

**Term 4, 2020 – Turner Preschool Term Letter
Munnagayi Group – Monday-Wednesday
Merilyn Hancock and Meena Meena**

19 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to another exciting term of investigating, wondering and learning. Throughout the year we have been encouraging the children to become more independent and this begins with their morning routine. Encouraging your child to pack and unpack their bag at home helps children to begin to take care of their belongings. We are also extending this concept to encourage them to take care of the shared toys and respect both the built and natural environment. During the day the children select activities to encourage them to deeply engage with what they are interested in and also have the confidence to take on new challenges. At times children may become frustrated with a particular problem and while intervention is necessary some of the time, letting your child problem solve and face the consequences of their actions helps them to learn and grow. We have a busy term ahead including transition visits to kindergarten, wetlands walk and our end of year whole school concert which will be online.

Please bring back portfolios as we need to fill them up for the end of the year!

This term we will be investigating the natural world. The children in our group have been very interested in many different animals and we will explore living and non-living things, lifecycles and changes that happen during those lifecycles. The children have shown great excitement to note the changes in the seeds that were planted during term 3. We will also be exploring the interdependence of living things and our responsibility to look after the environment. As part of our inquiry we have some live tadpoles growing in our preschool!

The children will learn about the growth of a frog, starting from observing eggs changing into tadpoles, froglets and frogs. Munnagayi children have the opportunity to commence writing and drawing their observations in their own journals as part of the literacy program. We have commenced taking data to observe the development of the tadpoles as their bodies grow and change. As part of our numeracy program we have commenced taking data by writing the number of tadpoles observed in the tank in week one and will continue these observations, noting the changes to their bodies as they grow and develop.

As a comparison we will explore how each child has changed over time by looking at their baby photos. **We request that families send in a baby photo of their child so we can discuss the changes that have occurred as they have grown.**

We will continue to encourage the children to ask questions and wonder about the world around them and will follow the inquiries which are generated by the children's interests.

Some of the Early Years Learning Framework outcomes we will be focusing on are:

Outcome 2 - Children are connected and contribute to their world

- *Children become socially responsible and show respect for the environment*

Outcome 4 - Children are confident and involved learners

- *Children develop dispositions for learning such as curiosity, cooperation, confidence, creativity, commitment, enthusiasm, persistence, imagination and reflexivity*
- *Children develop a range of skills and processes such as problem solving, inquiry, experimentation, hypothesizing, researching and investigating*
- *Children resource their own learning through connecting with people, place, technologies and natural and processed materials*

Literacy

Throughout term 4 we will be looking at information books to support our learning about living things. We will be exploring the structure of information books and how we can tell the difference between those and story books. We will also provide the children with opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of letter/sound relationships through chants, rhymes, tactile letter resources, letter recognition activities and letter-sound games. We are supporting the use of lower case letters in the appropriate places and commencing writing in the top left hand corner of the page as pre-reading/writing requisites.

Numeracy

This term we will be revising and consolidating what we have been learning throughout the year. We will continue to provide the children with the opportunity to use games, manipulatives, songs, chants and rhymes to learn about repeated patterns, identifying and sequencing numbers and collections, matching collections to number names (symbols, pictures and words), shape and colour, subitising (recognising collections without counting) and one-to-one correspondence. Through our inquiry learning the children will participate in a range of authentic mathematical learning opportunities.

Learning Assets and Dispositions

This term we are working on the dispositions of curiosity and persistence. We will be looking at learning to be researchers by being curious and asking questions about the world around us, then figuring out how to find answers to those questions. To help the children develop their persistence we are encouraging them to develop a positive mental attitude. Children build persistence when they are given time to have a go at a skill, then also the opportunity to revisit it to build their proficiency and hence their enjoyment of using that skill.

Kindergarten Transitions

During term 4 we will also be preparing for the children's transition to kindergarten. The children will be participating in informal visits to the kindergarten classes and play areas. During these times the children will participating a range of learning experiences in the kindergarten rooms to support them in becoming familiar with the kindergarten area and routines.

Kind regards,

Merilyn Hancock and Meena Meena

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Preschool Term 4 Dates for your calendar

Please note: These dates are correct at the time of printing this letter. Please regularly check the website as well as newsletters for any changes and additions as well as whole school events.

Week ?

Online whole school concert

Week 9

Portfolios and reports go home

