

Grade 2/3 Newsletter

Term 1, 2024

Teachers: Mr Roberts, Mr Beaton & Miss Willis

ES: Chelsea & Clay

Welcome

Welcome back! We hope you all had an enjoyable break with lots of quality family time. Both classes have come back extremely settled and had a wonderful start to the year. We have welcomed Megan into the 2/3 team and Ceres community and have been lucky to have the amazing support of our two Education Support members, Chelsea and Clay. If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to pop in before the start of the day, end of the day, message in diaries or via email.

Parent Helpers

We would love to see many different parent helpers throughout the year. If you are able to help, please contact your child's teacher. Parents and carers must have a valid Working with Children Check and have completed an induction with Mrs Goward. More information about these sessions will be provided shortly. We especially appreciate support in the mornings for reading and Fridays before lunch for any avid gardeners who would like to assist with our Inquiry topic and help students in the yard planting, watering, weeding and composting.

Morning Routine

We have spent a lot of time in the first few weeks building routines that are consistent across each day and provide students with a calm start to the day. In 2/3 we encourage independence which includes students organising their belongings at the start of the day by putting their bags away, getting their book box ready and changing their readers before heading off for a play. We have a poster on the front door to remind students of their morning routine. If you're running late, please escort your child to the office for a late pass and sign them in at the office.



Literacy

This Term our Reading sessions will focus on setting up our expectations in the classroom and organising our books and reading protocols. We have started identifying our reading preferences, what helps us to read and the characteristics of different books. The students have been engaging in a class text and enjoyed sharing some of their favourite books and characters with the class. We love it when students bring in books to share with the class and encourage students to do so if they wish. Students have also begun engaging in a new phonemic awareness program called Heggerty. These lessons are short 8-12 minute lessons that focus on phonemic awareness skills that will be of great benefit to our students' reading and writing progression.

Take home readers and independent reading are a major part of our Reading program. Students are encouraged to change readers as often as possible and are given time to do this throughout the day. A major emphasis is placed on reading nights and students receive a certificate and major classroom excitement from everyone when they achieve reading nights in 25 day intervals. Students will also be able to borrow MARC books every Friday with Mrs Lang. Students will also have an EPIC account which allows access to a large amount of online books and offers students the chance to listen to texts.



In Writing, students will focus on creating ideas in their Writer's Notebooks, called seeds, that they will develop into their own texts as the year goes on. One activity we have already completed was a heart map where students listed all the things that mean the most to them and have a special place in their heart. They then were able to choose one item from their heart and develop it into a recount, story or poem. Handwriting will continue to be a focus for all students and we have purchased sky, grass and ground handwriting books for all students to assist with letter formation.

Numeracy

In Term 1, students will primarily focus on extending their Number knowledge of counting, patterns and computation for addition and subtraction. We will also explore topics such as calendars, using formal units of measurement, 2D and 3D shapes, location, chance experiments and making data displays. Students will have opportunities to build their problem solving and reasoning skills through challenging maths tasks weekly with varying levels of challenge to suit all learning abilities. All students have access to Mathletics, which is a great tool to reinforce learning from the classroom at home in game-based learning. Students have their passwords in their diaries or saved on their iPads. If your child is having any difficulties with logging in at home, please see one of our friendly teachers for assistance.

Inquiry

We have decided to implement a yearly focus for our Inquiry topic on the environment. This topic will allow us to cross into many other curriculum areas and provide a chance for students to engage in school pride and look to improve our school grounds. Some topics students will engage in for the first term will be composting, bird watching and feeders and planting vegetables in the vegie garden. This will lead to opportunities for cooking and selling some market items to our school community.

Values and Resilience Project

Values lessons are held every Monday morning and focus on Super 7 values and Respectful Relationships. More on the Respectful Relationships program can be found at this website.

<https://www.vic.gov.au/respectful-relationships#what-respectful-relationships-is>

Resilience Project lessons occur every Thursday. Each student will continue to complete their own 'Resilience Project' journal and **The Resilience Project** is committed to teaching positive mental health strategies to prevent mental ill-health and build young people's capacity to deal with adversity.

