Welcome to our first Term of the year and what an exciting year we have in store.

Firstly we must mention how pleased we are with the way your children have settled into the routine of school. They are long days and most are coping remarkably well. Some children are still a bit tired by the end of the day. Please make sure your child has good sleep routines- to bed by 7.30pm is a good guide.

Thank you to our parents who have refrained from waving through windows and having a peek through the glass. The children become easily distracted at this stage of the year and we are helping them establish daily routines that will assist them to have a smooth start and end to each day.

You will be pleased to know that we are going to be sharing more information with our school community through the school internet page. We would encourage all parents to register at the ‘subscribe’ tab on the schools webpage.

TAKE HOME BOOKS
Home reading has begun and we would like you to please take the time to read the information provided in the letter entitled ‘Shared Reading in Early Learning’. This is an ideal time for you to create an ongoing routine for home reading including the daily return of the ‘Take-Home’ book.

At the moment the children will be bringing home books for you to read to them. This will continue for most of Term 1.

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<th>ASSEMBLY ETIQUETTE</th>
<th>SPECIALISTS</th>
<th>SCHOOL BELL TIMES</th>
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<td>During Assembly it is essential that we give teachers and students the room to move around the courtyard. That is why we kindly ask that parents stand towards the sides and back of assembly rather than next to the art room.</td>
<td>Our specialist program has begun so if you haven’t already done so, please remember to supply your child with an art smock, library bag and velcro runners if possible (Tuesdays). It is essential that your child wear the appropriate footwear for P.E.</td>
<td>Our recess and lunch times are as follows: 9.00am School starts 10.40-11.10am Morning snack 12.50-1.00pm Lunch eating 1.00-1.50pm Lunchtime 3.30pm Dismissal</td>
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SUN SMART
Please remember that as we are a Sunsmart school, hats are required to be worn up to May 1st and beginning again on September 1st. Hats will now be kept at school in your child’s tub. Please make sure that your child’s hat is clearly named. Also that your child has some sunscreen to use at school.

IMMUNISATION CERTIFICATES
Could your child’s Immunisation Certificates please be handed into the office if you haven’t done so already. It is important we have these records on file.

CIRCLES
Circles is a multi-age group of children from prep to six that focuses on values education. Circles will run every fortnight on a Monday.

START TO DAY ROUTINES
Friendly reminder about dropping off your child in the morning and leaving promptly. Our day starts at 9.00am and we would like our students to begin their school day with independence. The music will start before the bell so children are encouraged to come inside the classroom and get their things organised before the bell. If your child is going home with another parent or family member, please make sure your child knows about the arrangement and let the class teacher know—this could be through email or a brief chat in the morning.

EARLY DISMISSAL OR LATE ARRIVAL
Please remember that if you need to pick your child up early or if they arrive late, you must sign them in or out at the Office, before going to their classroom.

BLUE SATCHELS
All notices and work pages come home in the blue satchel. It will be sent home each day so please check this daily, empty and share the contents, and have your child pack their satchel back in their school bag ready for the next day. It is important to tell your child when you put a note in their blue satchel so they know to pass it on to their teacher first thing in the morning.

RUBBISH FREE LUNCHES—SNACK TIME
As part of our schools strong environmental focus, we would like all families to participate in sending their children to school with rubbish free lunches on Mondays. This hopefully ensures that there are no wrappers or containers that your child would need to dispose of during the day. Compartment lunch boxes are a great way to pack your child’s lunch without the additional packaging. If you can do this everyday, that would be fantastic! Morning break-(Snack time) is a good time for our children to eat fruit and maybe one sandwich and leave the treat type food for after their lunch. This helps with children having adequate time to eat a less bulky lunch and spreads the nutrition across the day.

UNIFORMS
Could you please be vigilant in naming your children’s uniforms. The polar fleeces are difficult to name so may we suggest stitching a name tag on, in a prominent position, as they are not a cheap item of clothing.

HEAD LICE
Please check your child’s hair regularly as unfortunately Head Lice is always a possibility. If your child has long hair it is best to keep it tied back.

