



No. 4314

Chatham Primary School

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Year 1/2 Newsletter Term 1 2024

Dear Year 1/2 Parents and Carers,

The Year 1/2 students have settled in well after the school holidays and have made a wonderful start to their learning. Aligned with the School Strategic Plan, we have a strong focus on **Achievement, Wellbeing and Engagement**. 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.
Monday 26 th February	Year 1/2 Parent Information Session	This session will be held from 4:00pm-5:00pm in the 1/2L classroom. This will provide an opportunity for parents and carers to learn relevant information pertaining to the Year 1/2 students' year of school and to ask any questions.
Monday 4 th March	Kitchen Chemistry Incursion	A fun-filled food workshop awaits students, which will challenge them to think about food in a whole new way! The students will have the opportunity to experiment with a variety of food-related chemicals and take home a bag of tongue-tingling surprises. This incursion has direct links to the Science curriculum learning outcomes within the Victorian Curriculum.
Monday 11 th March	Labour Day Public Holiday	Public Holiday – school closed.
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

As students enter the school each morning, they can make their way up to the classroom at 8:50am. Students are then responsible for putting their bags in their lockers and changing their readers each day. They will be asked to sit on the mat and read the book they will take home for the night. The home reading logbooks will be sighted several times each week. We ask that parents and carers make short comments on their child's reading skills. If your child receives a

Little Learners Love Literacy decodable reader, then they will be asked to reread this over 2-3 nights to build their automaticity, fluency and confidence, and to consolidate other specific reading skills learnt in the classroom.

Wellbeing

This term the Year 1/2 students are focusing on understanding how emotional responses impact the feelings of others and recognising how strengths and achievements contribute to identities. Students will be developing their ability to acknowledge their feelings when they have had an emotional experience and the tools that they can use to assist them in refocusing. As part of our whole-school focus, the Year 1/2 students will be taking part in The Resilience Project program. Our focus will be on Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness and Emotional Literacy. Topics covered include: *Together Everyone Achieves More*, *Family Gratitude*, *In Someone Else's Shoes*, *Kindness*, *When I Grow up*, *My Emotional Thermometer* and *It's OK to Be Alone*.

English

Within our Writing Program, students focus on writing recounts, letters and snapshot pieces. All writing sessions are explicitly taught and modelled with student participation and suggestions. As part of our approach to teaching phonics, we will be implementing the Little Learners Love Literacy program this year. This is 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. Through this program, we will also focus on building vocabulary and oral language skills to develop equally strong foundations for comprehension and writing.

Our reading comprehension focus will be identifying 'who' and 'what' in a given text, whilst making predictions, asking questions and learning to make text connections and summarising through understanding literal meaning in a text. Students are encouraged to always ask questions before, during and after reading a text, and to make predictions and inferences based on their prior knowledge.

Students will continue to improve their Handwriting, working on starting points and formation of Victorian Modern Cursive letters. For Speaking and Listening skill practise, students will take part in News Mania each term. This term the topic is *All About Me*. The timetable and explanation sheet has been sent home and this will start Week 4 (on Monday 19th February). There are different expectations for students in Year 1.

Mathematics

During Mathematics this term, the Year 1/2 students will be focusing on graphs, skip counting patterns, place value, measurement, statistics and probability. It is always helpful to reinforce these concepts at home using everyday activities. Mathematics codes are sent home for students to engage in activities that align with classroom tasks. Continual reinforcement of foundational number skills helps to build on and increase student confidence as they move up each grade level.

Science

For Inquiry and Science this term, students will be looking at States of Matter (chemical changes) in Science, which includes the differences between liquids and solids, and how they are affected by heating and cooling. It might be a great time to have some fun in the kitchen at home, exploring mixtures we commonly use when producing meals, etc.

Homework

Take Home Reading Program

To support our implementation of the Little Learners Love Literacy program, some students will take home the 'Pip and Tim' or 'Big World' decodable books. 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.

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. We will commence our use of this platform in the coming weeks and this will support your child in further consolidating their Literacy skills.

News Mania Program

For the Year 2 students, this can be a poster, using notes and props or a prepared PowerPoint presentation. Please negotiate with your child about how they want to prepare this presentation. For the Year 1 students, the expectations are not quite the same and we ask that parents assist their child in writing a sentence or two on the template sheet provided. The Year 1 students can then practise with you and bring their selected item in to share on their designated date, which will be provided to all students in each class.

Science

There will be a simple worksheet for students enabling them to explore liquids and solids at home.

Mad About Science Incursion

The Year 1/2 students will be taking part in a Science incursion called Kitchen Chemistry run by the Company Mad About Science. This will be placed on Compass for parents and carers to provide consent to attend. This activity will take place on Monday 4th March. It will be a fun-filled food workshop challenging the students to think about food in a whole new way! The students will have the opportunity to experiment with a variety of food-related chemicals and take home a bag of tongue tingling surprises. This incursion has direct links to the Science curriculum learning outcomes within the Victorian Curriculum.

Year 1/2 Picnic

This year we will be holding a Year 1/2 picnic for students and their families on Thursday 29th February. This will be held on the School Oval / Kitchen Garden precinct from 3:45pm – 4:45pm. This is a great opportunity to get to know other families and the class teachers, whilst enjoying some fun activities and games.

Composting

Year 2 students have commenced undertaking their responsibility within the school as Compost Leaders. We encourage all parents and carers to discuss composting at home. The more educated our community is on this topic, the more successful the students will feel, so please... keep on talking 'Compost!'

Parent Information Session

We invite all parents and carers to attend our Parent Information Session on Monday 26th February from 4:00pm – 5:00pm, in the 1/2L classroom. This session will provide an opportunity for parents and carers to learn relevant information pertaining to the Year 1/2 students' year of school and to ask any questions.

Brain Food

Students eat their morning tea at 10:45am and lunch at 1:30pm. We will also have a 'Brain Food' snack around 10:00am. Please include a fruit or vegetable snack in a separate container. Carrot sticks, apple segments, bananas and dried fruit are good options.

Compass

If your child is late to school or absent, please contact the School Office so this can be logged and updated on Compass. It is a requirement that you log on to 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.

Medication

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home so they can rest and recover. In circumstances in which your child requires medication, please notify the School Office and class teacher at the start of the day. Medication needs to be clearly labelled with instructions for our First Aid Officer. Please note that classroom teachers are unable to administer medication.

Timetable

Below is a timetable outlining your child's Specialist Program for Term 4. 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. Please be aware that there may be changes to the timetable from time to time, due to events or unforeseen circumstances.

Year 1/2	Term 1 Timetable
Monday	Assembly 9:05am-9:30am
Tuesday	Library 10:00am-11:00am (1/2M) 11:30am-12:30pm (1/2B)
Wednesday	Performing Arts 9:00am-10:00am (1/2M) Visual Arts 2:30pm-3:30pm (1/2M)
Thursday	P.E 12:30pm-1:30pm (1/2B) Visual Arts 12:30pm-1:30pm (1/2L) Japanese 12:30pm-1:30pm (1/2M) Library 2:30pm-3:30pm (1/2L)
Friday	Japanese 11:30am-12:30pm (1/2L) P.E (1/2M) Visual Arts (1/2B)

We look forward to a wonder-filled year together! Thank you for your ongoing support,

Lorraine McLean (1/2L), Anita Buccieri (1/2B), Sue Minshull and Walter Boulton (1/2M)

Year 1/2 Teaching Team

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