INTRODUCTION
Welcome to Grade 1! Parental support and close communication between home and
school are important. If you have a problem or a concern, please do not hesitate to
see your child’s classroom teacher. We are more than willing to discuss any issue
and celebrate successes with you. We 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 fill in an absence note and send to school on your child’s return. Please use the
sheets sent home earlier this week. Should you require more notes please let your child’s teacher know.

Picking up children during school hours - if you wish to take your child from school during school
hours, or if you bring your child late, please sign the book at the front office, so that we have a
record for Displan needs (School Emergency Plan).

Diaries - please initial the diary daily to ensure that no correspondence is overlooked. We will
endeavor to do the same. We 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. We will be asking for classroom helpers very soon, to do this 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 CLASSES INCLUDE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Area</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PERFORMING ARTS</td>
<td>Ms O’Halloran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VISUAL ART</td>
<td>Mrs Jolly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIBRARY</td>
<td>Classroom Teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)</td>
<td>Miss Carr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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INQUIRY LEARNING:
The Inquiry Learning program attempts to link 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 ‘Growing Older and Wiser’. In this unit students
explore how they change and grow over time. They learn to discern safe places and situations from those that
are not. They learn to ‘think before they act’ and how to articulate what they are doing. They learn to reflect on
their behaviour. Students bring healthy food to school and are encouraged to show restraint when provided with
access to ‘unhealthy’ food.
MATHEMATICS:
There are 3 Strands covered in Mathematics.

1. Numbers and Algebra
2. Measurement and Geometry
3. Statistics and Probability

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

◊ Manipulating concrete material
◊ Estimating
◊ Constructing
◊ Describing
◊ Investigating
◊ 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 Mathletics 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.

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 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 on the 9th and 16th February 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](http://www.hbps.vic.edu.au). Should you require any further information we are only too happy to help!

Amanda Wright, Nicki Dasovic and Kirby Hughes 😊