

Year 1 Curriculum Update

Term 4, 2026

This update is to let you know what is happening in the Year 1 classes this term and how you can support your child at home.



Literacy

This term, students will explore a range of engaging texts that encourage curiosity, creativity and discussion. Through reading, speaking and writing activities, they will build their vocabulary, develop their understanding of different types of texts and grow in confidence when sharing their ideas. Students will continue to strengthen their reading, writing and communication skills through a variety of enjoyable and purposeful activities.

Text 1: Where the Forest Meets the Sea

Students will develop their understanding of characters, settings and events in a story. They will make connections to their own experiences, learn new vocabulary and practise putting sentences in the correct order. Students will also strengthen their writing skills by using words such as because, but and so to join ideas and create more detailed sentences. Through the text, they will explore themes including connection to place, the passage of time and caring for the environment.

Text 2: Looking After Country with Fire

Students will explore a text that combines different types of information and learn how persuasive language can be used to share ideas and opinions. They will build their vocabulary, practise using different types of sentences and develop their writing skills by creating a persuasive paragraph. Through the text, students will explore themes including caring for Country, learning from Elders, cultural knowledge about fire and the connection between people and nature.

Text 3: The Imagineer

Students will explore a fiction picture book alongside a non-fiction text, building their understanding of the topic and making connections between the two. They will practise retelling stories, learn new vocabulary and develop their writing skills by creating sentences using alliteration. Students will also learn how to complete sentences using if and when. Through the texts, they will explore themes including imagination and creativity, relationships between different generations, innovation and problem-solving, and ways we can recycle and reuse materials.

Text 4: Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge

Students will practise retelling and comparing stories. They will explore rhythm in texts, learn new vocabulary and develop their writing skills by creating and editing simple sentences. Students will also write their own story using ideas and elements from a familiar story. Through the text, they will explore themes including memory, friendship between generations, empathy, kindness, identity and the special meaning that objects can hold.

PhOrMeS (Phonics and Spelling)

In Phonics and Spelling we are continuing with the PhOrMeS curriculum. The focus is to read and spell:

- words with the 'wr', 'kn' and 'gn' codes, e.g. wrap, knee, gnome.
- words with the 'qu' code, e.g. queen, quit, quack.
- the 'ck' vs 'k' rule, if you have a short vowel followed by a /k/ sound, use ck to protect that short vowel e.g. sock, luck, stick.
- the 'dge' vs 'ge' rule, if you have a short vowel followed by a /j/ sound, use dge to protect that short vowel, e.g. edge, bridge, smudge.
- the 'tch' vs 'ch' rule, if you have a short vowel followed by a /ch/ sound, use tch to protect that short vowel, e.g. match, fetch, witch.

Through PhOrMeS, students will strengthen phonics and spelling skills by:

- Learning sound-letter relationships.
- Blending and segmenting words.
- Applying spelling patterns in reading and writing.
- Formal handwriting skills.

Numeracy

This term, students will continue to build their mathematical skills and confidence. They will develop their problem-solving skills and learn to apply their mathematical thinking to a range of everyday situations.

Data

In this unit, students will learn how to collect, organise and make sense of information. They will explore how to ask clear questions that help us gather useful information and practise creating questions about topics that interest them. Students will collect information using simple surveys and observations, then organise their findings using tally charts and picture graphs. They will investigate fun topics such as favourite colours and foods and learn how to use the information they collect to answer questions and make comparisons.

Location

In this unit, students will build on their understanding of position and direction. They will practise using words such as left, right, above and below, as well as ordinal numbers such as first, second and third, to describe where things are. Students will also learn to follow and give simple directions using written instructions, symbols and grids. They will use these skills to move objects and find their way from one place to another, building their confidence with problem-solving and spatial awareness.

Measurement (time)

Students will build on their understanding of time by learning about days, weeks, months and years. They will practise putting the days of the week and months of the year in order and explore how many days are in each month and in a year. Students will also learn about larger periods of time, such as decades and centuries. They will continue developing their skills with analogue clocks and practise telling the time to the hour.

Shape

In this unit, students will build their understanding of two-dimensional (flat) shapes and three-dimensional (solid) objects. They will learn to name, identify and describe different shapes and explore what makes each shape unique. Students will also have lots of opportunities to create, draw and sort shapes using hands-on materials such as popsticks, pipe cleaners, geoboards and paper. They will explore three-dimensional objects through practical activities, helping them recognise and describe shapes in the world around them.

Addition and Subtraction

Students will build their confidence with addition and subtraction numbers up to 20. They will use strategies such as counting on, counting back and using number lines to solve problems efficiently. Students will also explore ways to add several numbers together and practise breaking apart two-digit numbers to help them solve calculations. Through hands-on activities and problem-solving, they will develop a range of strategies to help them work with numbers confidently.

Humanities

This term, students will explore the geography, culture and beliefs of Ancient Egypt, with a particular focus on the importance of the Nile River. They will learn how the yearly flooding of the Nile provided the resources needed for people to live and helped Ancient Egyptian civilisation grow. Students will discover what life was like for pharaohs and everyday people, as well as exploring pyramids, mummies, gods and goddesses, hieroglyphs and famous pharaohs such as Tutankhamun and Hatshepsut. Through their learning, students will develop an understanding of how the Ancient Egyptians built a complex civilisation that lasted for thousands of years.

Social and Emotional Learning

In **Respectful Relationships**, students will develop their skills in working with others, making decisions and solving problems. They will explore different ways to manage conflict, understand that people can have different points of view and identify ways to work cooperatively as part of a group. Through discussions, scenarios and practical activities, students will practise making individual and group decisions and learn strategies for solving simple problems with others.

In **Cyber Safety**, students will develop their critical thinking and digital skills. They will learn how to think carefully about the information they see and use technology safely and responsibly. We will also explore what it means to be kind, respectful and responsible when communicating and interacting online.

Learning at Home

You can support your child's learning by:

- Reading together daily and discussing stories
- Encouraging nightly reading journal entries
- Practising basic maths facts in everyday situations
- Encouraging correct spelling and sounding out words
- Talking with your child about what they are learning at school

Reminders and Dates for the Calendar

- Monday 19th October - CoTA Dress Rehearsal
- Thursday 22nd October - CoTA
- Friday 30th October - Ride2School Day

- Monday 2nd November - Student Free Day
- Tuesday 3rd November - Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
- Tuesday 17th November - Transition Session #1
- Friday 20th November - Mad Bad Hair Day
- Tuesday 24th November - Transition Session #2
- Tuesday 1st December- Transition Session #3
- Friday 4th December - Italian Day
- Friday 18th December - End of Term 4, early dismissal 1:30pm