

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back to Term 2. We hope you had an enjoyable break. It is great to see the children settle into the term so quickly.

IMPORTANT DATES

First school Tuesday of every month

Thursday, May 4

Friday, May 5

Friday, May 12

Monday, May 22– Friday, May 26

Monday, June 12

Thursday, June 29

Friday, June 30

Monday, July 17

Ride/Walk to School Day

Animal Land Farm Excursion – 1JB, 1MM, 1EH

Animal Land Farm Excursion – 1AB, 1DE, 1ND

Mother's Day Stall

Education Week

Queens Birthday – Public Holiday

Parent/Teacher interviews (Pupil Free day)

Roll-a-thon

Last day of Term 2 (2.30 p.m. finish)

First day Term 3

CURRICULUM

The children will participate in a range of *Reading, Writing and Speaking & Listening* activities every day.

Reading – Our reading program promotes a love of books and reading! The children will continue to practise different reading strategies while reading 'just right' books. They will learn about the features and purpose of nonfiction books and they will be taught the comprehension skills of questioning and summarising.

All children participate in Independent Reading on a daily basis for approximately 15 minutes. This involves children choosing and reading 'just right' books (i.e. books that match their level of ability and interests) from the classroom library to practise their reading skills and strategies.

Writing – Children will continue practising the skills and strategies of good writers. They will be encouraged to write the letters of the alphabet using the correct size and shape on dotted thirds paper. The children will write responses to the poetry they have read during Reading. They will also participate in personal writing using three page books.

Speaking & Listening – The children will be encouraged to talk about and describe their personal experiences in detail. They will learn to listen and take turns during Show & Tell, class discussions and group work.

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, practising their presentation and helping them to stay on topic.

Week beginning Topic

Week 1	Bring in something from your holiday. This may be a toy, picture or a story.
Week 2	Tell us about your favourite farm animal. You may like to bring a picture or do some research.
Week 3	Free choice.
Week 4	Tell us about your favourite thing we did at the farm.
Week 5	Tell us about a special female in your life. You may want to bring a picture or photo.
Week 6	Tell us about your favourite thing to learn at school. You may like to bring in a piece of work you have done at home or at school.
Week 7	Talk about your favourite book, you may want to bring it in to show the class.
Week 8	Free choice
Week 9	Talk about your favourite food to make with your family, you may want to bring in a picture or a recipe to show the class.
Week 10	Tell us about your garden. You might like to discuss any plants or flowers you have, or bring in something from your garden to show us.
Week 11	Free choice

NUMERACY

This term the areas that will be covered include counting forwards and backwards by 1s, 2s, 5s & 10s starting at various numbers between 1 and 100. We will also be focusing on money, addition and subtraction, fractions, 2D and 3D shapes and telling time to the hour and half hour on an analogue clock and digital clock.

INTEGRATED STUDIES AND SCIENCE

The Grade 1 children will be studying the topic *'From Farm to Fork'* this term. They will be looking at where our food comes from and how it makes its way to our fork. Each Tuesday during Term 2, the children will also be participating in weekly Science lessons with Ms Keryn Lowe. In these lessons, they will be participating in learning experiences that reinforce, support and extend the classroom program.

ANIMAL LAND CHILDREN'S FARM EXCURSION

To further extend the children's knowledge and understanding of food and where it comes from, we will be going to Animal Land Children's Farm on **Thursday, May 4 (1JB, 1MM, 1EH) and Friday, May 5 (1AB, 1DE, 1ND)**. Children will be involved in a range of hands-on farm activities.

MATHLETICS & ABC READING EGGS

We will continue to use the Mathletics and ABC Reading Eggs programs to complement our teaching of Mathematics and English. Mathletics and ABC Reading Eggs provide opportunities for your child to improve his/her mathematics and reading skills in an engaging and fun way.

Each child has their own username and password in order to access the programs. These can be found in the front of your child's reading diary.

