



# NEWSLETTER

Principal: Tracey Bennett  
Governing Council Chairperson: Vanessa Payne

## Diary Dates:

### February

#### Monday 13 February

- Family picnic 5pm
- Acquaintance night 6-7pm
- Year 6 Canberra meeting 7pm

#### Friday 17 February

- Year 6 aquatics

#### Monday 20 February

- Annual General Meeting 7pm

### March

#### Friday 3 March

- Principal's tour 9am

#### Tuesday 7 March

- School photos

#### Tuesday 14 March

- SAPSASA netball & football selection carnival year 5 & 6

#### Thursday 30 March

- Sports day

#### Friday 31 March

- SAPSASA swimming

### April

#### Friday 14 April

- Last day of term 1, school finishes at 2:05pm

### School values

Bravery - Care

Challenge - Trust

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#### Traffic Monitors:

##### Week 2

Morning: Ruby, Siobhan, Imogen & Caoimhe

Afternoon: Jamaica, Grace, Patrick & Edmond

##### Week 3

Morning: Jamaica & Allegra

Afternoon: Jacob, Edmond, Nando & Sam F



# Principal's Welcome

**Tracey Bennett**

Dear Families,

We would like to welcome all families back to the start of the 2023 school year! I have heard from many children about their relaxing holiday break and the excitement about starting a new school year! I would like to thank all of our staff for their dedication and commitment in ensuring we had a smooth transition into school.

This week we welcomed 57 new Receptions and their families to our school as well as 22 children from local, interstate and overseas schools.

I am excited to be given an extension of my Principal position for 12 months to continue to support the outstanding work of our staff working together and our shared commitment to providing a culture of learning and high expectations for all.

We commence 2023 with 17 mainstream classes and one Speech and Language class. Our classes for 2023 are:

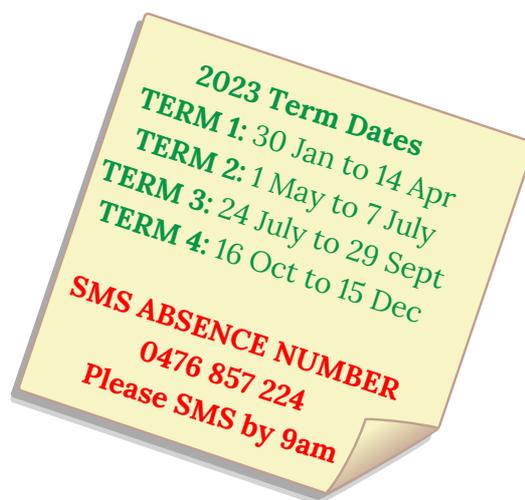
- Speech and Language Class - Vicki Hodgson
- 3 x reception classes - Lauren Whitbread; Chanelle Pomeroy/Dee Davies; Ainsley Haddow
- 1x year 1 class - Harinder Kaur
- 2x year 1/2 classes - Sharon Kuchel; Jo Scott-Watherston/Lena Lloyd
- 1x year 2 classes - Kirsty Arnold
- 2x year 3 classes - Victoria Edwards; Bethany Harris/Alison Hamilton
- 1x year 3/4 Class - Ivan Cooper
- 1x year 4 classes - Ebony Wilkey
- 1x year 4/5 class - Clint Durbridge
- 2x year 5 classes - Donna Williams; Eleanor Freeth/Margy Holland
- 1x year 5/6 class - Jon Osborne
- 2x year 6 classes - Georgii Staben; Robert Pearl/Jamie Meredith

Specialist Teachers:

- Physical Education - Michelle Burton
- Performing Arts - Steph Hammond
- French - Bronte Ellison/Steph Hammond
- Science - Kelly Mitchell

Additional teaching staff:

- Aboriginal Education - Bec Martin
- Autism Inclusion Teacher -Georgii Staben



## Principal's Welcome continued...

### School Services Officers:

- Susan Lane (Business Manager: Monday - Wednesday)
- Linda Chambers (Administration: Monday - Wednesday, Business Manager: Thursday/Friday)
- Erica Staude (Principals PA and Administration)
- Emma Neilson (Administration)
- Anne Dingle (Library Officer)
- Annette Stagg, Bec Baily, Tracy Chenoweth, Tricia Beech, Deanne Pollitt, Sarah Allen (Classroom Support)
- Melanie Milne (Speech and Language Class)
- Daniel Zesers (Groundsperson)
- Mary Spence (Pastoral Care Worker)

