



PARKDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL GRADE 2 INFORMATION

2026 Term Dates:

Term 1: 27th January to 2nd April

Term 2: 20th April to 26th June

Term 3: 13th July to 18th September

Term 4: 5th October to 18th December

Term 1 Important Events:

Further information about these and future events will be sent via Compass.

- Grade 2 Swim Program at Mentone Aquatic Centre Monday 23rd Feb - Friday 27th Feb
- Moonlit Sanctuary Excursion

CLASS TEACHERS

2B Tara Bickham

2G Taylor Glew

2C Bec Crute

2W Alex Watkin

BREAK TIMES

8:50 – 9:00

Arrival

9:00

School starts

Fruit-break in morning session

11:30 – 12:00

Recess playtime

1:50 – 2:40

Lunch playtime

3:30

Pick up end of day

CURRICULUM

The Victorian Curriculum sets out what every student should learn during their first eleven years of schooling. The curriculum is the common set of knowledge and skills required by students for life-long learning, social development and active and informed citizenship.

LITERACY

Reading:

Our reading program includes decoding, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension skills through *Core Knowledge* reading units. *Core Knowledge* is a whole-class, teacher-led comprehension approach where students participate in class discussions and contribute through verbal responses, leading to more in-depth written responses as the year progresses. Decoding skills are built through our word study program. Throughout the year, students will continue to develop their fluency through paired fluency reading.

PhOrMeS/Word Study:

PhOrMeS is an acronym for **Ph**onology, **O**rthography, **M**orphology and **e**tymology and **S**emantics.

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.

Phonology - Early Systematic, Synthetic Phonics

- Introducing letter-to-sound relationships (codes) in a sequenced manner
- Reading words containing taught codes using blending from left to right.
- Spelling words containing taught codes using segmenting.
- Building from VC & CVC syllable structures, right through to CCCV+ and into multisyllabic words.

Orthography

Reading & Spelling of *irregularly spelt words*, or 'Weird Words'. 'Weird Words' will be introduced to students this year. These words will replace Red Flag Words.

- Teaching children to link the letter strings of irregularly spelt words to their linked phonemes.
- Teaching children to retrieve spellings for irregularly spelt words
- Reading & Spelling of *common irregular patterns*.
- Reading & Spelling of *commonly misspelt homophones* in context.

Morphology & Etymology

Early introduction of reading words with *grammatical morphemes* such as -s, -ing, -ed.

Learning and practicing rules/patterns governing orthographic choice in spelling (e.g. oi vs oy)

Year 3-6 focus of *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.

Writing:

Students learn about the structure and features of a range of genres, including recounts, procedures, persuasive texts, and narratives, and receive explicit instruction in writing. At Parkdale Primary School, we research and implement evidence-based practices, reflect on what works best for our students, and adjust our teaching accordingly. We also provide regular grammar and handwriting lessons to support students in their genre writing.

NUMERACY

The Content Descriptions in the new Victorian Curriculum include: Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space and Statistics. The 'Essential Assessment' online program is used across the school. Students complete a range of assessment tasks that help inform our teaching, group students with common needs, and track progress. Lessons are differentiated, hands on, engaging, and aim to meet the needs of all students, according to the Victorian Curriculum.

INQUIRY UNITS

Our Inquiry units integrate the above curriculum areas with Science, Humanities and Digital Technologies. Themes are varied and encourage students to think on a personal, community and global scale. Units are developed in line with the Victorian Curriculum and aim to engage students by promoting student choice, building curiosity, and developing questioning and investigation skills. The inquiry units for this year are:

- ★ Learning how to Learn & Habitats around the World
- ★ Super Scientists-All Mixed Up
- ★ Earth's Precious Resources (Sustainability)
- ★ Our Community Past and Present

ROTATIONS

Students participate in 'Rotations' once a week which enables them to work with teachers and students from the other grade 2 classes. Learning activities are generally either STEAM-based (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Maths) or focus on health, wellbeing and social skills, and aim to develop students' problem-solving, teamwork, and communication skills.

GRADE 2 SPORT

Students participate in a variety of sporting activities each Thursday after lunch, so they need to wear runners on this day and PPS sports uniform if they have one.

WELLBEING

Students participate in sessions both in their classroom and as part of the specialist program. These sessions aim to teach positive physical and mental health strategies and deliver practical strategies to build social skills and resilience. The sessions incorporate our 'Super Six' values: Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Integrity, Cooperation and Excellence.

HOMEWORK

READING: All students are expected to read aloud with an adult for at least 15 minutes each day. While many children can read independently for a sustained period of time, there are lots of important skills they are still developing, and vocabulary they need to 'unpack', which requires regular adult support. We can't emphasise enough how important it is to continue this practice at home throughout your child's year in Grade 2. Please record and sign every day of reading in the reader cover, even if it is a book from home.

WORD STUDY/HANDWRITING: We will also send home a PhOrMeS Revision sheet most weeks. This revises the taught phonics and spelling rules that we teach each week through our PhOrMeS program. These sheets are sent home on a Friday, and we ask that they are returned the following Friday. This is a good opportunity for your child to consolidate their understanding and provide them with extra practice. This will commence in Week 6. We would appreciate your support in encouraging students to complete this in their best handwriting.

