



A Bit About Stage 1

Meet the team...



Mrs Suzanne Alameddine
1/2 Aviators



Miss Tugba Kopuz
1/2 Travellers



Mrs Fatima Idris
1/2 Impact Makers
(Mon, Wed and Thurs)



Mrs Endriana Mawarzi
1/2 Impact Makers
(Tues and Fri)



Mrs Sarah Mellish
Assistant Principal
Stage 1



Mrs Christine Maatouk
Relieving Assistant
Principal - Stage 1



Our Journey, Our Future

This year, Stage 1 students are beginning an exciting learning journey. Our school theme for 2026, **Our Journey, Our Future**, represents growth, progress and the idea that every experience helps shape who we become.

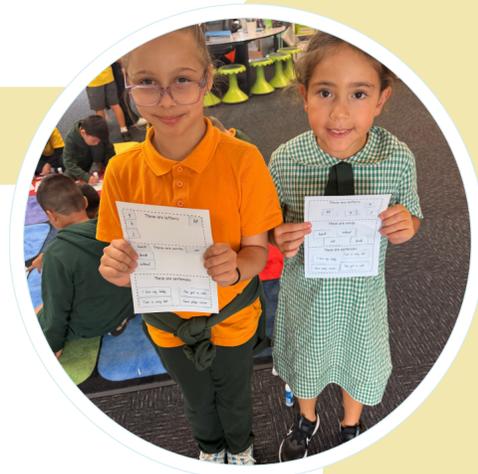
Every teacher has chosen a class name that reflects movement, growth or direction - reminding students that learning is a journey we take together.

The names of the **Stage 1 classes** are:

1/2 Aviators are learning to dream big, take risks in their learning and soar confidently toward their future.

1/2 Impact Makers are learning that their choices matter and that they can make a positive difference every day.

1/2 Travellers are learning to embrace curiosity and resilience as they move forward on their learning journey.



Rise and Shine

School starts at 8.58am.

Please try to ensure your child arrives before this time.

A calm and punctual start helps students feel settled and ready to continue their learning journey.

Thank you for supporting us in maximising learning time for all students.



Class DOJO

Stage 1 teachers invite families to stay connected and involved in their child's learning journey through Class Dojo.

You can access Class Dojo online or via the app, available on Google Play, the Play Store or the Apple App Store.

Teachers will send home a note with your unique access code and instructions to help create your account and follow your child's progress throughout the year.

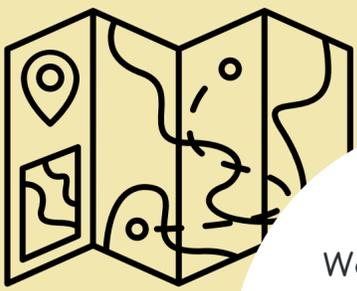


School Bytes

School Bytes is an online website and app that GEPS uses to make school admin easier. Parents can use it to pay for excursion costs, sign permission notes, check attendance, and get school updates.

Please make sure to download the School Bytes app to connect with our school or you can use this QR code to take you straight to the login page.





Homework

We are often asked about homework and how parents can support their child's learning at home. Homework for Stage 1 students can include:

Reading every day - Home reading program
Writing - a response to the home reading book
Sight word practice - practice reading and writing (for some children)

Maths - Scan the QR codes for some maths games you can play with your child at home



Learning Centres

'Learning Centres' provide students with exciting and interesting learning experiences to practice and enhance their learning.

The centres are based on the philosophy of play-based learning.

Teachers have a clear learning focus and students are expected to use their creativity to explore a wide range of ideas and interests and are given the time to think deeply about their learning.



GEPSTAR



GEPS celebrates the success of ALL students

Students can be awarded a GEPSTAR anytime throughout the school day when they show they are being proud, courageous, or respectful. Make sure to keep all the awards safe... collect more and hand them in to receive certificates!

Each week, students will be focusing on a different skill, behaviour or action that will support them in being proud, courageous and respectful students.



Uniforms

A school uniform teaches students to dress smartly and take pride in their appearance. At GEPS, we expect children to wear their uniform each day.

Our school uniform includes the following:



Learning is not a race, but a journey we take together!

Term 1 Overview - weeks 2 - 5

Stage 1 - Focuses

- Helping students move from one activity to another with clear guidance and minimal disruption.
- Establishing predictable structures and reinforcing expected behaviors throughout the day.
- Supporting the development of friendships and respectful, cooperative relationships.
- Giving students opportunities to review their work, understand feedback, and apply it to future learning.



Literacy

In Reading, students will:

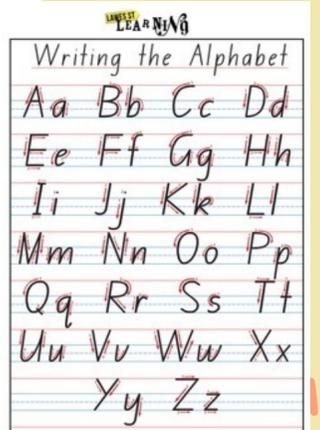
- Read independently for 10–15 minutes (Year 1) or 15 minutes or more (Year 2).
- Take part in guided class and small-group discussions e.g. sharing thoughts about a character, retelling part of the story, or responding to a peer's comment during guided reading.
- Ask and answer questions about a story read aloud e.g. answering "Who was your favourite character and why?" or asking "Why did the character feel sad?"

