



Pre-Primary – Room 1 2024 Information Booklet

Teaching Staff

Mrs Megan Lydeamore – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Miss Tahlia Bielby – Wednesday

Education Assistants

Miss Imogen Van Zyl – Monday to Thursday mornings
Mrs Tanya Ritchie – Friday mornings

Structure of the day

Tuesday – Friday

8:35 classroom opens

8:55 start of the school day

10:55 – 11:15 recess

12:55- 1:30 lunch

3:15 end of the day

Monday - Early Close

Each Monday school will finish at **2:30pm**

Arrival at School

The classroom doors will be open from 8:35am. Children need to bring in their water bottle, lunch box and folder into class. During Term One children will be completing name writing and tabletop activities in the morning before school. Once they have completed the activities they are allowed to play inside. Parents are asked to please leave the classroom when the bell goes.

Breakfast Club

Pre-Primary children are permitted to visit the Breakfast Club in the morning to receive breakfast if they need to. They are to return immediately to the classroom with their breakfast, where they can eat at the table.

End of Day

Please wait outside the classroom until the bell rings and students are dismissed. Students will wait inside the classroom on the mat until a staff member sees a parent arrive to collect them. Bus students are taken to the bus shelter by a staff member, before the bell rings. We are happy for older siblings to collect students from class, however please let us know if this will be a regular arrangement.

Crunch & Sip

Children are encouraged to bring a small container with chopped fruit or vegies or a whole piece of fruit and a water bottle to snack on during our crunch and sip break, which happens daily at around 10am. If your child needs their fruit cut up, please do this at home to minimise disruptions.

Parent / Teacher Communication

- Children are to bring in their school diaries each day as they will be the main mode of communication. They will be checked and signed daily.
- Bus students - Please write in the school diary if your child is **on / not on** the bus, each day.
- If another family member or friend is collecting your child, please write in the diary or let one of us know in the morning.
- Please ring the school and leave a message with the office staff if there is a change in after-school pick up arrangements that has not been communicated via the diary.
- Parents can send messages to teachers via Seesaw, and teachers may at times use Seesaw to message parents individually. Please make sure you have signed up and have notifications turned on.
- Please note that teachers are unlikely to read Seesaw messages or emails during the day whilst teaching, so please phone the school with any urgent messages.
- Seesaw will be used for sharing photos, student work and general information about upcoming events.

Absences

Please keep your child at home if they are unwell. If you are unsure whether to send them in the morning, we are happy to see how they go and call you if symptoms worsen.

Every student absence from school must be explained. This is a legal requirement. You can do this by:

- Calling the office if your child is absent. Office staff will record this immediately on Integris
- Replying to the absentee text message sent by the school
- Sending a Seesaw message to teachers
- Writing a note in the diary

If there are unexplained absences, you will receive a note asking for the reasons for the absences. Please return this note as soon as possible.

Late arrival and early collection

The attendance roll is completed daily as close to 8.55 as possible. If your child is late arriving to school they will need to sign in through the office before entering the classroom.

Should you need to collect your child early from school, please go to the office first and sign your child out. Once again, this is a legal requirement.

Parent Meetings

At morning drop off we are happy to have a quick chat, but we are not able to stop for long discussions. In the time between 8.35 and 8.55 we need to be available to help students with transitioning to school and morning activities and, later on, reading.

If you would like to make an appointment to discuss your child's progress throughout the year, you can either write a note in the diary, ask at drop off or pick up, or call the school office and leave a message.

The school has introduced a Parent Meeting Booking app which can be accessed via the link on the website or the QR code.

Birthdays

- You are welcome to bring in cupcakes on your child's birthday to share with the other children in the class. Please discuss this with your child's teacher beforehand to arrange a suitable time.
- Please note that cupcakes are preferred as staff do not have time or equipment available to cut up and serve large cakes.
- Party bags, gifts, lolly bags, drinks and extra food are not necessary and are preferred not to be brought in to school. If you wish to give out these items for your child's birthday, please organise a birthday party outside of school hours.
- Birthday party invitations can be given to your child's teacher to be placed discreetly into reading folders, so as not to cause undue upset to children who are not invited.

Home Reading

This year, we will again be doing the 100 nights of reading challenge. Please sign your child's diary each night when you read with your child, even if you are reading a story to them or they are reading books from home.

