



## *Speech & Language Class*

### *Room W5*

**Teachers: Nicolle Bennett & Margaret Budreika**

**SSO: Barb McLaughlin**

**Speech Pathologist: Megan Hobby**

Dear Families,

We would like to welcome you to the Speech and Language (SL) Class. The class is an intervention program from reception to year 2, and caters for a maximum of 8 students who have significant speech and language difficulties. Students are selected based on a submission to a special options placement process which is reviewed by psychologists, speech pathologists, SL teachers and school leaders. The aim of the SL Class is to provide intensive support and intervention so that students can transition successfully into a mainstream class after they have made significant gains with their speech and language development, skills and learning. The SL Class curriculum provides a high degree of routine, structure, repetition and visual scaffolding.

#### **General Information.**

Your child will be given a communication book. It is an important communication link between home and school. **Please check it each day.** Any notices, information or messages we need to pass onto you will be glued or written in the book. **We would appreciate if you could initial or tick the notices so we know you have read them.** Please use the book to inform us of any of your child's future activities, such as, medical appointments, to report an illness, explain absences from school or special events.

**Homework** -Your child will take home a reader each night and some letters of the alphabet to learn over the week. These will be placed in a large pencil case with your child's communication book. We consider homework as an opportunity for you to sit with your child for a short time to reinforce and celebrate their learning at school.

**Fruit** - We have fruit every morning around 10am. Please provide your child with a piece of fruit or some vegetable sticks. When your child arrives in the morning we will encourage them to unpack their bag and place their fruit in our class fruit bowl.



## **Speech Pathology**

Megan Hobby is the class Speech Pathologist. Megan works in the class two days per week on Tuesday and Friday. Your child will receive targeted support from her. This may take the form of individual or small group intervention, or in-class support, depending on your child's needs. Megan works in collaboration with classroom teachers around oral language and a speech program that links to classroom learning areas.

Some structured speech/language homework will be provided. Regularly reinforcing targets in daily life is a very important part of promoting communication development. We understand that this is a time of adjustment for students and families, and readiness for structured work will vary. We are happy to discuss any needs or concerns you have around Speech Pathology homework. Megan is always happy to talk things through or demonstrate how to do tasks if you need help. Please make a time to see Megan as needed for any speech and language matters.

## **Class Management**

**Positive behaviours** – A “star of the day” and a ‘helper’ are chosen each morning to take the roll and carry out our classroom jobs.

Children are given feedback for positive behaviour with encouragement and behaviour enhancers such as, stickers, stamps and certificates which include whole class and individual incentives. Each child will have a reward grid. When their grid is filled with stamps or stickers they are able to select a small prize from the reward box.

The rules in our classroom are displayed with visuals at the front of the class:

- ❖ *Follow adult instructions.*
- ❖ *Show respect to others and school property.*
- ❖ *Take turns and share.*
- ❖ *Put things away.*
- ❖ *Put your hand up to speak.*
- ❖ *Walk inside and use your indoor voice.*

We use social stories and create PowerPoint presentations to support students who need some extra practice (for example solving social conflicts).



## The Curriculum

We use the Australian Curriculum to develop teaching and learning programs that build on students' interests, strengths, goals and learning needs. We personalise learning where necessary through adjustments to the teaching and learning program, according to individual learning needs. Your child will have access to the same subjects that are available to a student in a mainstream class apart from learning a language other than English (LOTE) at school. Please refer to the 'Ingle Farm Primary School Family Handbook' for more detail about each learning area (subjects).

We provide very explicit instruction with visuals, demonstrations and hands on learning tasks within each subject area. Students work individually and in small groups with an adult throughout the day. We use play and children's story books/texts across the curriculum to engage children and establish a shared context for learning. At the beginning of each term we will provide you with a timetable of our lessons and term overview which will detail the subjects and topics that will be covered.

**Library** – Your child will have the opportunity to borrow books from the library each week. They will be given a bag to keep their library books in. Children can borrow 2 library books each week. If your child loses a library book or a reader, you will be sent a bill for \$10 towards the book replacement costs. We have a library book box in the bottom locker outside our classroom for the children to return their books. If children have any overdue library books they will not be allowed to borrow.

**Swimming**- We have a swimming lesson **every THURSDAY at 11:00am** (Terms 1-4) in a heated indoor pool at Strathmont Centre off Grand Junction Road (Oakden). The children are transported to the swimming centre by private bus which is subsidised entirely by the school. Your child will need to bring their bathers and towel in a named bag every THURSDAY. The children eat their fruit before swimming and their recess and lunch when we return around 12.10pm.

**Inclusion** – Your child will participate in a mainstream class one afternoon a week from lunch eating time until home time. Children attend Inclusion with another child from the class. Inclusion provides the children an opportunity to interact with peers of their own age. It provides them with role models to hear and learn language, develop social skills and build new friendships. It is excellent preparation for their mainstream schooling after their time in the SL class has ended. We will give you more information about your child's Inclusion class in term 1.



# Ingle Farm Primary School

Established 1992

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**Ladies of Variety (LOV) Excursions** - We are very fortunate to receive invites to some special events over the year.

## Questions.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please let us know. We strongly welcome and encourage your participation in your child's learning.

Kindest Regards,

Nicolle Bennett and Margaret Budreika

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