

Kindergarten Term 4 Learning Overview

Routines	<p>Fruit/vegetables – Children share a platter during the morning session. A basket is set up on the table outside the classroom door for fruit and vegetables to be collected. When your child arrives, please place a piece of fruit/vegetable in the basket. We need more fruit and vegetables as our daily supplies are low and the majority of children participate in eating it. Thank you so much to the parent/carers who cut up the fruit. Your assistance is noticed and appreciated.</p> <p>Library – Kindergarten visit the Co-op library to select books for home borrowing. Children are allowed to borrow up to four picture books at a time. Our library day is Tuesday at 2.30pm. Children can only borrow books if they have a library bag and no outstanding books.</p> <p>Parent helpers – This term, our literacy learning rotations will still be at 9.00am for an hour every day (except Wednesdays) I would greatly appreciate parent helpers to assist with a rotation. I will show you what to do on the day and it is a great way to observe your child in the classroom.</p> <p>Late arrivals – If your child arrives at school after 9.00am, you are required to sign them in at the front office. It would be beneficial for your child to not arrive late as our literacy block starts at 9.00am, straight after the roll. I understand that sometimes it is unavoidable.</p> <p>Absences – If your child will not be attending school, please let us know by speaking or emailing the teacher or phoning/emailing or speaking to the school or Michelle.</p>
Investigations	<p>Investigations runs as a core part of the Kindergarten program. This opportunity allows children engagement in open-ended play experiences that supports their development in social, emotional, fine motor, creative and cognitive skills. This term Science, Geography and The Arts are used to guide experiences. English and Math are always drawn upon during this time. Investigations is a wonderful time for building on social skills, problem solving, creative thinking, negotiation, accountability, persistence, and self-regulation. Over the course of the term each child will have several opportunities to take on the role of reporter and focus child. Every week, each student’s participation is noted and recorded. Please come in and look through our Investigations books.</p>
English	<p>Reading - A weekly focus text (a big book) is selected for shared viewing and reading. This text is used to explicitly teach print, grammar and reading concepts, as well as providing a meaningful context for writing. High frequency words and letter sound relationships are introduced using the focus text and used during reading and writing sessions. Children have been given sight words to take home, please practice these with your child as these words will assist your child in reading and writing. This term, a focus will be on comprehension. Children need strong vocabularies, rich background knowledge, and well-developed comprehension strategies to become successful at understanding what has been read.</p> <p>Literacy Rotations – Takes place four days a week for an hour beginning at 9.00am. During this time, the teacher will target specific needs in small groups. At this stage, areas of focus include; targeted guided reading, word work, letter and sound knowledge, high frequency word recognition, fine motor development and blending and segmenting activities.</p> <p>Writing - Children are provided with opportunities to write for a range of purposes across the curriculum. Children’s writing will be related to their own experiences and interests and targeted tasks from the weekly big book. Writing will be integrated with the teaching of Science and Geography.</p> <p>Handwriting – Handwriting skills will be taught explicitly on a weekly basis. During this time, the teacher will focus on letters and sounds explored in the weekly focus texts, and work towards achieving accurate letter formation. Students have been put into ‘Good Writers’ groups and they have their own individual goal that they need to work towards during writing sessions and once the goal is reached, they will be moved onto another goal to work towards.</p> <p>Oral language – Children are supported to share ideas during classroom discussions, reflections of learning, circle time and within cooperative learning groups. Focus skills include turn taking, active listening and speaking clearly using appropriate annunciation volume and pace. Children will still be bringing home Chloe the Cow and Sammy the Sloth. So far, in Chloe’s and Sammy’s books, the children (that have had a turn) have engaged in wonderful writing and illustrating. Just like last term, the children will share back to the class their adventures. This term, the writing focus in Chloe’s and Sammy’s books is based from our (HASS) Humanities and Social Sciences Unit ‘Caring for Special Places; Your Land, my Land’. Please encourage your child to write and draw what they did with Chloe/Sam and relate it to their special place (this is detailed in the front of Chloe and Sammy’s books).</p>
Humanities & Social Sciences	<p>This term, Kindergarten will participate in a Geography inquiry unit – ‘Caring for Special Places; Your Land, my Land’. Children will identify special and meaningful places in their community and in their own lives. They will recognise why some places are special to people. Children will explore the places they live in and belong to. They will develop an understanding of what makes a place special and how this may differ for different people. Students learn about the importance of looking after places. Children will be familiarised with the Ngunnawal People (the traditional custom of the land that our school is on), and the significance and importance of the Acknowledgement to Country.</p>

