



# Gowrie St Primary School Prep Information Pack 2023

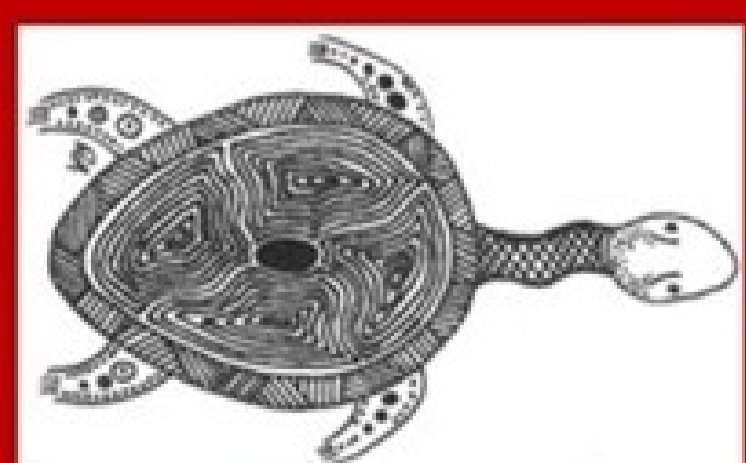
Our Vision:

*We are a community that takes strength from who we are: our diversity, our cultures and our histories.*

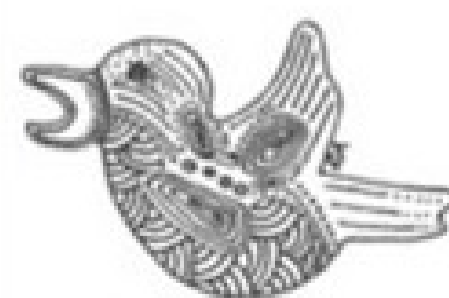
*We will empower our students to seize life's opportunities and to overcome its challenges.*



