

# Year 1 Term Letter, Term 3 2018

Dear Families,

Welcome to Term 3, we are halfway through Year 1!

I hope you have all had a great break and everyone is ready to get back into it for the second half of the year. In Term 3 we will be participating in our Active Learning a little differently than in the previous two terms. Active Learning is very popular with the kids and it gives them an opportunity to connect with the curriculum in real life, play based situations. It is in these learning activities and the conversations that they are having that allow them to make deep connections to the curriculum. This term we will be combining all early years classes (Prep, Year 1 and Year 2) in the same Active Learning activities. We will schedule our Active Learning at the same time. Each classroom will have six learning activities that are related to the curriculum of all three grades. For the first few weeks students will engage in all activities available in each classroom, they will then be able to choose which activity and which room they want to go to in the remaining active learning times for Term 3. This gives students the opportunity to interact with others of a variety of ages and differing opinions, ideas and experiences. This will provide some really rich learning experiences for everyone.

We will also be participating in PMP (perceptual motor program) as an early years team. This will happen once a week and the students will be broken up into three mixed aged groups. They will rotate through three activities designed to help with motor skills. One will be the actual PMP rotations that will occur in the MPC and they focus on gross motor skills such as balancing and climbing, using the major muscles. The second will be fine motor skills in the year 1 classroom this will be to develop fine motor such as cutting and pencil grip. The last activity is Yoga in the prep room. These will go for 20 minutes each.

As an early years group we are also taking the students in Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 on an excursion in Week 6 to tie in with our Science and HASS units. On Friday 24 August we will be going to the Lego Centre in South Brisbane, the Museum and the library. We will be looking for volunteers to help. There is a link available on the welcome page of the Year 1 blog where you can offer to volunteer. We will notify parents closer to the time if we require them to help, depending on how many volunteers we get. We appreciate any assistance you can offer and would be looking at 5 parent volunteers from each class. This will be an active excursion, we will be walking to Mitchelton train station, catching the train to South Brisbane, breaking up into three groups and each going to a different activity. We will meet up to catch the train home at the end of the day.

Term 3 will also see a change in the way that Year 1 brings home "readers". There has been a lot of research about the best ways to create life-long readers. From the professional reading I have done on this subject the research has demonstrated that some of the best ways to create a love of reading is to model a love of reading and ensure that the kids are interacting with quality literature that they enjoy. Students often complain about the home readers as being boring and repetitive. Also, because they can be written and sourced in other country they often contain concepts that the kids are unable to relate to. There is certainly a place for home readers they are used to develop fluency and the repetitiveness in these books helps with this. Students will continue to bring home one or two readers a week, however they will now be colour coded and not levelled. The level of the reader is a tool for the teacher and the school and in no way is meant for students to use to compare themselves to others or to worry that it is a reflection on them. It is very important that there is not a focus on the level of the reader. Because these are for fluency at times, we may start to mix up the levels that are being sent home to practice particular strategies or the focus for your child. Students will also begin borrow these readers from the library themselves, so they will be choosing what they are bringing home. We will have two library borrowing times, Monday and Thursday. At this time they will bring 1-2 readers and 1-2 books from the general collection in the library.

They will be encouraged to borrow a wide variety of books among these to work out what type of books they love. We ask that you help to engage with your kids with these books. Some may require you to read them and that is fine but enjoy it, have fun, snuggle, laugh, cry, hide, make it enjoyable in any way you can. Some, they will read to you, in these instances, listen, if they make mistakes and it doesn't impact on the story, leave it, ask them questions, tell them what you thought of the book and the characters. Talk about how it made you feel. This will all help them to enjoy reading.

For this new reading system to work, it is really important that you ensure that they are coming to school with their library bags or communication folders so that they can borrow and that books are returned. I know this can be a pain and I have learnt at home to keep the library books in the same place to avoid the last-minute rush as you are running out the door to find them. It is really important for this to work that the children are able to borrow each week.

This term the class will also be participating in a friendship program that is run by Melissa Ford the Guidance Counsellor. Originally we were going to do a small group of students and then just the girls but we have decided that all of year one could benefit from this program. It will be held on Tuesday afternoons in the last session.

Sorry for the overload of information. More detailed information on all of the above will come out in the near future. If you have any questions about anything at all please don't hesitate to catch me before or after school or via the email.

## **Term 3 Units of Work**

### **Religious Education**

In Term 3 Religious Education we will be looking at Jesus. We will look at how he participate in daily life in the Jewish community. We will look at important aspects of Jewish life such as what they ate, what they did during leisure time, how they observed the Sabbath and how they prayed. We will then look at how he taught others to pray and we will participate in a variety of different ways to pray including using song, symbol, science and meditation. We will again look at how Jesus showed us God's presence in our lives and we will look at some Old Testament stories that demonstrate this also.

### **English**

In term 3 we will continue to plan our English units in short term cycles. This means we plan for three weeks, review on how it went, where the students are at and plan for the next three weeks to meet the needs of all students in the class. At the beginning of Term Three in English we will be looking at poetry. We will be listening to different poems, songs and chants with a particular focus on rhyme and alliteration. We will continue to focus on creating short texts and adding detail. Guided reading will continue this term engaging students with different strategies to decode texts as sent home with the readers in Term 1.

### **Mathematics**

Mathematics this semester will involve investigation money. Students will learn to identify Australian coins and also order them according to their value. We will also be looking at time and how to tell the time to the half hour. Term Three also includes investigating the language of direction. We will be able to give and follow directions to familiar places. Students will use directions such as forward, under, clockwise and anticlockwise. We will continue to work on addition and subtraction during Term Three and also skip counting in twos, fives and tens.

## **Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)**

This term in HASS we will be looking at changes over time and in particular changes to family structure and the roles of family members. Students will investigate how the structure of the family has changed from the past. They will explore the different roles family members took on in the past and how these have changed.

## **Science**

In Science this term we will be looking at how to describe objects and also exploring the different changes that occur when we interact with these objects. Students will investigate how everyday materials can be changed in a variety of ways. We will look at bending, stretching and twisting as well as what happens to different foods are changed when warmed or cooled. Students will also investigate how light and sound is created. They will use hands on activities to explore ways that we can make sound through actions such as striking, blowing, scraping and shaking. They will also compare different sounds made for pitch and loudness.

## **Health Education**

Our Health unit this term will be focussed on exploring our emotional responses and how the things that we do impact on others and their emotions. This will be done with Melissa Ford the Guidance Counsellor. We will also look at healthy eating and in particular healthy lunches where we will plan our own healthy lunch and hopefully toward the end of the term be able to make it and bring it to school.

Warm regards,

Leeanne Taylor

Classroom Teacher

Brett Kitchener

Principal