

Welcome to Year 3/4

Wilandra Rise Primary School

Term 1 2018



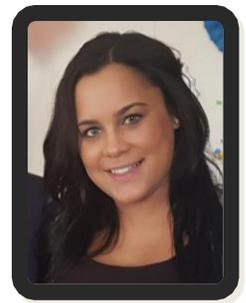
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Introducing the Wilandra Weekly!

This will be our last 3/4 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, next Wednesday the 21st February.

Year 3 & 4 Newsletter Term 1, 2018



Welcome back! We hope that you have had a wonderful holiday break and are well rested. We are very excited to get to know each and every student and are looking forward to starting engaging learning tasks.

Important Dates

- **Wed 14th Feb:** Year 3 – 6 House Athletics
- **Thurs 15th Feb:** Parent information session
- **Week beginning 19th Feb:** Parent Teacher Conferences
- **Fri 23rd Feb:** School Photo Day
- **Mon 12th March:** Labor Day Public Holiday
- **Thurs 15th March:** Division Swimming
- **Fri 16th March:** Colour Run
- **Thurs 22nd March:** District Athletics
- **Fri 23rd March:** 3 – 6 Cross Country
- **Thurs 29th March:** Last day of Term 1
- **Mon 16th April:** First day of Term 2

School finishes every Wednesday at 2:30

Attendance and Punctuality

It is vital that all students are at school on time. The Learning Communities are open at 8:40 with classes starting at 8:50. Please ensure that your child is at school at 8:40 so they have time to unpack and settle.

Being late and having high absences does have an impact on their learning.

Communication between School and Home

Every day, from 8.40 – 8.50am classroom teachers are in the Learning Community and welcome any parents/guardians that need to have a 'quick' chat. To discuss issues that are more detailed please see your child's teacher to make an appointment, write a note in student diaries or telephone to make an appointment.

Diaries are to be handed in to teachers **EVERY** morning; these will be used as a communication tool. Once you have read a note please sign it, we will do the same.

Please check Compass regularly for important dates and reminders.

School Uniform

A reminder to check that your child's school jumpers and hats are clearly named. Should your child misplace their items there is a lost property box near the school office.

Homework and Home Reading

Homework is an important part of the learning journey and students are encouraged to complete it each week to the best of their ability. **Homework is due each Friday.** We appreciate your support in assisting your child to establish their homework and home reading routines. If you have any difficulties accessing the websites, please see your classroom teacher.

Expectations for each week:

Mathletics: Complete 5 tasks to reach a minimum of 500 points.

Reading: Read each night for at least 15 minutes. Wushka and/or Reading Eggspress (via Reading Eggs) may be used to access online books. All reading is expected to be recorded in student diaries. Please include the **name of the book** and **time that they read for**. Diaries are expected to be signed by a parent/guardian once a week, this will be checked on Friday's.

Thank you for your support in helping your child to establish strong homework routines.

Term 1 Reading Focus

As it is the start of the year, students will be involved in workshops to learn how to select a 'Good Fit Book'. Students will learn to use sticky notes to write thoughts that they have as read their books, noting any unfamiliar words, connections that they may have or questions or inferences that arise. The sticky noting process encourages deeper levels of thinking whilst also making them accountable.

As well as this, students will be identifying the intended audience and purpose for a variety of texts. There will be a focus on using the skills of predicting, visualising and sequencing, all which fit perfectly into our narrative writing topic.

Term 1 Numeracy Focus

In Numeracy, students will be revising and consolidating place value skills. This includes identifying odd and even numbers, ordering from smallest to largest, understanding the value of a digit in a large number and representing numbers using concrete materials. Students will then focus on the process of addition.

In Measurement, students will be involved in matching the likelihood of an event happening in investigations. This term we will also focus on how to read calendars and clocks. Students will explore different lines (e.g. horizontal, parallel) and what tools and units of measurement we use to measure their length. Finally, students will learn to identify and compare angles in the natural world.

Systematic Synthetic Phonics

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.

Term 1 Writing Focus

Term 1 will have a focus of writing basics. Students will learn how to write sentences that are interesting for their audience, by including a rich vocabulary and vivid description. There will be a focus on using correct punctuation and grammar. We expect learning tasks to be completed to a high standard; therefore the correct formation of letters will be revised and practiced.

To support us in getting to know your child, we are starting with autobiography writing. Students will learn how to use a template to gather specific information and sort it to write a cohesive piece including correct paragraphing.

Later in the term, students will be learning about important features and the structure of narrative texts. This genre encourages students to use their imagination by inventing characters, settings and an interesting plot. Students will learn about specific techniques that help engage their audience.

ICT

Throughout the year, students will be undertaking classes in improving their ICT skills. This will involve looking into programs such as: Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint and a range of iPad apps. Students will complete activities aimed at improving their understanding of programs that they will need throughout their education.

Health

Students will be learning about healthy lifestyles. Please ensure your child has fruit for a fruit break (in addition to recess) as well as a labelled drink bottle with **water only**.

Unit of Study

As we enter the start of a school year, it is vital that we get off to a positive start.

Therefore, Term 1 will be dedicated to setting up routines and building relationships between staff and students, as well as between the students themselves.

Throughout the term, students will have opportunities to share information about themselves, such as their hobbies and interests and learn who has similar interests.

Students will be involved in workshops where they will learn strategies on how to make friends, and how to maintain strong friendships.

Conflict resolution strategies will be explored so that students have a variety of skills to use in undesirable situations.

There will be a focus on kindness and therefore students will be invited to partake in random acts of kindness for people within and without of the school setting.

Students will learn how to give compliments, but also how to receive them.

Manners and respect will be an expectation at all times throughout the year.

Therefore, we will ensure that everyone understands what is required.

Sport / Teamwork

Twice a week, students will participate in a 3/4 rotation program.

One of these sessions will have a sport focus. Students will develop a variety of sporting skills whilst also focusing on good sportsmanship.

The other session will focus on teamwork and problem solving skills.

Home Learning

To support what your child is learning at school we ask that you ensure that they practice their social skills, e.g. introducing themselves to people, speaking to the person at the supermarket register, using their manners, identifying and discussing their feelings and brainstorming ways to deal with conflict.

We encourage you to play board games and sports together, ensuring fair play and turn taking.

We cannot emphasise the impact that oral language has on a child's ability to read and write. Therefore, we ask to engage your child in meaningful conversations.

Personal experiences are also very valuable. Going on family outings provides excellent learning experiences and great discussions. Some ideas are: a trip to the beach, a bush walk, a visit to the zoo or a sporting game.

Reading: How you can help your child become a better reader?

Please ask your child a few different questions before, during and after they read.

Predicting

Think about and decide what will happen next, based on clues from the text and your background knowledge.

What is happening in the story?

What will happen next?

What clues have led you to think that?

How might the story end?
Why?

Making Connections

To connect what you have read to your life.

Text to Self

What does this remind me of in my life?

Text to Text

What does this remind me of in something else I've read?

Text to World

What does this remind me of in the real world?

Questioning

What is the author trying to say?

What is the message of the piece?

Do I know something about this topic?

What do I think I will learn from this text?

How does the character feel?
Why?

Summarising

What is the story/text mostly about?

What is the most important part of the story?