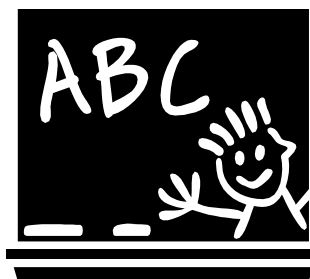


INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Grade 1! I am looking forward to working with both you and your child. Parental support and close communication between home and school are important. If you have a problem or a concern, please do not hesitate to come and see me. I am more than willing to discuss any issue and celebrate successes with you. I would ask that you make an appointment, via the diary, for an after school interview, where possible. The period before school is always very busy and once the children are in class it is difficult to have a quiet conversation.



SPECIAL PROCEDURES:

Reporting absences - please notify the school at the earliest convenience of your child's absence. Absences can be logged on Compass alternatively put a note in the diary.

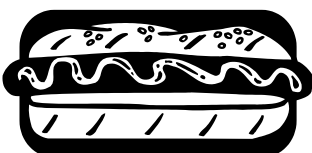
Picking up/dropping off children during school hours - if you wish to take your child from school during school hours, or if you bring your child late, please enter via the office and notify the administration staff.

Diaries - please initial the diary daily to ensure that no correspondence is overlooked. I will endeavor to do the same. I would also appreciate your assistance in leaving the clip provided to attach notes and to find the current page quickly.



Lunch Orders - These can be ordered on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Special lunch orders are once a month and notes are sent prior to the date.



Parent Helpers - Any parents helping out within the school are asked to sign in and out using the sign in book near the front office. This covers you in case of accident and also confirms who is in the school, again, in case of a Displan emergency. This is done for the safety of your child. You will need to have a current Working With Children Check and provide a copy of your card to the office.

Excursions and Special payments - All special events requiring payment will have a date by which payment should be made. Just a reminder, that we are **not** able to accept late payments after the published deadline. We have BPAY available as a payment option. This information will be on the notes when this service is available.

Sunsmart Policy- Our school requires all students to wear a hat during **all outdoor activities from start of September to the end of April**. If students don't bring a hat they are required to stay/play in the designated shaded areas during all recess and lunch times. Hats are to be school uniforms issue, i.e. **Navy BROAD BRIMMED**. Please help us to promote this important policy by making sure your child has a named hat each day.

Library Book Bags- will be required for students to borrow books from our school Library.

Art Smocks- All students will require an art smock for Art lessons.

SPECIALIST TIMETABLES:

Please refer to individual class bulletins sent in Week 1, Term 1.

INQUIRY LEARNING:

The Inquiry Learning program links a unit of work across all curriculum areas. It aims to improve student's understandings about their world, especially in the areas of the Humanities Design, Creativity and Technology and Science. This Semester we will be exploring 'Places and Spaces'. In this unit students explore elements of their community including different services and how they work as well as how they contribute to their community. Students will develop a curiosity about the design and construction of sustainable building.

MATHEMATICS:

There are 3 Strands covered in Mathematics.

- ◇ Numbers and Algebra
- ◇ Measurement and Geometry
- ◇ Statistics and Probability

The types of learning activities your child will be involved in include:

- ◇ Manipulating concrete material
- ◇ Problem Solving



- ◇ Estimating
- ◇ Constructing
- ◇ Describing
- ◇ Investigating

- ◇ Modeling
- ◇ Drawing
- ◇ Representing ideas and processes symbolically
- ◇ Measuring

Students will develop through a variety of learning styles. The learning they complete will happen through the use of ICT, Open ended questions, Rich Literature, Thinking tasks, Real life experiences and Games.

Your Mathematics password will be sent home in the next few weeks.

ENGLISH

The 3 key areas in English are:

- ◇ Reading and Viewing
- ◇ Writing
- ◇ Speaking and Listening

Homework: Take Home Reading Program

Your child should read their take home book each day. They will be expected to bring their book box to school daily and change their own book in the morning after they unpack their school bag.

We ask that parents fill in the "Home Reading Record" every day, even if the book is not finished.

For example, if your child read part of a book write the page number they read to next to the title.

If reading is not completed at least 4 times a week, students may need to complete reading during recess or lunch times.

Reading Levels -

IS YOUR CHILD BRINGING HOME BOOKS THAT ARE EASY TO READ? WE HOPE SO!!!!

As a record of your child's reading of books is taken, the books are put into one of three levels for that child - **Easy, Instructional or Hard**. These three levels of books have different teaching purposes.

- **Easy** - The child can read most words in the book. These are the books that children read independently in class to practise reading. The easy level books are also the ones sent home for home reading. Children should read at this level to gain 'confidence' and 'fluency'. The child hears himself/herself being 'a good reader'. Practising good reading is very important to a child's reading development.
- **Instructional** - The child can read approximately 90% of the words in the book. This is the level where teachers teach children strategies for reading. This is done in the classroom with individuals or in small groups. These books provide the child with just enough challenge so that he/she can learn more strategies.
- **Hard** - At this level children become frustrated with the book and it begins to lose meaning. Without meaning, the child cannot decode the print and most of the strategies are useless. Children are rarely required to read books at their hard level. These are used to 'read to' the child or for shared reading. Library books usually fall into this category.

Brain Food Breaks:

We ask that you provide a brain food snack each day (Fresh Fruit and Vegetables) that your child can eat during class time at 10:00am. Brain food helps us to stay fuelled and focused on learning. Drink bottles with WATER only are a must every day!

The Whole School Camping Program-The Grade 1's will participate in a '**Dinner**' at school in Term 4. Further information will be sent home closer to the time ☺

Stars of the Week - each student will receive these certificates throughout the year for the acknowledgement of excellent academic achievement and for displaying our school values.

Parent Teacher Meetings - will be held in February (dates to be confirmed) and later in the year following the mid-year reports. The first meeting will be a meet and greet where we would love to find out more about your child. Stay tuned using our school website and newsletter. Our website is www.hbps.vic.edu.au * Should you require any further information I am only too happy to help!

