

Macclesfield Primary School

Responsibility • Safety • Respect • Success • Caring

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NEWSLETTER NO. 14

Term 3 Week 5 Friday 23rd August

Week 6

Character strength – Vitality

Monday 26/8

Indonesian

Mt B. Council Student Community Consult

Tuesday 27/8

Indonesian

Top Block Play

Wednesday 28/8

Milo for sale 50c

Thursday 29/8

Top Block Play

Friday 30/8

Assembly 2/3/4 hosting

Week 7

Character strength – Vitality

Monday 2/9

Tuesday 3/9

Indonesian

Wednesday 4/9

Milo for sale 50c

Thursday 5/9

Friday 6/9

School Closure Day

Book Week

It was great to see the effort and imagination that went into our Book Week parade. It is a celebration of books and reading and we appreciate the extra work that it entails for families.

Thankyou to those of you who were able to come along today to see the students parade. Photos of each class are pictured below.

The Picture Book of the Year Award was presented to 'Cicada' by Shaun Tan.



READING AND WRITING IN TRANSITIONS: THE EDUCATION BLAME GAME AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE UK.

It is often lamented that those entering higher education are not adequately prepared to read and write at a tertiary level, with precious little time to catch up. However, the idea of literacy as a single and transferable "skill" is problematic.

There is a blame game around responsibility for skills associated with literacy, and many schools, universities and policy-makers are eager to pass the buck whenever a transition between education levels occurs.

However, research from Dr Sally Baker of UNSW challenges the idea of literacy as a singular and transferable "skill". The research highlights that what counts and is valued as reading and writing fundamentally shifts from secondary school to university.

Dr Baker's research draws on a longitudinal study of UK students' reading and writing in transition. It explores how different approaches to attaining knowledge impact students' reading and writing transitions from school into undergraduate study. Eleven students were followed throughout their last year of A-levels, and into their second year of undergraduate studies. Data came from interviews, students' texts, Facebook status updates, literacy logs and key curriculum documents from both educational levels.

"Although firmly grounded in the English education context, it has relevance for many western education systems that privilege linear school-university pathways", explained Dr Baker.

"The disconnects between school and tertiary education learning are profound and exist on multiple levels. However, there is an implicit societal expectation that pre-university schooling, A-levels in this case, should sufficiently prepare students for the rigours of higher education."

"In England, neither A-level teachers nor university lecturers believed responsibility for the adequate preparation of students' writing lay with their own educational level, with both groups pointing to perceived deficiencies emerging from earlier in schooling."

"In this way, writing continues to be viewed as a technical set of 'skills'. The significance of the sociocultural and disciplinary contexts within which academic writing happens remain hidden."

"At the school level, tangible products of the processes of reading and writing are focused on students' academic texts as required for assignments and exams. However, this conceals the importance of associated practices, such as locating and assessing sources, synthesising reading and situating an argument with and against the work of others."

...to be continued

Character Strength

Vitality (Zest, Passion, Energy)

The strength of vitality enables you to approach life with enthusiasm and energy. Your zest describes your sense of 'aliveness' and you embark on tasks with a spirit of passion. Your energy is expressed not only in personal productivity, but also your tendency to infectiously energise those with whom you come into contact.

If you have the strength of vitality...

- Regardless of what you do, you approach it with enthusiasm
- You never do anything halfway or halfheartedly
- You rarely feel worn out, gloomy or mope around
- For you, life is an adventure!

Fathers' Day Stall

The Fathers' Day stall will be operating next week, during lunch breaks and after school on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Nothing costs more than \$5. If students bring larger amounts of money to school, please ask them to bring it to the office for safe keeping. Some money did go missing from a student's bag during the last sale.

Thanks to the volunteer parents who are making themselves available to organize and run this event.

Year One Phonics Screening

All Year 1 students are required to undertake a Phonics screening. A detailed factsheet from the Department for Education is attached to this newsletter.

Swimming

Please remember that swimming, for years Reception to 5, will be held in Week 8, September 9-13.

There are still some families who have not made contact with us about payment or payment plans. We would appreciate you doing so, as soon as possible.



