



NEWSLETTER

POORAKA PRIMARY SCHOOL R - 6
11 SOUTH TERRACE, POORAKA 5095



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

Term 4, Week 7

Cooperation

Respect

Caring

Trust

Responsibility



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Dear families,

It is difficult to believe that we have just completed Week 6 of the final term of school for 2023. Term 4 brings a great deal of excitement for many as well as some trepidation for our Year 6 students as they head off on their next journey into High School. At Pooraka PS, we do however, have a key focus on continuing student learning until the end of the term. This means that although students are getting a little weary, we still have very high expectations of them around engagement, learning and making positive choices.

We've had a range of wonderful things happening in our school yard this term, to make it a safe and enjoyable place to be. The edging around the older children's playground has been replaced and new soft fall (bark chips) has just been delivered.

We also saw the delivery and installation of the long awaited hut frames around the boundary of our school oval. This is the first stage of the improvement, with some tepees to arrive and be installed in Week 10. The huts are a fantastic installation, that enable students to weave branches and leaves or other natural products through. A huge thank you to Verlaine, our Business Manager and Deborah Barry for all of their work around obtaining funding for these projects earlier in the year.

Michelle Parkes, Principal



**Nature Art
& Play**

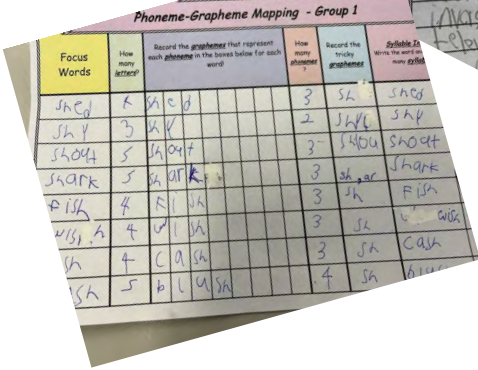
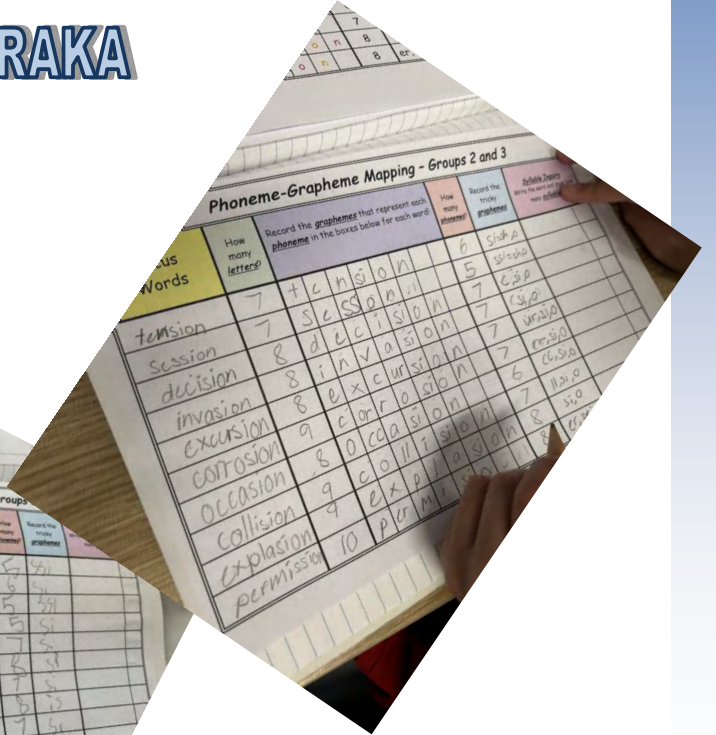
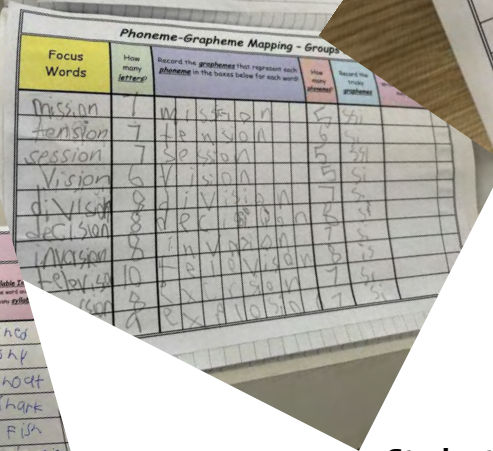
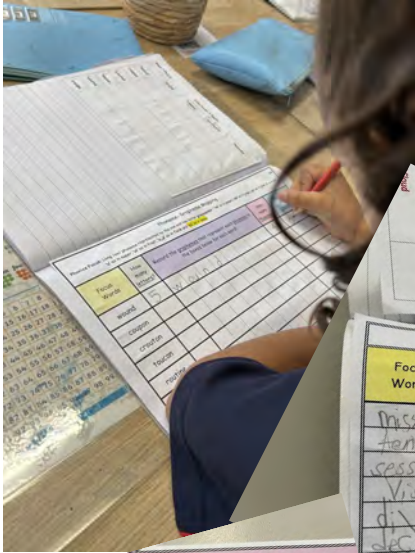
Governing Council - We Need You!