In Writing, students will:

- Write a simple complete sentence on a given topic, using a capital letter and full stop (Year 1) e.g. I can see a dog at the park.
- Write one or more connected sentences on a topic, using capital letters, full stops, and beginning to use other punctuation (Year 2) e.g. I can see a brown dog running across the park.
- Form letters correctly and write legibly
- e.g. letters are formed from the correct starting point, sit on the line, and are spaced clearly between words.
- Recognise and spell familiar sight words, using basic decoding strategies

In Phonics, students will:

- Use a range of strategies to sound out sight words, familiar and unfamiliar
- Identify short vowel sounds in words (e.g. cat, sip, egg).



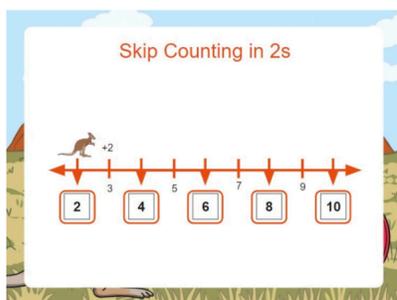
Mathematics

In whole number, students will:

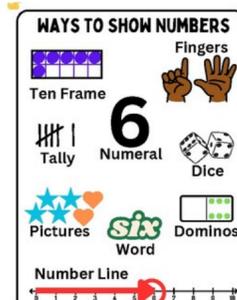
- Recognise, name and write numbers correctly
- Represent numbers in a variety of ways
- Use number knowledge to identify and describe friends of ten and friends of 20 e.g. $6+4 = 10$, $16 + 4 = 20$

In Patterns and Algebra, students will:

- Count forwards and backwards by 1s, 5s and 10s, Year 2 will practice counting by 10s off the decade e.g. 3, 13, 23, 33, 43, 53...
- Investigate and describe number patterns formed by skip counting and patterns with objects.
- Recognise and create simple number sentences involving addition or subtraction e.g. $5 + 3 = 8$, $15 + 2 = 17$, $10 - 4 = 6$



$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{addend} & \text{addend} & \text{sum} \\ \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow \\ 9 & + & 6 = 15 \\ \uparrow & \uparrow & \\ \text{addition sign} & \text{equals sign} & \end{array}$$



Term 1 Overview - weeks 2 - 5

Think Tank

Three times over this term, Stage 1 teachers will meet and collaborate to write new learning programs, share ideas, and reflect on teaching and learning practices. During these sessions Stage 1 students will learn about plants and living things through the new Science and Technology syllabus. They will explore how plants grow and change over time, observing them closely using their senses and simple tools. Students will also learn that information can be collected through careful observation.

Students will:

- Group living and non-living things and explain their thinking
- Plant a seed and observe the changes as it grows
- Learn about the plant life cycle
- Collect information through close observation and images
- Record their learning using drawings, photographs, and simple descriptions
- Learn that Aboriginal Peoples have observed plant and animal life cycles for thousands of years



These lessons support students in developing observation skills, asking questions, and beginning to think like scientists.



Other learning Opportunities

- **Sports** - students will participate in a variety of group games every Friday with Stage 1 teachers
- **PB4L** - Students will be participating in lessons about our school expectations.
- **Art** - students will create a range of art works focused on themselves
- **Music** - Students will be continuing their music lessons through Amplify

What can you do at home with your child

Reading - Choose a book to read together. While reading, look for something red, something blue, something green, and something yellow.

Writing - Write a sentence about your favourite part of the book you read.

Maths - Number Hunt: Have your child write the numbers 0-9 on separate pieces of paper. Hide the numbers around the house and ask your child to find them all. Once they have collected every number, have them place the numbers in the correct order.

Challenge: Extend the activity by using numbers 0-20.



Things to Look Forward to...

GEPSFEST assembly runs every Monday morning in the hall at 9am - Everyone is welcome!

Thursday 12th Febuary

- Community BBQ at 2.15pm - Come along to meet your child's teacher and enjoy a free sausage sizzle and ice-cream.
- Look out for our Newsletter - coming out on School Bytes

Monday 16th Febuary - Stage 1's first Think Tank

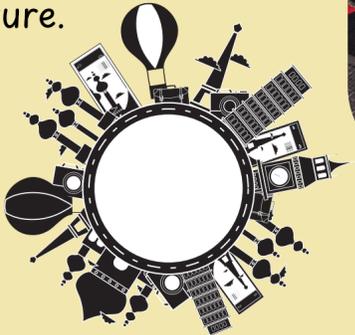
Monday 2nd March - Gold Badge Assembly at 9am in the hall





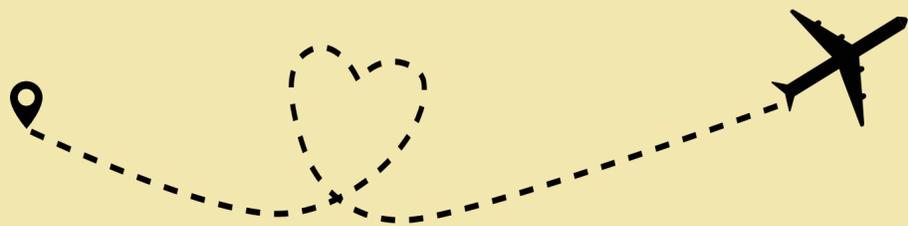
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Trust your
JOURNEY