

Welcome to Year One, 2016. We are looking forward to an exciting year with lots of learning and lots fun. We have already had a great start to the year with all the children arriving refreshed, excited and ready to take on new challenges.

In our classrooms we have been thoroughly immersed in our 'Start Up' program which has involved lots of games and activities aimed at getting to know each other. The children have been telling us about their families, things they like and don't like and what their expectations for the year are. In addition, we have been working really hard to set up our classroom expectations and routines.

As the term progresses our learning will be more focused. In all areas of the curriculum we aim to deliver interesting, rich and challenging lessons that will cater for everyone. We will adopt lots of different teaching approaches including whole class and small group activities. These group activities may take place in your child's classroom or across all three classrooms in the area. Your child will have regular contact with all of the year one teachers. Our lessons aim to be as 'hands on' as possible and relevant to the everyday lives of the students.

In all of our classrooms we endeavor to make sure that all of our children feel safe and happy. Through the Restorative Practices approach, we promote the WNPS school values of Respect, Responsibility, Excellence, Integrity and Understanding. During this term we will explore with the children what each of the values mean and how we can best represent these values.

LITERACY

During Term 1 our reading program will mainly be focused on the features of fictional texts. Through whole class and small group guided reading sessions, children will discuss and demonstrate an understanding of characters, settings and plot. Towards the end of the term, we will begin to compare these features to that of non-fiction texts. In Guided Reading groups, the children will be challenged to improve both their decoding skills and their understanding of what they have read.

Each day your child will bring home a book to read at home. 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 practise 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 also appreciate volunteers to listen to our children read each morning and help them to choose a new book.

Our writing program at the beginning of the year has the children producing lots of recounts of events in their lives. Through the production of these recounts, we are working on skills such as using correct punctuation (capital letters and full stops, question marks, exclamation marks and commas). During the second half of the term the children will be encouraged to take responsibility for checking that their writing contains all the formal punctuation we have looked at.

The children will be continually working on their handwriting skills through various tasks. During term one it is really important that we work on correct pencil grip and correct formation of letters.

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

In Year One there are scheduled opportunities each week for the children to participate in our 'Show and Tell' sessions. Your child will be allocated a day and they are encouraged to bring something from home to share with the class.

NUMERACY

Our Numeracy program in Term 1 focusses on counting forward and backward, recognising numerals, ordering numbers and counting collections. We will look at place value of numbers up to 100 and number patterns when counting by 2s, 5s and 10s.

Children will also work on telling the time to the hour, using informal units to measure length, making classroom graphs, ordering and naming days and months of the year and revising the attributes of 2D shapes. 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 broad Inquiry topic for Term 1 is *Change Over Time*. As we will be working closely with the children to develop this concept, we are all looking forward to seeing where this takes us. If any of our parents have skills that relate to our concept, we would love to hear from you. We love using the expertise of our parents. We are looking forward to this busy term as we all get to know each other. Please feel free to contact any of us with any queries or concerns.

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR TERM 1

- Teacher Meet and Greet – Monday 22 February
- School Photos – Wednesday 24 February
- Curriculum Day (no school for children) – Friday 4 March
- Michael Ymer Parent Information Evening (Maths) – Tuesday 8 March
- Labour Day (no school) – Monday 14 March
- Term 1 ends – Thursday 24 March

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Students in Year 1 will have a 50-minute ICT lesson with **Miss Michelle Sterjovski**.

The 5 ICT areas of study are:

- Applying social and ethical protocols and practices when using ICT
- Investigating
- Creating
- Communicating
- Managing and operating ICT

During the year, students will have the opportunity to:

- Learn the terminology associated with computer hardware
- Use programs such as Kid Pix and Paint to develop graphical skills
- Use Microsoft Word processing programs to create and present digital stories and reports
- Use the internet to enhance their typing skills and for other educational activities
- Use a number of programs specifically designed to aid their knowledge in the content areas in their classrooms
- Design simple animations
- Learn about Cyber Safety

Year 1 students also have access to a bank of laptops in their classroom. Classrooms also have either a TV or Interactive White Board for teaching purposes. Classroom teachers will plan and incorporate these technologies into all learning areas as they see fit.

MUSIC PROGRAM

The emphasis of the Music program is the development of skills including spatial awareness and movement, sense of pitch and rhythm, and a pleasant singing voice. Whole body movement is used as the basis for the majority of most activities for children at this level, in accordance with their current stage of development. The program draws on two approaches devised by European music educators – **Kodaly** and **Orff Schulwerk**. The **Kodaly** approach uses the melodies of children’s songs taught in class to develop a deep understanding of pitch and rhythm. The **Orff Schulwerk** approach uses song, dance, body percussion and other media to learn material that is developed in a number of ways.

In **Term 1** Music, students are taught about long and short notes through relevant songs and clapping games. Movement activities including Musical Statues and Follow the Leader, continue to be used to assist with coordination and following cues. The orchestral work “Carnival of the Animals” is introduced to the students as part of a broader topic on “The Orchestra”, leading to our MSO city excursion in May.

Time Allocation

Each class has one Music specialist session per week with **Mr David Perry**, running for 50 minutes. After the roll song, singing, movement and game activities are alternated in order to maximise student engagement.

How can you help your child?

- Remind your child that classroom Music is for all children, not just those that are “good at music”.
- Encourage them to participate fully in all classroom activities.
- Search at home for information and audio on the Mussorgsky work “Pictures at an Exhibition” so that they are more familiar with the content.
- Ensure that your child is able to attend the MSO excursion in June (**more details to come**).

ART/CRAFT

Our aim within the Art room is to provide an imaginative and creative program, which engages students in stimulating and challenging art experiences, so that they learn to work with ideas, develop artistic skills and respond to art works.

- Each grade will attend one session of Visual Art per week with **Ms Jaliya Rudd**.
- Children should provide a clearly named art smock to protect their clothing.
- Children’s artwork will be promoted imaginatively and positively within the art room and around the school.

Year 1 students will:

- Create ideas
- Investigate sources of information
- Explore materials
- Manipulate techniques and processes
- Arrange art elements
- Draft designs
- Develop visual awareness
- Include the use of technology
- Work individually and collaboratively

Forms undertaken will include Drawing, Painting, Printing, Collage, Modelling, and Textiles. Artworks will incorporate 2D and 3D pieces.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

The emphasis of the Physical Education Program is the development of skills, co-ordination, co-operation, enjoyment and healthy positive attitudes to physical activity which will prepare students for future recreational pursuits. This term in PE we will be covering the fundamental motor skills of ball handling/bounce/kick/strike/throw/catch and minor games.

The program will be supported by:

- ◆ YMCA Gym
- ◆ Sporting Clinics as offered lessons, eg Tennis lessons/Cricket Australia lessons/Rugby clinics
- ◆ Platooning (Teachers working in teams to teach skills)

Time Allocation

Each class will have a Physical Education specialist session per week, running for 50 minutes. The basic outline of each session will involve a warm up, skill based activities, a team game or activity, and a cool down session. A fun Tabloid Sports morning is held in Term 4 for Year 1 students.

How can you help your child?

- ◆ Show your child you believe physical activity and sport to be important for one's physical and social well-being by playing a game in the backyard with your child or going to the park to throw kick and catch a ball, encourage skipping with a rope.
- ◆ Encourage your children to be active rather than passive during spare time.
- ◆ Ensure your child presents himself/herself for PE and Sport properly attired, especially footwear.

We look forward to working with you this year to help your child reach their full potential!

Please feel free to contact us with any concerns.

Melissa Greatrex, Sue Pearson and Jacinta Benson