



Coorow Primary School
Learning for Life

The mini Quill
Term 1, Week 6

Dear everyone,

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and extended families who came along to our assembly and open classrooms on Tuesday. It was such a great turnout, and I was excited by the positive feel as the families were in the classrooms talking with the students and finding out what they have been learning. It was lovely to speak with so many of you, and to re-meet some of the grandparents who I know from a long time ago.

Week 6	
Monday 10 March	Ms Whyte absent – no relief
Tuesday 11 March	Staff meeting
Wednesday 12 March	Naplan testing window begins
Thursday 13 March	Faction swimming carnival
Friday 14 March	

Swimming Carnival

Next week is a very exciting event - the faction swimming carnival. For many children, it takes lots of courage to participate in events like this, and they will probably be feeling nervous. We reassure them by telling them that we just ask them to do their best - it doesn't matter if they win or not because it's all about swimming for your faction and enjoying your day.

We also ask all the kids to remember that, if they win, it is important to be a good winner - remember that other people may be disappointed, so good winners congratulate them on their effort, and they are kind by not being too loud or obvious in their pleasure at winning.

We are looking forward to seeing you all there to cheer on your children and your faction!

Protective Behaviours

This term, we are implementing the *Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum* with students in Pre-Primary – Yr 6. The curriculum is based on principles of best practice in child safety education and centres around three key messages: **Recognise, React and Report**. Through a series of lessons, students are learning how to recognise, react and report when they feel unsafe or find themselves in unsafe situations. The curriculum also includes body safety, to help keep children safe from potential threats. All the lesson material is age appropriate and delivered in a non-frightening way.

The lessons align with the Western Australian Health and Physical Education Curriculum, and they are being taught in Health time. I am teaching Health across the school this year and will be teaching all these lessons.

The first key safety message of the curriculum is **recognise**. 'Recognise' is about being aware of your environment. Children, young people and adults can all learn to take notice of what is happening around them to help keep themselves safe. Everyone can use clues, such as the things we see, hear, smell or feel to help protect us from harm and keep ourselves safe. Clues can be simple things that warn us about a danger, e.g. hearing a fire alarm or seeing smoke, or they might be things that we feel inside our bodies like butterflies, or jelly legs.

We can also use clues to prepare for potentially unsafe situations. When we recognise that there might be a safety problem, we can take steps to reduce the risk by developing strategies that can help keep us safe. For instance, if you are going to a busy environment such as the Royal Show, or even a local event where there are big crowds, you might consider what you and your child could do if you became separated. Depending on the age of your child, strategies could include:

- going to a highly visible pre-determined meeting spot
- writing your phone number on a card and placing it in your child's pocket
- identifying who your child could approach if they become lost, e.g. police, staff at a booth.

More protective behaviour news next week, as we will look at **React** in more detail.

Please contact me if you would like any more information about the *Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum*, and how it is taught. We also have many books about body safety in our parent library – you might like to check these out in the office next time you are at school. Some of our books are information for parents, and others are books to share with your children.

Have a great week,
Jancy