MATHS: We encourage the children to practise skip counting and number facts at home (playing cards and dice can help with this). Students also have new login details stuck inside their hard cover read folder for 'Essential Assessment'. They can access 'Sunset and Jetpack Maths' at home through this program. Through 'What's Happening in Grade 2' (in the school 'Focus' Newsletter that is published online every fortnight), we will keep you informed about what Maths topic and concepts we are covering and let you know of any activities you can do at home to help assist your child.

COMMUNICATION:

COMPASS – Vital for getting regular updates and important information. Also to log student absences.

NEWSLETTER - Each fortnight the school publishes a newsletter, 'Focus' online. Please ensure you read it regularly. Along with valuable whole school information, it contains our "What's Happening" section, where we'll give you an update of what we're covering over the fortnight and some simple suggestions for how you can support your child's learning at home: www.parkdaleps.vic.edu.au

READER BAGS (NOTICES) - While many documents are now uploaded digitally to Compass, some are still sent home in hard copy. Please encourage your child to be in the habit of checking for/passing on notices when they get their reader out, and to **pack the reader bag in their schoolbag each day.**



UNIFORMS

Hats are compulsory until the end of April and then again from September onwards. Children need to wear their hat outside during recess, lunch, sport and PE lessons. If your child does not have a hat, they will need to stay in the shade ('No hat, no play'). Sports uniform can be worn on the days your child has P.E. and Grade 2 Sport.

SCHOOL RULES/EXPECTATIONS

These are the school rules/expectations from our Welfare and Discipline Policy. We are constantly reinforcing these and would appreciate your support in sending a consistent message, so all students can feel safe and happy at school and maximise their learning opportunities.

- * Care for and respect everyone, our property and our school environment
- * Listen to and follow all directions
- * Work as well as you can and allow others to do the same
- * Move and play safely, keep your hands, feet and objects to yourself

MEDICAL

FIRST AID (ANAPHYLAXIS, ALLERGY AND ASTHMA MANAGEMENT PLANS)

If your child has an anaphylaxis, allergy or asthma management plan that has not been given to the school and/or updated, could you please arrange for the plan to be updated, including a recent colour photo of your child, and handed in to the school office and classroom teacher as soon as possible.

If your child has an Anaphylaxis Management Plan, their class teacher and other staff will be creating an Individual Management Plan for your child relating to both school and extra-curricular activities. This plan will be developed in consultation with the child's parents/guardian.

Should you have any queries regarding the above information, please contact the office.

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

PERFORMING ARTS – MICHELLE MACKENZIE

In Year 2, students participate in weekly 50min lessons which incorporates 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 learning how to sing songs in tune and to sing rounds (canons) using a greater range of notes. Students also learn to read simple pieces of music to play untuned and tuned percussion in small groups and as a class.

In Drama, students develop their ability to dramatize characters of short stories, using appropriate actions and voices. 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 known music.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – MR CLIFF ANDERSON

Health and Physical Education each week consists of one 50-minute lesson. During P.E. lessons, students will work on fitness and fundamental motor skills including ball-handling skills. We ask that your child wear their runners (no black-soled shoes please) on P.E. days and for Grade 2 Sport.

JAPANESE – MRS MAMI SHERWOOD

In Japanese, Grade 2 students will be introduced to *hiragana*- one of three writing systems. Students will learn each letter with a mnemonic clue and *hiragana* code chart and practise using them through games and songs. Students will be able to identify *hiragana* letters on the chart and begin to read basic words and develop reading strategies that can be applied in any language. Students will become more familiar with classroom language and will be encouraged to respond to questions and requests using familiar and formulaic Japanese words and phrases.

WELLBEING & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES - MR JARROD SING

In Grade 2, 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 focussing 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 being able to soothe our emotions.

In Digital Technology, students will be taught how to use iPads safely, being cybersafe in regard to what is appropriate to post and what isn't, as well as learning about new processing programs and coding applications.

VISUAL ARTS – MRS MICHELLE RICHARD

Grade 2 students will attend a session weekly in our specialised Art room.

Students will create artworks using different materials, techniques and processes to express their ideas, observations and imagination. These activities throughout the year will incorporate exploring the various Art areas (Drawing, painting, printing, 3D forms, collage, textiles and media arts) and elements (Line, shape, form,

colour, value, texture and space). Students will work towards becoming more confident in describing the artworks they make; including where and why artworks are made and viewed.
Donations of newspapers, shoe boxes and thoroughly cleaned containers such as meat trays, yoghurt, ice cream, and margarine.

GENERAL REMINDERS:

Please ensure your child brings a drink bottle of water to school and arrives at school with enough time to go to the toilet before the bell. No one should be inside the school before 8.50am.

In Grade 2, students should be building independence by bringing in their own bags each morning and meeting at an organised spot each afternoon outside of the corridor.

If you need to get in touch with your child's classroom teacher during the day, please contact the office or send an email.

CONTACT US:

Email is a good way to contact us if you have any questions, notify us about appointments during school hours, or provide any other relevant information you'd like us to know.

GRADE 2 TEACHERS:

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Thank you for your support and we look forward to a great year ahead!

The Grade 2 Team