



**Welcome** to the 2020 school year at Ingle Farm Primary School - what an exciting time! I look forward to hearing holiday stories and getting to know all about our wonderful class friends in Room 9.

We are a class of 8 Reception students and 9 Year 1 students. Many of the Reception students attended the orientation visits in Term 4, so hopefully this transition to school has been exciting and something to look forward to over the long break. While it can be an exciting time for most, it can also be a little tiring and overwhelming for others (this is normal ☺). I will my best to support all the children as they become settled into the daily routines of school.

### What to expect in the first few weeks...

As a class we will be working on getting to know each other and forming relationships. It is important that all students feel safe and comfortable in their classroom and amongst their peers. The morning sessions will offer play-based learning activities to encourage the children to work together, learn their peers' names as we move towards developing classroom routines and responsibilities.

I will encourage children to be "buddied up" with a friend for break times to ensure that they have someone to play with. We will also spend much of the first week, navigating the school to find areas to play that are safe and where to line up after play times have finished.

### Building Independence Skills

The children will be encouraged to develop a strong sense of independence from very early in the year as I encourage the children to practise a lot of 'self-help' skills. Please help to support this by encouraging your child to carry their own bag into the classroom, take care of their belongings (such as lunchboxes and drink bottles) and by greeting their teacher in the mornings. Putting on/taking off jumpers and zipping up jackets is something you can practice at home too.

### Phonics

Phonics lessons will begin in Week 2, by introducing a new letter sound every day. The phonics program is engaging, multi-sensory and lots of fun. Practising sounds at home is encouraged and I will provide resources to support this.



### Important times

The school day starts at 8:55am. Please take your child to the front office if you are late, where your child will be issued a late slip to hand to me. Students will be dismissed at 3:05pm. Please **wait outside** at the end of the day and I will dismiss your child to you. This ensures a safe handover for all students at the end of the day. If your child will be attending OSHC, please let me know and I will take them down at the end of the day. Any absence from school requires a **note or message on Seesaw, a phone call or SMS to school.**

## Things to know

- Our **Library** day is **Thursday** – children will begin borrowing from Week 2. Each child will receive a library bag to take home and return their library book in.
- Hats will need to be left at school. They are **compulsory** in **Term 1** and **Term 4**
- **Reader folders** will need to be checked daily for newsletters
- **Sight words** books will be distributed from week 3



## What to bring

Please ensure your child has a bottle of water every day, lunch and a healthy snack (fresh fruit – peeled/cut if needed). Other snacks are recommended, depending on your child's appetite. Please let me know if you notice lots of food coming home and I can try to monitor what is being consumed during eating time.

## Seesaw

Seesaw is a communication tool and learning journal we use at Ingle Farm Primary School. Please check your blue folder for an invite and instructions to download the free app to your smartphone or tablet. There will be a unique barcode on the invite that you will need. If you have any questions or require help to set up the app on your phone, please see me after school. I look forward to having a 'connected classroom' in 2020.

## Volunteers

For any parents who may wish to volunteer in class, a volunteer workshop will be offered in the coming weeks. You may wish to register your interest at the front office.

## Curriculum Information

### English Term 1 Focus

- Oral Language
- Rhyming
- Phonics
- Early writing
- Fine motor co-ordination
- Listening to and sharing stories.



### Mathematics Term1 Focus

- Number – counting, patterns, formation
- Measurement

### History/Geography

- Families – how they are similar/different
- Homes – where we live

### Child Protection

- Keeping ourselves safe
- Building a safety network
- Safe/unsafe places

**Science** lessons will be with Miss Eleni on Mondays – learning about seasons and the earth's resources.

**Health and Physical Education** with **Miss Hannah** on Fridays practising turn-taking, social games and tabloid events for Sports Day.

**Music/Drama** lessons with **Ms Ruth** on Wednesdays - engaging in singing and movement activities and learning about instruments.

If you have any worries or concerns, please come and have a chat or make a time to see me (Mornings and afternoons can become busy).

I look forward to a busy and exciting year ahead. ☺

*Miss Melissa*