

PARKDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

GRADE 1 INFORMATION



CLASS TEACHERS:

Ms Stephanie Strong (coordinator)
Ms Jo Pyke
Mr Nathan James
Ms Amanda Went

2023 TERM DATES

TERM 1: 30 th January- 6 th April
TERM 2: 24 th April- 23 rd June
TERM 3: 10 th July – 15 th September
TERM 4: 2 nd October – 20 th December

SCHOOL TIMES

9am	School starts
9:30-10:30am	Fruit Break
11.30am – 12pm	Recess
1:40pm – 1:50pm	Lunch eating time
1:50 - 2:40pm	Lunch play
3:30pm	School finishes

LITERACY

Literacy encompasses 3 dimensions: Reading and Viewing, Writing, and Speaking and Listening. Literacy sessions are taught each morning (depending on the specialist timetable). Within this time students are presented with many opportunities to develop all three dimensions. Word Study, handwriting, punctuation and grammar are also taught.

READING

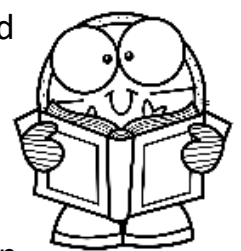
In Grade 1 reading takes place within the classroom each day. Your child will read in a variety of ways - to themselves, a partner, a parent helper or their teacher; individually and in small group sessions. Explicit reading strategies are also taught as part of the literacy sessions.

Reading is encouraged as much as possible at home (ideally, every night or morning). During these formative years, it is important that children develop a love of reading, and we ask for your support in fostering this love and appreciation of literature at home, by making reading at home as fun and stress-free as possible.

Comprehension of a text is a vitally important skill, so we encourage you to discuss your child's books with them during and after reading, ask questions to ensure your child has understood the text, and support them in finding the answers when they are unsure.

- Children will need to bring their reader cover with their book/s to school **every day**.
- Please sign the reading sheet when you have heard your child read.

A detailed notice regarding our reading program will be sent via Compass and placed in your child's Homework folder.

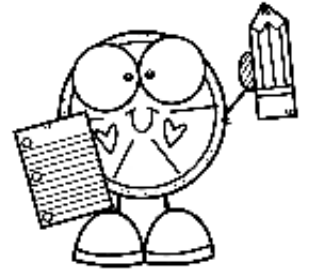


READING HELPERS

In order to give students time to establish their morning reading routine, we will be holding off on welcoming helpers into the classroom for the time being. Please keep an eye on Compass for further information regarding Parent Reading Helpers. If you are wanting to assist this year, please ensure your Working With Children's Check is up to date, and has been sighted and scanned by the main office.

WRITING

A number of genres are taught in Grade One, these include; recount writing, narratives, procedural texts, poetry and information reports. Students will have the opportunity to write as a whole class, with a partner or independently. These different genres are always modelled to students, and we have in-depth discussions about the content and structure, before creating a full writing piece. Students often create a plan, which is used later to support them throughout the writing process.



In Grade 1 we focus on using nouns, verbs and adjectives to enhance our written pieces, as well as tier two and subject-based vocabulary.

Keep an eye out for 'Focus' to see our current writing genre and how you can assist at home.

WORD STUDY

Our Word Study program uses the Multisensory Structured Learning/Orton Gillingham evidence based approach. Students will actively participate in a spelling program which explicitly teaches spelling concepts and enhances the opportunity for the consolidation of knowledge through application during literacy sessions and throughout the curriculum areas.

Your child will be using the Sound Pack again this year. If you do not have one, they are available for purchase through the school office. It would be appreciated if the sound pack is 'practised' at least twice a week as part of the reading routine. Teachers will add to the student packs as new concepts are explicitly taught. A script of teaching prompts and expected student responses has been provided in the homework folder, but as always if you require any clarification please contact your child's teacher.

