



No. 4314

Chatham Primary School

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Foundation Newsletter Term 1 2024

Dear Foundation Parents and Carers,

Our Foundation students have settled in well and have had a wonderful first couple of weeks of learning. This year we have a strong focus on students' learning and wellbeing. Consistent with this, below is an outline of the events and curriculum for Term 1, as well as some general reminders.

Events

Date	Event	Notes
Monday 12 th February	First Whole-School Assembly	First whole-school Assembly for 2024, held in the School Hall at 9:05am.
Monday 12 th February	Parent-Teacher Discussions	10-minute Parent-Teacher Discussion with the Classroom Teacher.
Tuesday 13 th February	Parent-Teacher Discussions	10-minute Parent-Teacher Discussion with the Classroom Teacher.
Wednesday 14 th February	Foundation Testing	No School for Foundation students. One-on-one English and Mathematics Online Interviews with the Classroom Teacher.
Monday 19 th February	Foundation Parent Information Session	This session will be held from 4:00pm-5:00pm in the Foundation KB classroom. This will provide an opportunity for parents and carers to learn relevant information pertaining to the Foundation students' first year of school and to ask any questions.
Wednesday 21 st February	Foundation Testing	No School for Foundation students. One-on-one English and Mathematics Online Interviews with the Classroom Teacher.
Wednesday 28 th February	Foundation Testing	No School for Foundation students. One-on-one English and Mathematics Online Interviews with the Classroom Teacher.
Monday 11 th March	Labour Day Public Holiday	Public Holiday – school closed.
Friday 15 th March	Responsible Pet Ownership Incursion	The Foundation students will participate in the Responsible Pet Ownership Incursion to learn how to take care of and be safe around pets.
Thursday 28 th March	Last Day of Term 1	2:30pm school finish for the last day of term.
Friday 29 th March	Good Friday Public Holiday	Public Holiday – school closed.

Morning Routine

When the 8:50am bell rings, students will come up to their classroom. They will then:

- put their bags in their locker
- take out their drink bottle and place it on the water tray
- put any notices on the teacher's chair

Students are encouraged to complete these tasks independently and by 9:00am, they should be sitting on the mat ready to commence the day's learning. Students are also encouraged to use the bathroom during this time to minimise interruptions during learning time.

English and Mathematics

We follow the Victorian Curriculum at Foundation Level, and through comprehensive testing and assessment, students are provided with a differentiated curriculum and participate in a range of individual, small group and whole-class experiences.

English

Phonics

We teach with Little Learners Love Literacy – a structured and explicit Phonics program with engaging multisensory activities and decodable readers. This program is carefully sequenced in seven stages to teach students the 44 sounds of the English language and the principles of the alphabetic code. This includes teaching students that each speech sound can be represented by different groups of letters and that a letter or group of letters can represent different sounds. We will focus on phonics and phonemic awareness to build the strongest foundations for reading and spelling success. We will also focus on building vocabulary and oral language skills to develop equally strong foundations for comprehension and writing.

Reading

As part of our focus on Reading and Viewing, students will be introduced to a variety of texts with familiar features and structures. They will use comprehension strategies to understand and discuss texts listened to, viewed or read independently. The comprehension strategies that will be explicitly taught in Term 1 include predicting, making connections and summarising.

Writing

In Writing this term, Foundation students will focus on developing their early writing skills through creating recounts about familiar and shared experiences. Through explicit modelling, students will learn how to form letters, use capital letters and full stops, and include finger spaces between words.

Mathematics

Mathematics is an integral component of teaching and learning in Foundation. Each week, we teach specific concepts, which reflect the Victorian Curriculum. These concepts fall under the strands of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Students use concrete materials and engage in hands-on activities in which they are active and involved for deeper understanding and meaningful learning. This term in Mathematics, we will focus on various concepts including connecting number names to quantities, counting, patterns, days of the week and shape. Where possible, we encourage you to engage your child in incidental learning opportunities around these concepts at home.

