

Reception: Term 4 Overview

We aim to build a foundation for our students. We recognise how important it is for them to feel safe, secure and trust their environment. We want the students to look forward to and be excited about coming to school. This will then in turn help them develop successful dispositions.

Educational Philosophy

In the classroom we have a learner centred constructivist-based approach to teaching. Each student is treated as an individual and we aim to develop strong relationships with our students to understand their strengths. Piaget's **concept of constructivism** is based around the idea that students add new concepts to prior knowledge, to construct or build understanding. We aim to build on students' prior knowledge or experiences when teaching new learning.

We understand that children learn and absorb information in a variety of ways and when programming take into account Gardner's multiple intelligences. To cater for individual needs of students we aim to use aural, visual, verbal, physical and logical based activities. We also provide the students with opportunities to work socially to learn from each other and promote social skills but also individually to develop awareness of their own capabilities.

We aim to foster a growth mindset which means we focus on students' effort rather than their intelligence. Students' intelligence is not fixed but with practise and persistence can be improved. According to Carol Dweck "The brain is like a muscle, the more they exercise it, the stronger it becomes.... They learned that every time they try hard and learn something new, their brain forms new connections that, over time, make them smarter." We believe it is essential for students to understand how their brain learns in order for them to adopt a growth mindset. Therefore, we will be explicitly teaching students how the brain makes new connections, why challenging or hard tasks are great for their brain and how they can always develop through practise.

We value parents as co-educators and use our Seesaw app to communicate regularly.

English

Jolly Phonics 3: This program is interactive and teaches your child about tricky words, alternative sounds, punctuation and sentence writing. We will be explicitly teaching each aspect and practising these skills.

Reading: teachers will model skills/ strategies through reading picture books and big books. This term we will be focusing on information texts. Comprehending and responding to different text types will be a large aspect of our reading program.

Oral language: show and tell provides an opportunity for students to share with the class. This term students will be presenting a talk to their peers about an animal. Students will also have the chance to practise their speaking and listening skills through a variety of games.

Writing: we will be explicitly teaching information texts and students will be involved in researching and writing facts about a chosen animal. Students will have an opportunity to respond to texts through reading journals.

Mathematics

This term students will explore mathematics topic through a range of open-ended activities. These tasks aim to foster a deeper understanding and provide problem solving opportunities. Students will be given chances to explain their thinking through pair, group and class sharing.

Number: students will continue to learn about addition and sharing. We will also continue to consolidate their understanding of teen numbers and exploring bigger numbers.

Data: students will explore collecting and recording information in a variety of ways. They will also answer simple questions and make inferences about the data.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM)

This term we will be exploring a new technology called bee-bots. These are programmable floor robots. The students will use their critical thinking skills to solve a variety of problems.

They will be exploring coding and practise mathematical concepts such as location and measurement. Students will also use the iPad bee-bot game to help them with their coding skills.

History- My Family

Students will explore important events in their own lives including holidays, traditions and celebrations. They will have the opportunity to share information about their families and significant events that they remember. Students will have the opportunity to reflect on special places and share these with the class.

Social Skills/ Buddy Class

To promote social skills we use a combination of explicit teaching through 'What's the buzz?' and across age group (buddy class) social games.

Topics this term include:

- Empathy
- Worry- knowing about it and dealing with it
- Time to say goodbye- preparing for a new year

Technologies

This term students will be using the computers. We will practise simple typing and using other software programs.

Students will also be using the iPads this term to practise tricky words, coding programs and Mathematics. They will also use this technology to record voice and video reflections so be sure to look out for them on Seesaw.

The Arts- singing and performance concepts

This term we will have a focus on singing specifically looking at the Australian national anthem and our concert songs. Students will look at the importance of our national anthem, where it comes from and what the words mean.

We will explore where and when the national anthem is used. This will be linked to geography to explore other national anthems.

Through our concert songs students will learn about performing to a large group of people. Aspects such as projecting their voice, singing loudly but not screaming, creating and learning actions to the songs will be explored.

Take Charge Tuesdays and Thursdays

This term we will be continuing to run take charge Tuesdays and Thursdays. As this is your child's last term of reception it is important that we prepare them for year 1 where more independence is encouraged.

The students have really enjoyed taking on this responsibility and the families have done a great job supporting them. Responsibility is one of our school values. We are very proud of how quickly the students have settled on these mornings which has enabled more learning time.

Part of this process is enabling your child to set up successfully and independently for the school day. Students will carry/ unpack their own bag by themselves, enter the junior primary building and classroom to begin the day. It may also be a chance to utilise kiss and drop as a special treat.

Although this is our focus for Tuesdays and Thursdays, any day can be a take charge day!

French/ Science/ Health and PE

Please see overviews from individual teachers.

French- Madam

Science- Mr Strevens

Health and PE- Mr Grigg