



Foundation Newsletter

Term 1 February 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Foundation newsletter. Each term we will publish a newsletter to inform you of the curriculum focuses in reading, writing and mathematics, as well as the events and happenings in the Foundation classrooms. Following is an outline of what we have planned for the coming term.

Literacy



Reading

Our reading program is based on the Early Years Literacy model and the Reading workshop. This means we begin each lesson with a specific focus by sharing and discussing a big book, poem or video clip. Students then work in small learning groups.

One group participates in a teacher led guided reading group. This enables the specific needs of each student to be addressed.

Our reading focuses for this term will include:

- Concepts about print i.e. we read text left to right, top to bottom
- Recognition of the Magic 100 Words starting with the Golden words
- Reading rhyme and repetitive text through stories, songs, finger plays and poetry
- Reading for enjoyment

Home Reading

Each day your child will choose a book to be placed into their home reading folder, and then into their communication folder to travel to and from school. These books need to be shared with, read by or read to your child each evening and returned to school the next day so that they can choose a new book to take home. A word list is included in your child's home reading folder and we encourage you to help your child learn these words by practicing them each day and occasionally through games and activities.

Writing

Our writing program is based on the Writing workshop. We encourage all students to 'have a go' with writing, including:

- copying sentence starters from the board
- writing known sounds in words to record their ideas
- innovating on a known text using our weekly big book
- sharing their weekend activities in a recount.

Handwriting is explicitly taught, with particular focus on correct pencil grip, entry and exit points, posture and formation of letters.

Spelling

Our Soundwaves Spelling Program begins with a daily sound review where student will explore the sound each letter makes. We will have a weekly focus on a single letter sound. The letter-sounds we will focus on this term are s, a, t, m, i and d. We identify and record initial sounds in words and we practise writing common high frequency words such as I, can, go, to etc.

Speaking and Listening

Students will be provided with many opportunities to share their understandings and thoughts during the school day. These may include:

- Author's Chair (sharing of writing)
- Community Circle including sharing of weekend activities and information about ourselves
- Classroom discussions

Reading Eggs is a school and home literacy program which we encourage your child to access on a weekly basis. The program compliments the school literacy program and students are able to work through the maps at their own pace. Letters will be sent home soon with usernames and passwords.



We introduce concepts through explicit teaching, hands on activities and numeracy games.

During Term 1 we will focus on:

- Working with and writing numbers 0 to 10
- Pattern and colour - using informal materials and numerals to 10, using shapes and colour to copy and create simple patterns
- Time - daily events, morning, afternoon, evening, school days/weekend
- Measurement - using everyday language e.g. longer/short, heavier/lighter to explore measurement concepts
- Communicating mathematical ideas in everyday language

Mathletics

Mathletics – All students will receive a log in card with their Mathletics username and password, so that they can access the program at home.

History



The topic for Term 1 and 2 is *Personal and Family History*. During this unit the students will learn about their own history and that of their own family, this will include stories from different cultures and other parts of the world. They will build on their knowledge and understanding of how the past is different to the present.

Key questions we will be focusing on are:

- What is my history and how do I know?
- What stories do other people tell about the past?
- How can stories of the past be told and shared?

Library



Library sessions are held once a week on a **Thursday**. Students may borrow books on this day to take home and will require a named library bag to take the book to and from school. Books should be returned each Thursday morning and placed into the classroom library tub. Students cannot borrow if they have not returned their borrowed book from the previous week.

Perceptual Motor Program (PMP)



Students will be involved in one session of PMP a week, which will be on a **Monday**. PMP develops a wide range of skills including gross motor development, co-ordination, balance, body awareness and locomotion. We will be running introductory sessions for PMP, and begin rotational activities in Term 2. A parent helper notice will be coming home soon if you wish to assist.

Students will also be involved in a weekly physical education program on **Thursdays** with Miss Marshall. Please ensure students are wearing appropriate clothes (ie. girls to wear skorts, shorts or track pants and hair tied back) and runners on these days.

Science



In Science this term we are studying the unit *Staying Alive*. This unit will provide students with opportunities to investigate needs for survival of animals and humans, and how our senses help us to stay alive. Students understanding of basic needs and their importance in our lives will be developed through hands-on activities.

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

- Students begin full time Monday 27th of February
- Aussie of the Month Assembly and Cake Stall Monday 27th of February at 2.40pm
- Welcome Back Evening Friday 3rd of March at 5pm. This is a good opportunity to meet other families.
- Labour Day Holiday Monday 13th of March
- Curriculum Day Tuesday 14th of March
- Parent Information Night (Maths) 15th of March at 6.30pm
- Pancake Day 28th of March
- Term 1 ends Friday 31st of March (early dismissal 2.30pm)

REMINDERS

Water Bottles: it is very important that students bring a named water bottle to school during this term. Students can keep these on their tables and are allowed to drink them throughout the day.

