

PARKDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

GRADE 3 INFORMATION HANDOUT – 2026

Class teachers:

Sally Murphy (Co-ordinator)
Isabelle Harper
Jackie Sell
Jaci Lundy (Monday to Wednesday)
Caz Whitfield (Thursday to Friday)

2026 TERM DATES

TERM 1: 28th 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

SCHOOL TIMES

8:50am	Classrooms are open
9:00am	SCHOOL STARTS *fruit break before recess
11:30am – 12:00pm	RECESS – outside play
1:40pm – 1:50pm	EAT LUNCH - in classroom
1:50pm – 2:40pm	LUNCH – outside play
3:30pm	SCHOOL FINISHES

Curriculum

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 Version 2.0 incorporates much of the Australian Curriculum Version 9.0 but differs in some important respects. Most notably, it represents the curriculum as a continuum of learning and reflects Victorian priorities and standards. Expertise and feedback from Victorian teachers have been incorporated to improve clarity and ensure appropriate sequential development of knowledge and skills across each curriculum area.



English

When studying English, students develop knowledge, understanding and skills across the 3 interrelated strands of Language, Literature and Literacy. Each strand contributes its own distinctive goals, body of knowledge, history of ideas and interests, and each focuses on developing students' knowledge, understanding and skills in the language modes of listening, speaking, reading, viewing and writing.

Parkdale Primary School uses the PhOrMeS curriculum as part of our reading and spelling program, from Foundation to year 6. PhOrMeS is an acronym for **Ph**onology, **Or**thography, **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'.

- 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

Writing is explicitly taught in Grade 3 from the sentence level through to the production of a whole text. Students will work with many different genres including recount, narrative, persuasive, poetry, procedural and explanation. The specific structure of each genre is looked at carefully and students are given time to practise writing the different components in isolation before linking it all together. Students are taught to edit for punctuation and spelling mistakes and are encouraged to revise their written work to enhance it further by adding extra detail or using a 'great' vocabulary word.



Mathematics

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 will create groups to ensure specific learning needs are targeted and students are adequately challenged at their level. With this in mind, our groupings in Grade 3 are 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 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. If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

Grade 3 Sport

All students will participate in Grade 3 sport from 12:00 to 12:50pm on Fridays. During these sessions the children build upon the skills taught in formal P.E. sessions. If your child is unable to participate due to injury or for 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 full sports uniform or their school uniform with sports shoes on this day.

Diaries

Diaries are an effective means of communication between the school and home. Students should have their diaries in their bags each day and 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. Students will also use their diaries to record their daily home reading (book title & pages read/time spent reading), and parents are asked to sign it once a week, before your child hands it in on Fridays. Your child's teacher will award house points for home reading and a parent signature. Students may award themselves a sticker from the diary for each week that they have recorded some home reading.



Homework

Homework is a part of our Grade 3 program. The purpose of homework is to reinforce concepts taught in class, to encourage development of appropriate research skills and recording techniques and to encourage the development of a regular commitment to further study out of school hours.

All students are expected to practise independent reading for a minimum of 15 - 20 minutes each day and record the book title and pages read in their diary. Parents are requested to sign their child's diary once a week before it is returned each Friday to the classroom teacher for checking. Students can choose a book from school to take home in their satchel/reader bag (once our laptop borrowing system is finalised for the new cohort), and can also choose appropriate books from home or their local library.

From the beginning of **Term 2**, tasks will be posted to Seesaw every week. All work is due the following Friday. Students should ask a grown-up to check their homework with them and fix errors or make changes as needed, before submitting.

Absence Notes, Early Leaving and Late Passes

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.

Newsletter - The school publishes a Newsletter on COMPASS which comes out fortnightly. Please ensure you login using your unique code. It not only contains our "What's Happening in Grade 3" section, but valuable information and dates.

Seesaw

All Grade 3 classes will be using the SEESAW app to share classroom work between school and home and to complete their weekly homework. If you are not already connected, you will be sent an invitation to join your child's class; please let your child's teacher know if you cannot access Seesaw. This portal allows you to connect with what happens in your child's classroom and to make positive, supportive comments about their work.

NAPLAN

Students all over Australia will sit the NAPLAN tests. Testing is for Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy. This year, testing will take place between the 11th and 23rd March.

Camp

This year, Grade 3 students will head off to The Briars Outdoor Education Camp in Mount Martha for a two-day camp. It is a great experience for all students and we encourage everyone to attend. This year the camp will run from Thursday 19th to Friday 20th November. Permission slips, payment schedules and other information will be sent out during term 3.