Students will also continue to learn their Red Flag Words, which are words that do not follow the rules of the English language, or in some cases involve rules that have not yet been taught. These are words that students will come across and use regularly in their reading and writing, and often cannot be fully sounded out. Therefore it is important that they explicitly taught during Word Study lessons and are practised at home, and school as much as possible. A Red Flag word list, as well as additional information on how to best practise these, will be sent home in the homework folder).

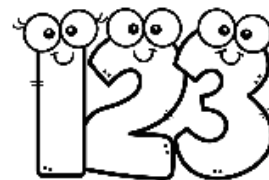
Red Flag words will continue to be tested (both reading and spelling) throughout the year using a variety of assessments and your child's teacher will highlight them once they have been mastered.

NUMERACY

At Parkdale P.S. children we utilise Essential Assessment to pre and post-test students at the beginning and end of each Mathematical concept. The individualised student data that is collected through this tool, along with our ongoing observations and assessment, informs our teaching in order to cater to individual student needs.

Maths Groups are established based on student needs and areas of need, for each concept. Therefore, these groups are subject to change, so you may find that your child may have a variety of maths teachers throughout the year.

All Maths lessons are differentiated to suit the needs of learners, and incorporate the 4 proficiencies of Understanding, Fluency, Problem Solving and Reasoning.



HOMEWORK

In the coming weeks, children will begin to bring home their homework folder in their reader satchel. We ask that this folder comes to and from school each day and that parents check them regularly, as notices, sound pack script, word lists and homework tasks will be added and updated throughout the year. We do not send home weekly homework tasks, however at times there may be a small task related to our Inquiry topic. It is also expected that as part of the 'homework' responsibilities children will practise independent reading for a minimum of 15 minutes each night or morning. We also encourage children to practise their Red Flag Words and sound packs as often as possible.

UNIFORMS

Students must wear full school uniform each day. This includes only plain blue, black or white socks. Students may wear their sports uniform on Grade 1 sport days (Fridays) or their allocated PE day.

Hats are compulsory until the end of April and from September 1. 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 a shady spot such as on the deck.

SEESAW

Teachers are in the process of activating this year's Seesaw account. Please keep an eye out for your login details, which will be placed in your child's homework folder (both student and family). Seesaw gives us the opportunity to share what is happening in the classroom, with families at home. We remind parents and carers that any pictures of students that are posted on your child's Seesaw, are not to be shared on social media.

COMPASS AND NEWSLETTERS

Compass is used to mark student rolls and for communication between parents and teachers. Every fortnight the school publishes a Newsletter on Compass. It not only contains our Grade 1 “What’s Happening” section, but other valuable school information and dates. Please ensure your login details are up to date and you regularly check for updates.

ABSENCE NOTES

If your child is absent from school for any reason you are required to notify the school and your child’s teacher. This needs to be done through Compass.

If you need to collect your child from school early, it is school policy that you first sign them out at the front office, please do not come directly to the classroom to collect your them. At the office, you will then be given an **Early Leaver** pass which then needs to be handed to your child’s teacher before they leave the school.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Whole school assemblies are held every Friday afternoon at 3pm outside in the central quadrangle. ‘You’re a Star’ and Values awards are presented at this assembly and published in Focus.

GRADE 1 SPORT

Students participate in a variety of sporting activities each **Friday** afternoon. On this day, students can wear their Parkdale Primary sports t-shirt or their normal school t-shirt, and will need to remember their runners, hat, drink bottle and sunscreen.

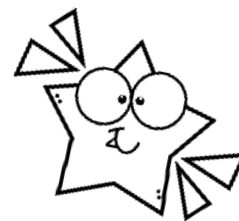
INQUIRY UNITS

The inquiry units for this year are as follows:

- ★ Term 1 – ‘Learning How to Learn’/‘Families Past and Present’
- ★ Term 2 – ‘Weather in my World’
- ★ Term 3 – ‘Australia’ – (States and Territories, capital cities and landmarks)
- ★ Term 4 – ‘Minibeasts’

PARKDALE PRIMARY'S ‘SUPER SIX’

The six values at Parkdale Primary School are: Responsibility, Respect, Resilience, Integrity, Cooperation and Excellence. Teachings around these values are incorporated into both our **Learning How to Learn and Wellbeing** programs.



