



Year 1 Room 5 Parent and Caregiver Information 2017

Background information:

I am originally from Hobart, Tasmania but spent 4 years completing my degree in Early Childhood Education at Edith Cowan University in Perth before moving to Kalgoorlie. This is my first year teaching my own class, however I already know a lot of the students at O'Connor Primary through doing full-time relief across the school during Term 4 of 2016. I have also completed a total of 16 weeks of university practicum at O'Connor Primary - 6 weeks in Year 3 (2015) and 10 weeks in Pre-Primary (2016).

Beliefs about Learning and Teaching:

I am able to recognise the uniqueness of all children and the range of understandings, experiences, abilities, interests, and needs they bring to my classroom. I strive to ensure all children in my class experience both challenge and success in their personal learning journey. I aim to provide opportunities for children to work both individually and collaboratively in groups, as both of these skills are necessary for lifelong learning.

I believe open communication between teachers and families is very important and encourage you to come and see me if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's education.

Behaviour Management:

As a positive reinforcement system, our class uses DOJO points. This is an online system that involves individuals and/or groups receiving points for displaying appropriate or exceptional behaviour at school. There are incentives for students to reach higher point totals, such as being the first to choose which activity to participate in or selecting a new animation to appear next to their name on the system.

Our classroom also uses the '123 chart' system, which a lot of children appear to be familiar with from Pre-Primary at O'Connor. This involves a student receiving warnings for the first two sightings of negative behaviour. If a child is seen displaying negative behaviour for a third time, they will have to sit on the 'Think Chair', where they will reflect on their choices. If the student still receives more reminders after already having had time to reflect, they will be sent to a 'Buddy Class' (another classroom nearby) to think about their own behaviour. In serious circumstances or after multiple inadequate attempts to regulate one's own behaviour, students will be sent to the office to visit either the Principal or Deputy Principals.

Toys:

Precious items should remain at home to reduce the likelihood of them getting lost or broken. Any items that are brought in to share as 'News' can be given to Miss Wright at the beginning of the school day to be kept safe until the item is needed.

Birthdays:

We love to celebrate birthdays in Room 5. If you would like to bring in a cake for everyone to share on your child's birthday, or as close to this date as possible, that would be fantastic. Please be aware that the school is 'Nut Friendly'. Any cake will be given out at the very end of the school day and be taken home by children to eat.

Lunches:

As many of you will already know, it is possible to order your child lunch from the school canteen. This requires filling in a lunch order form at the canteen in the morning before your child enters the classroom. Members of the class will then collect the orders just before lunch. If you would like a copy of the canteen menu please contact the office.

At Home and Homework:

I encourage all children to read at home as well as at school. Reading at a young age is a great way to help develop a child's literacy skills. Reading logs and books will be sent home in a folder throughout the term. Please complete the reading-log and return this to the folder when your child's book is due to be changed. Year Ones will also be practicing sight words throughout the year. This involves each child taking home a list of words that they will use regularly in their reading and writing.

What to Bring to Class:

Please ensure your child brings in all the items on the class booklist. These items are being recorded on a checklist to keep track of each child's belongings and contributions. Please also ensure your child has a drink bottle, something to eat for recess and lunch, as well as a hat to wear whilst playing outside. Hats must be 'sun smart', meaning that caps are not acceptable. School hats can be purchased from the uniform shop. Unfortunately if your child does not have an appropriate hat to wear at school, they will have restricted areas to play in.

Special Needs for your child:

Please let the school/classroom teacher know if you have any concerns or special needs for your child. It is very important we are aware of any allergies and the required treatment. This also applies for any other health issues or changes in custody issues.

School Sickness or Accident:

The staff at O'Connor attends to any minor injuries or illnesses that occur during the school day. However, in more serious circumstances or emergencies, the school will do everything they can to contact a parent/guardian to arrange for the child to be collected from school. Please consider how your child is feeling before bringing them to school; if they are very unwell, the best place for them is at home. Keeping sick children at home will help reduce the infection of others and hopefully encourage rest so they feel better sooner rather than later!

Absentees:

If you know your child will be absent from school, please notify the office or classroom teacher. It is a legal requirement to explain your child's absences from school. Classroom doors open at 8.30am, with classes officially starting at 8.40am. It is important your child arrives at school on time so they do not miss out on important learning opportunities. However, if your child is late to school, they will need to go to the office to get a late note to bring to the classroom teacher.

Other:

O'Connor Primary School is introducing a whole-school fitness program in Week 2 of Term 1. This will involve every class from Years 1-6 participating in 15 minutes of physical activity every Monday-Thursday morning. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time with their hat and drink bottle so they are able to enjoy these activities.

Thank you
Miss Wright
2nd February 2017