Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to term 4! It’s hard to believe that the year is almost over, but we have so much more to look forward to in our last term together. This term will be a very busy one with new inquiry units, swimming, the Turner School fete, end of year assembly and concert, and much, much more!

We are really looking forward to continuing to help each Snugglepot develop and reach their individual goals throughout this coming term. Our goal is to ensure that we provide a learning environment that supports each child in achieving - socially, emotionally and academically.

This letter contains a brief overview of Term 4, as well as important dates to remember. Other dates may be added as the term progresses so please check the school website http://www.turners.act.edu.au. If you would like to discuss anything in further detail, please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange a time.

**Literacy**

As always, our focus for literacy lessons is to provide a range of learning experiences that target each child’s individual learning goals. We will utilise high quality texts which can be adapted to support a range of literacy outcomes, including letter identification, letter-sound correspondence, sight words, rhyming words, sequencing main events in a story, verbally recounting a familiar story and writing simple sentences.

Our literacy sessions are grouped so that students can work together on common goals. This allows for targetted explicit instruction, as well as providing opportunities for peer modelling and for students to support each other to achieve their outcomes.

**Mathematics**

This term, our aim in Maths is to focus on really embedding number sense for each Snugglepot – in line with their individual learning goals and needs.

As always, our Maths lessons are a blend of explicit instruction along with hands-on manipulative exploration of concepts and fun activities that consolidate the learning. Students are grouped to ensure a targetted focus on developing efficient numeracy strategies, and to allow enrichment in areas of strength.

We will continue to learn about time, identifying and sequencing familiar events and sequencing the days of the week. This term, we will also begin to explore concepts around volume and capacity, and measuring and comparing the mass of objects using balancing scales. Perhaps you can help your child measure and weigh in the kitchen at home.
Inquiry Units

This term we have a separate Inquiry Unit for each year level. To support the teaching of two discrete units, the Year 2 Snugglepots will be integrating with Year 2 students from 1/2 Cuddlepies and 1/2 Itchy Bears, whilst the Year 1 Snugglepots will be joining the Year 1 students from these two classes. This integration will build relationships prior to the consideration of class groupings and transitions for next year.

Information on each Inquiry Unit is outlined below.

Inquiry Year 1- ‘Look! Listen!’

Light and sounds surround us, bringing a wealth of information about our world. We use light and sound to communicate with each other. Sounds can be as different as beautiful music or screaming sirens. Light can transmit the pictures from a television screen or the expressions on someone’s face. Through this unit students will investigate how sources of light and sound are produced and how they travel.

Big idea - Light and sound are produced by a range of sources and can be sensed.

Lines of Inquiry:
- Our senses are used to learn about the world around us
- The sun as a source of light
- Objects can be seen when light from sources is available to illuminate them
- We use light and sound to communicate with one another

Inquiry Year 2- ‘Push-Pull’

Forces are at work in everything that we do - we push to open doors and pull to tie ropes. Gravity pulls on things to make them fall down or to keep them down. Through this unit students will have the opportunity to explore pushes and pulls by investigating, observing and gathering evidence about how these forces act in air, water and on the ground. Students will identify the effect of the pull of gravity and learn that both air and water can ‘push’.

Big Idea – Forces change the way things move.

Lines of Inquiry:
- Forces can be harnessed to do useful things
- The balance between opposing forces determines whether objects float or sink
- The forces of gravitation determine how things move

Through these inquiries students will work with the Australian Curriculum Science areas. Students will develop the skills of planning and conducting experiments and processing and analysing data and information. For further details, please see the link below:

PE and Health

This term we will continue having weekly PE lessons with our buddy class the 1/2CK. This provides further opportunities for modelling, taking turns and developing social skills. We will also continue to participate in targeted perceptual motor skills development as well as activities designed to support students’ gross motor skills development. We adjust the timing of our PE sessions in term 4 to suit the hotter days.
Some PE lessons this term will be conducted in the Quad area. The Quad is the large bitumen area of the school, enclosed on three sides by the Condamine Street buildings, which incorporates basketball, netball and hand ball courts. We will be utilising this space to help familiarise our Year 2 students with the Condamine Street buildings and spaces prior to their transition to Year 3 next year.