Core Knowledge Themes

The themes for this year are as follows:

- ★ Term 1 – “Sustainability” (Science focus)
- ★ Term 2 – “We are One” – (History, Geography and Community focus)
- ★ Term 3 – “Forces and Motion” – (Science focus)
- ★ Term 4 – “Earth Science” – (Science and Geography focus)

Super Six 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 will be embedded into our learning culture throughout the year and beautifully integrate with *The Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships Program*, which runs across the whole school.

Whole School Assembly

Whole school assemblies are held every Friday afternoon at approximately 3:00 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 assembly at the end of the day.

Photos and 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.

Swimming

Swimming will be taking place in term four from November 9th to 13th. More information regarding swimming will come out later in the year so ensure you stay up to date via compass.

Specialist Classes



JAPANESE: Mami Sensei

Grade 3 students will extend the reading and writing skills of *hiragana* this year. They will learn to use linguistic tools to modify these *hiragana* letters and further extend their knowledge of the sound system. They will practise reading words and phrases in context and develop reading strategies. Students will work on communication skills in Japanese with teachers and peers to exchange information about themselves and things around them. They will learn about various Japanese festivals and discuss life in Japan and how it compares to our lives in Australia.

PERFORMING ARTS: Michelle Mackenzie

In Year 3, students participate in weekly 50min lessons incorporating **music, dance** and **drama**. Each area of Performing Arts has a separate learning focus.

In Music, the focus is on learning how to play the recorder and the djembe drums in a musical style. They sing songs in tune and continue to learn to sing in canon. Students will listen to, and audibly recognize, instruments from Western and Non-western music, as well as Indigenous Australian music.

In Drama, students develop their ability to dramatize characters in short plays using actions and voices. They continue to learn how to use body language to express feelings and moods, as well as participate in improvisation activities.

In Dance, the focus is on experiencing a range of specific cultural dances, in addition to creating dance choreography with their peers to selected songs.

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 2026 we will be holding our Christmas concert at school.

ART: Maddie Holland

Grade 3 students will attend a session weekly in our specialised Art room.

Students will design and create art inspired by artworks they experience during class. They will use materials, visual conventions, techniques and processes as their inspiration to express their ideas in their work. 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 discussing how artists express ideas and use materials, techniques and visual conventions from a range of places, times and cultures. We will discuss and evaluate the art making processes, materials and techniques they use to express their ideas.

Art donations are always greatly appreciated, such as newspapers, shoe boxes, and thoroughly cleaned containers such as meat trays, yoghurt, ice cream, and margarine.

SPORT: Emma Wicks

Health and Physical Education each week consists of one 50-minute P.E. lesson with Mr. Anderson or Ms Emma Wicks. P.E. lessons will focus on improving children's fundamental motor skills and fitness level. In addition, there is a 50-minute Grade 3 Sport session that focuses on team games and sportsmanship. Please ensure your child has appropriate footwear, a hat and drink bottle on sport days.

District Swimming Trials: 10th February

House Cross Country: 20th March

Grade 3 Swimming : Term 4, November 9th to 13th

WELLBEING & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY: Jarrod Sing

In Grade 3, 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, being 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 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.

Premiers Reading Challenge

Students will have the opportunity to participate in the Premiers Reading Challenge later in the year if they wish to do so. Keep an eye out for information regarding this later in the year.

First Aid Issues

Please remember to inform your child's teacher a.s.a.p. of any medical issues that they may have to enable us to best care for your child while they are at school.



If your child has an anaphylaxis, allergy or asthma management plan that has not already been given to the school and/or updated, please make arrangements for the plan to be updated, including a recent colour photo of your child, and handed in to the school office 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 extracurricular 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 Casey Blacklaw (Grade 6B).

Punctuality

It is imperative to students' wellbeing that they are punctual to school. Our learning begins at 9:00 and students not only miss important instruction time but often feel unsettled when they arrive late to class. Punctuality also sets good learning behaviours and is an expectation in working life. Please support us and your child by ensuring that punctuality is a priority in your daily morning routine.



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. For quick information sharing, a brief unscheduled chat is fine, but if more time is needed, we recommend that you schedule a longer appointment time so we can address your concerns adequately. This meeting time can be arranged via email, telephone or in person. Please be respectful of our teaching time. Right before the bell in the morning is never an ideal time to discuss concerns as we are preparing for instruction. All staff are also in scheduled meetings on Monday and Tuesday afternoons and at 8:30am several mornings per week. Thanks for your understanding on this matter.

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 us via our email address or COMPASS.

Teacher / Parent 'Meet and Greet' – Wednesday 11th February 3.45pm-6.15pm

Please make a 5-minute appointment on Compass.

Email:

sally.murphy@education.vic.gov.au
isabelle.harper@education.vic.gov.au
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COMPASS - <https://parkdaleps-vic.compass.education/>