



Grade F/1 - Term 1 - Newsletter

Welcome back for 2024! We hope you have had a fantastic break and are ready to get back into it! We are very excited about the year ahead. The students are full of enthusiasm and have settled in beautifully. Thank you very much to all families who have supported their children to make the beginning of 2024 an easy and enjoyable one. Our teachers have settled in well and have been involved in team planning to best support your child's needs this year. This newsletter will contain information about what will be happening in the classroom this term, if you have any questions regarding information here please contact us to discuss.



Term 1 - Key Dates

Friday 9th of February: Small Cluster Swimming

Wednesday 21st of February: Meet the Teacher

Wednesday 28th of February: Welcome Picnic

Monday 11th March: Labour Day Public Holiday (No School)

Week beginning 11th March: NAPLAN Testing

Thursday 28th March: Final Day of Term 1

Every Thursday 8:20am – 8:45am – Breakfast Club (Unless communicated otherwise via Compass)

Learning Overviews

Reading

Throughout the term, students in F/1 will begin to and/or continue to develop their understanding of concepts of print, this includes directionality, letters, words, and sentences, and how these convey a message when arranged in a specific order. Students will explore retelling and inferencing whilst working on their phonological awareness and phonics and word knowledge. Through developing their knowledge of graphemes and digraphs, students will begin reading more complex words with practise around segmenting and blending sounds.



Writing

The start of Term One will focus on the genre of recount writing. Within this unit, students in Foundation will begin to listen for sounds they know and begin representing these sounds with letters within their writing. Grade 1 students will be producing recounts with developing detail including who, what, where, when and why, and continue to work on using correct punctuation, spacing between words, and rereading their writing to ensure it makes sense. Later in the term, students will start to explore persuasive writing with a focus on understanding the audience.



Maths

This term during Maths, students will be focusing on number and place value. Students will develop a strong concept of number and counting through many hands-on learning opportunities. This includes making and naming numbers using materials, ordering numbers from smallest to largest, and comparing numbers. Each lesson will be differentiated to ensure students are focusing on their next piece of learning. Later in the term, students will explore the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.



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Investigations

Investigations throughout the term, will focus on developing strong social skills and problem-solving skills between peers. Investigations allows teachers to observe social interactions, and support students in



approaching challenging situations in a calm manor. We will use role-play to practise what to do in such situations. Throughout the term we will also focus on intertwining our learning from our core subject areas, into our investigative play and discussing and practising using our learning in real life situations.



Inquiry

In our upcoming inquiry unit, we will be helping your child explore their personal and family history in an engaging and meaningful way. Here's a sneak peek into what we'll be covering and how you can support your child's learning at home:

We'll help your child recognise and remember important moments in their life, like their first steps, first words, and special achievements/milestones. We want them to understand how these moments have shaped who they are. We'll talk with your child about certain dates and changes that have been significant for your family, such as birthdays, moving homes, changing schools, and cultural celebrations. We want them to appreciate the diverse experiences that make up their family story. We hope this gives you a good sense of what to expect and how you might join in at home.

Specialists

This Semester our students will be participating in a range of specialist programs. These include; Physical Education, Italian, Maths, RRRR and Art. These programs are run on a rotating weekly or fortnightly roster. You will find a copy of our timetable attached to this newsletter for you and your child to discuss. Please ensure that your child wears shoes that are appropriate for running on the days that we have PE.

Junior P.E. with Miss Elsie Rodger

This term, we will be focusing on teamwork in our P.E. lessons. As students participate in a range of games and activities, they will be supported to work with others to achieve a common goal. Students will develop their ability to communicate with others and ensure that everyone is included. We will also focus on following the rules of games and activities, particularly those that are new to us, and engaging in physical activities safely and responsibly.

Specialist Maths with Miss Elsie Rodger

This term, in addition to the classroom Mathematics program, each class will participate in a Maths Specialist subject. The learning that takes place in this session will complement the content of the classroom learning program. Students will participate in a range of investigative and open-ended tasks that involve applying and developing their mathematical skills.



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Art with Ms Cally Hodge

In Term 1's Art unit, students will explore their creativity by looking into the elements of Art including, line, pattern, shape, and colour. They will experiment with different mark making techniques while using many different art materials. They will explore the colour wheel and different ways to mix colour. This unit will allow students to develop their art making skills while fostering confidence and creativity during the art making process.

RRRR with Miss Smith

In Term One, during Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships (RRRR), students will be focusing on recognising the 4 school values of Be Your Best, Respect, Resilience and Safe and how to apply these values in various situations at school and at home.

Students in Foundation will be introduced to - and students in Grade 1 will be reacquainted with - our Wellbeing Continuum. Students will use this continuum to indicate how they are feeling at different times throughout the day, thus allowing open communication and discussion around feelings and emotions. These individual continuums will be transferred into classrooms to provide the opportunity for teachers to check in and support students as the need arises.

The main focus during Term One is recognising emotions and learning that big feelings are ok and completely normal, but we need to learn how to manage these big feelings. We will also look at social relationships at school inside the classroom and outside in the yard and how to navigate different and difficult situations.

Italian with Signora Pasqalia

Ciao! It's nice to see you all again this year at Willowmavin! I'm looking forward to meeting the Foundation students soon!

