

15th February, 2018

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

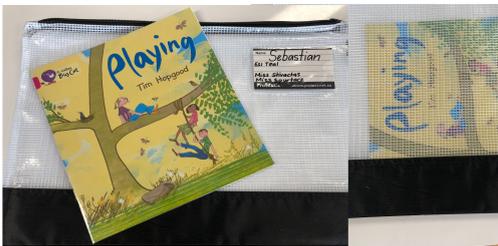
Welcome to Early Stage 1! We look forward to further getting to know your children and working alongside you throughout the 2018 school year.

Drop off

Please be reminded that it is in your child's best interest to have a quick goodbye during morning drop off, leaving them with ample time to play. This will allow your child the opportunity to meet new children and have a play before school starts each day. Please be advised that there is no teacher supervision before 8:00am. Once you drop off your child, they will walk independently to the COLA and place their bag into their class lines.

Reading folders/homework

This week, your child will be bringing home their reading folder for the first time. This folder will need to be **returned to school everyday**. The folder will contain a familiar book and we ask that you read the book with your child each night for up to 10 minutes, in order to continue to develop your child's literacy skills. Books will be changed at least once a week. Inside the reading folder you will also find your child's laminated name card to assist them in recognising and writing their name correctly.



Contacting books

Tonight you will be given the opportunity to take your child's workbooks home. These books will require contacting in order to maintain durability throughout the school year. Please contact your child's books using **clear contact** only and return by Monday 19th February. The books will need to be returned by this date as they are required for lessons from this date forward. Please refer to the link if you would like some assistance with contacting your child's workbooks. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0spXIZQKPVY>



Food breaks

- Crunch and Sip provides students with the opportunity to 'refuel' their bodies with fruit or vegetables and 'rehydrate' with water. Please be reminded that Crunch and Sip is for five minutes only. Therefore, please pack a small piece of fruit or a handful of vegetables to ensure that your child has enough time to eat all of their food.
- Students do have the opportunity to eat all other snacks, milk and drinks at 10:30am (Morning Tea) and 12:30pm (Lunch) each day.
- Due to the students enjoying their play time, remember to provide your child with a smaller amount of food to support their independent choices of playing with their friends.
- To assist the students understanding of which food is for which part of the day, we are encouraging parents to provide their children with either smaller labelled containers or plastic bags for crunch and sip, recess and lunch.

Recess



Crunch and sip

Notes and Communication

- If you have any notes for the classroom teacher, these are to be emailed to the school which will be delivered to the classroom teachers. stlukemarsdenpark@parra.catholic.edu.au
- If your child is absent, please inform the school of the reason.
- If you need to contact your child's classroom teacher, please email to organise an appointment. Teachers will then contact you in regards to availability.

Term Overview

At the beginning of each term, a term overview will be emailed to each parent informing them of the learning that will take place within each stage. The purpose of this is so that parents gain an understanding of the units being taught. We encourage you to talk with your children about what they are learning at school. For example, in History and PDH we are learning about ourselves and our family history as well as how we are growing and changing. **All children have been asked to bring in a photo of themselves as a baby to share with their class. This only needs to be a small photo, as children will be sharing these photos during PDH and History lessons.**

Birthday cakes

If you wish to bring in a cake to celebrate your child's birthday, please be mindful that you are to bring in cupcakes only, any whole cakes brought in will be sent home with your child. A friendly reminder that St Luke's strives to be a 'nut free school' due to the high volume of students with allergies, so we ask that no cupcakes or any other food containing nuts be brought in. When thinking of a class, remember this is a class of up to 60 children which would mean 60 cupcakes. We will not be able to distribute to a few friends.



Extra information about reading at home

The Importance of Reading – at School and at Home

Kindergarten is a year in which children learn many new and exciting things and begin to learn skills that will be vital to their future learning. As children make connections between letters, sounds and words they start their journey to becoming fluent readers. To consolidate this, the Kindergarten teachers will be sending home a number of 'readers' throughout the year. These 'readers' are given to the students to encourage them to practise being good readers at home. Initially your child may bring home a book that is too easy or, perhaps, too hard. They will be given a book that is at their instructional level once teachers have completed a running record (Running records help the teacher understand how your child uses what they know about letters, sounds and words in order to get the message from a text and enable them to plan the next step in the teaching process). These books will come home in a reading folder, which may also be used as a means of communication with teachers (notes to and from parents can be placed into this folder, which will need to be returned to school each day). Further information regarding reading at home will be discussed during a parent information night on Thursday, 23 February (6:30-8:00 pm).

Daily reading is important in helping to develop the children's knowledge of sight words and high-frequency words. New words will be introduced during Guided reading sessions. A copy of these words will then be given to the children to take home and practise with their guided reading book. The children should be encouraged to look for these words in the book given or elsewhere. They could also practise writing or making the words with magnetic letters.

Things you can do to support your child when reading at home:

- Encourage your child to look at the pictures to predict what will happen in the story (to help them realise that the
- pictures tell a story);
- Encourage your child to look at the pictures to help them work out what a word might be (to help them work out what word would make sense in the sentence);
- Encourage your child to point to words as they read (so they recognise that a cluster of letters is a word);
- Encourage your child to talk about the book. Discuss their favourite part (to show how well they have understood the story)
- Read to your child and let your child see you read (so they see that reading is important and enjoyable)

Help your child make connections between the text and their own life or other texts they are familiar with – Remember when we went to the park... what did we see or do? Remember Brown Bear from our other story ... (to help them understand the content of texts);

Ensure that reading is a fun time. If your child has difficulty to start with, read to them or with them.

Reminders

If you have not done so already, student's aprons and headphones need to be brought to school as they will be used during our class learning time. These will be collected and kept in the classroom.

Thank you for your support with this.

Kind Regards,

Alyssa-Jade Spurtacz, Elena Stivactas, Margaret Stone and Jennifer Lapidario