

5 tips to create your clever classroom

OK, so what does a clever classroom look like? Well, it's organised, has both stimulating and quiet zones and stellar storage. Maybe it has an overarching theme for the year ahead. And of course, it has all the Back to School resources you need. Here are some of our fave tips to help you create a clever classroom!

1. A home for everything

Knowing that all those pencils, writing pads, exercise books, glue sticks, paint tubes, markers and scissors (insert another dozen essentials) have their own happy home is the best! Think durable bright chair bags, scissor blocks, book boxes, lever arch files, marker cups or document wallets. Show your students how to put things away from the get-go.

2. Lovely Labels

With small items and big growing minds, it's important to label your resources in the classroom to avoid chaos. Get that laminator out to create label cards for boxes to hold bigger items. Put labels on tubs for students to learn the names. Use permanent markers to label smaller items such as books, scissors or notebooks.

3. Colour Coding

A colour coding system is a smart, simple way to denote levels (awesome for levelled reading book caddies). You can colour code books with stickers, colour code weekly activities and more.

With so many ways to create rainbows of meaningful colour – from markers to cardboard – colour coding is fun.

4. Delightful Displays

There's no better way to build your visual vibe in the classroom than to display work – stories, art, poems, self-portraits, maps... all of it. Keep that Blu-Tack handy (the coloured stuff is fun!), sticky tape, your flipchart handy and display frames. Create butcher's stands or display frames. Create butcher's paper wallpaper! Let the walls speak!

5. Instill Pride

When you're proud of your clever classroom, your students will follow your lead. Showing courtesy with supplies, with other students' equipment, being respectful with resources and demonstrating how to treat everything with care is important. A little pride can go a long way.

We hope you enjoy creating a clever classroom that works for you and students. Ready to stock up for Back to School?