SPECIALIST PROGRAMS AT PARKDALE P.S

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
IJ	PE Wellbeing	Art	Music		Japanese Grade 1 Sport
ID	PE Wellbeing	Music	Art		Japanese Grade 1 Sport
IS	Music Art	PE	Wellbeing		Japanese Grade 1 Sport
IW	Music Art	PE	Wellbeing		Japanese Grade 1 Sport

PHYSICAL EDUCATION- Mr Cliff Anderson & Miss Cunningham

50mins per week

Health and Physical Education each week consists of one 45 minute lesson with Mr. Anderson and Miss Cunningham. Students work on improving their fitness, and fundamental motor skills including ball-handling and striking skills. Children are taught how to use the school playgrounds safely which includes learning the motorcycle landing. We ask that your child wear their runners (no black-soled shoes please) on P.E days and for Grade 1 Sport. Students are also permitted to wear their sports uniform on P.E. and Sport days.

Grade 1 Intensive Swim Program will take place in Term 4, at Mentone Aquatic Centre.

VISUAL ARTS - Mrs Michelle Richard

50mins per week

Grade 1 students will attend a session weekly in our specialised Art room with our art teacher, Mrs. Richard. 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, modelling, collage, construction, threads and textiles) 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. If you have not done so already, please be sure to send in an art smock (labelled) to school as soon as possible. Art smocks will remain at school for the year.

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.

PERFORMING ARTS Mrs Jamison & Ms Leah Willis

50mins per week

Students are taken for a weekly Performing Arts lesson by our specialist Music Teachers: Mrs. Jamison(1S & 1W) and Ms Willis (1J & 1P)

The program incorporates singing, movement to music and the use of a wide variety of percussion instruments. Students are also offered group or individual guitar classes after school hours. Contact details are available at the office.

- **In Music** the focus is on learning how to sing appropriate songs in tune and to sing in canon (a round) using a basic range of notes. Students also learn to play tuned percussion using class xylophones.
- **In Drama** students use their knowledge of simple stories to act out the storyline using appropriate actions and voices. They also learn how to use body language to express feelings and moods, leading to mime activities.
- **In Dance** students focus on basic dance moves and, in groups, create their own sequences of moves to accompany known music.

Concert

The school presents an Annual Concert in which all students are involved. This may be a Christmas Concert held at school or a larger scale performance at a hired venue. In 2023 we will be holding our Whole School Concert during Term 3.

Wellbeing & Digital Technology- Mr Jarrod Sing & Mrs Emma Free

50 mins a week

In Grade 1 each week consists of one 50 minute Wellbeing and Digital Technology lesson with either Mr Sing (1P & 1J) or Mrs Free (1S & 1W). The first 5 weeks of term will focus on Wellbeing with the second 5 weeks focussing on Digital Technologies. Students will work towards becoming resilient, happy, kind and digitally safe for the coming years.

- **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 iPad's safely, being cybersafe about what is appropriate to post and what isn't as well as learning about new processing programs and coding applications.

JAPANESE -Ms Mami Sherwood (Mami Sensei)

50mins a week

Students at this level will become aware that language is used for communication and that people, both inside and outside their classroom, may speak different languages. Students will also learn to understand and respect cultural differences. The focus will be to apply vocabulary in a context using the familiar language and describe things around them in Japanese. Students will experience different types of writing systems in Japanese and recognise some *kanji*- pictogram characters thorough songs and activities.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to pop in and speak to us or contact us via our email addresses:

stephanie.strong@education.vic.gov.au

joanne.pyke-simmons@education.vic.gov.au

nathan.james@education.vic.gov.au

Amanda.went@education.vic.gov.au