

**PUPIL FREE DAY
FRIDAY, MARCH 10**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

WELCOME & STAFF

Welcome back! We hope that the children have had an enjoyable and restful break. We are looking forward to an exciting year.

The Grade 1 teachers for 2017 are:



Ms Amy Brooks (Co-ordinator)
Ms Jordan Bridge (Assistant Co-ordinator)
Ms Nellie Driscoll
Ms Deanne Elliot
Ms Elise Hultgren
Mr Mitchell Miller

SCHOOL VALUES

Our school values are **Respect, Responsibility and Relationships**. These values will be promoted within the year level on a daily basis. The children will be participating in activities to help develop their understanding of the values, including the Iramoo Top Ten Not Negotiable Social Skills that our school community has put into place.

SCHOOL RULES

School and classroom rights and responsibilities have been discussed. The children know and understand the appropriate behaviours that they need to demonstrate. We encourage all children to be co-operative and caring members of our school community both in the classroom and in the playground.

ENGLISH

Literacy Program

Our children participate in a two hour literacy program every day. This program starts at 8.50 each morning. During the two hour session children participate in comprehensive reading and writing activities which are targeted to their individual needs. It is very important that your child arrives at school by 8:45 a.m. so that he/she does not miss out on valuable learning experiences. This term the children will be revising good habits for reading and they will be practising to read independently for longer periods of time. They will also be learning a variety of strategies to help them read unfamiliar words. In Writing, the children will be recounting personal experiences and practising how to express one idea in detail. We will be revising the alphabet letters and sounds and reading and writing three letter words such as **cat, dog, mum, red, pig**. Your child is encouraged to continue practising to read and write high frequency words at home. The students will continue their spelling and handwriting development as part of our program each week.

Take Home Books

Our children are encouraged to take home books that are *easy to read* to help develop their confidence and fluency. The reading diary is used to record your child's reading. It can also be used by you or your child's teacher as a means of communication.

A blue take home book bag is used for taking books and the reading diary to and from school each day. If your child does not have a *take home book bag*, one can be purchased at the uniform shop or the school office for \$10.

You can help your child with their home reading by:

- Reading in a quiet area (television off)
- Discussing the book first. Look at the pictures and talk about what might happen in the story
- Never criticising attempts at challenging words and concentrating on the positives
- Signing the diary each night after your child has read their book
- Ensuring that your child takes responsibility for returning their take home book every day

Library

Grade 1 children have library every second **Thursday**, on the even weeks of term. They should return their books each fortnight before their library day. We encourage you to ask your child to read the books they have borrowed and ensure that they have a library bag for their fortnightly borrowing. It is part of the school curriculum that **every child** borrows one book from the library each fortnight and this will be monitored closely.

Show & Tell

In order for 'Show & Tell' to be an interesting and relevant learning experience there will be a range of different topics. We would like your child to bring to school a maximum of two items on their Show & Tell day. You can help your child to be prepared by talking with them about what they intend to say during their presentation and helping them to find the relevant item they are going to show.

Week beginning Topic

| | |
|----------|--|
| Feb 13 | Bring in something from your holiday. This may be a toy, picture or a story. |
| Feb 20 | Bring a picture or tell a story about when you were younger. |
| Feb 27 | Bring an object or a drawing that is associated with the past. |
| March 6 | Free Choice. |
| March 13 | What you would like to be when you are older. |
| March 20 | Bring your favourite piece of clothing and tell the class about it. |
| March 27 | Free Choice. |

NUMERACY

During this term we will be concentrating on revising and understanding numbers from 0 to 50. We will be covering counting forwards and backwards, as well as recalling the numbers before and after 1 through to 50. The children will practise solving simple addition problems and will be revising place value. They will also be exploring the length of different objects and using materials such as counters and blocks to assist them with their measurement and learning.

MATHLETICS & ABC READING EGGS

We use two interactive e-learning resources called **Mathletics** and **ABC Reading Eggs** to compliment our teaching of Mathematics and English. Both programs originated in Australia.

Mathletics and **Reading Eggs** provide opportunities for your child to improve his/her mathematics and reading skills in an engaging and fun way. The primary goal is to improve mathematics results and essential reading skills.

These programs can be used online from home. Each child can use their Mathletics username and password to access both of the programs.

Mathletics can be found at www.mathletics.com.au

ABC Reading Eggs can be found at www.readingeggs.com.au

If you require further information about Mathletics and Reading Eggs please contact your child's teacher.

INTEGRATED STUDIES

The topics for this term are '**All about Me**' and '**Past & Present**'.

'All about Me'. The children will explore some of their favourite things, feelings, likes, dislikes and how they are similar and different to others. They will also learn about the importance of being SunSmart, particularly the 5 Ss- **Slip** on a t-shirt, **Slop** on sunscreen, **Slap** on a hat, **Seek** shade and **Slide** on sunglasses.

'Past & Present'. During this unit of work children will investigate what life was like in the past for their parents and grandparents. They will investigate how daily life has changed over time. They will focus on the changes in schools, games, toys, clothes, transport and technology. The children will also listen to guest speakers discuss what life was like in the past. Children are encouraged to bring along any photographs or any other items they may be able to find relating to the unit of work.

