

# Mount Kilcoy State School

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## Prep NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Prep Class and it is great to see all the students beginning their school journey at Mt Kilcoy School. The students have had a great start to their year and thank you for your cooperation in helping the students to quickly learn the routines for each day. Thank you for providing the required books and materials for your child in the beginning week, we have been busy sorting and labelling them. If there are some materials that have not been brought to school yet, please do so as soon as possible.

When arriving at school in the morning, if before 8:30am, the students are to leave their bags in the bag rack and wait in the undercover area with the other school children. After this time, they are able to play outside or choose a quiet activity eg reading a book or drawing, inside, if a teacher is present. The students will bring their Homework Folder, lunch box and water bottle into the room after 8:30 am (if a member of staff is in the room).

**Specialist classes** occur on Tuesdays with Library (requiring library bags) and PE (Physical Education). The students also have Music on a Thursday in Terms 1 and 2 and Cultural Studies (Japanese) in Terms 3 and 4. On Monday afternoons, we have a whole school assembly (2:45pm) and all parents are welcome to attend.

The following is a brief outline of a few learning areas for this term.

### Jolly Phonics

Our phonics program is called "Jolly Phonics". The students will be given a Sound Book which will have the sounds and actions glued in. They are to practise every night. This Sound Book is to be kept in their Homework Bags and brought to school every day. Learning the 42 sounds is fast paced and is learnt before writing occurs, so please revise the sounds and action every night.

In **English** this term, the students will be discussing books with reference to characters and retelling what happened, what events they liked/disliked and why.

In **Science**, we will be learning about "Living Things" with a focus on "Pets and Plants' needs". We will also focus on the senses and how we observe the world around us using our senses.

This term in the **History** unit, students will investigate their own personal story, including their family background and relationships within their family. Through an appreciation of family stories, students will develop an understanding of their own history. They will also examine family structures and appreciate that, diverse family groups today have commonalities as well as differences.

Thank you for a great first couple of days. It's going to be a busy term, however, I am looking forward to getting to know your child and supporting them on their learning journey.

Yours in education,

Mel Burkett  
Class Teacher

### Parent Volunteers Needed

We will need parent assistance when swimming commences in Week 6. Swimming lessons will be held on Tuesdays. An Information letter will be sent home soon.

Our class is first to go swimming so the children must come to school wearing their swimmers, sunshirt and sunscreen.



### Home reading for Term 2

Home reading will commence in term 2. The students will bring home a 'home reader' in a reading folder.

The **homework satchels** will be sent home every night, and need to be brought back the next morning.

Newsletters and important notices are also placed in the satchel.

### Homework Books

Homework tasks will be glued into their Homework scrapbook and this is to be kept in their Homework satchel.

## Curriculum

Mount Kilcoy State School's Curriculum places particular focus on areas of English, Mathematics and Science. Teachers plan from the Australian Curriculum and adapt the Queensland based C2C Units for the Key Learning Areas (KLA) which includes: English, Mathematics, Science, History Geography, The Arts, Technology, Health & Physical Education and LOTE. Teachers will report twice per year on the demonstration of achievement and effort in each KLA (End of Semester 1 and Semester 2). Separate reports will also be issued, detailing NAPLAN tests results in years 3 and 5 respectively.

## Homework

Homework benefits students by complementing classroom learning and allows them to practise skills and concepts learnt in the classroom. At Mount Kilcoy State School, our homework policy is appropriate to different phases of learning. In determining homework, we are aware of students outside commitments: engaging in other activities including sporting, recreational and cultural pursuits. When setting homework, we are bound by the time guidelines set out below from Education Queensland and Training of the Arts. We do stipulate reading every night for all of our students. Classroom teachers may set other homework activities as required.