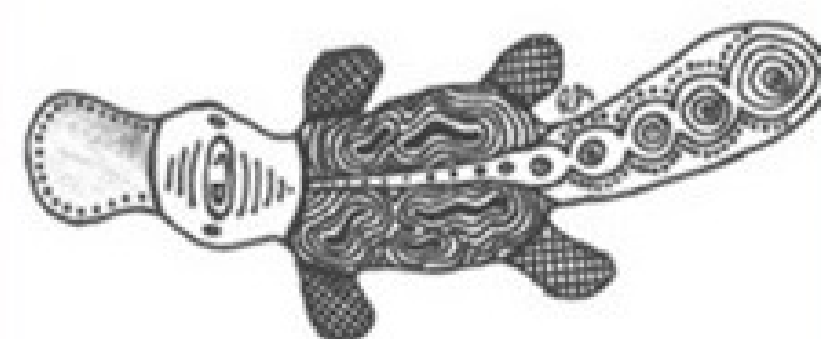
EMPATHY



DETERMINATION



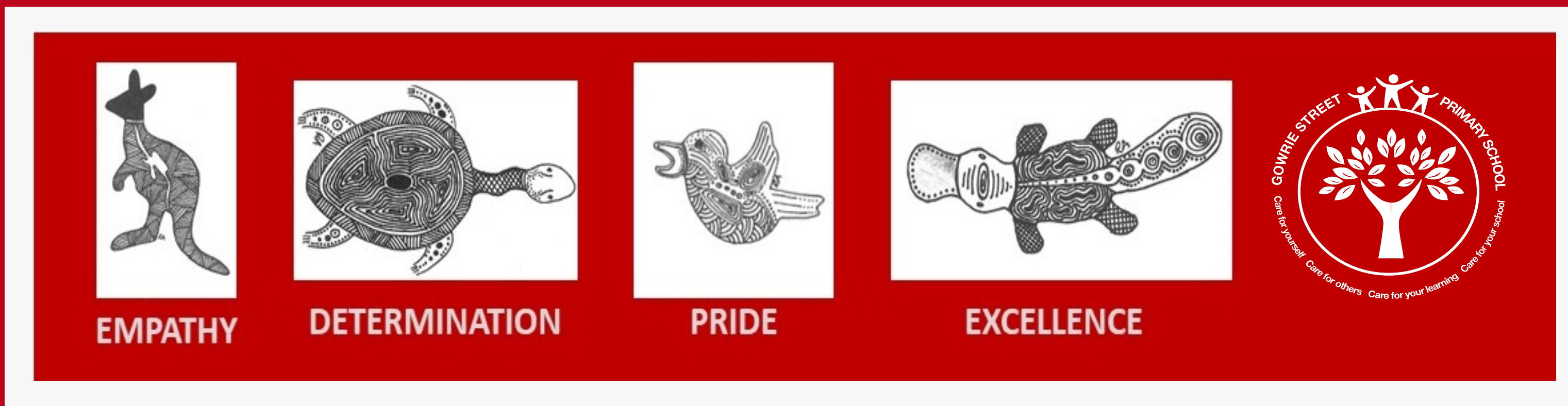
PRIDE



EXCELLENCE







# GOWRIE STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL FOUNDATION 2023

**AT SCHOOL -ON TIME -EVERY DAY!**

## FOUNDATION 2023 TRANSITION DATES

**TUESDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 9.00am-10.00am**  
Students to bring a drink bottle.

**TUESDAY 29th NOVEMBER 9.00am-10.30 am**  
Students to bring a snack and drink bottle

**TUESDAY 6th DECEMBER 9.00am-11.00am**  
Students to bring a snack and drink bottle

**TUESDAY 13th DECEMBER 9.00am-11.30am**  
Students to bring a snack and drink bottle.



## PARENT SESSION

We will be running a session to introduce parents to Gowrie St on the first transition day- Tuesday 6th November at 10am.

We will discuss-

- Being ready for school
- What first days at school will be like
- Learning at Gowrie St PS
- Introduction to key people in the school



# TERM 1

Term 1 is a big term for Foundation students. They are learning so many new things, the day is often longer than they are used to and it's usually the hottest part of the year also. With all of that in mind, the first part of the term is a bit different. At Gowrie St we want to support our youngest students to have as much success as they can have so that they love school. One way we do this is shorten the week so they can rest. We do this by letting them have a rest half way through the week.

**First day of school 2023 is Monday 30th January. Foundation students have Wednesdays off until Week 7. From Tuesday 14th March they stay all week**

## Foundation Assessments

On the Wednesdays where students are not at school, Foundation teachers use this time to do Mathematics and English testing and to get to know students one-on-one. You will be contacted by one of our office staff to book in a time for your child to have these assessments done. It is absolutely vital that your child attends these appointments. It ensures that your child's learning is well planned and that they are working at their point of need.

## What Will My Child Need To Bring To School?

- ✓ Lunch box with-  
A healthy lunch- see ideas below  
Snacks- enough for two decent snacks  
Fruit
- ✓ A drink bottle with water in it. We only have water in our drink bottles at Gowrie St  
Students are not permitted to leave the room for a drink.
- ✓ A hat.  
Students will not be permitted to play outside without a hat in Term 1 and Term 4





## STARTING SCHOOL

Starting school is an exciting time of change for children. There is a great deal to get used to and some children will adapt more easily than others. School days can be tiring too, for children who are used to a rest during the day. Children often have to cope with new routines, bigger buildings, and more children who are older and bigger. There are different rules to get used to and many new things they are expected to do. Children need lots of support from you when starting school. There are things you can do to prepare your child for school and to support them in the first few weeks.

### IS MY CHILD READY FOR SCHOOL?

- Will have turned five by 30th April- talk with your kinder teachers and ask their opinion about your child's readiness for school. Even children who will be five may do better at school with an extra kinder year
- Can use to the toilet on their own
- Can open their lunchbox and unwrap their food

**THE KEY IS THAT THE MORE READY A CHILD IS FOR SCHOOL, THE MORE THEY WILL SUCCEED AND LOVE SCHOOL**

## SCHOOL HOURS BELL AND EATING TIMES

SCHOOL STARTS 8.50 AM  
First Recess Bell 11.00AM  
Second Recess Bell 1.30PM  
HOME TIME 3.15PM

- Fruit Break at 10am
- Lunch at 11.25 am
- Snack at 2.15pm

Foundation students usually have one other snack time during the day. Learning is hungry work!

## WELCOME TO THE FIRST YEAR AT SCHOOL

At Gowrie Street Primary School we believe that the first year of primary school is THE most important year a child will have. This is because during this year they will learn the foundations of :-

- Making and keeping friends and working with others
- How to regulate their emotions in order to be able to learn
- The vital skills that will set them up for reading and writing
- Being independent and problem-solving

Because we believe this, we have built our Foundation program to support all of these things.





