



Term 2 Stage 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you and your families had a relaxing and safe holiday and are looking forward to the Term ahead. We ask that you read the following information which is an outline of our teaching and learning programs for the term and some additional information regarding upcoming events.

Listed below are some important dates for Term 2:

Week 2 Beginning 6 May	Mother's Day stall- Friday	Week 7 Beginning 10 June	Public Holiday- Monday Walk safely to school- Thursday
Week 5 Beginning 27 May	Reconciliation week	Week 10 Beginning 1 July	Reports sent home- Wednesday Last Day of Term- Friday 5th July
Week 6 Beginning 3 June	Athletics Carnival- Wednesday	Term 3 Week 1	First Day of Term- Tuesday 23rd July

Classroom Supplies- Just a reminder that your children need the following resources. Can you please check your child's supplies and replenish anything that is used daily.

Stage 1 – Years 1 & 2		
Communal Classroom Use	Student's Personal Use	
tissues baby wipes paper towels 4 x 35g Bostik glue sticks 8 x whiteboard markers for student use, no fluorescent colours and preferably staedtler brand	1 pkt Post-it Notes 5 x HB Triangular Grip pencils eraser 12 coloured pencils 12 coloured textas preferably Faber and Castell	library bag art smock – large old t-shirt with name sun cream to be kept in child's bag A4 plastic envelope for homework and notes

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance is recorded daily and it is important that your child attends school regularly as new concepts are introduced every day. Being punctual and arriving just before 9.00 is also vital and supports children transitioning into the classroom, ready for a full day of learning.

School Uniform

At WPS we have the expectation that children come to school in full school uniform. **Please ensure that all clothing items are clearly labelled with your child's name, especially their hats and jumpers.** Hats are an essential part of our school uniform which need to be worn everyday. For safety, if students do not have a school hat, they will need to stay in the shade. If you are missing any clothing, please see your child's teacher to access the lost property.

Sickness and Medication

Please notify the front office administrative staff of absences and remember that if your child is unwell, please ensure they stay home for a day or two to rest and recuperate. They will be better equipped to manage their work on their return and we have the best chance of minimising the spread of bugs. Also, if your child has any medication needs, please ensure all details are up to date with the school office. Any child with asthma should carry their puffer with them during the school day. Finally, it is incredible the number of tissues we use, particularly once sniffle season starts. Soft tissues are always gratefully received. If you can send a box (or two) for class consumption that would be terrific!

Car Park

Just a reminder to avoid walking through both staff car parks or through the gates that connect the car park to the playground. By not walking through the car park, you will be assisting not only the staff at school but your child with a clear and consistent message about safety.

Term 1 Learning Programs

English

Literacy is the foundation of most of the learning experiences your child is involved in at school. Teachers aim to balance the program through modelled, guided and independent activities to support and extend student learning. In class, students will engage with and discuss a range of texts with increasingly demanding ideas and language features. Speaking and listening will be a focus for this term as we work towards our multicultural public speaking competition. Children will be explicitly taught how to present a speech in class and have the opportunity to compete for a place in the final at the end of term.

Reading will form an integral part during the daily literacy session. Please promote reading regularly at home to expose students to a variety of texts to assist their learning. As well as borrowing books each week during Library sessions, the students will be explicitly taught research skills and will develop their knowledge of literature and Library skills. For our reading program in classrooms, we will be focusing on explicitly teaching reading comprehension strategies to enable students to gain a better understanding of texts read. This involves opportunities to analyse the writing features, text structures, spelling, grammar and punctuation skills and guided reading.

During writing lessons, students will focus on imaginative texts building upon the descriptive techniques learnt in Term 1. Class teachers will explicitly teach the grammar and text structure necessary to compose texts that include sustained and effective use of persuasive devices.

Instead of weekly news items, speaking and listening skills will be explicitly taught through think, pair, share activities where students will learn to articulate their ideas and opinions throughout a variety of learning opportunities.

Mathematics

Students in Stage 1 will continue to build on previous knowledge and achieve specific outcomes in each of the Mathematics strands. The content that will be covered includes: Whole Number, Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, Fractions and Decimals (relate to Length and Time), Patterns and Algebra (relate to Whole Numbers), Length, Volume and Capacity, Time (relate to Whole Number), Position and Chance. Every Mathematics lesson will begin with a 'Number Talk' where students will discuss numbers. This provides them with opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills and improve their reasoning skills when comparing numbers.

PE

Students will be working on athletics skills to work towards our Athletics Carnival in Week 6, Term 2. Students will also be involved in Soccer sessions and in class fitness activities.

Creative Arts

Students' drama learning program will be linked to the rich texts that they are reading in class. Activities vary depending on the text but will involve taking on roles in to explore familiar and imagined situations.

Science/ History/ Geography/ PDH

This year we are teaching these subject areas through integrated units via Mappen. Mappen is an online curriculum solution for Australian primary schools that provides teachers with expertly crafted integrated units. Each unit is focused on particular curriculum areas more so than others. The first unit we will teach is Community which is about Places and Spaces. In this Term'2 unit, students will learn how to reduce, reuse and recycle as they consider the importance of sustainability. They will conduct an experiment to see how long things take to decompose. Students will develop personal sustainability goals as they consider the ethics of sustainability.

Instructional Leader Update

Throughout Term 2 Mrs Neaves will continue to work with students and classroom teachers to assess, track and monitor the progress of all individual students from Kindergarten to Year 2 using the new Literacy and Numeracy progressions. An important part of this process is to monitor student Literacy and Numeracy data every 5 weeks and then to collaboratively plan the next cycle of teaching with teachers to ensure that each child's individual needs are being catered for. Throughout this term Mrs Neaves again looks forward to working with students and teachers on a weekly basis. Another important role for Mrs Neaves throughout Term 2 will be to access some further professional learning based on current research to ensure our children are continually being challenged.

Weekly Update

As a school we recognise the value of building positive relationships with the parents of those we teach. Each classroom teacher has been emailing an update on Fridays in the hope of keeping all parents informed about the teaching and learning taking place in the classroom. If you have not received this it is because we do not have a parent email in our school list, or that the email address given has not been working. Please email your child's teacher using the address below or return this slip below.

Homework

Students will begin homework in Week 2. All students will receive a new homework grid, a new spelling activity list and a reading log. Please continue to use your child’s homework book to complete activities and this needs to be submitted to teachers every Friday. Weekly tasks will consist of reading, spelling and Mathematics which is displayed on the top row. The activities in the second row are all optional. Spelling homework now involves students learning an individual set of ‘Camera Words’ based on their learning needs. These will be sent home at the beginning of the term and updated as necessary. Please support your child by getting them to read, write and recall these words often so that they can easily use these during writing lessons. We are also moving away from weekly news topics this term as we provide opportunities in class for the students to learn speaking and listening skills. If your child is having any issues completing homework, please contact their class teacher as soon as possible.

Please contact your child’s class teacher in the first instance, or Matt Richards if you have any issues to discuss regarding your child. Appointments can be made by calling our school office or by contacting your child’s teacher via email.

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We look forward to your continued support throughout the term.

Kind Regards (on behalf of all Stage 1 Teachers),
Matt Richards
K-2 Assistant Principal

Weekly Update

I _____ parent of _____ in _____

class would like to receive the weekly update and my email address is provided below:

Signed: _____