<b>Prescribed levels of homework for different age groups</b>	
Prep Year	Students will have a Sound Book in which they are to revise letters/sound and actions daily. Later, the students will be given, "Home Readers", sight words and worksheets.
Years 1, 2, 3	Could be up to — but generally not more than — an hour each week
Years 4 and 5	Could be up to — but generally not more than — 2 —3 hours each week
Year 6	Could be up to — but generally not more than — 3 —4 hours each week

## Class Timetable

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
8.55	Literacy	Literacy Library HPE (sport)	Literacy	Literacy  Music/Japanese	Literacy
11.00	<b>FIRST BREAK</b>				
11.40	Numeracy	Numeracy	Numeracy	Numeracy	Numeracy
1.10	<b>SECOND BREAK</b>				
1.55	Shared Talks	Science	History/Geography	ICT/ Design Technology	Fun Friday activities
3.10	Assembly				

## Lolly Free School

Mount Kilcoy State School has a whole school policy banning lollies, soft drinks and other sugary foods from being consumed at school. This policy has seen positive changes in the types of food being brought to school and students are more aware of alternative healthy food choices. Refraining from sugary foods and eating foods such as sandwiches, fruit, vegies, yoghurt etc. helps students maintain their concentration during class times, allows them to work to the best of their ability and promotes correct mouth/oral development. Foods available from the tuckshop support our school policy, and recent changes to Departmental Policy mean that all schools will have to enforce a strict 'Healthy Foods Policy'.

## Brain Based Learning



This means that we encourage students to think about how their brain works and the ways in which they learn. Studies have proven that if students maintain their water and food intake this helps them to concentrate. Because our first meal break is not until 11am, we encourage students and staff to have a '**Brain Break**' at approximately 10am. At this time, we take a quick break to stretch, have a drink of water and a quick healthy snack.

Some suggestions for Brain Break foods are: fresh fruit, cheese, yoghurt, raw vegies. Please be aware that students are not allowed to eat muesli bars, canned fruit, sandwiches, juice etc at this time. These items are to be kept for lunch breaks as they contain a high amount of sugar, which will defeat the purpose of having the Brain Break. If students do not have any suitable foods for Brain Break, they are encouraged to have a drink of water and return to work.

It is necessary to have **water** only in their drink bottles for drinking in class, and Brain break time.

## RACER RULES

Behaviour Management is a process, which is used to define limits, clarify standards, protect the rights of the individual as well as the rights of the group, and reinforces the concepts of responsibility and respect. Personal Development Programs that promote positive rational thinking are powerful tools to drive cultural change within a school community.

<b>Respect</b>
means respecting yourself, others, the school and treating others as you would like to be treated.
<b>Actions</b>
means feeling that you can do it. It means not being afraid to make mistakes or to try something new.
<b>Cooperation</b>
means working well with others and about reacting to situations sensibly, bouncing back and thinking positively.
<b>Effort</b>
means not giving up when something is difficult and putting in your best effort.
<b>Responsibility</b>
means setting goals to be successful at tasks, planning your time and having all your equipment ready.

Our class behaviour management plan is based on the RACER rules. **Please read the following important information and return the slip below.**

We have collaboratively developed a classroom behaviour management plan, which allows all students the opportunity to make appropriate choices about their own behaviour. This permits all members of our class the opportunity to learn in a positive, nurturing classroom environment. Your support from home is vitally important.

Our classroom rules are:

**Respect:** Listen, use my manners.

**Actions:** Keep my hands to myself

**Cooperation:** Working quietly, team work

**Effort:** Do my best effort

**Responsibility:** Walk in classroom, be ready for school, take care of my belongings

To encourage students to follow the rules, appropriate behaviour will be recognised with:

- **Spotting Stars:** For good behaviour. If drawn on assembly, the child receives a popcorn voucher.
- **Parade certificates:** Certificates presented on parade for Student of the Week.
- **Positive reinforcement:** Verbal reinforcement for your child. Stickers for great work.

If a student makes inappropriate choices, they will be spoken to about appropriate behaviour and redirected to the expected behaviour. The steps outlined below will be applied.

Step 1 - Warning/Reminder of rule-recorded on behaviour sheet.

Step 2 - Reflection in break time (Time Out) -recorded on behaviour sheet.

Step 3 - Buddy class- reflection form. Communication with Parents/Carers- recorded on behaviour sheet.

Step 4 - Referral to admin (Principal)

Step 5 - Further Parent notification and meeting (Behaviour Plan)

Please ask your child to review this classroom plan with you and then sign and return the form below. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about this plan.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read the Prep Classroom Behaviour Management Plan and have discussed it with my child.

Parent / Caregiver's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_