### Leadership:

- Tracey Bennett (Principal)
- Elise Mack (Senior Leader R-2 sub school, whole school Literacy and student support)
- Margy Holland (Senior Leader 3/4 sub school and whole school Mathematics)
- Jamie Meredith (Senior Leader 5/6 sub school and whole school learner engagement and wellbeing)

### Canteen Manager:

- Lisa Goodings

## School Priorities

Our School Priorities 2022-2024 are documented in our Site Improvement Plan (which will be available on our website soon). Our goals for 2023 are...

1. To increase student achievement in mathematics through developing a deeper understanding of place value.
2. Students use language features, text structures and literary devices for particular effect when writing for a specific purpose

As in 2022, our main focus continues to be on increasing student achievement in mathematics. Margy Holland will be leading this improvement area.

During the week before students returned, staff worked on the Tuesday and Wednesday with the focus being on curriculum planning in professional learning teams and the handover of academic and well-being student information. Parents will receive a term 1 curriculum overview from their child's class teacher by the end of week 2. Our teachers have already communicated important information over the last week.

## Acquaintance Night Monday 13 February

At Paringa Park Primary School we believe that strong partnerships with families are critical in ensuring every child can be the best they can be. We value the opportunity to meet with families in the first weeks of school and therefore extend an invitation to our acquaintance night on Monday 13 February 2023. More details about our Acquaintance night will be emailed shortly.

## Save the date: AGM Monday 20 February

We would like to invite all families to our Governing Council AGM, which commences at 7pm and will conclude no later than 7.45pm. At the AGM the school's achievements in 2022 will be shared, and the Student Voice Executive for 2023 presented.

# Orientation to School

**Elise Mack**

This year we have welcomed 57 new reception students and their families to our school community. We have delivered 3 parent workshops with a large number of attendees eager to support their child's transition to school.

The reception teachers, Lauren Whitbread, Chanelle Pomeroy, Dee Davies and Ainsley Haddow, have worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth transition from kindy to school. This has included visiting children in their preschool setting, 1:1 discussions with preschool educators and 1:1 parent interviews to gather as much information as possible to support each child to successfully transition to school. The special touches, such as personalised letters in the post, magic confetti, classroom tours and parent gifts have all contributed to the successful start of the receptions' school journey.

## Words of Wellbeing (WOW)

**Jamie Meredith**

### **First Week Back- Creating the best options for learning**

After the first 5 days and getting around to all the classes, students look to be back in the swing of things. It has been very tough for some walking into an unfamiliar school (our new students) and some are just finding it hard to get used to a new classroom and surroundings.

During the first few weeks it is very important to set boundaries and expectations, even when your child is emotional about coming to school. This can be in the form of 'front loading' (a psychological term) where you have multiple discussions with your child about what will be happening the next day, how the routine will look for them and what is expected of them. Giving them time the night before allows them to process what is happening and negotiate some of the structures if they are nervous.

Sleep, good food and water each day continue to be the staples that assist in a child being able to regulate their thoughts in the early weeks of change and support them to be able to think clearly when faced with a difficult situation at school.

If students present at PPPS with emotional dysregulation and levels of anxiety, we look to distract (play a game, do a job, go for walk, have a talk) or do something physical so that nervous and unaccounted energy can be expelled and the child can reset and their thinking brain can re-engage in a logical manner.

In these early weeks it is crucial to make time to ask your child all manner of questions about their new experiences to ignite their ability to reflect. Reflection is not a natural ability for all children and needs to be fostered at home. In conversations it is important to make links, share your own experiences when you were at school (positive of course) and use empathy whenever possible. Empathy is another trait that does not come naturally to children and needs to be role modelled.

If you know your child is finding things difficult, please ensure you contact me, along with the classroom teacher so we can look at ways to support and be proactive. My role in the school is to ensure your child is enjoying school with a positive mindset, is challenged and is engaged.



## Words of wellbeing continued...

### Chess Mates

Chess mates will be up and running for week 2. It will start Monday 6 Feb in Room 4-4 at 8am. Parents can log onto the website and register their child for Chess Mates. There will also be a lunch time Chess Club in the Wellbeing Room for all of lunch on Mondays. This proved to be really successful as a place for students to practice the learning they received at Chess Mates.

