

Welcome back. We hope everyone had a fantastic holiday and that everyone is ready to get stuck into another great term in grade one.

Term 1 seemed to fly by. We had lots of important events, including a visit to the Life Education Van and an impressive badge presentation ceremony that included the grade 1 representatives for both the Green Team and the Well Being Team. Congratulations to all the grade one children who were voted by their class members to represent their classes on these very important teams.

Term 2 is already shaping up to be another great term with lots of fun and learning all ready to go. Whilst building on and exploring in more detail many of the concepts that we touched on term 1, we will also be introduced to new concepts and learning opportunities.

LITERACY

Our reading program in term 2 begins with a focus on Fairy Tales. We will be looking at the elements of these stories, such as setting, characters, heroes, villains, problems and solutions. All of these will be explored in detail in our whole class and small group sessions. Later in the term we will be revisiting Non-Fiction texts to expand our understandings into how these texts are put together and how we can use them to gain information. Levelled Guided Reading groups will continue to run with the aim of challenging the children to improve both their decoding skills and their understanding of what they have read.

Your child will continue to bring a home reading book home every day. This is intended to build on the skills we have been working on in class and also be an enjoyable family task. The book should be easy for your child to read and therefore they should be able to practice their fluency, expression and comprehension. We would really appreciate your help in making sure that readers are returned every day after being read at home. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all of the parents who come into our classrooms to make sure that the children have a new book to take home each day. The assistance you provide is amazing.

Our writing program will continue to focus on writing recounts of personal experiences. We continue to focus on the correct use of punctuation with a real emphasis on proof reading and editing our own writing in order to make it better. In addition to building on the forms of punctuation we looked at last term, we will be introducing question marks in order to make our writing more interesting. As the term progresses we will introduce procedural writing using the correct format. This will lead into the exploration of verbs and how we can use these to make our procedural writing better.

The children will continue to work on their handwriting skills through various tasks. We will now be focusing on the correct formation and placement of upper case as well as lower case letters and

numbers. It is really important that we continue to encourage correct pencil grip and writing letters on the right lines.

We will continue to introduce on a new two letter sound blend each week in order to complement our reading and writing programs.

NUMERACY

Our Numeracy program in term 2 continues to develop skills introduced in term 1 in greater detail as well the introduction of new skills and concepts for the children to explore. We will be extending our counting skills to include counting by 2s, 5s and 10s from starting points other than 0.

We will spend time developing our addition and subtraction skills, looking at strategies we can use to help us to do this more efficiently. We will extend our knowledge of place value and use these understandings to assist our counting and addition and subtraction skills. We will begin to look at word problems and how we can solve these using skills we have previously learnt. Australian Coins and their values will also be looked at.

Children will also work on measurement using informal units, the language of chance, i.e., will happen, won't happen and might happen, 3 dimensional shapes, collecting data and making graphs and location.

Numeracy in the year one classroom involves a lot of 'hands on' manipulation of concrete materials, used to demonstrate our understandings and further our skills.

INQUIRY

Our Inquiry on Living and Non Living things has really started to gain some momentum. After laying some of the ground work in term 1 we will continue to build on our knowledge as a whole group while the children begin to formulate their own questions of interest that will drive the rest of term. As part of our gathering of information we have planned an excursion to Werribee Zoo to take part in the 'Habitat Detectives' experience.

ILIPs

During term 1 the children brought home their first ILIP for 2015. As well as working on these at home we have been providing time in the classroom for the children to work on their learning goals. This will continue during term 2.

The whole Year 1 team would like to extend our appreciation to all of the families in our area who have helped to make the transition into the new year a smooth and successful one. Thank you all for your assistance that we hope will continue for the remainder of the year.

Don't forget to check out the classroom blog with your child. We try to update these regularly with fun and relevant information from our classrooms.

J12- <http://kidblog.org/MrsGreatrexsclass/>

J13- <http://kidblog.org/J13MrsPearson/>

J14- <http://kidblog.org/J14/>

Please feel free to contact any of us with any queries or concerns.

Thanks

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