

Stage 1 News

Welcome to Term 4!

Where has this year gone? Hard to believe the school year will be over in eight weeks!

Teachers are starting to write their end of year reports. We would appreciate if the blue portfolio folders could be returned to school, as we send home the reports in these later in the term.



What are we learning about in Term 4?

English

Students are expected to be reading a levelled 16 -18 text by the end of year 1, and Level 22 by the end of year 2. Students need to be also fluent, expressive and able to comprehend what they read (both literal and inferential comprehension).

Our focus in reading is on 'Visualising and Summarising';

Visualising

- What pictures have you had in your mind while reading?
- What does the character see?
- What does the character feel?
- What does the character taste?
- What does the character smell?
- What does the character hear?
- What does it look like? What shape? What colour?
- What does it feel like?
- What does it taste like?
- What does it smell like?
- What does it sound like?

Summarising

- What was the text about?
- Who was in the story?
- Where did the story take place?
- What was the author's purpose?
- What is the main message or moral of this text?
- Was there a problem to be resolved in the text?
- How was the problem resolved?
- What are some keywords or key phrases from the text?
- How have your feelings about the topic changed?
- Were you surprised by the ending? Why? Why not?
- Did you enjoy the piece? Why? Why Not?
- How would you describe this text to another person?

In writing, we are continuing with persuasive texts and learning to write expositions. Persuasive texts present an opinion about a particular topic. Opinions are thoughts or feelings about a situation or idea. For example;

Persuasive Text Structure - Example

Children Should Not Eat Fast Food

Fast food is not a good choice for children and should be avoided.

Firstly, fast food is high in fat and sugar. Both of these can make children unhealthy.

Secondly, fast food is full of preservatives which are not good for children's health.

Thirdly, fast food does not contain any of the healthy nutrients that young bodies need to grow.

 For all of these reasons, it is essential children avoid eating fast food.



- We are also exploring narratives, in particular fairy tales. Fairy tales are a make-believe story that usually includes magical elements. Fairy tales are commonly set in a faraway land. They usually start with the phrase, *Once upon a time*. Fairy tale characters often include children, animals and magical creatures. There is normally a hero who must defeat or outsmart a villain. Most fairy tales end with the phrase, *"They all lived happily ever after"*.

Narratives have;

Narrative Writing - Text Structure

	Beginning (orientation) Who is in the story? When does the story happen? Where does the story take place?	
---	--	---

	Middle (complication) What is the problem? What events lead to the solution?	
---	---	---

	Ending (resolution) How is the problem resolved?	
---	---	---



Maths – Year One

- Equivalent number sentences using addition and subtraction
- Compare mass on an equal arm balance
- Skip count by 2s, 5s and 10s
- Divide into groups of 2, 5, or 10, skip count to find total
- Divide by 2 in 2 ways, relate to halving
- Halves of shapes and groups, odd and even numbers
- Time on the half hour, linked to fractions
- Patterns with odd and even numbers
- Interpret picture graphs using the language of chance

Maths – Year Two

- Quarters of shapes
- Quarters of groups
- Eighths of shapes
- Eighths of groups
- One step flip, slide, half and quarter and full turn
- Activities that take 1 second, 1 minute, 1 hour
- Time at quarter past and quarter to
- Mass using multiple informal units on an equal arm balance

Science – “All Mixed Up”

We are surrounded by mixtures — the air we breathe, the food we eat and drink, and our personal grooming products. Chefs try mixing ingredients in different ways to make tasty combinations and interesting textures. Through inquiry, scientists have developed mixtures that are useful for all kinds of purposes, such as alloys, amalgams and paints, to name but a few. Indeed, it can be surprising just how many things that we take for granted every day are the result of inquiry into mixtures. For example, how different our lives would be without the myriad of inks, glues and detergents at our disposal.

In the *All mixed up* unit students learn about materials that don't mix well, and others that are difficult to separate. Through hands-on investigations, students explore how changing the quantities of materials in a mixture can alter its properties and uses.



History – “Past and Present Family Life” continued (semester two)

This topic provides a study of present and past family life within the context of the students’ own world. Students learn about similarities and differences in family life by comparing the present with the past. They begin to explore the links, and the changes that occur, over time and are introduced to the use of historical sources.

Key Enquiry Questions;

- How has family life changed or remained the same over time?
- How can we show that the present is different from or similar to the past?
- How do we describe the sequence of time?

Personal Development, Health and Physical Development

“Watch your Step!” is our personal development unit this term.

Students participate in lessons about keeping safe around water, water safety rules and hazards. Students also investigate ways they can keep safe in the city (pedestrian safety) or in the country (e.g. farm machinery, riding horses). Given Australia is known to have many poisonous animals, it is important for students to develop respect for the natural environment and learn to recognise outdoor hazards and dangers to maximise safety.

Stage 1 are dancing this term in preparation for our end of year disco We are learning structured dances like ; The Chicken Dance, Macarena, Heel and Toe etc. Year 1 students are encouraged to wear their joggers on Thursdays and Year 2 (including S1W) are encouraged to wear their joggers on Fridays.