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

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

PROGRAM ACHIEVE 'YOU CAN DO IT'



This term students will learn about the very important concepts of **Getting Along, Confidence** and **Persistence, Organisation and Resilience** as part of our Program Achieve social skills program. **Getting Along** is the ability to mix well with others, to be tolerant and non-judgemental, to be able to think through problems independently and to work within accepted rules of the school and classroom. The activities on **Getting Along** are designed to teach students about helping others with schoolwork, working nicely in small groups, and managing your temper when someone is mean to you or doesn't do what you want.

HOMEWORK

Take Home Reading

Children are expected to **read their take home book at home every day**. It is important that you listen to your child read each night and sign their reading diary. There are also many pages in the diary that have useful ideas for parents to become actively involved in home reading. Children are encouraged to read at home for approximately 10 minutes each day.

Children take home books that they can read easily to help develop confidence, fluency and enjoyment of reading. They read more challenging books at school.

Spelling Homework

Spelling homework will commence this term. Your child will have a series of activities to complete each week based on their spelling words and to compliment the work we do in the classroom. It will be sent home on Monday and will need to be returned to school on Thursday each week. This should only take approximately 10 minutes to complete each night.

How to assist your child at home

You don't need to be familiar with the content of what your child is learning at school to be able to greatly assist them to further develop their skills at home. Work completed by your child at home is only a revision of what they have been taught at school. Below are some useful ideas you might like to consider in order to further assist your child at home.

You can help your child with reading by:

- Making reading time a special quiet time away from distractions (especially the television/ tablet).
- Getting to know a book first before you actually begin to read it. Talk about the cover, title, look through the pictures and discuss what the book may be about.
- Using the **3 Ps**:
 - **Pause** Allow a little time for your child to check the pictures and the words to try to work out the meaning.
 - **Prompt** Give a hint such as "Get your mouth ready to say the word? What word might make sense there?"
 - **Praise** all efforts. If your child is still unsure after a try, tell them the word so they don't lose the meaning of the story.
- Ensuring that your child takes responsibility for returning their take home book every day.

You can help your child with spelling by:

- Having them spell the words aloud, practise writing the word multiple times, look at the shape of the words and put them in a sentence.
- Ensuring that your child takes responsibility for his/her spelling booklet (it should be kept in the plastic pocket in the take home reading bag).

You can assist your child with maths at home by:

- Counting forwards and backwards by 1s to 100 starting at different numbers.
- Skip counting by 2s, 5s and 10s.
- Discussing house numbers or birth dates. Is the house number or birth date odd or even? Can you say it as a two digit or three-digit number.
- Playing dice games – Roll one die and subtract that number from 10 (increase to 20). Children can solve the problem using drawings or counters or mental arithmetic.
- Asking your child to tell the time on an *analogue* clock (o'clock and half past).
- Encouraging your child to tell you the days of the week and months of the year in order.

LIBRARY

Most students have continued to borrow from the library with enthusiasm. We will be following up students who have not been borrowing regularly. It's important for your child to have a library bag. You can also assist by reminding your child to bring his/her library books the day before his/her library day and promote the expectation that he/she borrows a new book each week. Grade 1 children have their library session every second Thursday.

ACTIVE TRAVEL TO SCHOOL

A reminder that every Tuesday is **Ride2School** day at Iramoo. Children are encouraged to be active travellers on that day. If it's not on their bike, children are encouraged to walk. Please remember that bikes are the only things children should be riding to school, i.e. no scooters, skateboards or similar and that they must wear a helmet. Children who ride or walk to school will be entered into a raffle and could win a special prize for their efforts. Grade Prep, 1 and 2 students who ride to school must do so under the supervision of an adult.



PUNCTUALITY & ATTENDANCE

It is very important that your child attends school daily and arrives by 8:45am to ensure that they do not miss out on valuable learning opportunities. 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 to explain their absence.



SHOE LACES

We have noticed a number of children with loose shoelaces. *Please teach your child how to tie their own laces.* While they are learning to do this please also ensure that laces are double knotted.



KIDS & FRUIT



It is great to see the children munching on a **healthy piece of fruit or vegetable** each morning. If your child does not participate in our school Kids & Fruit program it is important for him/her to have a piece of fruit (or healthy snack such as sultanas, carrots, etc.) from home so that it can be eaten during our fruit break. Eating fruit/vegetables is part of our morning routine and plays an important part in establishing healthy eating patterns throughout life.