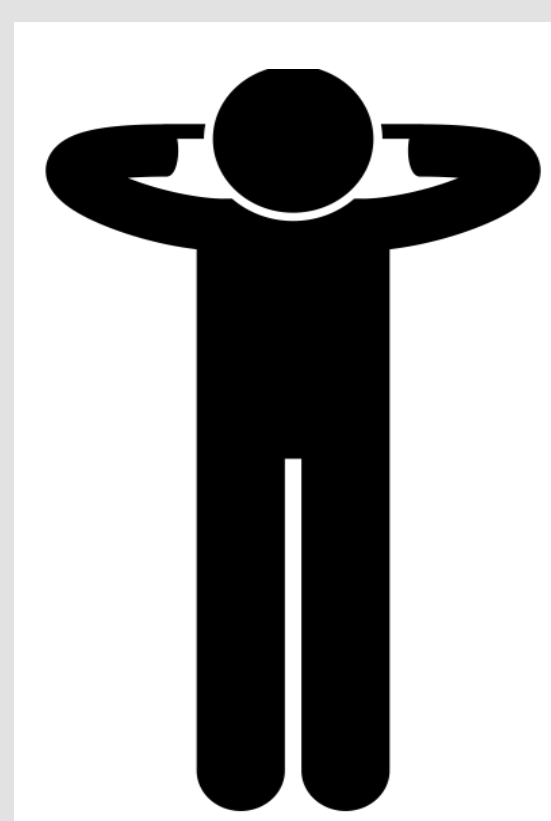
# GOWRIE STREET PRIMARY EARLY LEARNING MODEL

At Gowrie Street we believe that the Foundation year is the most important year of a child's schooling. It sets up the mindsets for learning for the rest of a child's life. Young children all learn at a different rate and need time and space to master their learning. Learning in Foundation focuses on-



## TALKING

Talking to learn is the first deep skill we work on with Foundation students. We teach students to use talk to tell stories, to make friends, to sing songs and use rhymes. We teach how to talk about our emotions and ask for what we need.



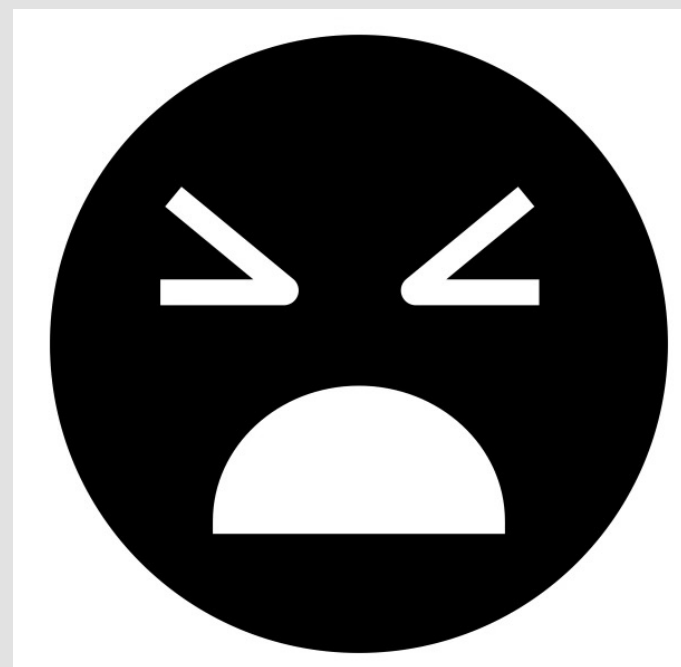
## LISTENING

Listening to stories read to them improves students' vocabulary- a predictor of reading success. Listening to stories helps students understand how stories work and help them tell their own stories- predictors for writing success. Listening helps students hear the sounds in words which supports reading and spelling words for writing. Listening to others helps us make and keep friends and build empathy.