Comprehension Books will be sent home through-out the year, with accompanying comprehension questions to discuss the stories with your child. These also count towards 100 Nights of

Reading rewards. The focus is on listening to stories and building up comprehension using questions. Books will be changed once a week, on Fridays. Comprehension Books do not need to be returned to school every day, please only send in on Fridays.

Decodable reading books will be sent home in term 2 for students who are ready and know some letter sounds. When your child is reading to you, please encourage them to sound out the words. Reading is like cracking a code and this decoding (sounding out) strategy should be the first strategy children use. It is okay to help sound out and blend sounds back together with your child, then get them to repeat the sentence with the word they had difficulty with back to you.

Home Reading books will be changed once or twice a week, depending on when staff feel the child is ready to move on to a new book. Children are encouraged to read their book for at least three nights (recorded in the diary) before it will be changed.

Library

Library will be on Fridays. Please ensure your child brings their library book in a library bag each Friday.

Rewards

The school has a Positive Behaviour focus. We use consistent language across the school to describe and encourage positive behaviours. You may have seen or heard the four terms being used at assemblies or by the school community.

- Achieving Astronaut
- Engaged Explorer
- Safety Sargent
- Respectful Ranger

When students display positive behaviour, they can be rewarded with a dojo point for that behaviour. This helps track student behaviour. Students choose rewards when they reach 50, 100, 150 dojos (and upwards). There are also class rewards, which happen at 500 and 1000 combined points. These will be communicated through Seesaw and a note will be sent home.

Goldies are also given out for exceptional behaviour, attitude or effort. Children will receive a badge for every 25 Goldies that they receive (these are tracked by admin and carry over from year to year).

Consequences

Positive behaviour is modelled, taught, encouraged and rewarded. By doing this we minimise the need for consequences for undesirable behaviours. That said, young students are learning to share, take turns, solve conflict and negotiate, so there will be times when consequences need to be carried out.

If a child displays inappropriate behaviour ("red choices") their name will be moved down the traffic lights. Warnings are given before this happens. If they are moved from the yellow traffic light to the orange traffic light, they will work in isolation within the classroom or sit on the time out chair for a short time. Once

appropriate behaviour is displayed the child can then move their name back up the traffic lights and return to their activity.

If a child continues to make red choices while working in isolation or sitting in time-out, they will be moved to the red traffic light. This may result in the child spending a short time in another classroom (buddy class). Parents will be informed if your child gets to the red traffic light.

After following the traffic light system, if there is no improvement in the child's behaviour and choices, they may spend a short time in detention at lunchtime, where they will engage in a restorative conversation with the principal or deputy principal. Parents will be contacted if this occurs.

Specialist Classes

Monday

Art and Music - Mrs Newman

Tuesday

Science – Miss Porteous

Wednesday

Art and Music - Mrs Newman

Thursday

Sport – Ms Jackson

Friday

Library - Please ensure that your child brings in their library bag each Friday.

Assemblies

Assemblies are held fortnightly on Monday afternoons at 1:40pm. Information about assemblies is communicated via the school newsletter. Each class will host a "sharing assembly" once per year, where students will share their recent learning. Parents will be informed of dates of class sharing assemblies and any other information.

Merit Certificates are awarded at assemblies each fortnight. When your child is receiving a Merit Certificate, you will be notified via text message from the school.

Newsletter and Facebook Page

Information regarding whole-school related events will be communicated via the school newsletter, text messages, school facebook page, and P&C facebook page. Please ensure you check these avenues to stay up to date.

Literacy and Maths Blocks

Mornings are devoted as much as possible to teaching literacy and maths content and skills. These blocks consist of:

- Daily warm up and review
- Explicit teaching mat session
- Group rotations (practise of skills, work books, hands on learning, play-based activities)

InitialLit

InitialLit is an evidence-based, whole-class literacy program providing all children with the essential core knowledge and strong foundations to become successful readers and writers.

InitialLit (Foundation) offers an explicit and effective model for teaching reading and related skills to children in their first year of school in a fun and engaging way.

InitialLit (Foundation) focuses on two main components:

- InitialLit Lesson: Phonics, to systematically and explicitly teach the basic alphabetic code in a set sequence. In addition to learning letter-sound correspondences and how these are applied to reading and spelling, children will be introduced to common morphemes and simple grammatical concepts.
- Story Book Lesson: Vocabulary, oral language and listening comprehension through quality children's literature. Detailed lessons, including writing tasks, are provided for each of the storybook titles selected for use with the program.

