

Year 2 Parent Newsletter - Term 1, 2019

Welcome to the 2019 school year!

Warm greetings and welcome to an exciting school year at Essex Heights Primary School. We have had a very smooth start to the year with our four Year 2 classes settling in quickly.

This is the Year 2 teaching team:



*Kirsten Lightfoot 2LD Anita Dix 2LD Kelvin Tang 2TH Kathy Halliday 2TH Renee Dare 2D
Coordinator*



Lena Papadatos 2PB Helen Broderick 2PB

*Throughout the year we develop School-Wide Positive Behaviours (SWPBS) based on our Essex Heights School values. These 5 values are **friendliness, honesty, respect, inclusiveness and persistence**. A lot of time and thoughtful discussion has taken place by our school community in establishing these values which set the tone and expectations of behaviour in our school and classroom communities. Essex Heights also has three specific expectations which are: **'Be Safe', 'Be Responsible', 'Be a Learner'**. This framework is further supported through our ArtSEL program which develops personal and social skills.*

Please note the following information and reminders:

- *Our school day commences at 8.50am. Please ensure your child arrives on time to start their learning.*
- *We have an open door policy and welcome parents. If you require a long discussion please organise a time convenient to you and your child's teacher where issues or concerns can be discussed.*
- *Our weekly **'Spelling'** program will commence on Friday 8th February. Please assist your child to practise these spelling words as their homework and discuss the spelling pattern with them. Their spelling/homework folders are due back each Thursday.*
- *The first few weeks of school will include setting up classroom routines. After this we encourage parent helpers to be part of the classroom. Please ensure you have a Working with Children's Check and have signed the Code of Conduct.*

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- The children should have a hat to wear each day as well as a water bottle so they can stay hydrated. They will be asked to play in a designated shaded area if they do not have a hat.
- We encourage the children to bring an extra 'brain food' snack to eat at approximately 10am. We would appreciate you providing cut up fruit or vegetables that are easy to snack on while working. No nuts please.
- It is lovely to celebrate birthdays. A number of families buy a book for the school library as an alternative to cupcakes or treats. If you wish to provide a classroom treat, please give them to your teacher to distribute during the day. We discourage the children bringing extra food in their lunchboxes to share with friends as we have a number of children with allergies to a variety of food products.
- There will be a Yarra Valley Water Incursion this term. This will be a free, fun and engaging experience for the students as the presenter discusses the water cycle.
- We look forward to meeting you next week at the **Parent Teacher Discussions**. Please book an appointment on Compass and return the parent response sheet.
- Just a reminder that if your child has not yet brought their named library bag, art smock or ArtSEL folder to school, can they please do so in the next few days. Further, we always appreciate a donation of tissues for the children to use.

Speaking & Listening

Throughout Term 1 there will be many opportunities to practise our speaking and listening skills through Show and Share, which will be based around our Integrated Unit topic and during class discussions with the whole class, partners or in groups. These skills are very important and the children will learn to respond appropriately to other's contributions, use conversational skills such as initiating topics and giving positive statements to their classmates.

Writing

The writing genre focus is Recount. During the writing program, the children will continue to broaden their understandings and use of sentence structure and language features (e.g. sequencing content, using punctuation), and begin to develop their knowledge of sound- letter patterns and visual memory when spelling. They will write short texts with legible handwriting and they will practise using the dotted thirds correctly.

Reading & Viewing

The children will further develop comprehension strategies to build their understanding of the literal and inferred meaning of different texts. These strategies include prediction, visualisation and prior knowledge. When reading they will be encouraged to sound out words and letter combinations to ensure the sentence makes sense and know which sounds are represented by which letter combinations. We wish to instil a love of reading in our students and will provide them with a variety of texts.

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	<p>Take home books Your child's reading program is assisted with take home readers. <u>Please listen to your children read every night.</u> We will send home books for them to practise reading out loud and develop their fluency. Therefore, the text should be easy for them to read. Please use the yellow reading book to record their reading and note any comments. Encourage your child to read everything around them - road signs, recipes, notes, picture story books.</p>
Mathematics	<p>Number and Algebra Your child will explore mathematical concepts in a variety of situations, including within the Integrated Unit. In Number and Algebra, the children will model numbers, create number patterns, including odd and even and skip counting by 2's, 5's and 10's. They will be introduced to addition through pairing and reinforce and extend addition and subtraction using materials and story problems based on their experiences.</p>
	<p>Measurement & Geometry In Measurement the children will focus on the concept of time using calendars, class timetables and sequencing of events in different situations, and identifying, sorting and describing common 2D and 3D shapes and objects.</p>
	<p>Statistics & Probability The children will use appropriate language to estimate the likelihood of events. They will check, classify and record the data they collect, for example, water use at school.</p>
Integrated Studies	<p>Water Matters and Push and Pull. The Year 2 children will explore water as a natural resource - the Water Cycle, why water is important to the earth and how we can conserve it. Through hands on activities they will learn to respond to and pose questions, make predictions, measure and record their observations about the experiments and investigations undertaken in the unit. The Year 2 children will identify toys from different cultures that use the forces of push or pull and how different strengths of pushes and pulls affect the movement of objects.</p> <p>Catering for Depth of Learning In all classroom across our year level and school there is an increased focus on how students think within their learning. Teachers plan for how best to support students to reach a deeper level of thinking beyond surface level knowledge.</p> <p>By providing clear learning intentions and success criteria for students in every learning sequence, students and teachers will be able to monitor their progress and what the next steps are in their learning. Learning is recognised as starting with one idea, then building to multiple ideas, then understanding the relationships between these ideas and ultimately using this understanding and thinking to apply to other fields. The model that allows for this depth of thinking is SOLO Taxonomy where SOLO stands for Structure of Observed Learning Outcomes. The model is very clear for students to understand and uses</p>

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specific verbs to scaffold the level of thinking from surface to deep. Students will be very familiar with these verbs and therefore better understand the progress of their learning. Every student will be working from surface level through to a deep level of thinking.

The Year 2 team wish all our families a happy and productive 2019 school year working in partnership to give our children exciting, interesting and engaging educational and social experiences.

The 2019 Year 2 Team