Brain Food: We encourage students to bring some small pieces of cut fruit, dried fruit and/or vegetables (ie. carrot sticks) that they can eat mid-morning. This will keep their energy levels up whilst they are learning. Having brain food in a small separate container helps distinguish it from snack and is easier to grab than their whole lunch box.

Communication Folders: The green POPS communication folder will need to travel between home and school each day. Please check your child's folder for notices and school work each night. These folders can also be used as a form of communication with teachers if needed.

Hats: Students are expected to wear a school hat from September 1st to May 1st. Please ensure they have a named hat that they can leave at school in their table tub. If your child needs a hat for before/after school care, please provide them with an additional hat so they are not taking their hat from their tub, increasing the possibility of losing it.

Classroom Helpers:

Any parents wishing to help out in the classroom will need a current Working with Children's Check. Please register your WWCC number and expiry date with the office before you commence helping in the classroom.

When you come to help out in the classroom, please remember to sign in at the office and take a 'visitors' badge to wear. If you haven't already read the Parent Helper booklet, you can pick up a copy at the office.

POPS Newsletter and Facebook page:

The POPS Newsletter is an important communication document that is released to parents each week. Please take the time to read all of the newsletter as it will keep you informed of dates and what's happening at school. It is available on the school website: www.pops.vic.edu.au and Compass. Compass is your 'go to' for information regarding school events and excursions, as well as a way to communicate with your child's teacher. There is a Compass app available to download for your phone, this allows easier and regular access to communications. POPS also has a Facebook page. The page is regularly updated with photos and information about what is going on at POPS so please take a look and 'like' the page: www.facebook.com/ParkOrchardsPS

Foundation Timetable

Monday	LOTE with Limei Bian PMP Assembly: in the big hall - Parents welcome! 3-3.30pm
Tuesday	Visual Art with Mrs Bethell Performing Arts with Mr Gill
Thursday	Library Science Physical Education with Miss Marshall

If you have any concerns or nice things to tell us, please pop in either prior to 8.45 am (as it can often be difficult to have a discussion right on bell time), after school or make an appointment- we understand that what may seem like a small problem to us can be a huge worry for young children, and it is best to deal with it early.

We are looking forward to a happy and rewarding school year.

Lauren Walker and Jess Oakey



Physical Education



Foundation students spend the first half of the term with a focus on body control and locomotor skills to develop their coordination and judgment. In particular, we look at the fundamental motor skills of 'run' and 'jump', and implement these skills into different games and activities. The second half of the term we begin to work on ball handling skills. Students will have the opportunity to use a range of different balls; small, medium, large, soft, hard, textured, etc. We deconstruct the fundamental motor skill 'catch', and break down the elements required to successfully catch with correct technique. Foundation students will be taught how to stand in preparatory position to catch a ball. They will undertake many different activities with a focus on tracking different objects and balls with their eyes. Towards the end of term, we begin to introduce underarm and overarm throw.

Sarah Marshall - PE Teacher

LOTE: Mandarin



Welcome to the year of the rooster! In Term One the Foundation students will be warmly welcomed to the Mandarin program. They will have a basic introduction to the Chinese language and culture. The language focus in this term will be the most common greeting word "Ni Hao", the greeting words and phrases that are used to greet the teacher as a group at the start and at the end of a class in a formal classroom setting, the special greeting words used during Chinese New Year time. The students will learn to introduce themselves in Mandarin and count 1-10 in Mandarin with Chinese hand signs. They will also learn to name some of the zodiac animals.

Within the cultural context, students will be introduced to the Chinese New Year. They will explore this festival through some activities such as listening to the stories about Chinese New Year and the picture story book "The Race for the Chinese Zodiac", watching videos about a legend of "Nian" and the celebrating activities in Melbourne and in China, making masks of some zodiac animals, etc.

Students will have their first "taste" of the Chinese language and culture through participating in a variety of class activities such as songs, games, stories, crafts etc. Students will surely enjoy their first experience of Mandarin learning.

Limei Bian - Mandarin Teacher

Visual Arts



Students will attend a weekly art lesson in the art room. The aim is to provide stimulating learning experiences that promote self-expression, provide for creativity and imagination in addition to the development of particular skills. This term, the students will be making a crayon resist picture depicting 'under the sea' using crayons to create lines and marks. This will then be painted with food dye before adding sand, seaweed and other features using a variety of materials and techniques. We will then make some paper flowers and add them to a background. The emphasis will be on cutting, folding, fringing, twisting and joining paper. Finally, we will complete an Easter activity.

Michelle Bethell  **Art Teacher**

Performing Arts



This term, Foundation students are being introduced to the wonderful world of Performing Arts! We are focusing on movement and noise through various activities that use space, facial expression and voice (some lessons involve some noisy percussion instruments!). The students will start to gain confidence performing in front of others, as well as learning how to be a good audience member. The Foundation students are looking forward to singing and acting out nursery rhymes, and composing their own percussion songs!

David Gill - Performing Arts Teacher