



EARLY YEARS

U5A & U5M NEWSLETTER Term 1

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Introduction

Dear Families

Welcome to U5A (with Miss S) and U5M (Ms Lekkas / Mrs Walker) for another exciting year of learning! We are especially looking forward to working with your child and getting to know you. Marina will be teaching U5M on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and Amanda Walker will be taking the class on Thursdays.

This year we are continuing to implement a connected curriculum that incorporates all learning areas, which is centred around a focus question. This term's focus question is "how can sustainable environments impact the future?". Community Reading is every morning from 8:40 to 8:50am beginning in week 2. During this time students are required to change their levelled readers and read quietly while rostered students are having their sight words checked by the teacher. It is a positive way to start the morning by enjoying reading together so please feel free to come and read to/with your child and other students in the class. As we continue on our journey towards implementing the Walker Learning Approach, students will be participating in Investigation on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. Each student will have the opportunity to be a focus student on a fortnightly basis. We would appreciate any junk material (eg. boxes, paper towel rolls, bottle caps etc.) you may have lying around at home that you wish to donate for making. The following is important information on our class procedures and the curriculum content for this term. If you have any questions or comments regarding your child's education, please don't hesitate to make an appointment to come and see us.

Maths

Maths is taught at an explicit level through practical and integrated activities that build on previous mathematical knowledge. This year we will be covering mathematical skills and knowledge in the following content strands: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability.

This term students will be focusing on place-value, developing confidence with number sequences to and from 100, partitioning numbers, and solving simple addition and subtraction problems. In addition, we will also be focusing on length and area. Students will be estimating, measuring and comparing lengths using informal units. This will be done through a range of hands-on activities with the use of various concrete materials.

Further information regarding Mathematics and the Australian Curriculum is available at the following link: <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/mathematics/curriculum/f-10?layout=1#level1>

English

Each morning students are engaged in a literacy block where reading (shared and guided), writing, phonics, spelling and comprehension is explicitly taught and practised. Students will be introduced to a wide variety of strategies to assist with further developing students' accuracy and fluency and extending their sound and sight word knowledge.

Our focus for writing this term is on the features of recounts and narratives. Students will be explicitly taught the structure of a recount whilst also looking at sentence structure and punctuation. In addition, students will also be reading, deconstructing and comparing fairy tales with the opportunity to create oral and written narratives through a variety of independent and group activities.

In spelling our focus will be on the sounds of the alphabet, where students will be introduced to a variety of word families, blends and digraphs. This term students will be focusing on 'ch', 'sh', 'th', 'ng', 'ph', 'ck', suffix 's', 'qu' and 'wh'. To assist students with building their vocabulary, spelling words will be given out on Mondays and glued into their homework book to practise at home ready for a spelling test on Fridays. Students will also continue to receive 10 Oxford sight words each week to learn. Each week on their rostered day, we will test your child on their sight words and change these words if they are able to recognise them or repeat words for further practise.

In addition, students will be engaging in an author study on Pamela Allen where they will be identifying the style, genre and comparing characters and texts.

Reading is an important part of your child's education. Along with take home readers, students can access online books using the Bug Club platform. These books have been specifically allocated based on your child's reading level and is compatible with iPads and Android tablets. Each student will receive a username and password that will be glued into their communication book. You can access Bug Club via the following URL: www.activelearnprimary.com.au

Further information regarding English and the Australian Curriculum is available at the following link: <http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/english/curriculum/f-10?layout=1#level1>.

Science

In Science this term we will be focusing on Earth and Space Sciences, in particularly looking at observational changes in the landscape and sky in our unit 'Up, Down and All Around'. Students will have the opportunity to explore natural, man-made and managed features that undergo change overtime. Through outdoor observations and photographic records, students will investigate daily, weekly and seasonal changes in their local environment and determine ways we can contribute to a sustainable future.

For further information on the Science Curriculum please see the link below:
<http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/science/curriculum/f-10?layout=1#level1>.

