

20th April, 2017

GRADE ONE NEWSLETTER TERM 2, 2017

Welcome back for Term 2! We hope you enjoyed your Easter break and that the students are ready to jump into this new and busy term. Firstly, the Grade One teachers would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their assistance last term and we hope to see your faces around our classrooms this term as well.

This Newsletter will break down our learning and teaching focuses for the term for you and will also provide you with a few reminders about day to day requirements, as well as giving you the 'heads up' on some important dates.

Integrated Studies: 'Now, Then and Beyond'

This topic involves the study of personal, family and local history.

Students will consider the following key questions:

- What is my personal and family history?
- How has family life changed or remained the same over time?
- What remains of the past are important to the local community? Why?
- How have changes in technology shaped our daily life?



What can you do at home? Any interesting historical artefacts or memorabilia from the children's grandparents which can come to school for sharing and display would be fantastic. Students will need to conduct an interview with a grandparent or older person in week 3 and present to the class, more information will come.

Grandparent's Day: As part of this topic we will be hosting a Grandparent's Day late in the term. For those families that need a 'heads up' if they have grandparents travelling, etc we are looking at having Grandparent's Day in either week 8 or 9 of the term.



Mathematics

The number focus all term will be on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. This involves the students learning to represent and solve addition and subtraction problems using a range of strategies including counting on, partitioning and re-arranging parts. We will also be doing a lot of work with number lines and learning how they assist with addition and subtraction.

This term we will also be focussing on time, learning to read and draw analogue and digital clocks. We will be investigating Australian coins, learning how to recognise them and their value, as well as learning how to classify and draw 2D shapes.

What can you do at home? As always, we encourage participation in Mathletics as it is a fantastic resource to help your child develop quick responses and mental strategies. You can also share domestic activities with your children and explore/discuss any 'mathematical' or logical thinking opportunities.

English

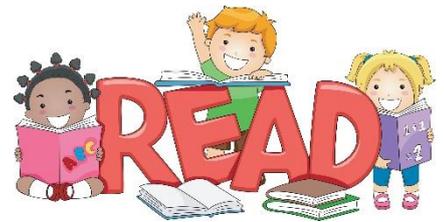
Our spelling focus in class time will be around long vowels and we will begin final blends towards the end of the term. At home, spelling focus will still be on the student's individual highlighted words inside their homework books. Our handwriting focus will be on anti-clockwise letters. In reading, we will be continuing to work on learning our CAFÉ reading strategies and how to apply them. This term we will be reading a variety of texts and learning how to comprehend them. In writing, we will be learning how to write letters and basic reports. Big Writes will continue to take place fortnightly where students can showcase their VCOP knowledge and how they apply this to their narrative writing.

What can you do at home? Refer to the homework matrix.

Reader Bags and Homework Books

Keep up the good work in getting those reader bags to school every day. Well done to all students who remember to bring them along, especially to those students who recognise that it is their responsibility. Congratulations to the many students who read each night, as a result of this, their improvement in comprehension and reading skills is amazing!

Homework books are due in to teachers on Wednesdays and will be handed back out on Fridays. Your child will be tested **fortnightly** on 10 of their words. Please do not highlight their list, teachers do this as part of the testing with the child. A new homework matrix will be glued into their homework books ready for this term.



Reading Helpers

A huge thanks to so many of you who give your time to support our reading and class room programs! Your assistance is invaluable and we do appreciate such a wonderful, willing parent body. We have changed the reading times slightly for this Term.

Parent reading will now take place on Wednesdays from 2:45-3:15 pm and Thursdays 8:45-9:15 am.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell will be formally introduced this term. The students will have a weekly topic that they need to present a short (2-3 minute) show and tell on. These show and tell topics mostly work alongside our integrated topic and will also work in with our homework matrix. Please see the show and tell notice sent home with this newsletter for more information.

Punctuality and Absences

For children who arrive at class after the 2nd bell in the morning, it is a requirement of the school attendance policy that they must bring an attendance slip from the office. Please take your child to the office to collect your slip and hand this to your teacher. We appreciate those who make every effort to get children to class within bell times. It is routine lateness we would like to see addressed, and happy, relaxed children who are ready to learn! A reminder that if your child is absent a note is required explaining the reason for the absence, as these details must be entered by teachers, into a Departmental data base. Thank you for taking care of these details so far. Likewise flagging dates of any known or intended future absence due to family holiday or other circumstances, would also be very helpful.

Kind regards,

GRADE 1 TEACHERS