

# TWIN RIVERS NEWSLETTER

## Grade 1/2 Term 3, 2021



### LEARNERS TODAY, LEADERS TOMORROW

Dear Parents,

Here we are more than half way through Term 3, already! After a bumpy start to the term and a return to remote learning on two occasions, we find ourselves in the same situation we found ourselves in 12 months ago.

When we return onsite, classrooms are open from 8:30am so that students can come in and organise themselves for their day ahead. This includes popping bags away, putting reader tubs and blue bags on tables, getting hand-writing books ready for the 8:45am learning bell and then checking in with their classroom teacher and friends.

ClassDojo will continue to be our main form of communication for both onsite and offsite learning. Our students love being able to share their learning and classroom experiences with you via this application, so please make sure you check it regularly.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Mel Bourke, Justin Minchin, Jalisa Baldwin & Leanne Mahney

### LITERACY

Our focus for this term is reading non-fiction texts. While onsite, we have a one hour reading block each day. During this time, your child engages with their teacher and their peers on a shared text looking at specific aspects around reading (e.g. decoding strategies, comprehension strategies, fluency, vocabulary, looking at how the author crafts the text etc). They then practice the skill/s we have focused on during their independent reading time, while the teacher confers and sets goals with individual students. Your student has a reading conference one on one with their teacher every week, where they sit down, converse, read and set short term goals together. Following independent reading, students then engage in a range of other reading activities, including, meeting as a small group, reading from the classroom library, reading big books, using literacy apps on the iPads, listening and responding to reading tasks and more! Students enjoy reflecting at the end of reading time and sharing an aspect of their reading from the session.

We have set up our book boxes and all students should be book shopping and changing their books weekly. Please ensure students are reading each night at home and that their "home reader diaries" are signed off each night by a parent or guardian even during remote learning. Students are rewarded for their nights of reading at home.

Every morning we start our day with explicit handwriting instruction and practice. This occurs from the first bell at 8:45am until 9:00am. Our main writing focus for this term is writing non-fiction / information texts. We have been looking closely at the structure of information texts through our shared reading and mentor texts used when writing. Students have been learning how to plan, compose and publish short informative reports using animals / creatures that they are passionate about themselves. We are hoping to be part of an open morning later in the term, so that students can showcase their fantastic animal reports and creations (this is looking more like next term at the moment).

Every Friday, our students write for pleasure and free choice as part of 'Free Write Friday.' It's a wonderful way to finish our week yet still allows our young writers the opportunity to thrive and grow in their writing craft.

This term in SMART Spelling we are focusing on the following digraph sounds – ay (day), ai (train), ee (tree), ea (beach), oa (boat), ow (snow), oo (moon), oo (book), er (her), ur (fur), ir (bird) and ar (car). All spelling patterns are part of our everyday learning across all areas of the curriculum. Small groups in our rooms continue to practice and grow their phonological awareness and expressive language skills.

We love vocabulary in Grade 1&2. Our day starts off with a word of the day where we grow our love of rich language and learn where words originate from, what synonyms and antonyms there are for our words, how prefixes and suffixes change words and more. Whenever we read and write, or learn through maths or inquiry, we are word detectives that thrive on growing our knowledge and understanding of words out there in our world.

Speaking & Listening is embedded into all areas of the curriculum. This term we continue to work on interaction skills including turn-taking, recognising the contributions of others, speaking clearly and using appropriate volume and pace. We are exploring different ways of expressing emotions, including verbal, visual, body language and facial expressions. We are learning about following instructions and putting our hand up before speaking. Students are able to practice their skills also as part of weekly 'Show & Tell.

## BOOST PROGRAM

The Prep -2 Boost Program is continuing on a daily basis in term 3. There are four groups of students who are withdrawn to work on their literacy skills. The 3 areas covered in this session include sounds and words activities, text reading and story book reading.

## NUMERACY

Students will explore financial mathematics (money), extend their ability to add and subtract numbers and will explore fractions. We start each day with a math review warm across all learning strands. Our math lessons are very 'hands on' oriented with students choosing materials and objects that work best for them.

