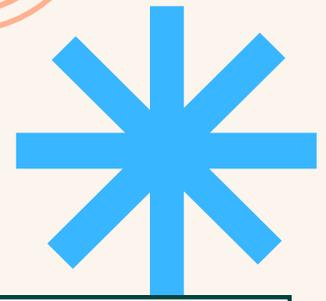


# Parkdale PS Grade 6 Information Pack 2026



## Classroom Teachers

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## Term Dates

**Term 1:** 28 January – 2 April (10 Weeks)

**Term 2:** 20 April – 26 June (10 Weeks)

**Term 3:** 13 July – 18 September (10 Weeks)

**Term 4:** 5 October – 18 December (11 Weeks)

## Beach Program

Your child is participating in the Beach Program based at the Mordialloc Life Saving Club. Taught by trained personnel, these sessions aim to teach basic life-saving skills and beach awareness. **Date: 11 March**

## Teacher Appointments

A strong home/school partnership is essential to students' learning and wellbeing. We do encourage you to communicate with us when the need arises. If you require any face-to-face meetings, please email your classroom teacher prior to the date. Please do be respectful of our teaching time. All staff are also in scheduled meetings on Monday and Tuesday afternoons and varying mornings at 8:30am. Thanks for your understanding on this matter.

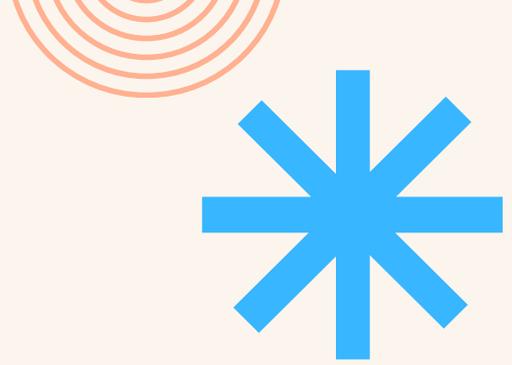
## Homework & Diaries

Grade 6 students are provided with homework. This allows students to strengthen their understanding of concepts taught in class, encourage the development of research skills and to promote the growth of a regular commitment to further study out of school hours. Homework will be assigned and checked each Friday, and will be due the following Friday.

- **Reading:** All children are expected to practise independent reading for a minimum of 20 minutes four nights a week. Their readings (book title and pages read) are to be recorded in their diary. Students are to return their diary each Friday, with a parent's signature.
- **Maths:** In 2026, we will use our purchased Mental Maths books for homework. Each week, the students are responsible for completing Monday–Thursday of the designated week.
- **Literacy:** Each week, your child's teacher will set a literacy-based task to complement their in-class work. This will be linked to their novel study focus or grammar focus.

Diaries are an effective means of communication between the school and home, as well as a tool to develop organisational skills. Children will be asked to show any important entries to you. The diary is there for parents to write in too – so please feel free to use it. Children will also use their diaries to record their daily reading (book title & pages read). Diaries will be checked weekly, and reading should be submitted with one parent's signature per week.

# Curriculum



The Grade 6 curriculum is covered in the Victorian Curriculum Levels 6 and 7. All students will be working towards proficiency in all curriculum areas against these standards.

## Literacy

Literacy incorporates 3 dimensions: Reading, Writing and Speaking & Listening. Literacy sessions are taught each morning (depending on the specialist timetable). A holistic approach is taken when teaching spelling, punctuation, grammar and writing. This is to ensure optimal learning and success for our students.

Texts used in class are chosen based on their ability to grow the knowledge of our students, both from a literary and a general knowledge perspective. This year, the students will explore a variety of texts:

- Term 1 - Treasure Island
- Term 2 - Non-Fiction Space Theme
- Term 3 - The Magician's Nephew
- Term 4 - Rivet Boy

## Spelling & Morphology

PhOrMeS is an acronym for Phonology, Orthography, Morphology and etymology and Semantics.

Word Reading, or decoding, is taught in a sequential manner. Students from Foundation are taught to read short, simple, phonetically regular words and progress to increasingly more difficult words across their primary schooling.

Spelling is best taught side-by-side with word reading/decoding. This is what PhOrMeS does. Students are taught to spell words with the same target graphemes, spelling rules, morphological concepts or etymological roots they are learning to read.

