



Grade 2/3/4 - Term 1 - Newsletter

Welcome back to school! It is hard to believe that another school year is starting. Firstly, I hope you all had an amazing Summer Holidays, I have heard of beach trips, cruise ships and moving houses so far and trust that there was so much more than just can't be remembered. I was very lucky to head back home and spend much needed time with my family in Bright, I also spent time at the beach and also trained for an upcoming half marathon that I thought would be a good idea to sign up to. After resting, I'm very much looking forward to diving into 2024. With the 2/3/4 classroom made up of some of my 2023 students, brand new Year 2's and welcoming Alice, Maria and Tyler to Willowmavin, I have a feeling this year will be spectacular! Please read all about our intended learning below, key dates of the term and other important information for



Term 1 - Key Dates

Friday 9th of February: Small Cluster Swimming

Thursday 15th of February: Meet the Teacher

Wednesday 21st of February: Welcome Picnic

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

Wednesday 13th – Friday 15th March: NAPLAN Testing

Thursday 28th March: Final Day of Term 1

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

Term 1: Learning Overview

Reading:

In Reading this term, students will be investigating Narratives, particularly looking at structure of different stories, language features, word choice and character traits. We will be linking up with Writing and Inquiry using mentor texts with Australian History themes, including Indigenous perspectives, reasons for settlement and changes in Australia over time. Integrated throughout the unit we will look at developing decoding strategies that work for students as readers.

Writing

Our focus in Writing this term will be to construct a narrative with the inspiration of Australian History. Students will have investigated people in history that will become their main character within the text. They will develop a problem and solution that connects well with their research of this person. Construction throughout the term will focus on word choice to enhance engagement and how to write from specific characters perspectives.

Maths

The 2/3/4's will be putting their calculations to the test in many mathematic strands this term. Kicking off the year by building our understanding of Place Value, the foundation of so much in maths. Some students looking at Base Ten up to thousands whilst others will start to expand into decimal points. Using this knowledge, we will expand into solving Addition and Subtraction problems, partitioning (breaking down), rearranging, doubling, rounding and estimating.

Inquiry

Australian History is our key concept this term. Interlacing with our Literacy lessons, our Inquiry will investigate the progression of our country's history beginning with Indigenous life before settlement, into the Dutch and British explorers that began European colonisation. Students will research specific people such as explorers, convicts, labourers and fortune seekers for their narrative writing. They will also find out about the difference in Australia over time and how expansion of colonies impacted the land and Indigenous Australians.



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Specialist Classes for 2/3/4

Students will participate in specialist classes each week. These will be Art, P.E., Italian, RRRR and Maths.

Art – 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.

Italian – Senora Pasqalia

Maths – Ms 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.

PE – Ms 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.

RRRR- Ms Peta Smith

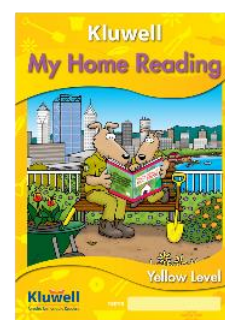
In Term One during Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships (RRRR), students will be focusing on recognising the 4 school values of Be Your Best, Respect, Resilience and Safe and how to apply these values in various situations at school and at home. A large focus during Term One is recognising emotions and learning that big feelings are ok and completely normal, but we need to learn how to manage these big feelings. As part of this learning students will create a Self-Awareness Poster/Display which will involve students recognising who they are, the things they enjoy, identifying the emotions they feel, what causes these emotions and, through reflection on learning undertaken last year, which strategies they can use to improve their own wellbeing.

Students will also be reacquainted with our Wellbeing Continuum. Students will use this continuum to indicate how they are feeling. These individual continuums will be transferred into classrooms to allow students the opportunity to recognise their feelings at various times throughout the day and allow opportunity for teachers and students the opportunity to check in and support students as the need arises. Finally, we will also explore social relationships at school inside the classroom and outside in the yard and how to navigate different situations they may be faced with, to ensure that concerns and disagreements are resolved in a respectful and fair manner.

