



Grade 1/2 Curriculum Newsletter

Term 2, 2024

Welcome back everyone! We hope you had a lovely break, relaxing and enjoying time with family and friends.

Term 2 will be packed with lots of learning to take place in the areas of Reading, Writing, Maths and Integrated Studies as well as the specialist areas of STEM, Visual Arts, Japanese, Physical Education and Music.

Take Home Reading has re-commenced for Term 2. Readers are changed every Monday, however students must return the previous week's readers before doing so. We also take this opportunity to remind parents to sign their child's reading journal each night after reading.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind. In Victoria school is **compulsory** for children and young people aged 6 -17 years. Coming to school every day helps your child make and maintain friendships and build connections with others.

It is a requirement that schools must record and monitor attendance and absences.

There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick. Developing good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference. The school requires medical certificates for students who are experiencing high levels of absenteeism.

Please ensure that all student absences are reported to the school. This can be done by:

- Logging via Compass and add an attendance note (found under "approvals" on the app)
- Calling the school on 9249 2770
- Emailing the school - woodville.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Please take some time to go through the attached 'Every Day Counts Attendance Fact Sheet'. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Please remember that students are not required to wear a hat in Terms 2 and 3. However, if your child would like to continue to wear their school approved hat, they may do so.

All students are expected to wear full school uniform every day. Should you require a copy of our uniform policy, it can be downloaded from the school's website. Please ensure all items that are

removable e.g. hats and jumpers/jackets/coats are labelled so if they are misplaced, they can be returned.

Should you wish to meet with your child's teacher throughout the term, an appointment can be made by contacting them via COMPASS CONNECT or via the school's office on 9749 2770.

We would like to thank those families who have already contributed a box of tissues to their classroom. Classrooms still require tissues, especially as we head into the chillier months, so any contributions would be greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards,
The Grade 1/2 Team
Mrs Turner, Ms Edwards, Mr Lim, Ms Di Natale, Mr Montague

Reading

This term, we will be working with a range of non-fiction examples to strengthen students' understanding of their features, purposes, and organisation. During this unit, students will be making connections between texts, their own lives and the world around them. We will be emphasising that reading isn't just to decode words, but to make connections and understand texts deeply. Reading comprehension is like solving a puzzle, where we piece together information to unlock the meaning behind the words. As we work through the term, we'll discover how books relate to our own lives, helping us grow and learn in countless ways.

Students are expected to read with assistance from an adult for approximately 10 minutes every night at home to support our school reading program. Students can practise their Take Home Reader, Essential Words, or letter/sound recognition. It is also an expectation that Communication bags be checked every night for notes and returned to school every morning.

Writing

This term students will be learning to write Information Reports. Students will read a range of non-fiction texts in order to gather facts and information on various topics. They will focus on language development and the use of topic specific vocabulary to help build content knowledge. Another key focus for students will be to use the conventions of grammar correctly; the appropriate use of upper and lowercase letters, finger spacing between words and the correct use and placement of full stops at the end of sentences. Students will continue to develop their drafting, editing and publishing skills in line with the Seven Steps to Writing Program.

Numeracy

In Term 2, we will be building upon our number and place value skills as we focus on addition and subtraction strategies. The students will be learning to develop mental fluency and solve multi-step worded problems. Later in the term, we will also learn about fractions. This will involve understanding the importance of equal partitioning and the role of the numerator and denominator.

Measurement will also be an area of focus this term, as we explore how to measure length and time duration. When measuring length an emphasis will be made on selecting and using consistent units, and the ability to make direct and indirect comparisons between different

lengths. For our work on time, students will use calendars to understand the days, months and seasons of the year.

Specialist Areas for Term 2

MUSIC

The children in Grades One and Two will be learning to play the xylophone during Term 2. They will learn about the parts of the xylophone and how to read and play easy nursery rhymes. They will be able to recognise the written music notation of some notes that correlate to the xylophone and will be able to describe and draw some music notes on the music staff.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This term students will learn about the importance of developing and improving their fundamental motor skills to play a variety of sports. The sports focus will largely surround AFL and soccer. The focus will be on kicking. Students will learn the basic technique required to kick a stationary ball on the ground and from their hands. Learning to kick a stationary ball improves foot-eye coordination and aiming for a target whilst kicking the ball out of their hands improves balance and control.