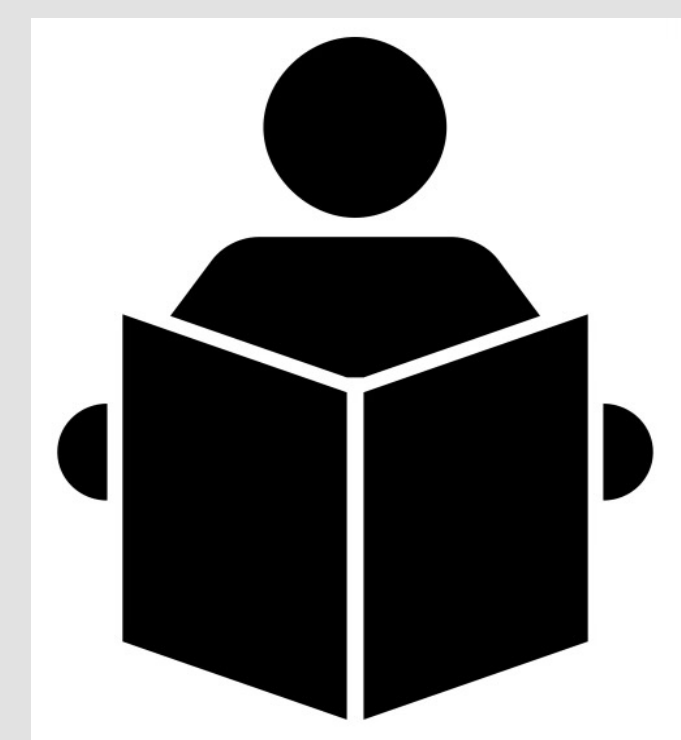
## PLAYING

Play is the work of children. Children learn about and understand the world through play. At Gowrie St much of the learning our Foundations students do at the beginning of the year is through play. They learn important social skills, vocabulary, problem-solving and concentration through our 'play' centres. Play encourages curiosity and this is a key to learning success.



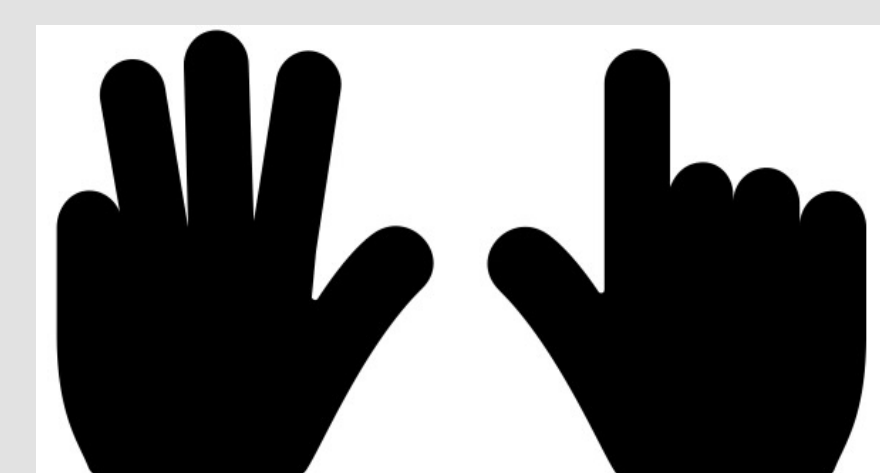
## EMOTION REGULATION

Being able to know their emotions and how to manage them helps children concentrate on the hard work of learning. At Gowrie St we teach students how to do this using the Zones Of Regulation curriculum that helps children understand their emotions and teaches them strategies to help themselves regulate.



## EMERGENT READING AND WRITING

Foundation students first learn to see themselves as readers and writers. They try out reading and writing in their own way to develop their sense of reading and writing. We also teach phonics in a systematic and sequential way. Along with this, we run 'intensive' activities where students work in short sharp 'intense' literacy tasks in order to make accelerated progress.



## UNDERSTANDING NUMBERS

At Gowrie St our Foundation students spend a lot of time using materials, their bodies and active learning to gain a deep understanding of numbers and how numbers work. Our students have a very positive mindset when it comes to maths!





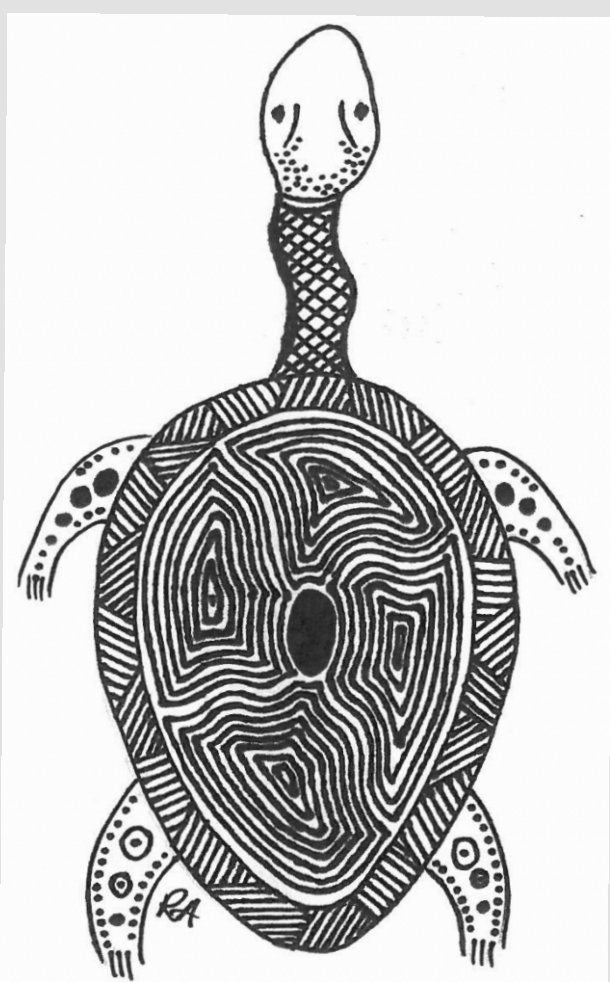
## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Active, healthy kids are what we strive for at Gowrie St. Our students have PE lessons once a week, active teacher-led breaks throughout the day and are encouraged to run and play at recess times. We have fantastic grounds at Gowrie St that supports physical activity.



