

# Grade Two 2019 Newsletter



Congratulations everyone on the smooth start to Grade 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 Grade 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 2019.

**Meet the teacher:** Make sure you book on-line before Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February. This is important as it 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:** We send homework home on a **Monday** afternoon and would like it to be returned by the following Monday. 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.

Spelling words will also come home. These are the high frequency Magic Words and SMART Spelling words which alternate weekly. 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 weekly. 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.

Homework books and reader bags will go home on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> February.

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? We use Flexibuzz to keep parents abreast of any important information. Copies of notices can also be found on our school website. 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:** 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.

**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:** If you have time and would like to assist in Grade 2 please let your classroom teacher know.

**Curriculum areas:** This term our writing focus, following the VOICES framework, will be on narratives and expositions, 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 'A Drop in the Ocean' where the students are engaged in activities that develop their understanding of Marine life and their habitats. 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 8.45 am they will need to be signed in at the front office.
- **Lunch orders:** For your convenience, you can place orders online at: [www.myschooltuckshop.com.au](http://www.myschooltuckshop.com.au) .
- **Tissues:** Please remember to bring tissues if you haven't done so already.

**Emails:** Please find below the Department of Education email addresses for the teachers. Please ensure that you have read, signed and returned the Email Protocol.

Teachers	Email Address
Hayley Gregory -2G	<a href="mailto:gregory.hayley.m@edumail.vic.gov.au">gregory.hayley.m@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
Cathy O'Toole-2OT	<a href="mailto:otoole.catherine.m@edumail.vic.gov.au">otoole.catherine.m@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
Carly Forbes – 2F	<a href="mailto:forbes.carly.v@edumail.vic.gov.au">forbes.carly.v@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>

We look forward to a wonderful term and year ahead.

Warm regards,

THE GRADE TWO TEACHERS

