



NEWSLETTER



POORAKA PRIMARY SCHOOL R - 7, SOUTH TERRACE, POORAKA 5095

Cooperation

Respect

Caring

Trust

Responsibility

Acquaintance visits

It was wonderful to see so many families come along to our acquaintance sessions yesterday. Spending time in your child's class and getting to see the class program gives you insight into what occurs each day for your child. Some students took their parent/caregiver on a tour of the school where they got to see the Performing Arts and the Italian learning spaces. Thank you for coming.



Here is Oscar and his dad Michael, working on a phoneme and grapheme mapping task.



Well done to all of our new reception students who have settled in well at Pooraka



School. Learning how to be a student at school can be very challenging, but our young people have done a marvellous job. Already they've connected with the routines of school, met new friends, asked lots of questions and responded well to new learning experiences.

Thank you to all of the parents/caregivers, this is a huge milestone in your child's life and your encouragement and positivity has really helped your child to connect with our school community.

Preparing for NAPLAN Online for years 3, 5, and 7:

This year our students will practice in a *nationwide practice test on Thursday 25th March at 11:00am*. This will not be all the students, but a selected group participating.

The **actual NAPLAN Online tests** this year are **Tuesday 11th May until Friday 14th May**, with a catch up week for any students who have been absent during this time. We are asking (as it is so important) for your child in year 3, 5 or 7 to be at school on time during this week as testing begins at 9:15am each day. The only aspect of the test which is not done online will be the year 3 Writing test.

If you **do not wish** to have your child complete the NAPLAN Online test this year, please contact the school to **complete and sign an exemption form** for your child.

You are able to also see the NAPLAN online environment and samples of the tests the students will be sitting via the NAPLAN online website: www.nap.edu.au

Please feel free to explore the site as there is a public demonstration site where you can also access the sample test. This would be a great opportunity for you to work with your child to explore the features of the test in the comfort of your own home.

Please call the school if you have any questions.

Remember to always drive safely through the drop off and pick up zone.

Children's safety is everyone's responsibility.





Developing the Balanced Reader at Pooraka School

As parents, you play the most important role in helping your child learn. Helping your child read is very important because *reading is the foundation for all learning*. Children who are confident about reading have a positive attitude about learning. Children who read with their families develop a love of reading that lasts a lifetime. www.peireads.com



Reading Assessment Tool

At Pooraka School, teachers use the **PM Benchmark Reading Assessment Tool kits** to check student's *reading behaviours* and the *strategies* and *skills* they are *applying* when they read. Teachers then collate this information to identify students' reading strengths and define future learning needs. This information determines what *reading level* the student is ready to work on, also considering their zone of proximal development, meaning 'what the child can do independently' and 'what the child can do with support'.



Decodable Readers vs Levelled Readers

Decodable readers focus on *cracking the alphabetic code* and contain a large number of phonetically regular words that can be sounded out once a child has the corresponding letter-sound knowledge. Decodable readers are designed for student's to practice and apply their developing phonics knowledge.

Levelled readers focus on *sets of criteria* deliberately embedded within each level, *meaning* and repetitive use of *high frequency words* and a range of *sentence structures*. *Levelled* readers match the developmental journey of a reader from Reception through to Year 7.

Home Reading

Home readers are generally set at 1 or 2 levels below the child's in class 'instructional' reading level. This allows the child to practise applying the reading strategies and skills they have already learnt and consolidated 'independently'.

Enjoy sharing the fundamental process of learning how to read with your children.

Term 1 diary dates:

- 17/2 AGM followed by our first Governing Council
- 26/2 Assembly 1.45pm in the hall
- 8/3 Public Holiday
- 12/3 Assembly 1.45pm in the hall
- 26/3 Sports day
- 2/4 Easter Friday
- 5/4 Easter Monday
- 9/4 Last day of term 2pm finish.

