

Class Newsletter

Term 1, 2021



Prep A

January 2021

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to the 2021 school year! I hope you all enjoyed your break over the Christmas and New Year period. My name is Courtney Hodge and I will be your child's teacher for 2021. This will be my third year at Geebung State School. I am really looking forward to working with your children and the amazing staff our school has. Prior to 2019, I lived and taught in both Alpha and Moranbah (Central Queensland). After 4 years of living and working away, I returned to Brisbane to be closer to family and friends. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Geebung State School and I am hoping this year continues to bring a lot of learning opportunities, for both the students and myself, as well as a lot of fun. If I haven't had the pleasure of meeting you already, please feel free to introduce yourself and have a chat.

Both Admin and I will keep you informed by sending home notes or emails to notify you of any events, changes or updates. Please ensure your contact details are current with the office, as the email address you have provided will be the one I will use to send emails. Often, I will email notes to you as well as send paper copies home. Please remember to check your child's bag and homework folders for notes and other communication items.

If you wish to contact me, you are welcome to email me at chodg145@eq.edu.au. I am more than happy to speak with you in person, but please consider that mornings and afternoons are extremely busy (particularly in Term 1) and you will need to make an appointment if you wish to discuss something with me at length. We encourage you to advise us of any absences as this assists with planning, but **please formally notify the office** so the absence can be entered correctly.

REMINDERS

Brain Break

Students may bring a healthy snack every day for brain break at 9:30am.

Fruit and vegetables are accepted.

Please pack the snack in a **separate NAMED** bag or container.

NO HAT NO PLAY

Students are required to bring their school hat every day. Please ensure all hats are **NAMED**.

Drink Bottles

Drink bottles are essential every day of the school year. Students are allowed to leave them on a table outside the classroom door.

Bell Times

Children are to be lined up in their **eating area** when the first bell goes at 8:45am. Parents are to wait **outside the Prep room** for collection at the end of the day.

Personal Belongings

Please ensure all items are **clearly named**. If it is unnamed, we cannot guarantee its safe return!

Homework

Homework will begin in Week 3. This will allow me time to get to know the students and introduce them to their new homework routine.

Parent Information Sessions

February 9th 2021

3:30pm **OR** 4:00pm



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MORNING ROUTINE REMINDER: Children are required to be lining up in two lines underneath D block each morning at the first school bell (8.45 am). There will be a 'Prep A' sign to indicate our lining up and eating area. Please assist your children with this where possible.

AFTERNOON ROUTINE REMINDER: Children need to be collected from **outside the Prep building** of an afternoon. If they are booked into After School Care, an OSHC educator will come and collect them from the classroom. Please ensure your child knows how they are going home in the afternoon and any changes to routine, as this assists in eliminating any confusion or anxiety at the end of the school day. Feel free to email me to inform me of any changes so I can assist your child of an afternoon.

LATE ARRIVALS/EARLY DEPARTURE: If your child arrives late or leaving early, you will need to sign your child in/out at the office **BEFORE** you come to the classroom. Please note: students CANNOT be released without an early departure slip, even if there are only a few minutes left in the school day.

PARENT HELPERS: The beginning few weeks will be all about introducing routine and getting used to our new environment. Eventually, we would LOVE to have some parents come in and assist in rotations. I will keep you updated about when this will begin and when we will be having rotations.

All volunteers MUST complete the Volunteer Induction with Mrs Douglas or Miss McGhie.

Please contact the office for more details.

Weekly Routine

Tuesday	Assembly – 2:15pm
Wednesday	Music – 10:00 – 10:30am Gross Motor – 10:30 – 11:00am
Thursday	Library – 9:30 – 10:00am Physical Education – 10:30 – 11:00am
Friday	Drama – 12:00 – 12:30pm

Term 1 Curriculum

Please see the below information on our curriculum learning areas for this term. We will be able to discuss these further at our parent information afternoon in Week 3.

Literacy

Students will listen to and retell a familiar text with supporting images in the correct sequence. They will learn to read and make personal connections to events and characters. They will also participate in the Jolly Phonics program to build their letter sound knowledge and the Read it Again Program to develop their oral language skills.



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This term students have opportunities to develop understandings of numerals 0-20, representing quantities, comparing numbers and ordering them. They will also master the rules for sorting objects based on colour, size and shapes, create and continue patterns and compare the duration of events.

Science – Living Things

In this unit, students further build upon their understanding of the needs of living things, both animals and plants. Students learn that the survival of all living things is reliant on basic needs being met, and there are consequences when needs are not met. They investigate the impact of human activity and natural events on basic needs. They shared ideas about how they can support and protect living things in their local surroundings.

Humanities and Social Studies (HASS)

In HASS students will investigate their own family history and examine other family structures to appreciate the diverse family groups we have today that have commonalities as well as differences. The students will investigate familiar ways family and friends commemorate past events that are important to them.

Health

In this unit students will explore information about what makes them unique, identifying their strengths, emotions and achievements. Students will identify safe settings where they can move and play safely and identify actions that keep them and others safe in different settings.

Fine Motor and Gross Motor

Students will learn the correct pencil grip, letter formation and scissor skills through the finger gym program. They will participate in PE lessons and outdoor play each week to build their gross motor skills.

The Arts

Through visual starts, students will be encouraged to share their stories and feeling. They will draw stories and paint pictures using various drawing materials and techniques.

Social and Personal Learning

Students will participate in the 'Play is the Way' program to develop their social skills and self-confidence. This program is a practical methodology for teaching social and emotional skills using guided play, classroom activities and an empowering language. It teaches children to respond appropriately to the thrill of success and the disappointment of failure. I look forward to meeting you all and seeing what the year ahead will bring. Please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or queries.

Yours sincerely

Courtney Hodge
Class Teacher

Tracey Douglas
Principal



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