Governing Council is formed by parents/caregivers/grandparents of our school community. At the end of 2023, we have some of our very valued members leaving us as their children head off to high school. We will be seeking to vote in some new members at the AGM in February, 2024. If you would like to know more information, please don't hesitate to contact me. Being a GC Member, it gives you a voice in the school and allows you to make such a difference. Research shows that being involved in your child's education has significant long term benefits in better school engagement and academic outcomes. We'd love to have you join. Meetings are generally no longer than 1 hour, twice a term at 9am (although this time will be negotiated at our first meeting. Thank you so much. Michelle Parkes



HIGH QUALITY TEACHING AND LEARNING AT POORAKA PRIMARY SCHOOL

LITERACY LEARNING AT POORAKA



Students are developing their Phoneme-Grapheme knowledge. Each week, students across all classes participate in this learning. It allows students to understand the letters and sounds to help them spell words.

Term 4	
Week	Monitors
1	Darcey (R9), Toby (R9), Affan (R9)
2	Ella-Rose (R9), Ava (R10), Sonya A (R10)
3	Victoria (R9), Charlize (R9), Leah (R9)
4	Jaiden (R10), Lucy (R10), Volunteer Please
5	Alana (R9), Tofinga (R9), Zander (R9)
6	Darcey (R9), Toby (R9), Affan (R9)
7	Ella-Rose (R9), Ava (R10), Sonya A (R10)
8	Victoria (R9), Charlize (R9), Alana (R9)
9	Alana (R9), Tofinga (R9), Zander (R9)

School Crossing Monitors Roster





2024 Reception Students transition visits

Earlier this term we welcomed our 2024 Reception students for their transition visits. The students spent time in Area 2 with Mrs Huppatz learning all about what it looks and feels like to be a student at Pooraka Primary.



2023 Senior Students



Our senior students are starting to feel the excitement and nervousness of nearing their final weeks and days at primary school. They are busy preparing for Graduation - including finalising their speeches and dance routines.

By now, most students know where they are headed for high school, and many will participate in the state-wide transition days in week 8.

Student Voice Forum - with Martin Westwell (CE)

On Monday 6th November 2023, some of our Year 5/6 students were invited to participate in a student forum facilitated by Martin Westwell (Chief Executive) and Guy Claxton. The aim of the workshop was to help deepen our understanding of learner agency in our schools. The workshop demonstrated how student voice shaped the Strategy for Public education in South Australia, and discussed what needs to be considered to understand learner agency and how we might develop this in our schools.

This workshop was a follow on from the forum students we participated in last November that gave us the basis for the new [strategy for public education in South Australia](#).