It is also my plan to enter a chess tournament this year with a team of students. More information will come out about this in the coming months.

So, if your child enjoys games, get them signed up to Chess Mates.

### Out of School Sports

We are looking for a parent to volunteer as the Soccer coordinator for 2023. The role for this would include the following:

- managing the soccer budget
- check emails from Kelly Sports and parents
- find coaches for teams
- manage/order any equipment
- manage end of season wind ups/medals/trophies
- communicate with Kelly Sports about fixtures
- support coaches with parent issues/difficulties
- support coaches with negotiating the use of training venues

Without a coordinator we will not be able to field any soccer teams this year.

Please contact me ([jamie.meredith130@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:jamie.meredith130@schools.sa.edu.au)) if you are willing to help. The role can be shared with some one else if needed.



**Paringa Park Primary**  
**MONDAY**  
**8:00 - 8:45**  
**Learning Room Area 44**

Weekly classes will help improve:

- Creativity
- Memory
- Concentration
- Planning Skills
- Independent Decision Making
- General Aptitude for Learning
- Problem Solving
- Teamwork

Learning chess has been shown to improve overall performance at school by nearly 20% compared with children who have not

To book online, scan or go to [chessmates.com.au/schools](http://chessmates.com.au/schools)

**INFO@CHESSMATES.COM.AU**  
**1300 CHESS MATES**

### PAYMENTS:

Preferred payment method is via Qkr! Please contact the front office for other payment options and for any payment queries.

### Upcoming payments:

- Materials & Services charges
- Aquatics [year 6] due by Monday 13 February 3pm

### Please note:

Credits are not applied automatically to outstanding payments. If you wish to use a credit to pay for excursions, events or uniform purchases please contact the front office.



*Late payments will not be accepted.*

# Maths

**Margy Holland**

Welcome back for the 2023 school year. I am sure every family had lots of lovely maths time over the holidays without even realising it.

## Place Value Focus in Term 1

*“Mathematics is not about numbers, equations, computations, or algorithms: it is about understanding.”*  
(William Paul Thurston)

Place value is the second ‘Big Idea in Number’ after Trust the Count. Last year our professional learning focus was around place value and the data we collected from our students in this area showed some gaps across the school in place value understanding.

We have been supported by Dr Ange Rogers from The Numeracy Teachers Academy in this work. Her research has shown there are 6 aspects to place value and 4 levels of understanding. This term the year 3-6 teachers will focus on one aspect per week, using explicit teaching, investigations, games and other learning activities to develop deep understanding. The year 1/2 teachers will implement a modified version of the place value program suitable to their year level and the reception team will start with Number and Place Value from the Foundation curriculum.

It is an exciting time for us all to have a whole school focus on place value and develop more consistent approaches. This should lead to greater understanding for students but also for teachers with how students learn best.

For more information visit the [six aspects of place value](#).



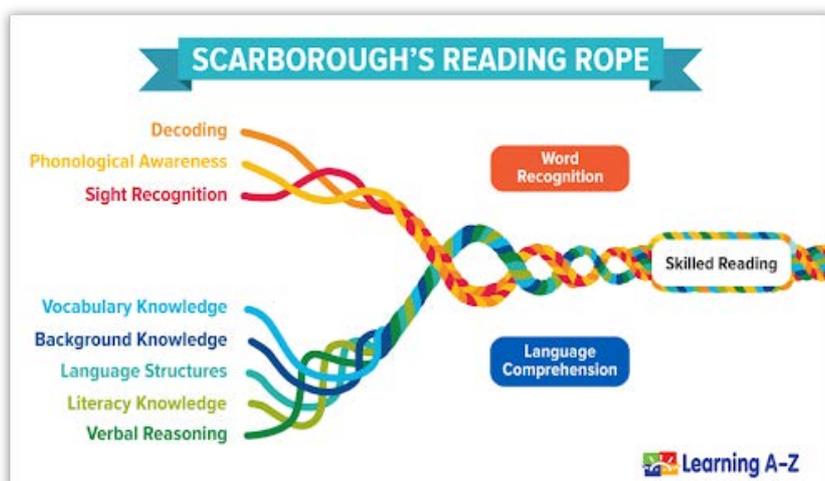
# Literacy

**Elise Mack**

## How children learn to read

Reading, like driving, is a complex process. Reading is not a natural process of the human brain and therefore must be explicitly taught. Becoming a skilled reader requires two key separate but interrelated skills – word recognition and language comprehension. Skilled reading happens when children are able to read texts fluently, while simultaneously

comprehending it. The infographic above depicts ‘Scarborough’s Reading rope’ which explains how the different parts of the rope work in tandem to develop skilled readers.