REMINDERS



All children are expected to have an art smock and library bag at school. Library bags need to be cotton or fabric and large enough to hold a regular sized picture story book. Children can use an old shirt or t-shirt for their art smock. Thank you to those parents who have already sent tissues and soap to school. It is greatly appreciated. If you haven't, please do so as soon as possible as we make very good use of them during the year.

DRESS CODE

We ask for your cooperation at the commencement of each school day by ensuring that your child is in the correct school uniform, including hair that is longer than shoulder length being tied back. Please be aware that nail polish and jewellery are not permitted. Only a watch and small stud or sleeper type earrings are acceptable.

SUNSMART



A broad brimmed or legionnaire type hat must be worn outside every day during Terms 1 and 4. Children who do not have a hat at school have to report to the library during lunchtimes and are not allowed to participate in any outdoor activities. Please check that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name. This is especially important during the hot weather with children taking their jumpers off during the day.

FOOD AND DRINKS

Children are encouraged to bring along a healthy snack, lunch and drink to school every day. Healthy lunches and snacks are important for children and help with concentration and learning. The children are encouraged to bring a plastic or metal bottle of *plain water* to school which they can leave on their work tables and drink throughout the day so that they are well hydrated. (No sweet/sticky drinks are permitted).



MEDICATION

Any medication that your child needs to take at school must be in its original container and given to the sick bay staff at the start of the day. A signed Medication Authorisation note (available from our school office) needs to be signed stating dosage and when the medication is to be taken.

PUNCTUALITY/ABSENCES



School starts at 8.50 a.m. each morning. Children who are late to school are required to obtain a late pass from the office. If your child is absent from school, a signed note is required when they return to school to explain their absence. Continued absences from school will affect the learning of your child. *It's important that your child attends school every day and arrives by 8.45 a.m.*

PARENT HELPERS

The Grade 1 teachers would greatly appreciate assistance in the classroom during the Literacy program in Term 2. This would involve assisting children with reading. If you are able to assist, please complete the attached form with details regarding when you are available and return it to your child's teacher. You will be notified when the parent helpers program will commence in your child's grade.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to an enjoyable and successful first term.

**MS JORDAN BRIDGE, MS AMY BROOKS (CO-ORDINATOR),
MS NELLIE DRISCOLL, MS DEANNE ELLIOT, MS ELISE HULTGREN & MR MITCHELL MILLER
GRADE 1 TEACHERS**

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Below is a brief outline of what all Grade 1 students will be learning about this term in our specialist areas.

Visual Arts

Grade 1 students will begin their year in Visual Arts by focusing on themselves. They will create a drawing all about themselves and their favourite things, before moving onto a collaged family portrait. They will then move onto another portrait in which they will envisage themselves in the future, asking themselves **'What might I like to be when I grow up?'** Their pictures will include the uniforms or outfits suited best to their chosen profession. The skill focus will be on drawing and colouring, collage and painting.

Performing Arts

Students will participate in musical activities that involve them keeping a regular beat and recognising and playing simple rhythm patterns. They will also be working towards recognising and experiencing high and low sounds through singing and playing as well as score reading, writing and playing. The students will use iPads to create a simple piece of music including rhythms and a melody. They will also be involved in performing a musical drama of Little Red Riding Hood and have the opportunity to play both leading and supportive roles. This year's touring performance will take place in Term 1. The performers are a Spanish group and students will prepare for the performance by singing and playing accompaniment to songs that will be included in the show.

Physical Education (P.E.)

Grade 1 students will begin the year by being reminded that Physical Education is a fun and engaging way to stay fit and healthy. Students will learn the importance of doing their best and participating in a range of games that require teamwork and following rules. Throughout the term students will be training for our Iramoo Junior Cross Country where they will be developing their running endurance. Parents are encouraged to help prepare students by supporting training at home. Our Junior Cross Country will be held on **Monday, March 27** and students are encouraged to do their best. Students will also work towards improving their throwing and catching through focused activities and exciting games. Lessons will then move to kicking with an emphasis on kicking a ball to a target and in a straight line. Each skill throughout the term will be demonstrated to the students and they will have an opportunity to practise these skills in groups, with a partner and individually.

****Spectators are welcome to take photographs at our school events but must of course be respectful of their use on social or other media, not posting a photo of any child without permission from the child's parent.**

Information & Communication Technology (I.C.T)

Students in Grade 1 will begin their work in Computer classes this year by revising the rules and routines expected in the computer room and when using iPads and laptops in the classroom. They will then explore and learn about musical instruments and compose their own tunes using the Groovy Music program. This work will be supporting music concepts covered in Performing Arts lessons. They will then use their computer time to explore the theme of 'Me.'. This will involve students importing digital photographs of themselves into the Kid Pix graphics program. They will decorate their picture and use text to introduce and communicate something about themselves.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to an enjoyable and successful first term.

If you need to drive to school, get your child into the habit of using the kerbside doors, away from traffic.



To be returned to school by Friday, February 24, 2017



IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 5152

GRADE 1 PARENT HELPER

CHILD'S NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME _____ (PLEASE PRINT)

I am interested in helping with reading in the Grade 1 classroom from the **beginning of Term 2**. I can help on:

Please tick your preferred day(s):

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

Your child's classroom teacher will notify you shortly to inform when this will commence.