



# Grade One and Two Newsletter



Congratulations everyone on the smooth start to Year One and Two. We are all looking forward to an exciting term ahead.

Please find below an outline of some of the important information families should know about Year One and Two.

**Settling in and routines:** A new year often calls for new family and school routines. We've found that keeping home and school routines predictable and consistent, helps to lower anxiety and lowers stress (for students and parents!) Secure morning routines can especially have a positive effect on how the rest of the day moves ahead. Small things such as children placing their own bags in the class line, getting themselves to class on time when the bell sounds and unpacking their own belongings, gives a sense of comfort and independence for junior school students. A big congratulations to those students that have been doing this independently from the first day of 2018.

**Meet the teacher:** It was lovely to meet so many families on our Meet the Teacher evenings. We appreciate you taking the time to introduce yourselves to us. It always helps us to gain a valuable 'big picture' view of your child so as to help us personalise their learning as much as possible.

**Homework:** Grade One and Two sends homework home on a **Monday** afternoon and would like it to be returned on **Friday** morning. As with Prep, we expect students to read nightly with a significant adult and have a chat about what they have read. Their reading record book is to be carried inside their reader bag, where you may write the name of the book as you listen to your child read. CAFÉ` reading conferences start this week, based on the reading levels that each child left the previous year level on. Adjustments to levels may occur, as many children regress over the six week period. Keep in mind, home reading should always be easy, leave the instructional reading to us!

Spelling words will also come home. These are the high frequency Magic Words. We have pre-tested each child and know which levels each child already knows, so we will just concentrate on learning the ones they don't. You may notice your child starts off at the very early levels; this is because they have shown via their test results that they still need work on those most important early levels (they do make up the majority of words in most books, so they are SUPER important to know). At times, your child may make big leaps ahead and may skip levels; again this is because they have shown us they already know these. The trend from our students last year showed that once our students built up their high frequency word bank, the quality of their written work improved enormously.

Mathletics is optional and complements our classroom programs, we will look at our results every Friday. Some weeks we may leave Mathletics as a free choice, and therefore not set tasks; this is a great time for the children to go ahead and practice the parts of Mathematics that they really love. For the first term Reading Eggs will be a class activity, but we may review this in the terms ahead.

**Notices and Newsletters:** Notices will come home in your child's reader bags. Please return notices and lunch orders in your child's reader bags so these don't get lost. Money for excursions needs to be securely placed in a labelled envelope to avoid the risk of being lost. Where possible, please remind your child that it is their responsibility to give these to the classroom teacher first thing in the morning, and not just before home time in the afternoon, to allow for processing at the office. Please note that newsletters are now available online only at the following link:

<http://mtelizaps.vic.edu.au/>

**Flexibuzz:** Does your family use Flexibuzz? Have you updated your child's year level on the app and ticked 'whole school' information, so you receive the correct information? Grade One and Two uses Flexibuzz to keep parents abreast of any important information and significant alerts (such as extreme weather arrangements) and also attaches documents to Flexibuzz so parents can download these where necessary (as with the case of losing an excursion notice, etc.) Copies of notices can also be found on our school website and Facebook page. If you do not have Flexibuzz, simply download the app (codes for a new sign up can also be found on our website).

**Nut and Food Allergies:** Grade One and Two does have anaphylactic children. Whilst we are not a 'Nut Free' school, we would certainly strongly encourage students not to risk the health of other classmates by bringing nuts to class. Each class teacher will have conversations with their students about special sensitivities that class members have.

**Named belongings:** Thank you so much to the parents who read our Up Day notice last year and returned school books and stationery labelled! This has been a huge help to classroom teachers. Likewise jumpers and hats need to be clearly named and have the new class written on them so we know to whom they belong, if they are misplaced by a student.

**Class protocols:** Along with a review of our school Inside and Outside rules and our consequences for misbehaviour in the school yard, each class has devised their own class protocols, that show we are caring, well behaved school citizens. These will be displayed in each class, alongside our school values and will be reviewed over the year to maintain high standards in behaviour and ensure school is a warm, inviting place to be.

