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Room 6 Parent Information

Dear parents /Caregivers,

Hello my name is Lauren Ace. I graduated in 2011 from Edith Cowan University. This is my ninth year of teaching and my seventh year at O'Connor Primary School. Before teaching at O'Connor, I taught in Menzies working with multi-age year groups (teaching Kindergarten – Year Three). I grew up in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and after moving away for six years it's nice to be living close to family again.

Teaching and Learning Philosophy

Learning is not something that singularly occurs within a classroom. We continue to learn beyond our schooling years. Therefore, my goal as an educator is to expose my students to experiences, opportunities and strategies that they will reflect upon and continue to use throughout their entire lives. My purpose is to provide quality education that enables each student to develop to his or her full potential in an enjoyable and play based learning environment. This year aims to establish the foundations for your child's adjustment to formal, full time schooling by developing a program that encourages each child to develop academically, physically, socially, emotionally and mentally by participating in a wide variety of experiences and activities. Play is the fundamental medium for young children's learning; it is a natural activity for children through which they make meaning of the world around them. I encourage my students to all become decision makers, problem solvers and in turn life-long learners.

Morning Routines

Each day we will open our door at 8:30am. Parents are welcome to stay with their child whilst they settle in, however independence and responsibility is a skill that I will be encouraging my students to uphold and therefore I please ask that you allow your child to carry their own belongings into class. When your child enters our classroom, they are to please;

- Greet their teacher with "Good Morning".
- Get a chair and place it at their desk.
- Ensure their pencils are sharpened and ready to go for the day.
- Read a book quietly with their guardian or friends.

The siren will sound at 8:40am which signals students to promptly pack away and sit on the mat ready for the day. 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 8:40am please collect a late note from the office. Thank you for your cooperation ☺ On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we will be participating in morning fitness in varying areas around our school.

Before and After School

Children are not permitted to play on the playground equipment before or after school due to safety reasons. Children arriving before the 8.30 siren are asked to sit at the under covered area with their school bag. There will be a teacher on duty who will dismiss the children when the 8.30 siren sounds. Children who are accompanied by an adult can sit with them quietly outside the classroom. Block One hosts Breakfast Club every Tuesday and Thursday before school, where all students are welcome. Active Club will be held on the oval before school every Wednesday and Friday. School finishes at 2:50pm. Unlike Kindergarten and Pre-Primary, students will be dismissed at the end of the day without awaiting a parent or guardian. Please let your child know where you would like them to meet you or inform them to go to the office to wait if you know you will be slightly late.

Behaviour Management

Rewards

Students respond well to praise and positivity. Verbal praise and positive reinforcement is our main method in acknowledging behaviours in our classroom however we also use the following reward systems.

1. Sticker Chart – Students are rewarded with a sticker which they place on their personal chart. Once the student has collected 10 stickers, they may choose an item from the prize box. They then start another chart.
2. Goldie's will be sent home with a child as an acknowledgement of a variety of positive behaviours.
3. Fair tokens will be given to students who are upholding our school values which will be placed in the office for the opportunity to potentially win a voucher at assemblies.
4. Star of the Week – One student per week is acknowledged for their consistent efforts. Their name is displayed for the week as recognition and their photo will be published on our class pin up board.
5. Visits to the office for outstanding work, achieving goals and reaching personal bests. Students will each have a personal 'passport' which will document their successes and visits.

Consequences

If the children forget the rules they will get a chance. They will then receive a warning and if a third warning is given they will be sent to the thinking spot. (Of course this depends on the behaviour shown. Severe behaviour may result in zero warnings given). Our thinking spot is positioned away from the other children and will only be for a short period of time. They will be asked if they are ready to talk and will be asked to;

1. Identify the inappropriate behaviour
2. Explain why they were asked to sit out
3. Apologise
4. Return to the group

If the child repeats the inappropriate behaviour, they may be asked to go to a buddy room. The parents/carers will be informed at the end of the session or contacted if necessary. We will use positive reinforcement and praise within the normal routines.

Toys

Toys and other precious things should stay at home. Students will be provided with an opportunity to share items for news and specific events however this will not occur until later in the year.

Birthdays

Birthdays are special for us all. If you would like to make cupcakes for us all to share on your child's birthday that would be terrific. Please note however that cake will be given out at the end of the day to be taken home by children to eat. Our class currently has 24 children. **Please be aware of allergies and the school is a "Nut Free Zone".**

Lunches

As you may be aware you can order your child's lunch from the canteen. To do this you will need to fill in a lunch order form either at the canteen or online. If you would like a lunch menu, please visit our school website. Please note all lunch orders need to be placed before 8:40am. Healthy lunches are encouraged and students will be asked to eat their sandwich/wrap/crackers before their treats however this is unfortunately unable to be monitored closely. Please place an ice-brick in your child's lunchbox as we are unable to store lunchboxes in the fridge or microwave lunches. Students are also able to purchase recess items and Ivey poles at lunchtime from our canteen.

What to Bring to Class

Please make sure your child has supplied all of the items on the class booklist. Each day students must bring a labelled water bottle filled with water ONLY, a healthy recess, their lunch and a spare change of clothes in their bag. Occasionally accidents do tend to happen so we ask that spare clothes include underwear, shorts, socks and a shirt. Please ensure that you change this clothing as the seasons change. We also ask that parents please also supply a library bag and your child's wide brimmed hat which will be kept in our classroom. If you have misplaced this hat they are available for purchase through our uniform shop for \$10 each. Appropriate footwear is necessary (thongs and pull on sandals are not recommended). Children are unable to borrow library books without a library bag. Library bags can be purchased at our school library.

Special Needs for Your Child

Please let us know if you have any concerns or special needs for your child. If your child has allergies it is very important to tell us what they are and what treatment is required. Similarly, we need to know if there are any health issues or any change in custody issues. If your child begins outside therapy such as speech or occupation therapy it would be very helpful to let us know.

Sudden Sickness or Accident

Minor injuries or illness during the day are normally attended to at school. In more serious cases, every endeavour is made to contact a parent to arrange for the child to be collected from school. If your child is sick, then the best place for him/her is at home. Children don't enjoy themselves at school when sick and we try our upmost best to prevent illness from spreading. All children MUST be signed out at the office by a parent before they leave the school grounds. Please ensure that you advise the office if your phone number or contact details change.

Absentees

If you know your child will be absent from school, please let us know and explain all absentees with a written note. If your child is sick (but "dying" to come to school) keep them home, please as it keeps sickness within the class to a minimum. You can also call the school on 9068 5200 or send a message via our SkoolBag app.

Specialist Classes

Our students will continue to participate in specialist classes this year as per the timetable below.

Monday	Sport	Miss Kaye Ennis
Tuesday	Music	Ms Melissa Hayes
Wednesday	Languages (Chinese)	Miss Fay Yang
Thursday	Science	Mr Ashley Sims
Friday	Sport / Health	Miss Kaye Ennis

School Notices

Although I will communicate with parents verbally when possible, all school notices, newsletters and information are electronic and can be access via the school website, our school Facebook page or via the Skoolbag app.

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. Children who are receiving a certificate for their fourth office visit at will ring you personally on the day of receiving the certificate. Room Six will be performing an assembly item on Thursday of Week Seven in Term Two.

Home Reading

Home Reading will begin in Week Three. Instructions and an overview will be included to explain this process.

Communication is essential and I ask that if you have any concerns at all please come and speak to me. I look forward to an excellent year of getting to know you and your child.

Kind regards,



Miss Lauren Ace
11th February 2020