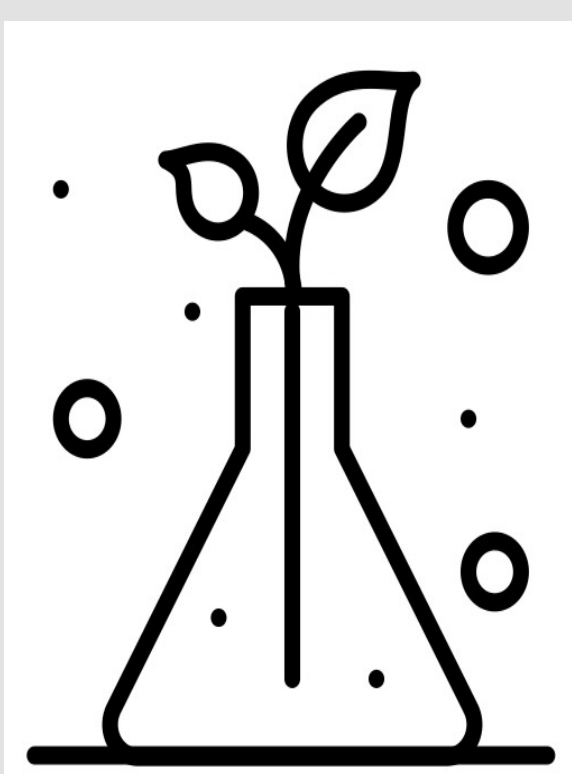
## THE ARTS

Creative learning is vital for young students. It encourages them to participate, share and develops thinking skills and curiosity. Our Foundation students have weekly visual arts, music and many opportunities to engage in craft across the week



## YORTA YORTA LANGUAGE

We are very lucky to be able to offer Yorta Yorta language and culture. Our students are so lucky that they have a chance to learn the local language and spend time learning about the culture and traditions of the Yorta Yorta people.



## SCIENCE

Our young scientists learn about their world in an active and hands on way. They learn how to look carefully at things, ask questions to develop their understandings and how to care for our world and all the things in it.





## SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT

### EXPECTATIONS

School-wide positive behaviour support (SWPBS) is a framework that brings together school communities to develop positive, safe, supportive learning cultures. At Gowrie St, SWPBS improves social, emotional, behavioural and academic outcomes for our students. Teachers and student focus on relationships and classroom instruction. Students and staff benefit from:

- increased respectful and positive behaviour
- increased time focused on instruction
- improved social-emotional wellbeing
- positive and respectful relationships among students and staff
- a predictable and safe learning environment

Every class in the school has weekly SWPBS lessons based on the need of the students and where they need extra learning about understanding our school-wide expectations. The expectations in the classroom are the same school-wide and this supports students to understand the appropriate way to be at school. In Foundation the expectations are presented in a simplified form. You will see the poster that is displayed in the Foundation learning space on the next page. Each of these expectations is taught and then students practice them, one at a time. The language of these expectations is used across the school and supports our calm learning environment. Please see our school-wide expectations matrix on the next page.

### REWARD SYSTEM

At Gowrie St we use a reward system to support our SWPBS. When students display the expected behaviours they are rewarded with a token, told what the behaviour is that they have shown and how that links with our school values. This helps reinforce the message- good job for doing the right thing! Students collect these tokens and every few weeks are able to use them as 'money' in our SWPBS shop to purchase things like small toys, milkshakes, free time with a friend or even a class party if they save up enough.