### Morphology & Etymology

Early introduction of reading words with grammatical morphemes such as -s, -ing, -ed. Learning and practising rules/patterns governing orthographic choice in spelling (e.g. oi vs oy)

Year 3-6 focus on reading words with Latin and Greek roots (taught within the concept of morphology and becomes an assistant to vocabulary development).

Semantics is the part of language involved with meaning. PhOrMeS aims to give children foundational knowledge about word meanings, which can then be used to understand spoken and written language to a high level and use mature vocabulary within writing.



# Curriculum Continued

## Numeracy

Students will have 4 x 60-minute sessions and 1 x 50-minute session of Maths per week. Following the implementation of the new Victorian Curriculum, Mathematics is now broken into six strands: Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics and Probability.

Our goal is to continually provide the best, most targeted learning experience for each individual student. Through pre and post-testing and analysing the data presented, our teaching teams create groups to ensure specific learning needs are targeted, and students are adequately challenged at their level. With this in mind, our groupings have become much more fluid, meaning that students at times move into different maths groups with different teachers to suit their individual needs. The groups will potentially have different starting and end points and the speed at which they move through content, but the lesson scope and sequence and content will be the same.

We as a school are determined to give every student the opportunity to succeed and be challenged, and our staff are meticulous in preparing lessons and learning that allow your children to experience success.

## Inquiry

Units involve the children negotiating how they will achieve the intended outcomes, becoming more responsible for their learning. The tasks are open-ended, allowing for greater creativity and scope. We encourage independent learning, negotiation and allow students to make choices in their learning. The themes that will be covered this year include:

- Term 1 – Political Power
- Term 2 – We Dream of Space
- Term 3 – Moments That Made Australia
- Term 4 – Market Day

## Seesaw

All Grade 6 classes will be using the SEESAW app to share classroom work between school and home. You will soon be invited to join your child's class. This portal allows you to connect with what happens on a weekly basis in your child's classroom and to make positive, supportive comments about their work.

## RRRR

Each week, children will be involved in the Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships program. These sessions provide practical, evidence-based, positive mental health strategies to build and enhance students' resilience and happiness. Students will focus on developing their skills of empathy, resilience, emotional literacy and mindfulness. More information will be provided by classroom teachers throughout the year, prior to topics being covered.

## Dojo Points

Grade 6 classrooms use a point system through Class Dojo. Each student starts a term with 25 points (Term 1 is 30 points), and cannot gain any other points throughout the term. They can lose points for various reasons, including forgotten or incomplete homework tasks, inappropriate behaviour, and/or consistently not following school rules, etc.

This is an effective tool that all Grade 6 classrooms use, and all teachers remain consistent with. It is not designed as a reward system, but rather a system to ensure students continue to build strong organisational habits and relationships. As shown below, we allow for mistakes well before students miss any of their reward time. A student needs to have fewer than 15 points for this to occur.

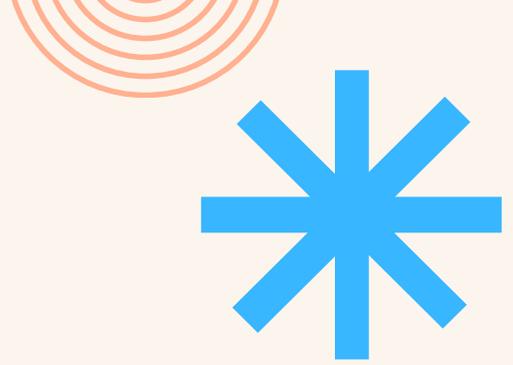
At the end of each term, we have a 'Dojo Day' where students are given 100 minutes of fun free time. They can choose from outdoor games, laptops, a class movie, etc. Students who have lost certain amounts of Dojo points will miss out on an allocated amount of time and instead will complete a classroom activity.

If a student finishes a term with fewer than:

- **15 points**- They will miss 25 minutes of the 100 minutes.
- **10 points**- They will miss 50 minutes of the 100 minutes.
- **5 points**- They will miss 75 minutes of the 100 minutes
- **1 point**- They will receive no free 'Dojo' time.