Home Reading and Reading Diaries

Reading **15-20 minutes** each day is crucial in helping students to develop the skills required to be fluent readers. When reading with your child, discuss what is being read, talk about any pictures, images or diagrams present, read with them, read to them, let them read to you, and ask questions about what they are reading. It is also important that your child has their reader signed and acknowledged each day they read at home. This enables them to be eligible for a special morning tea at the end of the year for students who achieve 200 reading nights. Awards are also handed out at assembly in increments of 50 nights, acknowledging the efforts of students who actively read each night. Students who reach 150 nights of reading will also receive a reward from the school for their efforts.

For our classroom: Reading diaries are to be brought to school each Friday this term, when the number of nights will be recorded.



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SMART Spelling Homework

Each Monday, students will bring home their SMART Spelling homework sheet, which should be returned to school completed on Fridays. All the words, bar 2, will contain the same spelling pattern. The other 2 words, which are called BOB (Back of Book) words will be words teachers have identified as a learning need from each student's writing. Students are encouraged to practise spelling (or reading) these words on the sheet provided each day, using the SMART spelling process, which is:

- LOOK at the word and SAY it aloud
- SOUND it out
- WRITE the word
- CHECK the word

These will be handed in on Friday to be checked off.

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS... JUST A LITTLE BIT DOESN'T SEEM MUCH BUT...

When you child misses just...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour & 40 minutes per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and a half years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 and a half years

Reminders

Arriving on Time

It is vital that students arrive at school on time.

School begins at 8:50am and it is expected that all students will be in their classrooms ready to start learning at this time. The classroom is open and the school grounds supervised from 8:35am each morning. Students are encouraged to come into the classroom to get their belongings organised for the day before heading outside to play. We strongly suggest that students arrive at school close to 8:35am so that they can have time to settle, socialise and engage with peers prior to formal learning beginning at 8:50am. When students arrive late, not only do they miss out on important learning and information for the day, but it also disrupts the learning and focus of other students in the class. Students that arrive after 8:50am must sign in at the office.

Absences

If your child is going to be absent from school, please let us know as soon as possible. The preferred method for absence reporting is via Compass. You can also report an absence by e-mailing myself or by calling the school.

Notes and Money

All notes, money, forms or other paperwork are to be brought to the classroom where the classroom teacher. Please remind your child to use this method rather than dropping things into the office to avoid miscommunication.

Hats

From the start of September, through to the end of April, students at Willowmavin Primary School are required to wear a hat when outdoors. Please ensure you send your child's school hat with them to school as of tomorrow. If you would like to purchase a new hat, they can be purchased for \$10 from the office. If students are not wearing a hat, they will be required to play in designated undercover areas

Hot Lunch Orders

Hot Lunch Orders are done every two weeks, reminders will be sent out on Compass, should you want to order anything for your child they must be into the school **by Tuesday**. It is unlikely that any late orders will be accepted, so please ensure you have handed your child's order to me by Tuesday before hot lunch day!



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It is going to be a full and exciting term with lots of learning going on. I am looking forward to seeing the student's progress and celebrating their growth together with the community. If there is anything that you need to address with me, please don't hesitate to email me and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Kind regards,
 Amelia Steven
amelia.steven@education.vic.gov.au

2 / 3 / 4 Weekly Timetable

EVEN WEEKS					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:50am	SMART Spelling	SMART Spelling	SMART Spelling	SMART Spelling	SMART Spelling
9:00am	Reading	Maths	Reading	Reading	Reading
10:00am	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing
11:00am	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
11:30am	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Italian
12:30pm	Inquiry	Art	Reading		RRRR
1:30pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
2:00pm	Wellbeing	PE	Maths	Inquiry	Assembly
2:55pm	End of school day				
ODD WEEKS					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:50am	SMART Spelling	SMART Spelling	SMART Spelling	SMART Spelling	SMART Spelling
9:00am	Reading	Maths	Reading	Reading	Reading
10:00am	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing
11:00am	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
11:30am	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Italian
12:30pm	Inquiry	Art	Reading		RRRR
1:30pm	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
2:00pm	Wellbeing	PE	Maths	Inquiry	Assembly
2:55pm	End of school day				



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