This term students are moving towards learning half past times and our Grade 2 students need to focus on quarter to / quarter past times. Students continue to build their understanding of two-dimensional shapes and three-dimensional shapes. We will also be exploring length, mass and capacity in a variety of ways.

Students will continue to learn about probability and use the language of chance to describe events. They will describe and identify events as certain, possible, or impossible. Students will engage in a range of activities that allow them to develop skills to ask questions, collect data, graph their information and discuss with their peers what their data is telling them.

## INQUIRY

This term, we are focusing on the Mappen unit – Robot Buddies.

We are learning about the design process that encourages us to consider how we use objects in our lives and how we can select materials to design and build new objects.

### Investigation Into:

- Writing and following instructions
- Programming and robots
- The properties of different materials
- Designing and building new objects

### Essential Questions:

- How can I write clear instructions?
- What are the properties of different materials?
- How can I design and build new objects?

## IMPORTANT DATES

Due to the current Covid restrictions, sadly do not have any upcoming special events this term. The events we did have planned unfortunately have had to be postponed, cancelled or run online. :(

## SPECIALIST TIMETABLE

Students this term will have Music / Indonesian, Art and Phys Ed.

12A - Music / Indo, Art (Thursdays), P.E. (Fridays)

12B - Art, P.E. (Thursdays), Music / Indo (Tuesdays)

12C - P.E., Music / Indo (Thursdays), Art (Wednesdays)

## COVID PRECAUTIONS

Due to COVID restrictions changing regularly we advise you to refer to the school newsletter for the most up to date information. Hand washing and sanitising routines will continue this term as well as COVID safe practices. We ask that students remain at home if they are unwell or showing cold and flu symptoms. This is to ensure the health and safety of the school and wider community.



## GATES

To assist with student safety, all gates will be closed at 8:50am until 3:15pm. If you need to enter the school between these times, please enter through the office and sign in and out. Gates will remain closed until 8:30am the following morning. Students who arrive at school early will not be permitted into the school grounds, as there is no supervision until 8:30am and must remain at the gate or wait in the office foyer. As we write this, parents and carers are not permitted onsite.

## UNIFORM

Students are expected to wear full school uniform whilst at school. The base colour of our uniform is NAVY. Students are required to wear school hats at recess times and when outside for class activities such as PE from September 1st. White or black socks are permitted and black shoes are being phased in as part of our uniform policy and this will be a gradual process over the course of the year. Hoodies are not permitted to be worn at school. We encourage families to name all items of uniform. Echuca Twin Rivers drink bottles are also available to purchase at the office.

## ASSEMBLY

Assembly is held every fortnight in the Centre or via Webex. Assembly starts at 2:30pm. Student of the Week awards, Nights of Reading awards and Wally certificates are handed out and celebrated at each assembly.

## NEWSLETTERS

School newsletters are published once a fortnight on even weeks, beginning in Week 2. Video newsletters are created on the opposite week and uploaded to the school Facebook page and Class Dojo.

# SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

## ART



In Visual Arts this term, the students will be learning about the art areas of modelling and construction. They will be creating an art piece out of air-drying clay. The students will design art inspired by a shortlisted book during Book Week and a gift for Father's Day or a special friend. We hope to have an Art Show towards the end of term for all our families to attend. This will be determined by the restrictions at that time. Stay tuned!

## INDONESIAN & MUSIC

Students will select and make choices about their use of the elements of music as they improvise, compose, and perform. Students will learn an Indonesian song, accompanied by a dance to perform for Assembly at a later date.

In Indonesian, the students will continue to learn basic greetings. They will build on their knowledge of Indonesia and the cultural differences and similarities. Students will explore animal names in Indonesian. They will learn how masks are used in Indonesian traditional dance and make their own animal mask.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION



This term, students have been refining their athletics skills and working on the fundamental motor skills of running, jumping, dodging, throwing, catching and bouncing. They will practise combining these skills through games and circuits in preparation for the School Athletics Carnival. Students will also continue to play target games.

In Health lessons, students will continue to explore how eating healthy foods can positively impact on their health and wellbeing.