VISUAL ART

Students in grade one and two will begin term two developing their understanding of colour, making and using a variety of secondary and tertiary colours in a range of different hues. They will continue their exploration of shape looking at organic shapes and explore visual and tactile texture. They will explore these through a range of mediums and techniques including paint collage and printmaking. Students will experiment with basic construction techniques and engage in a variety of activities that will challenge them to respond creatively to a range of different stimuli.

JAPANESE

Grade One and Two students will explore the colours in Japanese. They will continue to practise recognising Hiragana scripts using flashcards accompanied by gestures and learn how to write the colours in Hiragana. Students will have language activities to remember the words, such as singing songs, match-up games, fishing games, and making a paper craft. Students will also explore the Japanese cultural event 'Kodomo No Hi'—Children's Day.

STEM

Grade One

During Term Two students will be learning about forces. They will learn that a force is a push or a pull that makes something move. Students will explore a variety of push and pull scenarios such as tug-a-war and kicking balls. Next students will investigate how some objects can move without being touched such as the force exerted by magnets and gravity. The last part of the term will then be used to explore some simple machines such as levers, screws and pulleys.

Grade Two

During Term Two students will be learning about forces. They will learn that a force is a push or a pull that makes something move. Students will explore a variety of push and pull scenarios such as tug-a-war and kicking balls where they will also look at how a force can be applied to change the direction of an objects motion. Next students will investigate how some objects can move without being touched such as the force exerted by magnets and gravity. The last part of the term will then be used to explore some simple machines such as levers, screws and pulleys.

EVERY DAY COUNTS

ATTENDANCE FACT SHEET FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

School is better when you're here.

DO I HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL?

Yes, in Victoria everyone aged from 6 – 17 has to go to school.

Missing one day a fortnight is the same as missing four whole weeks of school a year.

From Foundation to Year 12 that adds up to 1.5 years of school!

School is better when you attend. Your friends and your teachers notice that you are away and wonder if you are OK.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT I GO TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY?

Right now, being at school is the most important thing you need to do for your future. School helps you build good habits for later on in life. You might think school is just about Maths and English but you're also learning about how to work with other people and how to solve problems.

Being at school every day also means you are becoming more independent as a learner and interacting with your friends and teachers. If you are at school you can get help from your teachers and friends and won't have to try to learn things in your own time.

Being an adult probably seems far away but we know that young people who attend school more frequently have better outcomes after school too. This means they earn more money, have better job opportunities and are generally healthier. So being at school really does make a difference!

Minutes lost = days lost per year

A couple of minutes here and there doesn't seem like much, but...



Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...



DO MY PARENTS NEED TO LET THE SCHOOL KNOW IF I'M GOING TO BE AWAY?

Yes. Your parents need to notify the school of your absence as soon as they can within three days of your absence. If they know you are going to be away, they should try to tell the school before the day or days you are away.

If you're away from school too much and don't have a reasonable excuse like a serious illness, your parents might get a letter from the principal asking about why you're away.

ARE THERE ANY GOOD REASONS TO BE AWAY FROM SCHOOL?

No. Unless you are very unwell or there is an event like a funeral, you should be at school. Every day you are away is a day of classes and social connection you miss out on. Taking a day off for your birthday or go shopping isn't a good reason to miss school.

Even medical and health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays. This includes family holidays. Your parents are encouraged not to plan holidays during the term but to organise these during the school holidays.

If you do have to be away for some reason, your parents need to contact the school and let them know what's going on. Depending on the situation, the school might provide schoolwork for you to complete.

IF I'M NOT AT SCHOOL WHAT DO I MISS OUT ON?

You miss out on all the big stuff – class discussions and all the interaction that happens in a classroom, the chance to get help from teachers and the opportunity to practice skills and gain knowledge.

Being away means you might miss out on a lot of learning or that you need to catch up in your time.

If all of that isn't enough to convince you to be at school every day, being away also means you also miss out on playing with your friends. Being away from school a lot can be lonely. It has a big impact on relationships and social connections.

Believe it or not, everyone wants you at school and it really is better when you attend.

WHAT IF I'M HAVING PROBLEMS GETTING TO SCHOOL?

Getting to school on time everyday can be about having a good routine.

If you find yourself running late or missing school because you're disorganised, try:

- Asking your parents for help getting ready
- Having a set time to go to bed
- Leaving all technology out of your bedroom
- Packing your school bag the night before with everything you need
- Having a set time for breakfast
- Planning to meet up with a friend so you can travel to school together.

Sometimes, though it can just be hard to go to school. Whatever the situation is, staying away from school isn't the answer. Many people want to help you. Try talking to:

- Your parents or another adult family member
- A trusted teacher
- Wellbeing Coordinator.