



Parkdale Primary School Grade 5 Information Handout 2026

CLASSROOM TEACHERS:

5H – Dillon Hendricks (Coordinator)	Dillon.Hendricks@education.vic.gov.au
5G - Liam Grimwade	Liam.Grimwade@education.vic.gov.au
5W – Nicola Watson	Nicola.Watson@education.vic.gov.au
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Important Term 1 Dates

Meet and Greet	11 th February
Beach Program	5 th March
NAPLAN	11 th – 20 th March

Curriculum: The Grade 5 curriculum is covered in The Victorian Curriculum Level 5 and 6. All students will be working towards proficiency in all curriculum areas against these standards.

English: 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.

Reading: In Gr. 5, students will be engaging with a range of thought-provoking mentor texts. As a class, students will be reading and responding to a range of vocabulary activities and comprehension questions that will challenge their ability to think deeply and share their own thoughts, feelings and perspectives about happenings from the novel. In addition to this, children will often practise their reading independently, with a partner, small group and with their teacher; ensuring ongoing assessment is taking place. Students are also required to read at least 4 nights of the week for 20 minutes.

Mathematics: Students will have 4 x 70 minutes sessions of Mathematics per week. Students are placed into Math's Groups for each topic, based on the results of their topic pre-assessment. This will allow for regular movement across the groups and will enable the teachers to plan lessons that best suit each student's learning abilities. At the end of each unit, the students complete a post-test to ascertain learning growth.

Diaries: Diaries are an effective means of communication between school and home, as well as a tool to develop organisational skills. Children will complete their diaries on a Monday 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. Children will also use their diaries to record their daily reading (book title & pages read) and return each Friday with a parent signature.

Homework: Grade 5s are provided with homework each week. This allows students to strengthen their understanding of concepts taught in class, encourage development of research skills and to promote the growth of a regular commitment to further study out of school hours.

- **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 signature.
- **Maths:** In order to review and consolidate learning taking place with math groups, your child will be required to complete one My Numeracy task via Essential Assessment which is an online platform. Students are well versed in accessing this website and logging in. Student login codes and passwords are glued into diaries.
- **Vocabulary:** Most weeks, your child will analyse a mentor text and gather Tier 2 vocab words. These are studied in class and at home to strengthen students' understanding of the word and the context in which they are used. Grade 5 vocabulary homework will be assigned via Seesaw Tasks. Students will use their Seesaw Home Learning Code (glued into their diary) to access Seesaw and navigate to the homework task. Vocabulary homework will be explained and assigned on a Monday and due Monday of the following week.

PhOrMeS

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.

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.

Inquiry Themes:

Term 1 – Why Is It So? (science)

Term 2 – Closing the Gap (history)

Term 3 – Venture into Vitality (health)

Term 4 – Travel Expo (geography) / Health Ed / Leadership

Grade 5 Leadership: During Terms 3 and 4, Grade 5s will begin their leadership journey. This will involve a range of sessions that aim to build your child's personal, social, and ethical capability. More information regarding this process will be released in the second half of the year.

Beach Program: Your child is participating in the Beach Program based at the Mordialloc Life Saving Club. Taught by trained personnel, this session aims to teach basic life-saving skills and beach awareness. Date: 5th of March

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.

Seesaw: All Grade 5 classes will be using the SEESAW app to share classroom work between school and home in addition to Grade 5 Literacy homework. This portal allows you to connect with what happens on a regular basis in your child's classroom and to make positive, supportive comments about their work.

NAPLAN: Students all over Australia will sit the NAPLAN tests from 11th – 20th March 2026. Testing is for Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy. This year, testing will take place online at school between the above dates. More information will be provided closer to the date.

Camp: This year, Grade 5 students will attend a 2 night/3-day camp at Camp Manyung (YMCA) on the Mornington Peninsula, in Mount Eliza. All students are encouraged to attend, where they will continue to strengthen their personal and social capabilities. Our camp will run from the 5th-7th of August, Week 4 Term 3.

School Rules: Below are the school rules 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.

- 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.

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 are continuously modelled, discussed and celebrated across the Grade 5 cohort and Parkdale community.

Whole School Assembly: Whole school assemblies are held every Friday afternoon at approximately **3:00pm** 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.

Mobile Phones: Parkdale Primary School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Parkdale Primary School:

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours
- All phones will be securely stored at the school office and must be signed in before 9:00am and signed out after 3:30pm.
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information)
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school's office.

Specialists:

Physical Education & Intra School Sport– Cliff Anderson

Health and Physical Education each week consists of one 50 minute P.E. lesson with Mr. Anderson. If your child is unable to participate for injury or health reasons, a signed note or 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.

Digi-Tech and Wellbeing – Jarrod Sing

In Grade 5, each week consists of one 50-minute Wellbeing and Digital Technology lesson. 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, how to be safe 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.

Performing Arts – Michelle Richard

In Year 5, students participate in weekly 50min lessons which incorporate music, dance and drama. Each area of the Performing Arts has a separate learning focus. In Music, the focus is for students to explore music-making to then apply their knowledge of musical instruments, using school (or their own) ukuleles. Students sing appropriate songs to the best of their ability and continue to improve in their confidence. In Drama, students develop their ability to dramatize plays they create or learn from a script; developing characters and learning to interact with an audience. Students 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. 2025 is also a school concert year! More information to follow.

Art – Tess Arnold

Grade 5 students will attend a weekly session in our specialised Art room with Mrs Richard, where they will develop confidence in explaining how ideas and influences are expressed in artworks from different cultural, historical and contemporary contexts. Students will use a range of techniques, processes and visual conventions to plan and create artworks across areas such as drawing, painting, printing, modelling, collage, construction, and textiles.

Please ensure your child has an Art smock for every lesson to protect clothing, and donations of newspapers, shoe boxes, and thoroughly cleaned containers (e.g. meat trays, yoghurt, ice cream and margarine containers) are greatly appreciated.

Japanese – Michelle Mackenzie and Mami Sherwood

The focus for Grade 5 students will improve their pronunciation and intonation. They also revise all hiragana charts for reading out words and writing them with less visual support. Throughout each semester, students will work on their cultural projects and develop required language skills, including reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Teacher Appointments:

A strong home-school partnership is essential to students' learning and wellbeing, and we encourage open communication when needed. Please arrange any face-to-face or online meetings with your child's classroom teacher in advance and be mindful that staff are in scheduled meetings on Monday and Tuesday afternoons and daily at 8:30am.

We look forward to getting to know your children and supporting their learning and growth in 2026.

