

235 Johnston Street
PO Box 5540
Kalgoorlie WA 6430
Phone 08 9068 5200
Email oconnor.ps@education.wa.edu.au
Web www.oconnorps.wa.edu.au
Facebook www.facebook.com/oconnor.primary



EC1 Parent Information

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year and welcome to EC1! My name is Caitlin McKerchar and I am very excited to be your child's teacher this year in Pre Primary.

Background Information

I graduated in 2015 from Edith Cowan University. This will be my fifth year of teaching and my second year teaching at O'Connor Primary School.

Before teaching at O'Connor, I taught in Paraburdoo in the Pilbara, teaching Pre-Primary for the first semester and Kindergarten for the second semester. I have had the privilege of living in the Northern Territory whilst attending Pre-Primary and Year One, at the age of 7 I then moved to Perth and have lived in Perth ever since.

In my spare time I enjoy travelling, watching AFL and NRL games and spending time with my family, friends and dog, Molly.

Teaching and Learning Philosophy

I truly believe that all learning within the classroom should have a variety of structure and play-based learning experiences. Children need continuous opportunities and exposure to a variety of learning experiences that promote their enhancement of their learning capabilities. Routines, play-based experiences and instructional learning are all highly fundamental for a child's health and well-being when learning within an Early Childhood environment. Learning is continuous and my role as an educator is to ensure all students are exposed to learning experiences and opportunities that will provide reflection and the opportunity for students to continue to use throughout their lives. I endeavour to ensure all students are provided with a quality education and are provided a sufficient amount of opportunities to develop to their full potential within a safe, welcoming, nurturing and supportive environment. I have wanted to be a teacher since I was in Kindergarten and experiences with a variety of teachers has continued to keep me motivated to be the best teacher I can be for all children.

Staff in EC1

Miss Caitlin McKerchar – Classroom Teacher
Mrs Ngaire Hall – Education Assistant (Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays)
Ms Marnie Crombie – Education Assistant (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)
Mrs Di Binet- Education Assistant (Wednesday and Friday).

O'Connor Primary School

EC1 Class timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30-8:50	Table top activities	Table top activities	Table top activities	Table top activities	Table top activities
8:50-9:50	English	DOTT Science	English	English	Assembly/ English
9:50-10:50	DOTT Sport	English	English	DOTT Music	English
10:50-11:05	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
11:05-11:55	English	English	Maths	English	Library
11:55-12:35	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:35-1:35	DOTT LOTE	Digital Technologies/ HASS	Maths	Maths	DOTT Music
1:35-1:50	Lunch 2	Lunch 2	Lunch 2	Lunch 2	Lunch 2
1:50-2:50	Maths	DOTT Sport	Buddy Class	Maths	Fun Friday/ Finishing off

Specialist Timetable

As the classroom teacher, I am responsible for teaching your child fundamental skills and knowledge in English, Mathematics, History & Geography, Health and Technologies. Your child will also be taught a wide variety of other subjects with the following specialist teachers:

- Monday – Sport with Miss Ennis and LOTE (Languages other than English – Mandarin) with Miss Yang
- Tuesday – Science with Mr Sims and Sport with Miss Ennis
- Thursday – Music with Miss Hayes
- Friday – Music with Miss Hayes

Morning routine

- School bag on bench/outside hook
- Water bottle to be placed on the black trolley inside the classroom.
- Please make sure your child has a hat and a water bottle (filled with water only) everyday, especially for Sports
- Fruit and lunch box in name box
- Complete morning activity- this may be a fine motor, writing or maths activity

- Once the activity is completed, sit on the mat with a book until the classroom bell rings. Parents are asked to give a hug and a kiss to their child and leave the classroom promptly

Routines

- Each day we will open our door at 8:30am.
- Like kindergarten, parents are encouraged to stay and assist their child with name writing activities including fine motor and writing and Maths activities however due to time restraints and specialist timetables we will ring the bell at 8:40am to begin our morning mat session. I please ask that you endeavour to arrive on time so that your child is able to make the most of our morning activities. If you arrive to school after 8:45am please collect a late note from the office.
- Each day students will need to bring their drink bottles and fruit into our classroom. Independence is an important skill that we will be teaching throughout the year and therefore I encourage parents to allow their children to place their own items in the appropriate places. Books and puzzles are available to complete together in the morning however I please ask that students stay out of our home corner and construction areas (this includes siblings).
- School finishes at 2:50pm. Staff regularly have meetings immediately after school and therefore it would be appreciated if you are able to collect your child on time. If you are running late your child may be taken to the office to be collected. Thank you for your cooperation ☺

Library

EC1 will be going to the Library every Friday from 11:05 am. In order for your child to borrow a book, you must supply a suitable and clearly labelled library bag (no plastic bags please). This book must be returned the following week (prior to our next Library session) so that your child may borrow a new book.

Assemblies

During Terms One and Four assemblies will take place first thing Friday morning to avoid the heat.

If your child is receiving a merit award you will be notified with a phone call.

EC1 will be performing an assembly item on Thursday of Week 5- Term 3.

Attendance in Pre-Primary

Punctuality and regular attendance at school is vital for your child's academic, social and emotional development. It is also important to be on time in order to help your child get into a routine and to develop independence. At times, we understand that families and children can arrive at school late. If you are running late, please visit the office for a late note and bring it to EC1. Thank you.

Behaviour Management

In EC1 we have a behaviour chart- this is on display in the classroom on a daily basis.

Each student begins the day with their peg on green - 'ready to learn'. When children are making positive choices, they have the opportunity to move their peg blue - 'I am making good choices', pink - 'I am being O'Connor Fair' or purple - 'Wow I have been unbeleafable'. When students have their peg on purple, they will receive two ticks on their tick chart and a Goldie. When their chart is full they will get to choose a prize from the prize box.

Unacceptable behaviour is dealt with using our peg system.

I can make better choices- yellow

Teacher's choice/ thinking time-orange

Parent contact- red

Lunch Orders

All canteen orders can be ordered either online or written down and paid for with the provided lunch bags in EC1 before 8:45am each day. One of the lovely Education Assistants will take the lunch basket to the canteen each day.

Birthdays & Allergies

In EC1 we love birthdays! Parents are more than welcome to provide small cupcakes to celebrate their child's birthday during school. If you wish to do so, please bring food items before the 8:30am bell or by 2:30pm sharp.

These treats will be handed out before home time. If your child has any food allergies or dietary requirements, please let me know as soon as possible.

Parent Communication

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and see me after school or to send me an email. If you would like to discuss a lengthy matter, please arrange to make an appointment with me (after school) at a time that suits you. O'Connor Primary is a paperless school, therefore all forms of communication are accessed online through the school website and the Skoolbag App. EC1 also has a class Seesaw account. Parent invites were printed and available for parents on the second day of school, however if you require another copy please let me know.

On-Entry Testing

On-Entry Assessment will take place in Week Three to Six this term. Each student will be individually tested in the area of numeracy and literacy skills. These results will give us an indication of your child's academic needs.

Laundry Roster

It would be greatly appreciated if parents are able to volunteer to take home a load of washing over the weekend. Our laundry roster can be found outside of our classroom.

Additional notes:

- Absentees: If your child is absent, please contact the office by phone.
- Please make sure all your child's belongings are labelled (especially lunch boxes).
- Class diary- please use this diary to write any planned absences- holidays, if your child is going on the bus, or if another family member or friend will be dropping off or picking up your child.

I have absolutely loved meeting all the wonderful students and families in EC1 and I look forward to having a fantastic and adventurous year!

Kind regards,



Miss Caitlin McKerchar
11th February 2020