HASS – Humanities and Social Sciences

In HASS this term students will be focusing on the concept of place. Through a variety of different activities students will identify and describe natural, managed and constructed features of places and locate them on maps. Students will examine how places have changed, as well as looking at ways of caring for the environment.

Specialist Areas

This year students will be provided with the following specialist lessons:

U5A

STEM (with Sandra Clarke on Mondays)
PE (with Jodie Molitor on Mondays)
Performing Arts (with Tiffany McCallum on Tuesdays)
Positive Education (with Desy Pantelos on Tuesdays)
Japanese (with Belinda Brenen on Thursdays)

U5M

STEM (with Sandra Clarke on Mondays)
PE (with Jodie Molitor on Mondays)
Performing Arts (with Tiffany McCallum on Tuesdays)
Positive Education (with Desy Pantelos on Tuesdays)
Japanese (with Belinda Brenen on Wednesday)

Morning Routines

U5A

1. Come in and put your bag on your bag hook.
2. Take out your reader folder and drink bottle.
3. Put your drink bottle in one of the 'Drink Bottle' baskets.
4. Put any books you would like return to the library in the 'Return' basket.
5. Put your reader folder on the bookshelf next to Miss S' desk.
6. If you have a note for Miss S put your communication book in the basket on the bookshelf next to Miss S' desk.
7. Put your lunch order in the lunch order basket at the front of the classroom
8. Quietly find a spot to read with a parent or a partner.

U5M

1. Come in and put your bag on your bag hook.
2. Take out your reader folder and put it on your desk.
3. Hand to your teacher any notes.
4. Put your lunch order in the lunch order basket.
5. Quietly sit at your table to begin reading.

Library Day / Computers

U5 will be visiting the library on Fridays and during this time students will get the chance to have a browse in the library and also the opportunity to do their borrowing. When your child has finished reading their borrowed books they can place it in our 'Book Returns' basket in the classroom so that they may be able to borrow again.

During ICT lessons students will be learning how to safely use a variety of devices and practise logging on using their own personal profile. They will be familiarising themselves with the keys on a keyboard and practising their typing skills through a variety of games. Students will be using such software programs as Tux Paint and Active Inspire to enhance their work. In addition, students will also have the opportunity to access Mathletics (via the internet) later in the term to encourage further development of their mathematical skills.

Reminders / Important Dates

Crunch and Sip:

Every morning we have 'Brain Food' to encourage healthy eating. Could you please pack in your child's lunchbox a piece of fruit or vegetables they can eat during this time. Students are also encouraged to have a water bottle in the classroom which they bring to school every day. Could you please ensure that your child's water bottle has a lid and is clearly labelled.

Nut Awareness Policy:

Just a reminder that we are a nut-free school and ask that products containing nuts not be sent to school (this includes Nutella). We also have students with allergies to egg and sesame seeds. Please discuss with your child the importance of not sharing food or buying food for others from the canteen. Thank you for helping us to support students with allergies.

Sun Protection:

Students are required to wear their hats (broad brimmed or bucket hat) this term and throughout term 2 when they are outdoors. It is important that they have a hat so that they are able to actively participate in the schoolyard as well as during PE lessons and our class fitness times. If your child does not have their hat they are required to play in shaded areas. No Hat No Play! Could you please ensure that your child's hat is clearly labelled with their name.

If you need to purchase a hat for your child, the Uniform Shop (located in the Activity room) is opened Monday and Tuesday Mornings from 8:30-9:00am.

It is your decision whether you would like your child to wear sunscreen at school. Students are more than welcome to bring in their own sunscreen and are encouraged to apply it before school starts.

Dates:

Meet the Teacher night is in week 3 on Tuesday the 13th of February from 6:30 to 7:15pm.

There is a Pupil Free Day in week 7 on Tuesday the 13th of March.

Swimming is in week 9 on Monday the 26th to Thursday the 29th of March at Thebarton Aquatic Centre. Further information will follow in the coming weeks.