



GRADE 1 NEWSLETTER Term 2 – 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Term 2, 2024. We are looking forward to this term and are excited about the learning and events to come, it promises to be another exciting term. Compass remains our platform for all communication across the school but please read below for information regarding the activities, learning and special dates occurring throughout Term 2 in the Grade 1 area.

Grade 1 Important Dates for Term 2

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 25th April	ANZAC Day
Friday 3rd May	Grade 1 Healesville Sanctuary Excursion
Monday 6th May - Friday 10th May	Maths Week
Wednesday 8th May	Maths Week Open Morning 9am-11am
Wednesday 22nd May	Pupil Free Day
Friday 7th June	Curriculum Day
Monday 10th June	King's Birthday Public Holiday
Friday 28th June	Last day of Term 2 - dismissal at 2.30pm

CURRICULUM NEWS

English

In reading this term we will continue to expose students to phonological awareness activities, working on orally recognising and manipulating the sounds in words. We will be learning new vowel sounds each week following the Little Learners Love Literacy Program scope and sequence. The lessons will focus on reading and spelling the sounds for ar, or/aw, ir/ur/er, air, oo and le. This term students will continue bringing home their Little Learners Love Literacy decodable book to be read at home 3 times per week. In addition to the decodable texts each week, students will continue to bring home library books to be read with you. The purpose of sharing library books at home is to assist with development of vocabulary and comprehension. You may choose to read other books you have at home or have borrowed from external libraries too.

In writing this term we will be focusing on personal recounts, experiential writing and information reports. Students will develop their understanding and use of nouns and adjectives, sequencing of events and simple punctuation. We will also build on students' ability to proofread their own work, making appropriate changes in order to correct mistakes and improve meaning. They will continue to use their Writer's Notebooks to generate writing ideas.

Mathematics

In Number and Algebra, students will use and build their understanding of place value while beginning to explore a range of addition strategies. These strategies will then support students as they form a growing knowledge and understanding of addition. Students will use the skills they have developed to support their learning when we explore money and financial mathematics. In Measurement and Geometry the students will explore time and in Statistics and Probability the focus will be on formulating questions, collecting data and creating and interpreting graphs.

Inquiry

Our Inquiry this term has a Science and Geography focus, investigating the question **‘How are Australian animals unique?’** This unit explores Australian fauna and what makes it special. Our visit to Healesville Sanctuary allows students to learn more about our native animals, observe their habitats and ask questions of the Sanctuary staff. This excursion supports the Grade 1 students’ to research an Australian animal and present their learning in an informative research poster.

Physical Education

In Physical Education this term, Grade 1 students will continue to work on the Fundamental Motor skills of throwing, catching and bouncing. Students will be introduced to the motor skill of kicking, this will be completed through involvement in modified soccer and AFL activities.

Visual Art

In Visual Art this term, Grade 1 students will continue learning to sculpt and hand roll terracotta clay to make an oversized pencil and will paint it after the firing process is complete. They are also completing instructional landscape acrylic paintings, revising brush handling and practising tracing around stencils to form their name. Students will be introduced to the style of Australian artist Pete Cromer and selecting an Australian bird or animal to represent using pencil, Posca markers and watercolour painting.

Italian Culture

In Italian Culture this term, Grade 1 students will learn about Italy by sharing picture story books. ‘Madeline and the Cats of Rome’ will introduce the students to the capital city of Rome providing a focus on well-known landmarks including the Roman Forum and the Testaccio market. Students will share the folk story ‘Strega Nona’ and learn about the types of pasta enjoyed by Italians. We will investigate the different courses that Italians share during their meal times and celebrations.

STEM

In STEM this term, Grade 1 students will be investigating robotics and coding. They will complete simple, step-by-step procedures (online and offline) to explore programmable devices. Students will design, write and debug programs that accomplish specific goals, developing an understanding of action, reaction and directional language.

We encourage parents to engage with their children and ask them questions about their school day. Below are some questions that you could ask your child about their day at school.

What made you smile today?

Can you tell me an example of kindness you saw/showed?

What did you do that was creative?

What was the best thing that happened today?

What is something you heard that surprised you?

Tell me something you know today that you didn’t know yesterday.

What is something that challenged you?

What questions did you ask at school today?

What are you reading?

<https://herviewfromhome.com/50-questions-to-ask-your-kids-instead-of-asking-how-was-your-day/>

We are looking forward to a very productive term. If you have any concerns please speak to your child’s classroom teacher.

Kind Regards,

Grade One Team,

Danielle Mandic, Vicki Shaw, Kate Simpson, Georgie Thompson, & Loretta Vassallo