



Foundation Learning Community

Newsletter

February, 2018

In the News...

Welcome to Wilandra Rise Primary School!

We have had a fantastic start to 2018! It has been amazing to see all of our students coming to school and settling into their new routines so quickly. Walking around our Learning Communities, we are impressed to see each individual joining in on all of the activities and trying their best.

At this time, the children are working well to learn the names of the people in their Learning Communities. You'll probably hear lots of new names as the students develop new friendships. In these early weeks, students are also learning the names of teachers and other staff within the school. You'll get to know us all throughout the year!

After such a great beginning, we're looking forward to a great year with our students and their families. Here we go!

Wednesday Testing Sessions...

For the first few weeks of term, our Foundation students are **not required to come to school on Wednesdays**. During this time, teachers will be working with individual students, completing the English Online Interview (a Department of Education and Training requirement) and a short Mathematics Assessment. This helps teachers get to know each individual as a learner and to better differentiate the curriculum. If you have not made an appointment for your child, please see below for details to do so.

Limited 1 hour appointments are available on the following dates:

- Wednesday 14th February, 2018 (8:30-2:30)
- Wednesday 21st February, 2018 (8:30-2:30)
- Wednesday 28th February, 2018 (8:30-2:30)
- Wednesday 7th March, 2018 (8:30-2:30)

Parents, please note:

All students are required to complete this assessment. To book an appointment with your child's Home Group teacher, please call the school office on 5924 2500.

Upcoming Dates...

Whole School Assembly

Monday 12th February (9:00am start)

House Assembly

Monday 19th February (9:00am start)

Foundation First Wednesday at School

Wednesday 14th March, 2018

Foundation Teddy Bears Picnic

Wednesday 14th March, 2018
(3:30-4:30pm)

Labelling Belongings...

A reminder that it is very important to label each item of your child's belongings with their first and last name. This helps to prevent/sort lost property and ensure that it gets back to its owner.

Items to label: hat, jumper, shoes, lunch box, drink bottle, school bag, spare clothes

School Start Times...

A reminder that our doors open at 8:40am, when students are welcome to come into the classroom and settle in to a quiet activity. This is a great time to chat with your child's Home Group teacher and get to know other children and Parents in your child's Learning Community.

The first bell rings at 8:50am and teachers mark the roll at the time. Any child that arrives after 8:55am will be required to go to the school office for a late pass.

Personal Items...

We strongly recommend that children do not bring personal items such as toys to school (unless for Chat Time purposes). All too often, children take personal items outside to play and forget about them when playing with others, resulting in lost belongings! Please encourage your child not to bring such items to school, unless they plan to keep them in their bags for Chat Time.

Our Learning Foci...

Reading

- Learning new PGCs (Phoneme-Grapheme Correspondences)
- Visual Literacy (telling a story from a picture stimulus)
- Oral story telling

Writing

- Writing name
- Correct formation of PGCS /s/ and /m/

Maths

- Number recognition to 4
- Making groups, counting 1:1
- Copying, continuing and creating patterns with concrete materials

Social Learning

- Learning the names of our classmates and teachers
- Learning the layout of the school

Introducing the Wilandra Weekly...

This will be our last Foundation Learning Community Newsletter as we are excited to announce that the Wilandra Weekly will be sent home every Wednesday via Compass. This weekly bulletin will include Year Level specific information from each Learning Community detailing upcoming events, reminders and current happenings in class. By providing information on a weekly basis we hope to make it easier for parents and families to know what is happening in our wider school community and to help their children be prepared for upcoming events. Stay tuned to Compass, where you can expect our inaugural Wilandra Weekly, Wednesday the 21st February.

Helping your Foundation child to read and write...

This year students will continue to have the opportunity to learn the English alphabetic code in a systematic, structured and meaningful way. Students will be encouraged to sound out through words as they read and write rather than relying on memory or guessing.

At home, parents and carers can enhance their child's vocabulary and oral language through informal activities, such as visiting the library or museums and generally exploring the world around them. One of the most effective things parents can do is TALKING with children, listening, and answering their questions. Parents should maintain shared reading activities where parents **read to children** and then, when students are ready, ensuring children have appropriate reading material for their child to read. Parents and carers should maintain an open dialogue with their child's teachers so that they know what part of the English alphabetic code their child is learning at school as well as the reading skills they are focusing on.

The school will be holding a range of parent workshops on Literacy this year – we would LOVE to see you there!