Upcoming dates to remember

Thursday 21st February - School photos
Monday 25th February - Indoor Assembly
Monday 11th March - Labor Day Holiday
Saturday 23rd March - Croydon Hills P.S Fair

TEACHER CONTACTS
Here are our email addresses. Please use these as a means of contact regarding your child if you are not able to come in and see us. We will endeavor to reply to your emails ASAP, however, we cannot guarantee a reply on the same day that you send it. A note or email is mandatory if your child is absent from school for any reason.

We are looking forward to getting to know your child and your family over the coming year.

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yates.noeleen.p@edumail.vic.gov.au
Each newsletter we are planning to highlight an area of the curriculum. This newsletter we will focus on the area of Interpersonal and Social Learning.

In the classroom the students will learn to play constructively together and are encouraged to develop friendships with their peers. Students learn to manage their impulses by developing habits and routines that help them to be a cooperative class member. They develop a vocabulary to describe the emotions they experience when interacting with others.

With teacher support they begin to develop skills related to working in a group, including taking turns, sharing equipment and resources. The students are encouraged to reflect on their experiences of working with others and they practise skills that contribute to formation of positive relationships.

When playing games and taking part in other classroom activities the students will practise listening to others and retelling what they have heard. Students are supported to develop appropriate language to explain what happens and how they feel when experiencing conflict. They begin to understand how their actions affect others.

Students also learn that some people have special needs and to respect the rights, feelings and efforts of others.

Our Investigative Learning Program engages students in a range of learning activities where they can practise and further develop their social and emotional skills in a supportive environment.

Parents can reinforce the learning focus as outlined above. Discuss ways your child can further develop their friendships and how to engage in positive social behaviours.

When sharing ideas with the family take time to discuss clarity of speech as your child uses oral language to communicate with others, both children and adults. Some discussion points:

* What does being a good friend mean? Do you need to be friends with everyone? Some friends need to have some days where they play with others, how will you manage? Children need to develop strategies to use to assist them build up resilience to help them manage their reactions to life’s little mishaps and less favourable situations and events.

‘At Level 1, students identify the qualities of a friend and demonstrate care of other students. They contribute to the development of positive social relationships in a range of contexts. They use appropriate language and actions when dealing with conflict. Students describe basic skills required to work cooperatively in groups.’
**Coloured Sight Words for reading**

During Term one we will be focusing on teaching a range of early reading strategies to assist our children to begin the process of reading and enjoying texts. As part of home support, each class will be sending home some sight words for our children to learn. Your child will practise learning to recognise these words in class and take part in some activities and games to help with this. Your child’s class may send these words and some letters to learn either in a booklet or on coloured cards. You will receive a letter outlining some activities you can do at home when your child first receives their cards or the booklet.

**SOME HELP NEEDED PLEASE**

We would really appreciate some help with organising the word books and word card circles. If you can spare about 30 mins one morning in the next two weeks, could you have a chat with your class teacher or come and see Noeleen Yates (office next to ELR classroom).

**INVESTIGATIVE LEARNING**

Our children will be learning about the routines and becoming familiar with expectations at Early Learning. Each child will have a turn at being the focus person and work on a special learning challenge each fortnight. Our children love taking part in ‘IL’. We would welcome some donations of construction items- eg: small boxes (shoebox size), ribbon, wool, coloured card etc. If you think you have something to donate and are not sure if it is suitable- Please chat with your teacher. We have a donations tub in the red room.
STUDENT AWARDS

This year we will be giving parents notification about when your child will be receiving an award at assembly. You may like to be present and share in your child’s achievement.

Please check your child’s satchel for a ‘Shhhh! note by Friday which will be in there if your child is receiving a special award.

READING EGGS  AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL

Very soon your class will have login details for your child to access ‘Readingeggs’ at home. This web based computer program will assist your child with literacy learning at their stage of development and complements the class program. You will receive details about how to set up your child’s access with their logins. If you have any problems please come and chat to us.

URGENT!!!

Family Fair- Helpers Needed

Our Fair is a fantastic way to support the fundraising efforts at our school. We are in desperate need of some more parents to volunteer some time to help out on some of the stalls. Please come and see us if you can support your school for even just a small amount of time. It will be much appreciated by everyone.

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH- FAIR DAY

We recommend this website to parents, it has some excellent articles and tips for parents and teachers. www.raisingchildren.net.au