March	Preps begin full week of school
March 5th	Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)
March 8th	Curriculum Day
March 11th	Labour Day
March 21st	Harmony Day
March 29th	School Photos
April 5th	End of Term 1 @ 1:30 pm

Please look for future important dates in the weekly school newsletter.

Please check your child's satchel on a daily basis for notices.

Looking forward to a fun-filled term! If you have any queries please come and make an appointment to come and see me.

Cathy Valkanis