	As you have no doubt heard, we have tadpoles in our classroom. We have our tadpole diary and we will be completing each week and we will be monitoring their growth and life cycle. We have been learning lots of interesting facts about their lifecycle, such as, did you know that the word Amphibian means ‘two lives’? After talking about this interesting fact, Liam said “it’s because they live in the water first, then they change and get to live on the land”.
Math	<p>Mathematics sessions are structured to incorporate explicit teaching giving opportunities to implement new learning. During math lessons, children will have opportunities to work independently, as well as in selected small groups, using a range of different materials in order to build an understanding. Children will be encouraged to make connections through their learning and reflect on their work. This term we will focus on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Understand numerals and quantities to 20</i> – (50 days left of kindergarten – forwards and backwards) • <i>Sort and classify familiar objects</i> – (how can we sort these into groups?) • <i>Comparing objects by volume</i> – (using direct and indirect comparisons) • <i>Digital and analogue clocks</i> – (discuss the difference between analogue and digital clocks and duration of time) • <i>Familiar 3D shapes</i> – (sort describe and name 3D objects in the environment) • <i>Direction; left and right</i> – (using everyday language describing which direction is which) • <i>Introduction to Coding</i> – (coding will help children visualise abstract concepts and will allow them apply math to real-world situations making math fun and creative!)
Science	Growing Well! Biological Sciences - This term children will investigate what they think they know about living things and their basic needs such as food and water. Through hands on, shared experiences students will discover what plants need to survive by investigating the growth of plants under different conditions. The children will observe the parts of a plant and discover how plants use water. The children will become frequent users of the terms predict, observe and investigate when reporting back to their peers.
Technologies	Children will use the interactive whiteboard (IWB) to engage with online educational learning experiences. In the classroom, the iPad will be used for photographs of documentation of children’s learning and Investigations. For our HASS unit, children will be using the iPad to assist with their end of term task and to view online resources and photographs. The classroom interactive screen will be used during some literacy rotations.
Outdoor Program Health and P.E	<p>Physical Education - Development of fundamental movement is achieved through whole class and small group games and activities. Children are encouraged to play fairly, accept game consequences, persist with challenging experiences. This term we will focus on activities to support development of kicking, throwing and catching. We will continue working on our gross motor skills of coordination, balance, core strength and crossing the midline. We also do Yoga in the classroom. This term we are lucky enough to be able to participate in a softball clinic. It will run every Tuesday from week 3 to 6 (four lessons). We will have our swimming lessons in all of week 10 in the afternoons. You will get information about this closer to the date.</p> <p>Health – Every Friday Yasmine will be in our class in the middle session to teach health and wellbeing. This term Kindergarten will be engaged fun activities and lessons that promote a healthy planet and sustainable living. Students will also be engaged in discussions about physical and social changes that occur as they grow older. Social changes including responsibilities for themselves such as health and the environment. Towards the end of the term the children will be engaged in making a healthy meal of their choice.</p>
Social and Emotional Learning	This term, children will be encouraged to look out for each other during play and learning. At O’Connor Cooperative School, we draw upon a literary based social and emotional program called Friendly School’s Plus to support key social skills. Over the year, five key areas will be covered in the Kindergarten program: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and social decision making. These are promoted through role-play, circle time, and explicit teaching.
The Arts	<p>Dance – This term children will be exploring dance particularly looking at ways we express ourselves through dance. The children will identify where they might experience dance in their lives and communities, think about why people might dance and investigate dances from other cultures including dances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. They will have an opportunity to learn some new dances and respond to these using their own words and learnt dance terminology.</p> <p>Singing – Singing is a part of our everyday program in kindergarten.</p>
Community Singing	Families and carers are invited to join us for community singing in Redgum from 2:30pm on Friday afternoons. During this time Dr Susan West from the Music Engagement Program will join us to share singing and learning new songs.
Home Reading	I strongly encourage children to read at home daily. Reading <i>with</i> someone, reading <i>to</i> someone, and being read to is extremely important for children’s reading development. It is beneficial for children to talk about what they read, allow time for your child to ask questions, clarify meaning and make links to other texts and experiences. If your child reads

the same book often, it is a good thing; they are doing this for success, enjoyment, understanding and importantly their confidence. Please see a separate note with information about reading strategies.

Dates to Remember

- Assemblies will be held on Wednesday mornings at 9.00am, each even week in the *Redgum* room.
Kindergarten will be hosting assembly in week 6 on 21st November 2018
- Softball clinics – commence week 3 through to end of week 6
- Children’s Week – week 2 (Gruffalo excursion, pyjama day, investigations in the park)
- Outdoor learning day – 1st November 2018
- Kindergarten transition visits - transition visits to Year 1 (once during weeks 8 and 9)
- End of year bush picnic – week 9 - Tuesday 11th December 2018
- Week 10 Swimming @ Gungahlin Leisure centre
- Last day of school for the year – Friday 21st December 2018