

# Parents in Partnership

**Year 5**  
**Topic Newsletter 31.01.20**

## READING CHALLENGE

The tallies are adding up nicely, with many children passing 30 reads and some already surpassing 60! Well done and keep going!

Our topic this term is ...



**Australia**

In English this week the children have again been reading, planning and writing Dreamtime stories, folk tales from Aboriginal culture. They have read and re-written 'Why the koala has a stumpy tail' while focusing on describing characters and settings to engage the reader.

Fractions has been the focus in Maths this week. The children have consolidated converting mixed numbers into improper fractions and focused on adding and subtracting fractions with the same and different denominators.

## HOMEWORK

English - Read the Australian summer text and answer the accompanying questions.

Maths - Answer the addition questions involving fractions of different denominators. Also, keep using Times Table Rock Stars.

Spellings - The children have 5 key words and 5 words ending with the suffix 'ship' to learn for a test on Thursday.

## SCIENCE

This week, the children were explaining the effects of water resistance and considering streamlined shapes. They designed boats and tested them on water.

### CLASS ASSEMBLY (12<sup>th</sup> February)

The children were writing their assembly this week. It's shaping up nicely!

## RE

The children have read the Gospel according to Matthew, focusing on the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. They have written a character description of John, discussed the reasons people are baptized and thought about ways in which God makes Himself known to us.

## FRENCH

This week, the children have been learning how to pronounce and write colours. They have focused on 11 different colours. See what they can remember!

Thank you for your support! We appreciate all the efforts you make to support the children with their learning.  
Mr Dennis, Mrs Baskerville, Mrs Me-in and Miss Taylor

## Summer in Australia

In Australia, the four seasons are summer, autumn, winter and spring. The seasons are identified by the group of calendar months that they belong to.

Season	Months	Weather
Summer	December, January and February.	The weather is hot. Some parts of Australia are humid and other parts are dry.
Autumn	March, April and May.	The weather becomes cooler.
Winter	June, July and August.	The weather is cold. Rain and storms are common. Some places in Australia get snow.
Spring	September, October and November.	The weather becomes warmer however it is still very mixed. There can be rain, wind and cool days.

### Animals in Summer

Native Australian animals have adapted to survive the Australian heat. Koalas stay still in the shade of a tree and wait for the heat to pass. Sugar gliders are nocturnal so they are active during the cooler nights. During the day, they curl up in the shade of the tree. In summer, kangaroos do not sweat so, instead, they lick themselves to keep cool. Snakes are most active in summer because they are cold-blooded and they need the heat to warm their bodies.



### Plants in Summer

Australian native plants have adapted to the summer weather in Australia. Plants with smaller leaves or spikes lose less water through evaporation. If a plant has spikes, it is less likely to be eaten by animals. Some plants will stop growing during summer. They may even look dead; however, they are just in a resting state so they can save energy in the heat. Finally, soft fruits, such as peaches, tomatoes and strawberries, ripen. This means that they are ready to eat in summer. This explains why these fruits are eaten during the summer.



# Questions

A

1. How long is summer?

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2. Which season comes after summer?

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3. Describe the weather in summer.

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4. Name one way an animal might keep cool in summer.

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5. Why do you think a plant may stop growing in the summer?

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6. Why are snakes most active during the summer?

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7. Which fruits ripen during summer?

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8. From what you have read in the text, which plant or animal adaptation is the most effective? Explain your answer.

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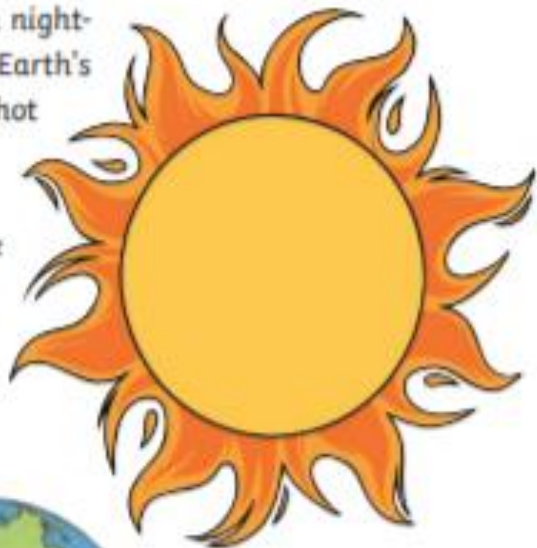
# Summer in Australia

## Seasons in Australia

Most people in Australia refer to the European four seasons: summer, autumn, winter and spring. Each season lasts for three months. In the tropical areas of Australia, many people refer to the wet and dry season, each lasting about six months. Indigenous communities have their own descriptions of seasons based on the weather and the impact this has on the animals, plants and land. These descriptions vary for different communities based on location. Some communities have five or six seasons. Overall, the number of seasons an area has depends on where a person lives in Australia.

## The Weather in Summer

During summer, there is more daylight than night-time hours. This is because of the tilt of the Earth's axis. In summer, the weather is generally hot and dry. However, it can be humid closer to the equator. The sun is extremely strong in the southern hemisphere compared to the northern hemisphere during summer so the risk of getting sunburnt is much higher. Australia is also prone to natural disasters like bushfires and cyclones during summer. As a result, the weather can be hostile during the summertime.



## Why Do We Have Seasons?

Seasons occur because when the Earth orbits the Sun, it is tilted  $23.5^\circ$  on its axis. For six months of the year, the South Pole is tilted towards the Sun. As a result, the days are longer and the weather is warmer in the southern hemisphere. During the Australian summer, the southern hemisphere is tilted towards the Sun. When the North Pole is tilted towards the Sun, the days are shorter in the southern hemisphere. The temperature will be cooler as well. This explains the changes between the seasons.