This week we will take a closer look at the Word Recognition Strands.

Word Recognition:

These strands work together to promote fluency, accuracy and speed as children become competent readers.

## Literacy continued...

### Phonological Awareness:

Phonological awareness refers to the ability to identify and manipulate the spoken sounds in sentences and words. This includes the ability to identify individual words, syllables in words, recognising and creating rhyme, alliteration and phonemic awareness. Phonemic awareness is the ability to focus on and manipulate individual phonemes (sounds) in words. This skill involves working with onset and rhyme, (s-at) blending (sss..aaa..t) and segmenting (/s/-/a/-/t/) sounds in words and deleting (sat without 's' is 'at') and manipulating phonemes (sat -change /s/ to /p/ and the word is pat).

### Decoding:

Decoding is the skill of looking at the letters in a word to determine what the word says. Decoding is an important skill for learning to read that involves taking apart the sounds in words (segmenting) and blending sounds together. Decoding requires children to have a strong understanding of the grapheme (letter/s) phoneme (sound) correspondence. For example 'chat'- /ch/ /a/ /t/. At Paringa, we use Decodable Readers to support the consolidation of these skills. Decodable texts are specifically written for beginning readers as they are developing their blending and segmenting skills and the knowledge of the alphabetic code. Decodable texts support students as they practise the letter-sound relationships that children have been taught in class. Decodable texts increase in complexity as children learn more of the phonetic code.

### Sight Recognition:

Sight recognition refers to a child's ability to recognise words by sight. This means that they no longer have to work to decode the word when it appears in texts. When a child has had multiple exposures to a word, they begin to store the word visually in their long term memory. This means children can recall the word automatically and do not have to sound out the word.

## Notices

### Account payments

For payment of accounts our preferred method is Qkr, or alternative options include cash sent with your child, BPoint (via our website), telephone payment or over the counter payments Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 9.30am (we are unable to accept in-person payments outside of these times). A reminder that payments for all excursions and events close at 3pm on the due date. We aim to give families as long a timeframe in which to pay as possible, but due to administrative requirements we strictly adhere to the cut off times and dates. No late payments will be accepted. If payment of any accounts or events causes financial difficulty for your family, please contact either Susan Lane or Linda Chambers.

### School Card

For those families who may be eligible for school card assistance, a reminder that all applications can now be completed online via [SA.GOV.AU - School Card scheme](http://SA.GOV.AU - School Card scheme) ([www.sa.gov.au](http://www.sa.gov.au)) Please see the website for more information or contact the front office for assistance.

### Qkr!

We encourage families to make use of the Qkr! app to pay for most invoices and excursions, as well as ordering uniforms and canteen lunches. Please remember, Qkr! is not personalised. This means that anything available for payment across the school is visible to all users and items will not disappear once paid. Please only pay for items relevant to your child and only pay once per item. If you are unsure if you have paid, you can check in the 'Activity' menu or contact the front office. It is crucial that you update your child's class information in Qkr each year via the 'Profiles' menu. Please ensure you have done this before making any payments in 2023.

### Materials and Services Rebate

The SA Government has committed to giving families a \$100 discount on their child's public school Materials and Services charge (school fees) for 2023. Rebates, including any outstanding balance of the 2022 rebate, will be applied against your 2023 school fees. Please ensure if paying your school fees via Qkr that you only pay the balance outstanding as shown on the statement which was sent home this week. Please note, the rebate is not applicable to families approved for School Card.

## Notices continued...

### Uniform shop

The uniform shop operates via Qkr! only. Uniforms purchased via Qkr! by 5pm will be delivered to your child's class the following day. We are happy to exchange sizes provided all tags remain attached to the garments. If you do not use Qkr!, please contact the front office for alternative purchasing methods.