**Please note that Dojo points reset each term and will have no connection to the previous term's points.**

# Specialist Classes



Grade 6 students will attend 5 specialist classes a week, including:

## Performing Arts

**Teacher: Michelle Richard**

In Year 6, students participate in weekly 50 min lessons which incorporate music, dance and drama. While many lessons involve all three aspects of Performing Arts, each area has a separate learning focus. In music, the focus is on applying their knowledge of music instruments by learning the ukulele. They learn chords and strumming patterns and learn songs to explore sound patterns. They perform and record their work on Seesaw. Students will sing appropriate songs and continue to improve their confidence. In drama, students develop their ability to dramatise plays they create or learn from a script, developing characters and learning to interact with an audience. They continue to learn how to use body language to express feelings and moods, and participate in improvisation activities. In dance, students focus on learning and copying dance moves (choreography) and, in groups, create their own sequences of moves to accompany specific music.

## Japanese

**Teacher: Mami Sherwood**

The focus for Grade 6 students this year is to use Japanese for expanding a range of purposes: asking and responding to questions and exchanging information with peers. Also, students will work on improving their pronunciation and intonation. They will expand their knowledge of grammatical structures using hiragana (phonetic alphabet) and kanji (pictographs that contain meanings). Students will work on their projects and will develop required language skills, including reading, writing, listening and speaking throughout each semester.

## PE

**Teacher: Cliff Anderson**

Health and Physical Education each week consists of one 50 minute P.E. lesson with Mr. Anderson. During Term 1 and 2 all students also participate in the inter-school sport competition between 9.00am and 11:30am on selected Fridays against other schools in the Mordialloc District. If your child is unable to participate for injury or health reasons, a signed note/email must be sent to your child's teacher excusing them from participation. Hats, water bottles and appropriate footwear must be brought to school on sports days. Children are also permitted to wear their sports uniform on this day.

# Specialist Classes Pt. 2



## Visual Arts

**Teacher: Tess Arnold**

Students will work towards becoming more confident in explaining how ideas and influences are expressed in the artworks they make and view from different contemporary, historical and cultural contexts that are presented during art class. They will demonstrate the use of different techniques and processes in planning and making their works. Using visual conventions and visual arts practices will help students to express ideas, themes and concepts in their artwork. The activities to be completed throughout the year will incorporate exploring the various Art areas (Drawing, painting, printing, modelling, collage, construction, threads and textiles) and elements (Line, shape, form, colour, value, texture and space).

Art donations would also be greatly appreciated. Donations of newspapers, shoe boxes and thoroughly cleaned containers such as meat trays, yoghurt, ice cream, and margarine.

## Wellbeing

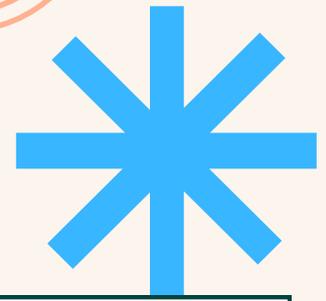
**Teacher: Jarrod Sing**

In Grade 6, each week consists of one 50 minute Wellbeing and Digital Technology lesson. The first 5 weeks of term will focus on Wellbeing, with the second 5 weeks focusing on Digital Technologies.

In Wellbeing, we will focus on learning how to communicate and collaborate as a team, recognise emotions, resolve conflict, learn about positive strategies surrounding mental health, and be able to soothe our emotions as well as learning strategies to deal with bullying. In Digital Technology, students will be taught how to use iPad's safely, being cybersafe about what is appropriate to post and what isn't, how to be safe when dealing with social media, as well as learning about new processing programs and coding applications.

Students will work towards becoming resilient, happy, kind and digitally safe for the coming years.

# Transition to Year 7



## Transition Application Forms

Grade 6 is when, as parents, you will need to start considering choices for your child's Secondary School placement. It is your responsibility to start looking at schools before submitting your child's application forms, if you are to make an informed decision.

Parents will be given a Year 7 application form where you will write down up to 2 preferences of Secondary Schools. You will be required to have your application returned to school by the **Friday, 8th of May** deadline.

All application forms are submitted to the Primary School, and communication is between Primary and Secondary Schools only. The Secondary Schools will notify us of the students who have been offered placements in their school. We will then notify students of their places by the end of August.

Out of Zone Applications: You must obtain these documents from the school that you wish to apply to.  
Change of Mind: Please inform Audrey Ulrich of any changes in writing or by email.

