



# Grade 1/2 Newsletter

## Term 4, 2025

Welcome back to Term 4! We hope you all had an enjoyable break, despite the chilly weather. Term 4 is shaping up to be a jam-packed term, full of excitement and fun. We eagerly count down to the highly anticipated Grade 1/2 dinner and Grade 2 sleepover in November as well as our end of year excursion.

To maximise student learning and engagement, it is extremely important that children attend school **on time** each day. The first bell rings at 8:40 each morning, at which time students enter the classroom and prepare themselves for the day ahead. The school day finishes at 3:00pm. Please ensure you pick your child up on time.

### Communication Bags, Take-Home Readers and Reading Journals

Students must bring their communication bag to and from school each day. Communication bags are used to send notes to and from home and to carry their take-home readers and reading journals.

As part of our homework policy, children are expected to read for ten minutes each night. It is also important that parents complete the reading journal each night, filling in the date and the name of the text, or the material that children read or practise, such as letters and sounds of the alphabet.

Children will not be able to take readers home if they do not have their communication bag. Should you need to replace your child's communication bag, they can be purchased from the school office for \$10.00.

### School Supplies

Students are required to have a set of working headphones they can use when using their iPads and laptops. Please check with your child if they need their headphones replaced or contact their teacher to confirm if new ones are needed. Headphones can be purchased from the school office for \$10.00. It would also be appreciated if you could send a box of tissues if you have not already done so.

### Uniform Reminders

All students must be in full school uniform **every day**. In line with our Sun Smart policy, all students are required to wear a school approved sun hat when outdoors during Term 4. If they do not bring their hat to school, they will need to attend the 'No Hat, No Play' area to ensure they stay out of the direct sun during play times. Should you need to replace a school hat, they can be purchased for \$10.00 at the school office.

To help prevent the spread of head lice, children with shoulder length hair or longer, are required to tie it up. If you require a copy of our School Dress Code, please contact your child's classroom teacher or refer to the school website.

### SMART GOALS

Each term, students will receive SMART goals in the areas of Reading, Writing and Mathematics. These goals will continue to be uploaded onto Compass and will be revised and updated on a regular basis. New goals will be created throughout the term and given to your child. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

### Attendance Reminders

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 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 on to Compass and adding an attendance note (found under "approvals" on the app)
- Calling the school on 9749 2770
- Emailing the school - [woodville.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:woodville.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

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

Wishing everyone all the best for a wonderful term of learning.

***The 1/2 Team,***

*Holly, Mel, Kimberley, Jonathan, Trish and Tee.*

## Phonics

In line with the Phonics Plus program implemented in Victorian schools this year, students will continue this program daily. They will continue to explore the relationship between sounds and the various letter combinations that can make each sound. Students will also explore suffixes and how they can alter a word meaning or tense.

## English

As part of the English program, students are building their language skills to express and develop their ideas when writing persuasive texts. They are learning about compound sentences and conjunction words they can use to join two simple sentences together. Students will also learn to edit compound sentences and explore the various punctuation marks they can use when writing.

## Mathematics

Throughout Term 4, students will explore Algebraic Patterns, focusing on patterns that grow (additive patterns). They will also extend their previous learning on fractions and will expand their knowledge of additive thinking through our unit on Money and Financial Contexts. In our unit on Statistics, students will collect and sort data into relevant categories and create different graphical representations of the data. To finish off the year, students will learn to read time on analogue and digital clocks.

## Integrated Studies

Throughout our Physical Science unit, students will learn about forces (push or pull) and how they can change an object's movement or shape. They will learn how the strength of a force can change the distance and speed of an object and how to make predictions about how different forces will affect particular objects. In the 'Sensational Sound' unit students will explore the relationship between sound and vibration, will explore how sound waves affect pitch and will make different sounds using various materials.

Students will continue to participate in the 'Inform and Empower' program. The focus for Term 4 will be for students to develop their critical thinking and digital literacy skills. They will also explore what it means to be kind when they are online.

## Physical Education – Tom Digby

This term in Physical Education, Grade 1/2 students are focusing on the fundamental movement skill of striking – learning to hit an object with control, accuracy, and power. Through fun and engaging activities in cricket, tennis, and hockey, students are developing their ability to track a moving ball, position their bodies correctly, and strike safely using a range of equipment. These lessons not only build hand-eye coordination, timing, and reaction speed, but also help students strengthen their teamwork, communication, and confidence.

## Visual Art – Nicole Wassell

This term, Grade 1/2 students are continuing to build upon the routines and foundational skills established in Semester One, with a particular emphasis on the safe and responsible use of materials and equipment. The program places greater focus on fostering student independence and autonomy, encouraging learners to make informed choices and take individual responsibility for their creative tasks.

The primary focus will be on consolidating and extending established art-making skills, including cutting and pasting, observational drawing, painting, and printmaking. Students will further develop their understanding of pattern and texture and explore the use of line as a means of conveying movement and creating visual tension.

Throughout the term, students will continue to strengthen their creative and critical thinking abilities through a variety of activities designed to promote discussion, active listening, and problem-solving within artistic contexts. In addition, they will expand their art vocabulary and visual literacy by observing and discussing a range of artworks and children's book illustrations.

### Music – Lisa Wood

During Term Four, students in Grades One and Two will further develop their understanding of beat, rhythm and pitch. Students will expand their knowledge of music notation and will compose short pieces of music to demonstrate their understanding. All students will learn a Christmas song/dance that will be performed at the end of year assembly.

### Japanese – Miyuki Wirth

This term, students will learn the names of familiar farm animals in Japanese and practise simple question-and-answer conversations such as “Is there a horse?”, “Yes, there is.” They are also beginning to read and write Hiragana, creating their own “My Farm Animal” book to showcase their writing. In addition, students will explore the Japanese cultural festival Shichi-Go-San, celebrating the growth of children at ages three, five and seven.

### STEM – Leanne Sammut

**Grade 1:** During Term 4, Grade 1 students are exploring the big question, “*What is sound, and how do we make it?*” Students will investigate how vibrations create sound and experiment with everyday materials to design and build their own musical instruments. This hands-on unit links to the **Design and Technologies curriculum**, as students imagine, plan, create, and test their designs while learning that objects can be repurposed in creative ways to make music. Students will also explore how the shape, size, and material of an object can change the sound it makes. It’s sure to be a noisy, creative, and fun-filled term in the STEM room!

**Grade 2:** During Term 4, Grade 2 students are stepping into the world of **Digital Technologies** as they learn to code Sphero robots! Using simple block coding, students will explore how to move their Sphero forward, turn, and complete mini-challenges. They’ll practise breaking tasks down into smaller steps—thinking like real programmers—while building confidence with computational thinking and problem-solving. As the term progresses, students will take on creative challenges to navigate mazes and complete obstacle courses. It’s an exciting way for them to combine logic, teamwork, and technology in a hands-on setting.

## EVERYDAY 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 Mathematics 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...

When your child misses just...

they miss days per year

**5** mins  
per day



=

**3** days



**30** mins  
per day



=

**18** days



**Patterns of lateness  
can have a serious  
impact on your child's  
education.**

## Days missed = years lost

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

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

**1** day per fortnight



=

**4** weeks



=

Over **1** year missed

**1** day per week



=

**8** weeks



=

Over **2.5** years missed

### **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 going 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 every day 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.