## Summer in Australia

### Animals in Summer

Native Australian animals have adapted to survive the warm summertime temperatures in Australia. Koalas stay still in the shade of a tree and wait for the heat to pass. Sugar gliders are nocturnal so they are active during the cooler nights and avoid being active during the day by curling up in the shade of the tree. The kangaroo, another native Australian animal, does not sweat and instead licks itself to maintain a regular body temperature. Finally, snakes living in Australia are active in summer because they are cold-blooded animals. Therefore, they need to be outside in order to warm their bodies.



### Plants in Summer

Australian native plants have adapted to the weather conditions during summer. Plants with smaller leaves or spikes lose less water through evaporation. Some plants have adapted by growing spikes, which prevents them being eaten by primary consumers. Some plants cease growing during summer and, in some instances, appear to be dead; however, they are just in dormant state so that they save energy in the heat. Soft fruits, such as peaches, tomatoes and strawberries, are ripe and ready to eat in summer.



# Questions

1. How long is summer?

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2. Thinking about where you live, which way of describing seasons suits your home best?  
Why?

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3. Describe the weather in summer.

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4. Explain why the seasons occur.

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5. What are two ways an animal might keep cool in summer?

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6. Why do you think a plant may stop growing in the summer?

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7. Animals and plants change to stay cool in the summer. How do people stay cool in summer?

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8. Why do some plants grow spikes?

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9. Why are soft fruits eaten widely during the summer?

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10. Using information given in the text, which plant or animal adaptation do you think is the most effective?

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## EVERYONE

membership

ownership

partnership

dictatorship

championship

## YEAR 5 / 6

average

criticise

existence

interrupt

physical

## YEAR 3 / 4

You know what to do.



**A**

Work out

1  $\frac{3}{12} + \frac{5}{12}$

9  $\frac{5}{6} - \frac{2}{6}$

2  $\frac{1}{6} + \frac{4}{6}$

10  $\frac{9}{12} - \frac{4}{12}$

3  $\frac{2}{5} + \frac{1}{5}$

11  $\frac{3}{3} - \frac{2}{3}$

4  $\frac{1}{8} + \frac{5}{8}$

12  $\frac{6}{7} - \frac{3}{7}$

5  $\frac{11}{12} + \frac{7}{12}$

13  $\frac{5}{4} - \frac{2}{4}$

6  $\frac{5}{6} + \frac{2}{6}$

14  $\frac{7}{5} - \frac{4}{5}$

7  $\frac{3}{5} + \frac{4}{5}$

15  $\frac{14}{12} - \frac{7}{12}$

8  $\frac{6}{12} + \frac{9}{12}$

16  $\frac{9}{6} - \frac{5}{6}$

- 17 A can of paint is seven eighths full. A further three eighths is used. What fraction of the paint is left?

- 18 Three tenths of the children in Year 5 go to school by bus, four tenths walk. What fraction of the children go to school in other ways?

**B**

Work out

1  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{6}$

9  $\frac{2}{3} - \frac{4}{9}$

2  $\frac{1}{3} + \frac{5}{12}$

10  $\frac{7}{10} - \frac{2}{5}$

3  $\frac{4}{5} + \frac{3}{10}$

11  $\frac{7}{4} - \frac{11}{12}$

4  $\frac{3}{4} + \frac{7}{12}$

12  $\frac{9}{6} - \frac{2}{3}$

5  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{7}{8}$

13  $1\frac{3}{10} - \frac{1}{2}$

6  $\frac{5}{6} + \frac{1}{3}$

14  $1\frac{1}{4} - \frac{7}{8}$

7  $\frac{9}{10} + \frac{3}{5}$

15  $1\frac{2}{5} - \frac{6}{10}$

8  $\frac{11}{12} + \frac{1}{6}$

16  $1\frac{7}{12} - \frac{2}{3}$

- 17 A postman has delivered half his letters. He delivers a further two fifths. What fraction of his letters has he delivered?

- 18 Ashra has one and a third jugs of drink. She pours out five sixths of the full jug. What fraction of a full jug of drink does she have left?

**C**

Work out

1  $1\frac{1}{2} + \frac{7}{12}$

9  $1\frac{7}{10} - \frac{1}{2}$

2  $1\frac{9}{10} + \frac{4}{5}$

10  $1\frac{1}{3} - \frac{5}{9}$

3  $1\frac{2}{3} + 1\frac{5}{6}$

11  $2\frac{1}{4} - \frac{7}{8}$

4  $1\frac{5}{12} + \frac{3}{4}$

12  $4\frac{1}{12} - \frac{1}{6}$

5  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{4}{5}$

13  $1\frac{3}{4} - \frac{4}{5}$

6  $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{3}{4}$

14  $2\frac{1}{3} - \frac{1}{2}$

7  $\frac{1}{5} + \frac{7}{8}$

15  $1\frac{7}{10} - \frac{3}{4}$

8  $\frac{3}{4} + \frac{5}{6}$

16  $1\frac{1}{5} - \frac{2}{3}$

- 17 Luigi makes two identical pizzas. Three fifths of one is eaten and three quarters of the other pizza is eaten. What fraction of a whole pizza is left?

- 18 One and a half packets of biscuits are put out on plates. When everyone has finished eating, two thirds of a packet are left. What fraction of a packet has been eaten?