

# Grade 1/2 Newsletter

## Issue 2 - Term 3 - 2017

### School Value for Term Three: Friendliness



To promote this value, students will be exposed to a range of texts allowing them to make connections between their lives and positive examples of friendliness. They will be helped to practise friendliness in everyday situations and structured play opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

### Homework Expectations for Grade 1 / 2 2017

Home learning is a way of connecting home and school. We appreciate family life is very busy however, we encourage families to spend short 15 to 20 minute periods on homework several times a week. Students who learn number facts, practise reading and are able to spell an increasing number of words gain confidence and are able to connect this learning to their work at school.

### Additional Homework Information

If your child requires additional handwriting practice, teachers will provide the appropriate lined paper and pencil. It is beneficial if your child is supervised writing one sentence per day with the correct formation and punctuation. Handwriting is still a valuable skill, despite our digital world!

Many people ask us about other things you can do with your child. Children have been given a Studyladder account to practise various skills. Each child has their own password. This is a great tool to support home learning, or to use if your child is away from school.

#### Grade 1/2 Teachers

Michael Y. Room 21

Siobhorne Y. Room 23

Mary V. (Term 3)  
Room 33

Rachel E. Room 34

Stefanie A. Room 32

Rhiannon M. Room 24

#### Dates For Your Diary

- ★ Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> of August - Alpha Show Incursion
- ★ Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of August - Writer's Festival Assembly
- ★ Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of August - Book Week Dress Up Day
- ★ Monday 28<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> of August - Father's Day Stall
- ★ Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of September - Grade 2 Bush Day Excursion
- ★ Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of September - Disco

## Reading

This term we are focussing on Main Idea and Inference in our Reading lessons. We are starting by introducing and revising the topic of Inference. Inference requires higher order thinking skills where students find clues and connect them with their own knowledge in order to understand the text. We explicitly teach the children that 'inference is something the author wants you to know but has not told you in words.'

In the second half of the term we will begin with identifying morals in fables and the overall message made by the author in short stories. Main ideas in non-fiction books will also be explored by looking at contents pages, titles and chapter headings.

### Home Learning:

Home Reading continues as in Semester One. Students remain responsible for changing their own home reading books and ensuring they are at school every day. Parents please assist by completing and signing the yellow log books. When reading at home, continue to discuss the plot, characters, main idea and any problems or solutions found in their take home reader. Your child should be able to retell the story and answer simple questions about the text. Comprehension is as important as being able to read the words and discussing the book after your child has read to you is a powerful way for your child to practise comprehending and retelling a book.

## Writing

This term Writing will focus on personal and procedural writing. Leading up to the Writer's Festival, children will be focussing on 'Our wish for the world' which is the topic for the upcoming festival. Students have been discussing personal experiences and making links between the past, now and the future and contemplating what they find wonderful in the world, and what they can do to keep it that way. Later in the term we will focus on procedural writing whereby students will undertake simple daily activities and record the steps which were undertaken. Sentence structure will be a key focus at this time.

In Grade 1 and 2 it is important to develop good handwriting skills, therefore we continue to practice handwriting in class regularly with a focus on correct letter formation, sizing and placement. You can support these skills at home with your children by encouraging them to write neatly in their home learning book while practicing their spelling words and through extra writing activities. Additional fine motor activities such as cutting, folding and pinching will support their development as writers.

## Spelling

Each child will receive between 4 to 10 spelling words each fortnight focussing on specific sounds and the letter patters that represent those sounds. The range of

patterns will be present in the students' spelling list. Spelling words will also include High Frequency Words (HFW) where necessary, while others' words will include word building and vocabulary opportunities.

### **Home Learning:**

Students are expected to practice their spelling words by choosing between 3-5 activities per week from the suggested activities. Your support of this program is much appreciated and will greatly benefit your child.

There are also some great websites that you can use to practice your words including:

<http://www.spellingcity.com>

[http://www.kidsspell.com/custom\\_spelling\\_lists.php](http://www.kidsspell.com/custom_spelling_lists.php)

## **Mathematics**

In Numeracy, the Grade 1/2's are currently learning about subtraction and later in Term Three, will have a focus on division. We spent the first two weeks of term revising our understanding of place value and how numbers work, with a focus on flexible thought around regrouping of numbers.

