

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

We welcome all new and returning students and their families to the 1/2 Learning Community and look forward to a wonderful year of learning and discovery. We trust that everyone has had an enjoyable and restful break and is feeling ready to start the school year.

We have outlined a few housekeeping items that will hopefully assist you with your daily organisation of the school routine. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask your child's homegroup teacher.

#### **Parent Information Session**

The Parent Information evening is Tuesday, February 17 at 7.00pm. It is important for all parents to come along to this night if you are available.

#### **Opening School Mass**

The Beginning of School Year Mass is Wednesday, February 11 at 9.30am in the St Therese School Hall. All parents and carers are invited to join us.

#### **Allergies**

St Therese is a 'nut aware' school so we ask that lunches and snacks do not contain nuts. If your child has an allergy please ensure that we have a copy of your child's current management plan.

#### **Birthday Treats**

Birthdays are a great celebration and some children enjoy bringing treats in to share with their classmates. We ask that treats be appropriate for children with nut allergies.

#### **Bringing Items to School**

Any special items such as toys, books or keepsakes are at risk of wear and tear or being lost in the playground. Please discuss this with your child to avoid disappointment. Expensive electronic items such as Nintendo DS are not to be brought to school.

#### **Caring For Belongings**

Personal belongings need to be clearly marked please. This includes plastic containers (and lids), hats, jumpers, shoes and also toys or stationary from home.

#### **Classroom Helpers**

Parents are encouraged to volunteer as classroom helpers. This is a valuable way to support learning especially in the morning during 'Investigation time.' If you have special expertise or a talent that you would like to share with the children e.g. gardening, art, computers, writing, carpentry, cooking, it will be very much appreciated by students and teachers. Sorry, no toddlers. As a learning community it is important to note that you will possibly be working with a range of students, not necessarily with your own child or children from their homegroup. A sign up sheet is displayed in each home group area. This will be replaced periodically. Please see your child's home group teacher if you have any questions.

#### **Arrival Time**

Children may enter the Learning Centre at 8:45am to prepare for their day. This allows teachers to chat to parents from 8:30am without the disruption of students. We ask everyone to remember that it is a learning space and children are encouraged to move outside once they are organised. When it is raining students will be able to enter the space earlier. Arriving on time ensures students have a chance to socialise with their peers and avoid disruption at the commencement of the learning session.

#### **Fruit Break**

Fresh fruit and vegetables are the only snack to be eaten at Fruit Break. Please ensure your child also brings a water bottle to school each day.

#### **Asthma**

If your child has asthma it is important to have an up-to-date asthma action plan from the doctor that can be passed on to the homegroup teacher.

#### **Head Lice**

Please be vigilant in checking your child's hair on a regular basis. It is important that everyone does this to ensure we have few cases of head lice. Further information can be found at 'Scratching for Answers':

<http://health.vic.gov.au/headlice/parents.htm>. Parents will be contacted immediately if head lice are apparent.

### Home Reading

Your child will be expected to participate in reading to, with or by parents each night. Your child will choose a book that matches his/her reading level or is of interest from the Library. Reading should be an enjoyable pursuit so many take home books will be a little below the instructional level of the student. Each student takes home one book each evening so that by the weekend they have up to 5 take home reader books in their bag. On a Monday these are returned to the relevant boxes and the process begins again. Your child will be given a reading diary which is to be used as a record of what is read throughout each week. This diary has some excellent ideas for parents to make this home activity a positive and stress free time. Please ensure reading bags are returned to school each day.

### Newsletters

A school newsletter will be emailed to all families once a fortnight. Please visit the office if you are not receiving your newsletter. We are continually attempting to reduce our environmental impact therefore our main forms of communication are via email, the St Therese app (see the newsletter for links to the app) and the 1/2 Learning Community blog.

### Parent/Student/Teacher Meetings

These are held every second Wednesday after school between 3:40pm and 4:30pm at 15 minute intervals. These are scheduled online through PTO. This link can be found on the St. Therese website. Two meetings per year are recommended.

All students are expected to attend this meeting with their parents to showcase and discuss their own learning. Other meeting times can be arranged through your child's home group teacher if you are unavailable on Wednesday afternoons. Other teachers may contact you to arrange a learning conversation with your child throughout the year when they are working with a range of teachers. These learning conversations are conducted during the school day where possible.

### Punctuality/Absences

Please be at school by around 8.50, giving your child plenty of time to unpack their bag and be ready for the start of the school day. Encourage your child to do this for themselves and to take care of their own belongings. Please make sure **ALL** items are labelled. If your child is absent please phone the office or write a note.

### Specialist Day

Friday fortnightly (odd week) – **Specialist Day/Teacher Planning Day** (Music, Art, Indonesian, Wellbeing, Physical Education and Health).

### Wednesday and Friday – Physical Education Days

Children are to wear their sports uniform. Please ensure that your child has the appropriate footwear (runners).

### Sustainability Focus

Already many families provide healthy lunches that are 100% wrapper free. This is a fantastic achievement! We hope to build upon this in 2015 as we work towards a sustainable future.

### Tissues

We would appreciate a donation of a box of tissues for the 1/2 Learning Community. Thank you.

### Sushi / Hot Dog Orders

Students can order Sushi and Hot Dogs on alternate weeks. Please ensure that your child's Sushi order is written on a paper bag as their order is returned to them in this bag (no envelopes please). Hot Dogs, icy poles and drinks can be ordered on a list in the Learning Centre. See fortnightly newsletter for hot dog/sushi days.

### Working With Children Check

It is a legal requirement that all parents complete a *Working With Children Check* prior to being a classroom helper or an excursion helper. This needs to be registered at the school office.

### Communication

We use our blog as our main means of communication and we ask that you check regularly for new notes and information. It will be updated with examples of learning that have been occurring in our community and we hope that it will provide a prompt for interesting discussions at home. We welcome lots of relevant comments from parents and students! Be sure to subscribe for the latest notifications.

Homegroup teachers also welcome the use of email for communication and these addresses can also be located on the blog.

Visit our blog at <http://12lctorquay.global2.vic.edu.au/>

Thank you,

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