Read, Talk, Write

We use the Read, Talk, Write model for writing which scaffolds writing skills based on model texts and supports students to develop their writing skills.

Heggerty

Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Program provides daily ten-minute, fast-paced phonemic awareness lessons; focusing on rhyme, phoneme isolation (beginning, middle and end sounds), syllables, onset-rime, blending and segmenting, and deleting and substituting phonemes.

Handwriting

In Pre-Primary, handwriting is a big focus. We will be using Peggy Lego prompts at the start of the year to teach students to make the shapes that they need for writing letters and numbers. These will then be used to ensure that students form letters and numbers correctly right from the start. Once bad habits (like starting at the bottom or drawing letters backwards) are formed, these are difficult to undo in later years. Please encourage your child to use lower case letters unless upper case letters are required, such as capital letters for names.

Children will be taught using the New South Wales Foundation style of writing. Handwriting will be taught as separate lessons, as well as during literacy rotations, using InitialLit Handwriting books.

Mathematics

The Maths Plus Program is used for teaching maths across the school. Maths Plus is a leading mathematics program for Pre-primary to Year 6. Practise, with a view to mastery, underpins the spiral approach used in the Maths Plus program, allowing students to build on and re-visit mathematical content throughout the year. This helps students develop robust recall of information, consolidate their learning and increase their mathematical fluency. The Maths Plus program offers explicit instruction, practice and consolidation activities.

Science – Ms Porteous

This term in science we will be cooking some delicious food every second week. We will be making our own individual

items and doing all the measuring and mixing ourselves. The list of what we are cooking and ingredients is below.

Week	Ingredients	
Week 3 Dapple Apple Cake	Cooking Oil Egg Vanilla Sugar	Flour Baking Powder Cinnamon Apple Slice
Week 5 M&M Cookies	Butter Sugar Brown Sugar Egg Vanilla	Flour Baking Soda Salt M&Ms
Week 7 Gingerbread Man	Butter Brown Sugar Molasses Egg	Flour Baking Soda Cinnamon Ginger
Week 9 Brownie Bite	Butter Sugar Cocoa Powder Egg	Vanilla Flour Baking Powder Salt

If you have any questions about specific curriculum requirements and how these are covered in the classroom program, please make an appointment for a meeting.

Pre-Primary Timetable – 2024

	Monday Mrs Lydeamore	Tuesday Mrs Lydeamore	Wednesday Miss Bielby	Thursday Mrs Lydeamore	Friday Mrs Lydeamore
8:30 – 9:05	Morning Activities	Morning Activities	Morning Activities	Morning Activities	Morning Activities
9:05 – 9:15	Welcome, Roll, Morning Song	Welcome, Roll, Morning Song	Welcome, Roll, Morning Song Heggerty	Welcome, Roll, Morning Song	Welcome, Roll, Morning Song
9:15 – 9:50	Literacy Read Talk Write	Literacy Initialit Lesson	Outdoor Track Literacy Initialit Lesson	Literacy Initialit Lesson	Literacy Initialit Lesson
9:50 – 10:00	Mrs Newman Art/Music 9:55 – 10:55	Crunch n Sip / Initialit Storybook Lesson	Crunch n Sip	Crunch n Sip / Initialit Storybook Lesson	Crunch n Sip / Initialit Storybook Lesson
10:00 – 10:50		Literacy Rotations	Literacy Rotations	Literacy Rotations	Literacy Rotations
Recess 10:55 – 11:15					
11:15 – 12:45	Maths Number / Statistics & Probability	Ms Porteous Science 11:15 – 12:55	Maths Measurement Rest Time/Reading Design & Technology	Maths Number	Maths Number
12:45 – 12:55	Heggerty		Heggerty	Heggerty	
Lunch 12:55 – 1:30					
1:30 – 1:50	Rest Time/Reading	Rest Time/Reading	Mrs Newman Art/Music 1:35 – 2:35	Extended Play 1:30 – 1:50	Rest Time/Reading
1:50 – 3:00	1:40 Assembly fortnightly OR Literacy Activities	HASS		Indoor Activities	Ms Jackson Sport 1:35 – 3:15
3:00 – 3:15	Early Close 2:30	Pack Bags Story/Songs	Pack Bags Story/Songs	Pack Bags Story/Songs	Pack Bags Story/Songs