



- 2017 Term One Outline -

Dear Parents and Guardians,

For those who do not know me, I am Sharon Miller, your child's Year 1 teacher for 2017. I am looking forward to sharing your child's learning journey as they begin their primary school education.

Our first few weeks have seen many adjustments by students as they move around the school to work with different teachers for various learning areas. They have also adapted to swimming lessons each day with some strange weather! As you will have seen from the timetable sent home last week, the daily routine is quite different to Kindy and Pre-Primary.

The following is an outline of the curriculum for Term One.

CURRICULUM

Literacy Blocks:

Literacy blocks will occur most days either Periods 1 and 2 or Periods 3 and 4 depending on other timetabled activities.

Consistent with the school's Literacy Strategy, explicit teaching and practise of literacy concepts and skills will be taught during Literacy Blocks to support reading and writing. Concepts and skills include: concepts of print, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, vocabulary and text genres. Literacy Blocks develop reading and writing through modelled, shared, guided and independent reading and writing. Spelling, handwriting, grammar, word study and oral language are also included throughout Literacy Blocks, as stand-alone tasks or they may be embedded with other areas of literacy. Activities will be tailored to meet the individual needs of students in order to improve student performance. To consolidate literacy skills, '*Jolly Phonics*' and '*Reading Eggs*' will complement the Literacy programme. Reading and writing are cross-curricular and will be practised during Mathematics, History, Geography, Science etc.

The focus for writing this term will be recounts and explanations. Through reading, students will explore a variety of texts, such as narratives, short poems and interactive texts. Students will have an opportunity to build upon their knowledge of comprehension strategies such as predicting, sequencing and creating images. These and many other strategies will be implemented daily to assist reading and comprehension of a range of texts.

Mathematics:

During Term 1, aspects of Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry, and Statistics & Probability will be taught. The focus will be on: patterns in numbers; recognising, reading and writing numbers to 50; addition and skip counting by 2s, 5s and 10s; measuring and comparing lengths and capacities; and making graphs to represent data. Again, tasks will be levelled at student abilities and it would be appreciated if parents would help with revision at home of concepts taught in class.

Humanities and Social Sciences:

As we begin a new year, there will be a focus and revision of the school rules linked to our school Positive Behaviour Schools Policy: Care; Respect; Try and Responsible. Students will be encouraged to reflect on their own strengths and how they can demonstrate these broad rules at school, home and in the community. In History, we will look at the differences in family structures and roles today, and how these have changed or remained the same over time. The sequence of time will be explored through the past, present and future using terms such as "a long time ago", "then and now", "old and new", "yesterday, today and tomorrow". Celebrations such as birthdays and seasonal activities with significant dates will be discussed also. At the end of term, we will pay tribute to the ANZACs in preparation for the school's ANZAC ceremony on the final day of Term 1.

Science: (Mrs Gail Anderson)

Physical Science – learning how light and sound is produced by a range of sources and using the senses to learn about the world around us.

Health:

Linking with the School Rules - Care; Respect; Try and Responsible, students will identify personal beliefs and strengths that contribute to a strong sense of self, and they will recognise their own strengths and achievements along with those of others. They will also recognise differences in individuals such as: physical features; food choices; languages; cultural practices.

Homework Requirements:

After the completion of swimming lessons, students will bring home their first Home Readers and Spelling Lists.

Reading: Reading is an important aspect of your child's educational development. There is an expectation that your child will read for at least 10 minutes each night. Home Readers will be levelled for the students' individual reading ability. Interaction from the parent or older sibling who is listening to reading is encouraged, asking a variety of questions will ensure comprehension of the text and consolidation of literacy concepts taught in class. Should you have any queries as to the degree of difficulty of books your child is choosing, please do not hesitate to ask for a change. Along with their home reader, giving your child other opportunities to read at home is very beneficial. For example, reading a recipe while you are cooking, looking at a comic strip in the newspaper or reading cross word clues with you are different styles of texts your child may be interested in. Reading aloud, being read to and reading a range of texts can assist in your child's confidence and interest in reading.

Spelling: Each fortnight, a list of words will be given to students that correspond to the sound/letter pattern being learned in class. The list may include up to 15 words, but students may only need to learn 3 to 5 words per night. Using the '*Look, Cover, Write, Check*' strategy taught in class, students should only need to spend up to 10 minutes learning their words.

Homework/Revision Activities: In addition, students bring home activities to revise concepts learnt during the previous weeks that your child may require extra assistance with at home. This should also give parents an insight into where your child is at after learning and practising the concepts and skills at school.

Classroom Management:

Honour Awards are given to individual students at whole school assemblies. Students who demonstrate exemplary work standards, achievements and/or behaviour will be honoured in this manner.

The Primary School Reward System of CRTR Cards and Goldies flows on from Pre-Primary so students will add to their tally earning certificates and working their way towards gaining Merit Badges at Merit Assemblies. 6 CRTR Cards = 1 Goldy; 6 Goldies = Bronze Merit Certificate; 6 Certificates = Bronze Merit Badge. The process continues through Silver, Gold and Merit Certificates and Badges.

Room 1 also rewards "Outstanding Owls" for their positive behaviour, in and out of the classroom. Owls will move up and down the tree according to their behaviour. Notes in diaries or a phone call home will be made should your child's behaviour become an issue. Discussion with your child as to the reasons for their behaviour and your support with behaviour management in the classroom would be appreciated. Continued low level behaviour standards will result in the student moving to a '*Buddy Class*' for a time and/or referral to Administration.

Miscellaneous Information:

Diaries - Main communication between home and school, diaries need to be brought to school each day.

Library – Library day is Friday. Your child will need their own library bag.

Hats – the school has an all year "No hat, No play" policy. Please ensure your child always has a hat. Hats will be required on Physical Education days - Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

News - Students will have an allocated day where they can bring something special to show and tell about. The item is not to be used at play time. At particular times, students will be asked to speak on a topic e.g. talk about their family during History lessons.

Stationery Tin – please provide a tin/bucket for your child's pencils, crayons, textas. Your child can decorate this to make it personal. Approximately 10cms high by 10 cms in diameter will fit everything in.

Equipment Storage – students have a desk tray, a separate drawer and chair bag for their own belongings. Please ensure all belongings are labelled. If excess stationery has already been sent in, it will be stored in your child's drawer.

Newsletters – a fortnightly newsletter will keep you in touch with school news. A Room 1 update newsletter will be less frequent but sent when required.

Teacher Contact Details:

I look forward to working with your children in Year 1. Parent assistance in the classroom would be most welcome, especially for Support-A-Reader and Literacy Block activities. You may nominate a time to help out after swimming lessons.

Should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Ms Sharon Miller on 9575 5311 or the Primary Deputy, Mrs Susan Mann on 9575 5306.

Specialist Staff for Year 1:

Mr Rob Chipchase (Physical Education – Monday, Tuesday & Thursday)

Mrs Roseanne Watson (Art - Wednesday)

Mrs Gail Anderson (Science – Tuesday & Wednesday)