**Reading and Grade helpers:** This year, the Grade 1 teachers are revising the role of 'Parent Helper' in the classroom. As we feel the children are heavily supported in the area of reading, we would like to expand the areas in which you can provide support to the students and classroom teacher to include literacy, maths and organisational tasks as well. Having extra assistance in the classroom really does make a difference and we are most appreciative to those who are able to give up their spare time to help.

**Parent Grade co-ordinators:** Thanks also to the parents who have volunteered. They are as follows

1G	Kristin Thompson	2M	Rebecca Stalker
1S	Britt Watson	2OT	Catherine Trenham Jane Herring
1MC	Kelli Butler	2S	Lee Edgoose
1/2C	Jodie Prendergast		

**Curriculum areas:** This term our writing focus will be on weekend recounts and narratives, with attention being paid to the structure of their writing, capital letters, full stops, accurately spelling the high frequency words and the correct formation of the letters. Reading sessions will follow the CAFÉ model, building on the student's comprehension, accuracy, fluency and expanded vocabulary. Our maths focus will be place value and will include skip counting by 2's, 5's and 10's to one hundred (and beyond in some cases) and exploring what 'makes up a number' (for example 24 is actually 2 tens and 4 ones) and comparing the size of numbers. Our unit of Inquiry is based on a Resilience Project, where the students are engaged in activities to improve their social and emotional wellbeing. It is a busy term where important learning foundations are put in place.

#### Quick reminders:

- **Timely arrival:** School starts promptly at 8:45am. Students should arrive at school between 8.30 am and 8.40 am (not before 8.30 am). If your child arrives after 9:00am they will need to be signed in at the front office.
- **Absence notes:** If your child is absent for any reason, it is a requirement from DET that parents send along a written note stating the day, date and reason for absence. Please ensure these are returned on the day your child resumes school, to avoid follow up notes from teachers. Alternatively, you may explain your child's absence via email to your child's teacher.
- **Lunch orders:** For your convenience, you can place orders online at: [www.myschooltuckshop.com.au](http://www.myschooltuckshop.com.au) .



**Emails:** Please find below the Department of Education email addresses for our Grade 1 and 2 teachers. Please ensure that you have read, signed and returned the Email Protocol that was sent home with your child so that we may respond to any emails from you. Please be aware that we are teaching for most part of the day and do not check our emails consistently. Therefore, please don't send emails asking us to give messages to your child as we may not read them in time. If you have a particular concern about your child's progress at school, we would prefer that you make a time to see us rather than send an email. However, email is a convenient way to keep in touch and give reminders.

Teachers	Email Address
Lisa Grgic- 1G	<a href="mailto:grgic.lisa.m@edumail.vic.gov.au">grgic.lisa.m@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
Amy Hille 1G	<a href="mailto:hille.amy.e@edumail.vic.gov.au">hille.amy.e@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
Liz Shelton-1S	<a href="mailto:shelton.elizabeth.s@edumail.vic.gov.au">shelton.elizabeth.s@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
Tracy McLaughlin-1Mc	<a href="mailto:mclaughlin.tracy.a@edumail.vic.gov.au">mclaughlin.tracy.a@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
Lauren McInnes-1Mc	<a href="mailto:mcinnes.lauren.l@edumail.vic.gov.au">mcinnes.lauren.l@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
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Cathy O'Toole-2OT	<a href="mailto:otoole.catherine.m@edumail.vic.gov.au">otoole.catherine.m@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
Melissa Shalagin – 2S	<a href="mailto:shalagin.melissa.m@edumail.vic.gov.au">shalagin.melissa.m@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>

**Important Term 1 dates:**

Friday, 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Curriculum Day	Pupil Free Day
Monday, 12 March	Labour Day	Public holiday
Friday, 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Green Day (MEET)	Kids need to wear green
Wednesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Grade 1 and 2 planning	Students have their week's specialists on this one day
Thursday, 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of term	Early dismissal 2:30pm

We look forward to a wonderful term and year ahead.

Warm regards,

THE GRADE 1 AND 2 TEAMS