### Lost property

Lost property has been moved to the gym and will be the only area where lost property will be stored. Please note students are not to enter the gym unsupervised. Parents are welcome to check for lost items before or after school.

### Nut awareness

Paringa Park Primary is a nut aware school. We acknowledge that due to food processing practices, it is impractical to eliminate nuts and nut products entirely. The emphasis is therefore on raising awareness and adopting the reasonable procedures termed as "Nut Awareness".

Staff will discuss nut awareness with children and will inform parents if there is a child in their class with a known allergy. In any case, families are requested to send food to school that does not contain any type of nut or nut based product. Children who bring food containing nuts will be required to eat the food away from other children.

We appreciate your cooperation in providing a safe school environment for all members of our community.

### Choir update

Senior Choir for children in years 4-6 has commenced; after lunch every Wednesday - 1:35-2:25pm.

Junior choir for children in years 3-5 commences this Friday morning at 8:30am-9:00am here in the music room.

Both choirs have a 3 week "come and try" period. Children are welcome to come along during this time.



### Student absences

Please ensure that you notify the school if your child is going to be absent. This can be done by sending an SMS to 0476 857 224, by calling the front office on 8296 8904 or sending a message to your child's teacher. It is a department requirement that all absences are explained, so please ensure that you provide a reason for any absences.

If you intend for your child to be absent from school for a period of 5 days or more, please contact the front office as it is a requirement that an exemption form be completed for this absence.

For more information visit [student absences](#)

### Late arrival and early pick up of students

If your child is late to school, please notify the school of the reason and ensure your child presents to the front office to be signed in and get a late slip to hand to their teacher.

If you intend to pick up your child early, please ensure you send a message to their teacher where possible and present to the front office to collect your child. Your child will need to be signed out by the front office staff prior to leaving the school grounds.

Please DO NOT go directly to their classroom.

### Car park

A reminder, for safety reasons, the staff/visitor car park is **OUT OF BOUNDS**. We ask that parents do not use the carpark as a thoroughfare when walking your children to and from school. There are pedestrian gates on Bowker Street near the crossing and on Margaret Avenue. Please note the car park is reserved for staff and visitors only and is **not to be used by families** when dropping off or collecting children.



We would also like to remind families that the streets surrounding our school do have a 25km/h limit when children are present. Please be aware of children walking and riding near the school and be mindful of no parking zones. Police and the Holdfast Bay Council conduct regular patrols around all schools. Please help keep our children safe

## Notices continued...

### Medications and care plans

As much as possible, we encourage children to take medication outside of school hours, eg. medication required three times per day can be taken in the morning (before school), afternoon (after school) and evening. If medication needs to be taken at school, it must be kept securely in the front office and will only be administered by front office staff. The only exception to this is ventolin puffers which are to be kept in the classroom or the child's bag and can be administered under teacher supervision. Children should not bring any other medications to school, including over the counter pain relief (eg paracetamol) or cold and flu products.

Please check the expiry dates on any medications that need to be held at school (including Epipens & asthma reliever medication) as out of date medications will not be administered to children. It is a requirement that all medications (including puffers) are in the original packaging with pharmacy label including the child's name and dosage. All medications at school must have a medication authority or care plan from a doctor, and a reminder that all children with asthma (even if only mild or occasional) need an asthma care plan. Please ensure that all care plans are up to date and provide a copy to the front office.

If your child's health support needs change in any way during the year it is important that you communicate this to the front office in a timely manner. Front office staff are always available to discuss your child's health care needs at school.

For more information visit [Medication management in education and care services](#).



### Canteen

The canteen has a new supplier for pizzas and the Friday homemade bakes. As this is a new supplier, we are looking for feedback from students. Feedback provided will help us to make informed decision around our menu going forward. Please email [dl.0668\\_info@schools.sa.edu](mailto:dl.0668_info@schools.sa.edu) with your feedback. We appreciate your support.

### Volunteers

If you are interested in volunteering at PPPS please contact the front office for more information.

For information about the requirements, training and working with children's check that is required for people wanting to volunteer please visit the departments page on [volunteering](#).



wants to  
**welcome**  
**BACK<sup>TO</sup>**  
**SCHOOL**

all our new and current  
 students. We are  
 excited to be back at  
 school and are looking  
 forward to a fantastic  
 2023.

