Dear Families

Welcome to another busy and exciting term.

In this letter we will briefly explain the engaging program we have planned this term as well as inform you of a few changes and housekeeping matters to support you and your child through this last term of preschool.

**Intentional Teaching**
This term our learning focus will be on communication; helping children become effective communicators. We will be looking at how we communicate both verbally and non-verbally and how symbols and patterns work to convey meaning. Through our class time and visits to the library, we will be exploring communication through stories and making meaning from text. The children will be given the opportunity to use a range of resources including ICT to investigate and show their developing skills. To focus the children’s thoughts about communication we will be using guiding questions such as;

- How can we use spoken words to communicate?
- How can we use our bodies to communicate?
- What texts do I enjoy?
- What can I learn from texts?
- How can I share ideas in different ways?
- How can we use writing to communicate?
- How can we use signs and symbols to communicate?
- Who can I communicate with?
- How can I find answers to my questions?
- How can I share ideas?

**Walk on Country**
This term we continue with our ‘Walk on Country’ program, enabling the children to make connections with the natural world around them. At the beginning of each of these walks, we do an Acknowledgement of Country. This practice teaches the children about the respect we and the Ngunnawal people, the traditional custodians of the land, have for the local area.

**Programme**
Our Daily Diaries and program are always on display for families to read. Your contributions to these diaries, by way of sharing special cultural and personal celebrations with us, are highly valued and enrich our learning. We continue to build the children’s learning portfolios with stories, art pieces and photographs. These reflections of their preschool learning journey will be sent home with reports at the end of the year.
Spanish
We will be continuing our Spanish lessons this term. We use games, songs, vocabulary comparisons and stories to introduce the children to el español!

Library
Our library visits continue on a weekly basis (Tuesdays and Thursdays). During this time we immerse the children in a wide range of literature with the intention of fostering a love for reading. Children are encouraged to bring a library bag and return the books they have borrowed.

Sun Safety and Wet Weather
All students need a sun safe hat (no caps please) clearly labelled with their name. We suggest leaving a hat at preschool to ensure they are not forgotten. Please remember to apply sunscreen to your child each morning if needed.

Healthy Eating and Allergies
We have three meal breaks at preschool; Fruit break, Morning Tea and Lunch. Macgregor Preschool encourages healthy eating and we ask the children have some fresh fruit or veggies to eat at fruit break. The children need to bring a water bottle each day filled with water only. We also ask that the children do not bring chocolate or lollies as part of their lunches.

We are an allergy aware school and therefore request that no nut products are brought to school as it is essential for the safety of a number of children and staff across the school.

Washing
We thank and ask for your continued support in weekly washing. If you are happy to take a few smocks, tea towels and the odd table cloth home to wash, please can you to tick your child’s name off the washing roster (on the wall in the parent communication area) so we know who has it. Your help is appreciated.

Volunteering in Preschool
At preschool we value the contribution of families to our program. In line with legislation parents and carers who help out on a regular basis have to complete a Working with Vulnerable Peoples Card and hand this into the front office to copy. Your help is much appreciated.

Excursion
This term we will be visiting the National Portrait Gallery in week 6 (Robots and Stars 14 November, Comets and Rockets 17 November). A note with further details of this exciting excursion will follow shortly.

If you would like to meet with us to further discuss your child’s learning, please don’t hesitate to make an appointment. We can be contacted via the front office or email:

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The Preschool Team
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