Our focus within subtraction is the concept and strategies for automatic recall of basic facts. Knowledge of the concept requires students to be able to take away using materials and drawing pictures to represent taking away. It also requires students to understand that there are different types of subtraction questions, namely 'How many more?' and 'What's the difference?'. These will be explicitly taught in the classroom with opportunities provided for children to practise and apply their learning in a range of ways including the use of technology.

Strategies for the automatic recall of basic facts involves a range of mental computation strategies which, again, will be explicitly taught. Home learning sheets will be coming home in your child's reader on a regular basis, and sheets are available on the blog. Completing these on a regular basis has been shown to be hugely helpful in student learning outcomes.

Later in the term, we will be focussing on division and primarily the understanding of sharing and that groups must be equal. We will also be focussing on the language of chance and probability, and the use of data to interpret the children's interests and everyday events such as arriving at school.

### **Home Learning:**

Current research shows us that mental computation is very important. Each sheet only takes 2 mins, (30 secs each column). Students are encouraged to practice their mental computation at home 3 to 5 times per week. Many children enjoy this challenge and find that knowing number facts and tables, supports development in

addition, subtraction, multiplication and division problems. Sheets are available outside classrooms or on the blog.

Recommended websites:-

<http://www.funbrain.com/brain/MathBrain/MathBrain.html>

<http://www.coolmath4kids.com/>

<http://www.mathsisfun.com/>

<http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com/>

<https://au.ixl.com/>

Further ideas for maths home learning can be found on our school website under Curriculum, Maths

## **Inquiry – Toys and Games**

This term's Inquiry is around the theme of toys and games. Students will have the opportunity to explore traditional games and compare with those of today. During this term, students will be asked to bring in their own toy to talk about. A Supreme Incursion has been organised with the focus being on how toys work scientifically. Later in the term, the students will have the opportunity to investigate how toys work themselves.

# **Other Information**

## **Parent Helpers**

To ensure student safety, all parent helpers are required to have a Working with Children Photo Check. Each parent helper is required to wear their Working with Children card in the lanyards provided in each classroom as well as sign in to the office at the beginning of each visit. Our office is keeping a record of all parent helpers so if you have not yet done so, could you please take your Working with Children check card to the office to be photocopied.

Lanyards and parent identification is to be worn for the entire time you are helping in the classroom in addition to signing in the parent helper log. Thank you for your support in keeping our children safe.

## Staff Car Parks

To maintain student safety, pedestrians are not permitted to enter or exit through the front or rear car park. Parents and friends are not permitted to use the car parks.

## Dogs

Many of our students suffer from severe allergies including animal hair. As stated in the weekly newsletter there are no dogs allowed in the school yard.

## Reminders

- ★ Could all students please bring a box of tissues for their classroom.
  - ★ If parents/caregivers have any questions or concerns regarding their child please make an appointment time with your child's classroom teacher.
  - ★ It is very important that reader covers are returned every day.
  - ★ Could we please remind you to be sensitive of children's allergies, we would appreciate it if you could try to avoid nuts or nut related products.
  - ★ Brain Food: (fruit or vegetable only) Please send a small manageable piece of fruit or vegetable that can be eaten as 'brain food'.
  - ★ Birthday Celebrations: Due to a number of reasons, including the food allergies we have in the 1/2 area, we are asking that families don't bring in cupcakes/lolly bags to give out on birthdays. Children's birthdays will be celebrated with their classmates through singing or a birthday sticker.
  - ★ Due to safety concerns in the yard we discourage foods that contain sticks such as lollipops.
  - ★ Please do not send your child/ren to school with electronic games.
  - ★ At the end of the school day please wait downstairs in the breezeway to collect your child. This is for safety reasons as hallways and stairs can become very congested.
- Lateness – If your child is late to school please ensure that they sign in at the office prior to coming to the classroom. Your child will be given a 'late' pass to give to their teacher.**