2019

Phonics screening check

Information for parents/carers, families and the general community

Most children start school with some understanding of reading. Some can already read. Children who understand the relationship between letters and sounds—known as 'phonics'—will be at an advantage. Phonics is vital in learning to read.

Some children struggle with learning to read. It is important that these children are quickly identified so that teachers can plan for any specific support they may need. When this is done early, children have the best possible chance in life and learning.

The phonics screening check is a short, simple assessment that tells teachers how students are progressing in phonics. It takes only 5–7 minutes and is carried out by classroom teachers with each student individually. Teachers then analyse the results and, if necessary, plan for any additional support that students might require.

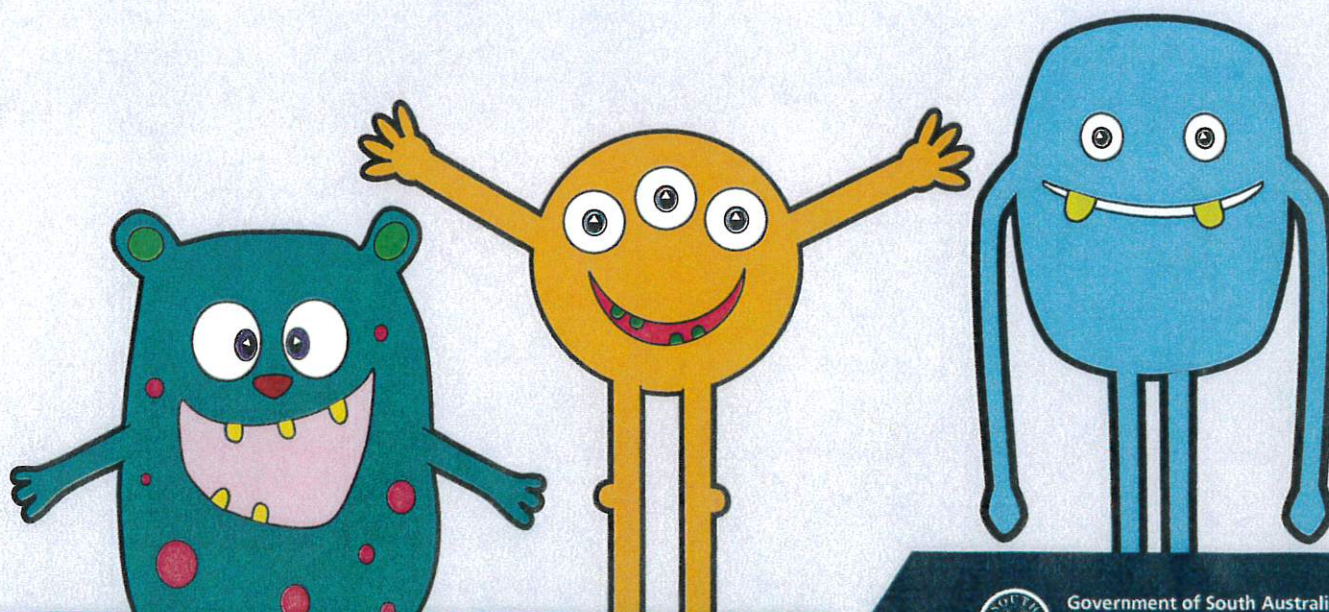
The phonics screening check was developed in the United Kingdom and the South Australian Department for Education trialled it in 2017 in 56 schools. The trial showed that not only did children enjoy it, but that it was straight forward to do. Principals and teachers thought the check had the potential to improve phonics teaching.

All Year 1 students in government schools will undertake the check in August 2019. To ensure high quality and consistency, Year 1 teachers and school leaders are being trained to use the phonics screening check during term 2, 2019.

The Department for Education is supporting schools with resources to undertake the assessment and to follow up with students who need additional support. The phonics screening check will be updated each year.

Phonics screening check materials will also be made available to Catholic and Independent schools in South Australia.

The phonics screening check is one important element of the Government of South Australia's Literacy Guarantee, ensuring that all students have the best possible start in reading. The Literacy Guarantee is central to the improvement of literacy and numeracy for all students.



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