Homework

Take Home Readers

Once we finish teaching Stage 1 of the Little Learners Love Literacy program, we will start to send home 'Pip and Tim' and 'Big World' decodable books. Our Take Home Reader program will commence at the start of Term 2 for our Foundation students. Each text practises the sounds and letters that we have taught in the classroom, so students will be able to read the books themselves by sounding out

and blending. In the meantime, we ask that you read many books to your child and discuss the text together. This is crucial for vocabulary and linguistic comprehension. Choosing a quiet time, such as bedtime, can help build an easy and fun reading routine. When our decodable storybooks start to come home, encourage your child to sound out to read unknown words. Remember that this is the beginning of your child's learning to read journey and, just as when they were learning to walk, your child will need support to build confidence reading.

Decodable Readers Australia

To complement our teaching of Phonics and use of decodable readers, students will be provided with login details to access the 'Decodable Readers Australia' platform from home. This will enable students to access a range of decodable readers using a device, based upon the aspects of Phonics focused upon in the classroom. This will support your child in further consolidating their Literacy skills. This will commence in Term 2 for our Foundation students, once we have completed Stage 1 of the Little Learners Love Literacy program.

Mathletics

We also encourage all students to access Mathletics once per week to consolidate their Mathematical skills learnt in the classroom. This online educational resource supports our teaching programs. Once students accumulate a specific number of points, they will receive either a bronze, silver or gold Mathletics certificate award, which will be presented in front of the class. Additionally, there is a school-wide award that will be presented each week at Assembly. The class with the greatest number of points will be awarded a certificate, as well as an individual student who will also be awarded a certificate at this time.

Special Activities

Responsible Pet Ownership Incursion

As part of our focus on Biological Sciences this term, the Foundation students will participate in 'The Living Safely with Pets Program' on Friday 15th March. This program educates students to understand:

- The times when we should leave dogs alone
- High risk behaviours that should be avoided
- How to recognise the warning signs
- When it is safe to approach a dog and how to do it safely
- What to do if they are approached by an unknown or angry dog
- The things that living things need in order for survival

Brain Food

The Foundation students will have a Brain Food snack at 10:00am or 12:30pm each day. Please include a fruit or vegetable snack in a separate container. This snack should be something mess-free so that we can continue working while we eat. Carrot sticks, apple segments and bananas are good options.

Rubbish-Free Lunch

Chatham is a school that encourages sustainable practices. It is great to see all the healthy lunches you have been packing for your children. Please make sure you continue to use nude-food containers, limiting the rubbish that is brought to school.

Canteen

The School Canteen operates on Wednesdays and Fridays. Orders are placed using the QRK app available on iPhones and Android phones. Orders need to be placed before 9:00am, the day before.

End of Day Yard Duty

The Foundation teachers will dismiss students from outside the main doors to the Junior School building. If your child is being collected from school by someone who is not their primary carer, please inform the class teacher.

Out of Hours School Care

Please tell your teacher if your child is attending our Team Kids centre. A representative from Team Kids will collect and drop off Foundation students during Term 1.

Illness

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home so they can rest and recover. This helps maintain a healthy classroom.

Compass

If your child is late to school, please sign in at the School Office so that this can be logged and updated on Compass. It is a requirement that you also log onto Compass to explain your child's absence if they are absent from school. Please remember to check upcoming events on Compass and ensure that you provide consent for your child to attend these events prior to the cut-off date.

Whole-School Newsletters

The school newsletter is published online every second Friday via the Compass portal. It includes important information and dates.

Timetable

Below is a timetable outlining your child's Specialist program for Term 1. On the days we have P.E, please ensure that your child is wearing suitable footwear. We kindly ask that your child please bring their Library bag to school on their Library day so that they can borrow books. We also kindly ask that all students have an Art smock for Visual Arts lessons, with their name clearly labelled.

Foundation KB Timetable

	Term 1 Timetable
Monday	Assembly 9:05am-9:30am Performing Arts 2:30pm-3:30pm
Tuesday	No Specialist
Wednesday	No Specialist
Thursday	Art 11:30am-12:30pm P.E 2:30pm-3:30pm
Friday	Japanese 9:00am-10:00am Library 12:30pm-1:30pm

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Kirstie Briggs

Foundation Teacher

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