



Term 1 Overview 2018 Kindergarten

15 February 2018

Dear Families,

Welcome to Kindergarten at Macgregor Primary School. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our children and their families. The children have settled extremely well into their new classrooms and are confident, enthusiastic and excited about the year ahead.

We are looking forward to working in partnership with you to provide your children with enjoyable, motivating and purposeful learning experiences. The following information outlines our learning program for term one, special dates and housekeeping reminders.

'Getting to Know You' Interviews

Each year, we hold 'Getting to Know You' interviews with parents and carers within the first few weeks of term 1. This year, our interviews will be held on Wednesday 21 February 3:30pm – 7:00 pm in the school library. These interviews are a chance for you to meet with the teachers and provide them with any important information about your child. The appointment schedule is available at the Welcome Barbecue; please book in a time with your child's teacher. If you were unable to attend the barbecue, please call into or phone the front office to book a time to meet with your child's teacher.

Investigations

During the morning session children will spend time engaged in investigations. These investigations provide a range of structured activities that are designed to reinforce classroom teaching across subject areas, extend student thinking and support cooperative social skills. Investigations place the child at the centre of the curriculum and ensure authentic personalised learning. Some of the many benefits of investigations include:

- Increased levels of engagement and motivation
- Increased oral language skills
- Increased levels of writing
- Increased social skills

English

Reading - In our rich literacy program children will take part in a range of reading activities related to all areas of the curriculum. We will be developing early reading strategies such as identifying initial sounds, understanding concepts of print and comprehending what has been read.

Writing - This term we will be encouraging students to 'have a go' with their writing. We will use songs, actions, fine motor activities and games to teach the letters and sounds of the alphabet and further develop literacy skills.

Maths

This term, daily maths sessions will focus on number awareness where we will explore the names, quantities, symbols and order of numbers to 10 and beyond. We will also be learning to identify, sort and describe 2D shapes and 3D objects by their features. We will learn about measurement by exploring the length of objects and the measurement of time by talking about the days of the week.

Integrated learning- history, geography and science

The big idea of our integrated learning is that we all have our place in the world and we learn about each other. Your child will be exploring their personal and family histories such as where they were born, where they were raised and the difference in clothing and their observable properties. The students are learning the inquiry skills of questioning and communicating. We will be starting with 'Who lives in your house(es) with you?' in order to learn about their family history. We encourage you to embrace this opportunity to share your history with your child.

Specialist classes

Every **Wednesday** morning the children will be attending specialist classes. This includes Physical Education (PE), Spanish, Kitchen Garden and Art. Please see the specialist term letter for further details.

Library

This term the kindergarten students will have explicit library lessons once a week. At this time, students will be able to borrow and return books as well as investigate and build their skills in the use of our school library. Later in this term we will be practising our ability to choose a 'good fit' book, a book that is just right for them. Our Library timetable is still being finalised and we will advise you as soon as possible which day we will be going to the library. We ask that each child has a dedicated library bag to protect these valuable resources.

Thank you for helping us create a wonderful start to the year. We look forward to getting to know you and your child further and working together this year.

General Reminders

- We thank you for getting your child to school on time. This provides children with the best chance for a settled start to the day. Understandably, some mornings don't run to plan. If your child arrives after the morning assembly please ensure they are accompanied by a carer to the front office to sign in prior to coming to class.
- If your child is absent from school please call the Front Office, email info@macgregorps.act.edu.au or use the Macgregor School App and your class teacher will be informed.
- Morning assembly: Kindergarten children are to meet under the kindergarten COLA area at 8:55am for school messages.
- Children are to be collected at 3:00pm from their kindergarten classrooms. For the safety of all children we ensure children are handed over to their parent/carer. Children are to remain seated on the carpet in their room until the teacher has seen you and called your child's name. Please do not take your child without the teacher knowing they are leaving.
- Children who are still waiting to be collected at 3:10pm will be taken to the front office so parents/carers can be contacted.
- Please remember to label all clothing and belongings. Any named lost property will be returned to the child.
- All children require a broad brimmed hat. It is advisable that children also apply sunscreen before coming to school each morning.
- At Macgregor we promote healthy eating. Please provide a piece of fruit or vegetables to be eaten at morning fruit break.
- We would ask that your child's drink bottle only has water in it.

- Orders for the TuckaBox (canteen) is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (Wednesdays Flexischools orders only, no cash).
- Macgregor Primary School has several students and staff with severe allergies to nuts and nut products. To create a safe and healthy environment for all our students and staff we ask that children do not bring any nuts or nut products to school.
- All toys should remain at home to avoid interruptions to learning time and items getting lost. If your child has a cuddly toy that they are particularly attached to and they cannot make it through the day without it, please talk to your class teacher about this and arrangements can be made to support your child.
- We are always happy to talk to you about any concerns that you may have involving your child. We are available some afternoons after class to chat, otherwise please make an appointment with us by either sending a note or emailing the front office.
- The whiteboard outside the kindergarten unit, near the junior playground, will regularly have messages from the kindergarten teachers and copies of notes that have been sent home.

Dates for the diary

- Week 2 – **Thursday 15 February** - Welcome BBQ
- Week 3 – **Wednesday 21 February** - ‘Get to Know You’ interviews with your child’s teacher (3:30pm – 7:00pm Library)
- Week 3 – **Thursday 22 February** - P&C Annual General Meeting, all welcome (6:00pm venue TBA)
- Week 7 – **Wednesday 21 March** – El dia de los libros (Spanish book day in Library)
- Week 7 – **Friday 23 March** – School photos

Parent Volunteers

We appreciate that parents are busy people. If you find that you would like to volunteer in our kindergarten unit we would appreciate your help. Please keep an eye on the whiteboard for our parent volunteer in our timetable and add your name on the days/times that you can help out in our unit. The ACT Education Directorate requires volunteers to have a current Working with Vulnerable People card (WWVP). If you do not have one and would like to apply, the appropriate paperwork can be filled in at the front office.

Kind regards

The Kindergarten Team

Meagan Gordon, Lyndsey Orchard, Nicole Terry and Gaye Yates