**Year 1/2 Newsletter, Term 1 2021**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to school for 2021! We hope that your child has settled in well to their new class and are enjoying being back at school. We are enjoying getting to know your child and your family.

This term we will be focusing on establishing classroom expectations and routines with a strong emphasis on the school motto ‘Learning Together’ and our 6 school values – Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Effort, Excellence and Empathy.

In Reading, the students will develop their ability to read independently for sustained periods of time and will apply reading strategies to assist them in improving their reading fluency and comprehension. In Writing, students will become authors, creating their own texts and exploring a range of writing techniques. In Mathematics we will explore topics from all Mathematics strands including, counting, place value, time, addition and subtraction.

It’s going to be a busy and exciting Term One, full of fun learning!

Take home reading has begun and your child should be bringing home books daily. Please ensure your child is reading for a minimum of ten minutes a day and returning their take home book each day with their home reading signed off in their student planner. Read with your child, to your child and have them read to you. Homework books and spelling will be sent home fortnightly and are expected back on Fridays – see homework sheets for correct dates. Homework is to be completed and recorded in the homework book prior to being returned.

Please ensure your child has an appropriate hat (broad brimmed) for the duration of Term 1. Students without hats will spend recess and lunch under shaded areas as per the school policy and department guidelines. Please ensure your child’s hat is clearly labelled with their name. As the warm weather increases we also encourage students to bring water bottles to stay hydrated during the day. Cordial, juice, milk etc. will NOT be allowed during class times.

If you need to speak to your child’s teacher, please make an appointment to meet with them at a suitable time to ensure your discussion can be in-depth and avoid interruptions. Alternatively, you can phone the school on 9743 0633 and leave a message for the staff member to call you when they are available.

**Upcoming Events & Important Dates**

Wednesday 3rd March - School Photos

Tuesday 9th & Wednesday 10th March - Student Learning Conferences

Thursday 1st April - Last day Term 1

*Please check COMPASS regularly for ongoing updates and event information.*

*Please see the office if you require access to the COMPASS app.*

**Specialist Classes**

Below is the Term 1 Specialist timetable. Your child will participate in Physical Education, Art, Kitchen Garden/STEM and Performing Arts this year as part of the Specialist Program. Library sessions are also timetabled for each class. Please bring along an art smock and library bag to school as soon as possible. If you have already done so, thank you. On your child’s Physical Education day could you please ensure they are wearing appropriate footwear.

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| **Class** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| 1/2 Havers | Kitchen Garden |  | Chinese  Visual Art | Performing Arts  PE | Library |
| 1/2 Patton | PE  Library | Performing Arts  Chinese | Kitchen Garden |  | Art |
| 1/2 Gonzalez | Performing Arts  Kitchen Garden  Library | Chinese | Visual Art |  | PE |
| 1/2 Krystyna | Kitchen Garden | Chinese  Performing Arts | PE | Library | Art |
| 1/2 Micallef | P.E | Chinese  Kitchen Garden | Visual Art | Library | Performing Arts |
| 1/2 Estelle | Performing Arts | Chinese | Kitchen Garden  PE | Library | Visual Art |
| 1/2 Dovaston | Kitchen Garden | Chinese | Performing Arts | Visual Art  Library | PE |

**Visual Arts**  
In Term 1 students in 1/2 will be encouraged to investigate the skills, techniques and processes of textiles. Students will have the opportunity to express their ideas and imaginations using wool to produce a textile artwork.

**Performing Arts**

Students will use their voice, facial expressions, movement and space to communicate ideas. They will work in small groups to develop stories with characters and settings and perform it to an audience. They will respond to performances by expressing what they enjoy and why, through providing other performers with feedback. Students will listen to, explore, create and perform a variety of musical pieces. They will use their voice, percussion instruments and Djembe drums to explore the different sounds they make. Students will work as a whole class and in small groups to compose musical pieces demonstrating varying beat, rhythm, pitch and volume.

**Kitchen Garden**

During this semester the students will participate in a range of activities to promote healthy eating, the safe use of kitchen equipment, how to set a table and the parts of plant. They will be planting seedlings in the kitchen garden and maintaining the garden beds. There will be an emphasis on hand hygiene, apron wearing when in the kitchen and learning basic kitchen actions such as rolling, kneading and cutting. It would be appreciated if your child’s hair was tied back off their face on the day they have their Kitchen Garden session please.

**Physical Education**

Students will further develop their throwing and catching skills. Students will participate in minor team games focusing on following rules, playing fairly and working cooperatively with others.

**Year 1/2 Team,** Toni Havers(Team Leader), Fiona Patton, Nick Gonzalez, Krystyna Edwards, Natalie Micallef, Estelle van Sittert & Natasha Dovaston