DRINKS

We continue to encourage students to bring a bottle of plain water to drink throughout the day. No sweet drinks please.

WET DAY GAMES

During the cooler months when it is raining, it is inevitable that students spend some of their time inside during break times. In order to keep them occupied and entertained, it is a good idea to allow your child to bring in a game or two from home to play. We encourage all parents to let children bring their board games to school on wet weather days (no electronic games please).

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As the weather becomes cooler and our children change from wearing summer uniform to warmer winter uniform items, please encourage your child to bring his/her jacket/coat to school. These are not to be worn inside the classroom. Please make sure that your child does not wear any non-uniform items over his/her uniform. If you feel that the weather is especially cold, he/she may wear additional items *beneath* their uniform provided they cannot be seen. Remember to ensure that all of these items of clothing are labelled clearly with your child's name.



PARENT HELPERS

Thank you to the parents who have offered to assist us with reading every week. It is greatly appreciated and we look forward to working with you this term.

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

To coincide with their Integrated Studies theme **'From Farm to Table'** Grade 1 students will make 'food' inspired art this term. They will begin with a collage activity that will involve them making a tasty burger before moving onto a gorgeous mixed media ice cream cone, complete with bead and sequin sprinkles. As well as a paper pizza covered with all their favourite toppings, students will create a zany pasta hair portrait. The skill focus will be on collaging, construction and presentation modes.

Performing Arts

Students will continue to participate in musical activities that involve listening, singing, moving, playing and creating. These activities will help students further develop skills in and understanding of the musical elements such as beat, rhythm, pitch, dynamics and tempo. When learning about pitch they will create their own melodies and pitch maps using the iPad app Tune Train. They will also be involved in creating and presenting a rock video clip performed to a popular song. Students will learn about opera through an interactive whiteboard presentation and will create their own operas in small groups using the iPad app Opera Maker. At the end of the term, students will participate in karaoke activities.

Physical Education (P.E.)

Throughout this term, students will participate in a range of skill-based activities. To start the term students will be working with skipping ropes, developing basic skills in turning the rope and forward skipping. Students will continue to work on the basic ball skills including bouncing, rolling, throwing and catching. They will be using a range of ball sizes to enhance their hand eye coordination and tracking skills. Students will have the skills demonstrated to them and will be given the opportunity to practise in groups, with a partner and by themselves. Students will also continue to work on their running technique throughout the term in various games and activities. We then move onto gymnastics, learning and practising basic gymnastic skills, focusing on body management, control and awareness. The program is aimed at developing coordination, mobility, strength, endurance, balance, health and good posture habits. Each student will be given individual verbal feedback to assist his or her progress.

Information & Communication Technology (I.C.T)

After revising the ICT rules, routines and computer logins, the Grade 1 students spent a large part of their lesson time in Term 1 working with the exciting new online version of Groovy Music. This initially involved the children becoming familiar with finding and navigating Google Chrome, in particular using the Bookmarks Bar and the password storage feature. In Term 2 the students will be introduced to a digital calendar and focus on navigating to specific dates and creating events to mark special events such as birthdays. Students will then use Kid Pix and Comic Life to arrange, display and label the photos taken on the Grade 1 farm excursion.

Science

Spot the Difference/ Look! Listen!

Science is an essential area of learning that allows students to have an understanding and make sense of the world around them. Grade 1 will have a specialist science teacher for one lesson each week this term. The lessons will be completed alongside the students' classroom teacher and focus on scientific knowledge, human endeavour and enquiry learning.

Grade 1 will begin Term 2 with the topic: **'Spot the Difference'**. This topic will focus on solids and liquids and how they change when heated or cooled. Students will learn how to carefully observe food ingredients and look at changes when food is cooked. Students will start to make simple predictions and ask scientific questions about what they see and do.

At the end of the term, Grade 1 students will complete a short unit on **'Look, Listen'**, where they will explore different sounds and light at home and at school. In groups, students explore light sources and how vibration creates the sound we hear.

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

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