More information will be provided via Compass throughout the year. Also, follow the link below:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/moving-primary-secondary-school-information-parents-and-carers>

## Graduation

We will celebrate Graduation with a ceremony near the end of Grade 6, typically an evening during the final week of Term 4. Students design and vote for their favourite graduation tshirt design, and there is much preparation for the event throughout Terms 3 and 4. More information to come later in the year.

## Classroom Activities

Throughout the school year, there will be numerous incursions, classroom activities and discussions that will help to prepare students for the transition to high school. Each year, these opportunities differ; some opportunities we have been able to provide students with in the past have included:

- Kingston Youth Network Incursions
- Metro Trains Information Session
- Visits from Numerous Secondary Schools
- RRRR Sessions
- Mixed Classroom Rotations
- Forums

## Memory Books

This year, the Grade 6 children will be involved in a special activity of creating their very own 'Memory Book'. Your child will reflect upon their years at Primary School by writing down their memories and experiences using a variety of writing styles.

Once completed, the children use these reflections and photos to create a special scrapbook of their moments for each Grade level. These will be shared with families as part of our graduation celebrations.

You will need to purchase a scrapbooking album for this display book. We will send information out via Compass later in the year with information regarding this.

# Around the School

## Our PPS School Rules

Below are the school rules as set out in our School Welfare and Discipline Policy. The staff at Parkdale Primary School constantly encourage all students to follow our school rules to ensure a positive, safe and happy learning environment for the Parkdale community. We would greatly appreciate your assistance in discussing the rules below with your child.

1. Care for and respect everyone, our property and our school environment.
2. Listen to and follow instructions.
3. Work as well as you can and allow others to do the same.
4. Move and play safely, keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself.

## Assembly

Whole school assemblies are held every Friday afternoon at approximately 3.00 pm outside in the central quadrangle. 'You're a Star' and 'Values' awards are presented at this assembly and published in Focus. Students will be dismissed from their classrooms after the assembly at the end of the day.

Grade 6 students often have various opportunities to speak during assembly, such as: Award Presentations, Sports Reports, House Rallies and Leadership Roles.

## Photos & Social Media

Parents are reminded that you are not permitted to take photographs of other people's children without explicit permission from that child's parent. Under no circumstances can photos of children other than your own be uploaded to social media or published otherwise.

## Absent, Late & Early Dismissals

If your child is absent from school for any reason, please notify the school via your COMPASS portal. If your child is late to school or is leaving early, you must go to the main office to receive a late or early leaving pass prior to collecting or delivering your child to their classroom.

Please make classroom teachers aware if you are planning on going on an extended holiday. Compass doesn't notify a teacher until the day you are first absent. This is extremely helpful when forward planning within the classroom and with extra-curricular activities.

## Super 6 Values

The Super Six Values were created to identify the key morals that embody Parkdale Primary School. The values that were chosen are Responsibility, Respect, Resilience, Integrity, Cooperation and Excellence. These values are continuously modelled, discussed and celebrated across the Grade 6 cohort and Parkdale community.

# Around the School Pt 2



## Interschool Sport

All students participate in Grade 6 sport between 9.00 am and 11.30 am every Friday. Students are provided with the opportunity to choose a summer and winter sport to participate in over the year. During these sessions, the children build upon the wide range of skills covered in formal P.E. lessons.

If your child is unable to participate due to injury or health reasons, a signed note must be sent to your child's teacher excusing them from participation. Hats and water bottles must be brought to school on sports days. Children are also asked to wear their sports uniform or school uniform and sports shoes on this day.

## Camp

This year, Grade 6 students will attend a 2 night/3-day camp at Log Cabin Camp. Students are all encouraged to attend, where they will continue to strengthen their personal and social capabilities.

Our camp will run in Week 7 of Term 3, **Wednesday 26th - Friday 28th August**. Permission slips, payment schedules and other information will be sent out towards the end of Term 2.

## Thank you!

Thank you for taking the time to read through our information pack. We are all looking forward to working together throughout the upcoming school year to best prepare the students for their secondary school experience.

The year is filled with many different extra-curricular activities that will require us to send information and permission via Compass. Please know that we are aware there is a lot of information at times, but it is all important information to help you and your child best understand what is happening at any given time, especially leading up to Camp and Graduation.

We are all looking forward to getting to know your children and supporting them in their learning and growth this year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your classroom teacher.

We look forward to a wonderful 2026!

**The Grade 6 Team.**