

29th January 2019

Dear Families of Students in Special Class (Room 16),

Welcome back to 2019! I am incredibly excited to be spending 2019 as Special Class Teacher at Ingle Farm Primary school and I am very much looking forward to welcoming back 6 of our amazing learners into the school year, as well as welcoming 6 beautiful new students into our class. The following information will provide you with an overview of what you will need to know to begin the school year.

A little bit about me...

2019 is my second year as Special Class Teacher at Ingle Farm Primary School. I believe in supporting each and every student at a level appropriate to their capabilities and instilling skills of confidence and independence. I have a very calm approach to children and build meaningful relationships with all students that allow them to feel safe, secure and supported within our learning environments.

SSO Support

This year, the Student Support Officer (SSO) working with Room 16 is John Bauer. John has many years of experience working with children and adults living with a disability, including his time at a special school. John joined the Ingle Farm Primary School team in 2018 and has already begun building relationships with many students throughout our school. John's wealth of knowledge and experience will be an excellent asset in 2019.

Sam Cubitt will also be supporting Room 16 during Term 1. Sam joined the Ingle Farm Primary School team as an SSO during 2018 and has experience working with a range of students across our site. Sam is currently completing his bachelor degree in education. We look forward to sharing Sam's contemporary knowledge in education.

Bell Times

School commences at 8.55am each day, however, I encourage students to come into the classroom anytime from 8.35am, to begin preparing for their day. This was a practise I used throughout 2018 that proved to be incredibly beneficial in supporting student's transition into the classroom environment. This is an excellent opportunity for me to connect with each student prior to the commencement of the school day. School concludes at 3.05pm. You are welcome to come and meet your child at the bench just outside of our door.

What to Pack

Hat

Please ensure your child has a school hat as these need to be worn during break times throughout Term 1. Students can store their hat in their tray in the classroom.

Lunch, Recess, Drink Bottle (water only) and Fruit

During 2018, some of our students were finding themselves feeling very hungry prior to lunch eating time at 10.55am. I will be providing students with a fruit break around 10am each day if they wish to have a piece of fruit to eat. This break will be for fruit only.

Communication

This year students will be using a Communication Book and a Communication Folder to relay important information between school and families. Please check your child's communication folder/book at the end of each day and sign any notes to acknowledge receipt of information.

Seesaw is an online application that connects our classroom to your phone or device and will be used for communication of learning throughout the year. Please refer to letter about Seesaw for more information and to find out how to access your child's profile.

Learning Areas

During Week 1 and Week 2, the main learning focus within our class environment will be setting up for success. Throughout this time, students will be supported to build meaningful and respectful relationships with teachers, SSOs and peers. Students will access learning opportunities about the school environment and begin exploring Keeping Safe: Child Protective Curriculum, focusing on Area 1: The Right to Be Safe (refer to coloured handout for more information). I will provide further information about our learning program in Term 1 over the next few weeks.

Science with Miss Reed

Students will be exploring the importance of water as a sustainable resource. Students will be exploring the water cycling with a focus on precipitation, evaporation, collection, and condensation. Students will continue their learning by conducting a water walk around the school to discover ways we use water in our daily lives. Students will consider how water is accessed and used by humans. Students will explore water pollution and the importance of clean water.

Physical Education with Zach

This term in PE students will review and consolidate the skills and behaviours required to make a successful team. They will participate in cooperative team games to practice working positively in groups by encouraging others and negotiating roles and responsibilities. Students will also spend part of the term practicing and preparing for sports day in lessons.

The Arts with Miss Ruth

Music and Dance

- Revisit instrument names and correct use.
- Practise singing in tune and moving/playing to a steady beat,
- Vocal control – breathing, pitch, dynamics, duration,
- Discuss song meanings and rhyming words (class song),
- Develop aural awareness (inner hearing), echo, call/response, canon,
- Move and play instruments in time with the beat/tempo/rhythm,

- Explore, read and create informal music notation,
- Explore characters, moods, music styles and ranges in dance.

One Child One Plan

All students in Special Class will work towards a personalised learning plan called 'One Child One Plan'. Your input in this document is incredibly valuable. I will be contacting you soon to arrange a meeting with myself and our Deputy Principal, Helen Delia, to discuss your child's plan.

Tissues

Please provide one or more boxes of tissues for classroom use.

Swimming

Students will be attending swimming lessons on Tuesday's at Clover Crest Swimming Centre. Please refer to the upcoming note about swimming lessons for more information.

Homework Expectations

Inside your child's communication folder is their Homework Book. Each night from Week 3 onwards, your child is expected to practise their sight words and phonics and read a minimum of 1 levelled reader. These tasks will only take a short amount of time but I ask that you support your child with this to ensure they are getting the necessary amount of practise.

Attendance

If your child is absent, late or being collected early, please communicate this with me through their communication book. If reasons for absences are not communicated, I will need to follow these up with you.

I am very much looking forward to seeing the growth of our beautiful students throughout 2019. If there are any further questions, please come and see me.

Kind Regards,

Kate Deer

Special Class Teacher