**Oral Language and Social Skills**

As always, both oral language and social skills are high priorities for the Snugglepots’ learning. This year, we have focused on the development of oral language skills. We will continue this focus in term 4 by providing students with rich literature and utilising a wide variety of educational drama strategies, including role play, puppetry, retelling and developmental play, which research shows will support students to build confidence and improve oral language outcomes. It is also loads of fun!

Weekly targetted social skills lessons with 1/2CK will continue this term, and we will continue to model and teach appropriate social skills throughout each day within our own classroom and on the playground.

**Transition**

For our Year 2 students transitioning to Year 3 next year, this term will be important in setting up expectations for this transition, and ensuring that students are familiar and comfortable with the buildings and spaces in the senior side of the school. We will be undertaking a range of activities, including familiarisation walks and classroom visits, designed to support students and ensure that their transition to Year 3 is seamless and stress free.

**Swimming**

This year there are two separate swimming programs that are being run in term 4. During weeks 5 and 6, the AIS swim school program is being offered for students in Years 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6. If you have nominated your Year 1 child for this program, details will be sent home closer to the time.

This year the ACT Education and Training Directorate is subsidising an AQUA SAFE program for all Year 2 students across the ACT. If your child is in Year 2, your form should already be returned to the school, and you will need to have completed on-line details. The AQUA SAFE program is being run in Weeks 4 and 5 and will incorporate a series of 10 practical and 5 theory lessons focussed on general water safety and personal aquatic survival skills.

If you require any further information on either swimming program, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

**Library with Norma John**

The Snugglepots will continue to visit the library each week on Mondays. Please ensure your child has a labelled library bag; either a cloth or plastic bag for use on library days.

**Living Skills**

Our living skills program continues this term with Sally Higgisson supporting our class staff. This program targets specific areas of learning around the kitchen, the garden and personal care. The children will learn to do more things for themselves and have a greater appreciation of what is involved in looking after themselves.
Art with Sally Visser-Marchant

In Art class this term children will study the work of Edvard Munch, Kandinsky and Vincent van Gogh within a program that links with the year 1 and year 2 inquiry units. They will be experimenting with a range of mediums throughout the term such as fabric collage, painting and papier mache.

Music with Kirsty Robinson

In music sessions the children are working on a great arrangement of a terrific piece by an internationally renowned Australian composer for the end of year concert. It's quite challenging but the children love it. In other work they are making decisions about tempo, rhythm and voice style to create different musical effects.

1/2 Team Term 4 Website Update

Please have a look at the Turner School website and read Jen Faul's team update for term 4. It touches on an important point that parents and carers may like to consider at home.

Fruit Break / Hat / Water

Please remember to pack a healthy snack of fruit or vegetables for your child to have at fruit break, as well as their lunch and recess. Please also remember that Turner is a nut aware school. Do not send nuts, peanut butter or other nut-based products to school.

As our weather is definitely warming up, please ensure that your child brings both a water bottle and a broad brimmed hat to school every day.

It has been a wonderful year so far with the Snugglepots, and we are looking forward to another fantastic term together. We are sure the end of the year will bring many reasons to celebrate the learning journey that we have all been on together!

Kind regards,

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S1/2VO Snugglepots
Important Dates for S1/2VO Snugglepots - Term 4, 2015

Please refer to the whole school Term 4 calendar that went home with the week 1 newsletter.

**Week 3** - Wednesday 28th October – Children’s Week Whole School Assembly including Read Aloud, 2.10pm Snr Hall

**Week 4** - Year 2 Aqua Safe at CISAC

**Week 5** - Year 1 Swim School at AIS and Yr 2 Aqua Safe at CISAC

**Week 6** - Year 1 Swim School at AIS

**Week 7** - Wednesday 25th November Jnr Assembly, 2.10pm Snr Hall

**Week 8** - Wednesday 2nd December End of Year Concert, 5.30 picnic and 6.30 concert commences

The newsletter and website will keep you updated with all events.

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**Friendly Reminder**

Don’t forget Turner is a nut aware school. There are children with serious nut allergies in Year 1/2 so please keep this in mind when packing your child’s lunch and recess.

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