In Italian, this term, we are first doing a mini unit on Italy – focusing on the flag, naming an Italian food, famous landmarks, and people. We will then focus on learning vocabulary associated with greetings and using different words to address different people accordingly. Finally, we will end the term learning about a celebration that is during this time in Italy: Carnevale (Carnival) which is a festival particularly famous for its costumes and masks in the city of Venice.

Home Learning in F/1

Reading

Reading each day with your child is crucial in helping them to develop the skills that are required to become a fluent reader. Discuss what your child is reading, talk about the pictures, read with them, read to them, and let them read to you and ask questions about what they are reading. If this is occurring every day, then your child will benefit immensely. **It is also important that your child has his/her reader diary signed and acknowledged each time they read at home.** This enables them to be eligible for a special morning tea at the end of Semester 1 for those who have read for 100 nights, and the end of the year for students who achieve 200 reading nights. Awards are also handed out in increments of 25 nights, acknowledging the efforts of students who actively read each night.



Please send satchels to school every Tuesday, so books can be changed and reading nights can be documented.



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Say

Say the word aloud and students repeat.

Meaning

The teacher says it in a sentence.

Analyse

Analyse it by breaking it up.
"The sounds are..." and then "The letters are..."



Remember

"Which part of the word do you have to remember?"

Teach

"Teach it to me"
The students spell the word aloud using letter names with clustering.

SMART Spelling

Students will bring a homework sheet home each Friday. The sheet contains a list of words that all contain the same spelling pattern. Six of these words will be highlighted – these are your child's spelling words for the week, as well as two other words that we have identified as a learning need from your child's writing.

It is expected that students will spend 5-10 minutes practising these words at home each afternoon. This will help to consolidate the learning that takes place each day at school. Students should return the homework sheet completed on Thursdays. Students will take part in an assessment of their words each week.

Label Everything!

Please ensure all your child's belongings are labelled with their name. This includes containers, beanies, scarves, gloves, jumpers, jackets, gumboots and any other extra clothing that you may send to school with your child. We try to ensure all children place their belongings straight into their bag - although we are not always there to prompt. Please chat with your child about the importance of taking responsibility for their belongings. If your child's belongings do go missing, we have a Lost Property located in the office.



Keep Informed

Please keep an eye out for the school's weekly newsletter, and if you haven't done so already, please download the 'Compass' app to keep up to date with important dates and reminders. If you need support in logging onto Compass, please see Sharni in the office. If you have any questions whatsoever about any information included in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to come and see us to discuss.

Update details

If your personal details have changed, please contact the office and ensure that they are correct. This includes address, contact numbers, emergency contact details, etc.

Late comers

Please ensure your child arrives to school before 8.50am each morning, allowing them time to prepare for the day. Students that arrive after 8.50am must be signed in at the office. This is a legal obligation to ensure your child is accounted for in the case of an emergency.

Timetable

Below you will find a copy of our proposed timetable for Term 1. Please remember that although we try to be organised, some things may change throughout the week and it is important to be flexible if this is the case. It might be an idea to display this somewhere in the house so your child knows what to expect each day at school. We will have an alternating timetable this week, as our Art program runs on a fortnightly basis. Please note that school assemblies will be held at 2.30pm each Friday afternoon and all families are welcome/encouraged to attend.



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Finally...

Sorry for the overload of information. If you have any questions or concerns, please see Mrs Walton or Mrs Barri. We are looking forward to a fun and productive year working with your child! 😊

Regards,

Mrs Hayley Walton and Mrs Nicole Barri

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EVEN WEEKS					
Term 1 – 2024- Hayley Walton & Nicole Barri					
	MONDAY – Hayley	TUESDAY – Hayley	WEDNESDAY – Hayley	THURSDAY – Nicole	FRIDAY – Nicole
8:50 – 9:00	Handwriting	SMART Spelling	SMART Spelling	SMART Spelling	SMART Spelling
9:00 – 10:00	Writing	Library	Writing	Reading	F/1 – Specialist Maths
10:00 – 11:00	SMART Spelling Word of the Week- Foundation	F/1- Art 9.30am-11am	Reading	Maths	F/1 – RRRR
11:00 – 11:30	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
11:30 – 12:30	Reading	Investigations	Investigations	Investigations	SMART Spelling Word Intro- Gr 1
12:30 – 1:30	Maths	Writing	Maths	Writing	Writing
1:30 – 2:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Reading
2:00 – 2:55	F/1 – P.E.	Maths	F/1- Italian	Inquiry	2:30 Assembly

ODD WEEKS					
Term 1 – 2024- Hayley Walton & Nicole Barri					
	MONDAY – Hayley	TUESDAY – Hayley	WEDNESDAY – Hayley	THURSDAY – Nicole	FRIDAY – Nicole
8:50 – 9:00	Handwriting- letter formation	SMART Spelling	SMART Spelling	SMART Spelling	SMART Spelling
9:00 – 10:00	Writing	Reading	Writing	Reading	F/1- Specialist Maths
10:00 – 11:00	SMART Spelling Word of the Week	Writing	Reading	Maths	F/1- RRRR
11:00 – 11:30	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
11:30 – 12:30	Reading	Investigations	Investigations	Investigations	SMART Spelling Word Intro- Gr 1
12:30 – 1:30	Maths	Library	Maths	Writing	Writing
1:30 – 2:00	Lunch	Handwriting	Lunch	Lunch	Reading
2:00 – 2:55	F/1 – P.E.	Maths	Italian	Inquiry	2:30 Assembly



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