Teachers and students will engage in weekly lessons and activities around the key principles of Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness (GEM), and Emotional Literacy to build resilience.

Check out their website for more information:

<https://theresilienceproject.com.au/>

Also take some time to look at the parent/carer hub

<https://theresilienceproject.com.au/2023-parent-carer-hub-engage/>



Uniform

TOP CHOICES	BOTTOM CHOICES	ADDITIONAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Checked dress with navy necktie, white Peter Pan collar and cuffs• Short or long sleeve sky blue or navy blue polo top with school emblem• Two tone sky blue and navy blue windcheater• Navy Blue bomber jacket	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Navy and white check short• Navy skort• Navy shorts-no emblems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• White or navy socks• Plain black or white sneakers or black school shoes• Ceres Navy blue logo hat-quick release strap

A friendly reminder to please stick to the uniform choices listed above and please do not mix clothing together (ie. pants under a dress).

Dates to Remember for Term 1:

26th Feb - Pupil Free Day

4th - 8th March - Swimming Program

11th March - Labour Day Holiday

13th March - School Photos

15th March - Parents Open Afternoon

16th March - Bunnings BBQ & Cake Stall

18th - 25th March - NAPLAN

28th March - Last Day of Term 1 (2pm Finish)

Timetables

Class 2/3BR					
Class2/ 3BR	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:45-9: 45	Values	Heggerty/Reading	Heggerty/Reading	Heggerty/Reading	Heggerty/Reading
	Heggerty/Reading				
9:45-10 :45	Writing	Cultural Studies	Writing	Writing	MARC
					Writing
10:45 -11:10	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
11:10-1 2:10	Maths	STEM	PE	Maths	Maths
12:10-1 :10	EPIC reading/assessments	Maths	ART	Resilience Project	Inquiry
1:10-2: 00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
2:00-3: 00	Inquiry	Writing	Maths	Inquiry	Class meeting/assembly

Class 2/3W					
Class2/ 3BR	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:45-9:45	Values	Hegerty/Reading	Hegerty/Reading	Hegerty/Reading	Hegerty/Reading
	Hegerty/Reading				
9:45-10:45	Writing	STEM	Writing	Writing	Writing
					MARC 10:15-10:45
10:45-11:10	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess	Recess
11:10-12:10	Maths	Cultural	Art	Maths	Maths
12:10-1:10	Epic reading/free reading Assessment	Maths	PE	Resilience Project	Inquiry
1:10-2:00	Lunch - Duties?	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
2:00-3:00	Inquiry	Writing	Maths	Inquiry	Class meeting/Assembly

Meeting times

We are in meetings and unavailable at the following times:

Tuesday	3.15pm- 4:35pm	Professional Learning Community Meeting
Wednesday	3:15pm- 4:35pm	Staff Briefing/Curriculum-Wellbeing Meeting

Organisation Reminders

- We ask that all students arrive at school by 8.40am so that they have time to set up their desk, put their diary in the tub, and be ready for independent reading at 8:45.
- A reminder that supervision time starts at 8.35am so students can enter the classroom then.
- Students are expected to bring their iPads to school every day, charged for the day's learning. We do use iPads on most days to complete assessments, research and post on Seesaw.
- If picking up or dropping off your child during class time please sign them in/out at the office. A staff member will call their classroom to make their way up to the office.
- If you are parked on the other side of the carpark, please ensure your child crosses the road safely. We also remind you that the carpark is on a major arterial road and that parking in the left hand turning lane puts everyone's safety at risk.
- Assemblies are now held each fortnight at 2:30pm on a Friday (this Term they are on odd weeks). We will contact you if your child is receiving an award.



Disclaimer: Staff at Ceres Primary School access their work emails between 8:35am - 4:35pm (Monday to Wednesday) 8:35am - 3:35pm (Thursday and Friday) and will endeavour to respond within 48 hours. Staff are not expected to respond in this timeframe during weekends, public holidays and term breaks.