

Welcome to Term 1 2019. We hope everyone has enjoyed a lovely break and are ready for all learning term 1 will bring. We are 'The Rockstars' and we are going to rock our learning this year.

### English:

To start the year, our major focus will be on building writing stamina and working our way through the 6 + 1 writing traits. These are:

1. **Ideas** – the main message.
2. **Organisation** – the internal structure of the piece.
3. **Voice** – the personal tone and flavor of the author's message.
4. **Word Choice** – the vocabulary a write chooses to convey meaning
5. **Sentence Fluency** – the rhythm and flow of the language
6. **Conventions** – the mechanical correctness like punctuation.
7. **Presentation** – how the writing looks on the page.

We will be exploring various types of writing and the features of these as we link our learning to other areas of our learning. Each student has a writing kit where they will 'have a go' with tricky spelling, collate all their work samples, and keep their feedback from teacher conferencing.

In **reading**, we will work on our CAFÉ strategies (Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanding Vocabulary). We will explore a range of texts to support our work in writing and develop our understanding of the relationship between reading and writing. Students will continue to build their spelling and grammar through focused skill building.

Students will be grouped across the 4 classes for 'letters and sounds' where we will work on our sound and letter correspondence, learn sight words and practice our writing and articulation of sounds.

### Mathematics:

Students will participate in daily mathematics learning and activities in...

**Number** – understanding number facts and skip counting by 1, 2, 5 and 10, both forwards and backwards and from 0 as well as other starting points; looking at patterns with numbers and missing numbers in sequences

**Length** – comparing lengths using finger length, hands span or a piece of string; ordering lengths

**3D Shapes** – naming shapes and labelling the vertices, faces and sides.

**Money** – Matching coins with the correct denomination and coin combinations to \$1.00.

**Mass** – Children will play with sand and water as they discover different ways to weight things.

**Time** – Telling time to the hour and half hour, moving into quarter past and quarter to; exploring the seasons and looking at the calendar and months of the year

**Fractions** – Students will explore half and quarter fractions

'**How do things change**' is a central question we are going to explore this term through an investigation into various changes in nature including our own school garden and how our foods change through processing. These investigations will include scientific areas of biology and chemistry as well as health components including healthy eating, how food is grown and cooked; healthy bodies, how we look after our growing bodies. There will also be some visual arts lessons with a focus on how colours change, and how different materials change the product. It is going to be leads of fun.

### Keeping active

Our classrooms will have regular movement breaks, and on Fridays we will be practising our gross motor skills in mixed groups with a focus on skipping, hopping, jumping, balance and agility.

### Japanese with Sharee

こんにちは *Konnichi wa* - hello and welcome to 2019, the 'Year of the Wild Boar' (いのしし *inoshishi*)! Year 1/2 will dive into Japanese language learning with Sharee this term by continuing to develop their cultural understanding of Japanese New Year (お-しよがつ *o-shogatsu*) customs, traditions and greetings, along with some of the other festivals that fall within Term 1. Children will further develop their communication

skills in presenting simple *jikoshoukai* じこしょうかい (self-introductions), including telling their name, age and year level. They will also be supported to communicate and understand how to ask and answer simple questions of others to gain this information.

### **PE with Sally and Daniel**

In physical education this term, students will learn the fundamental skills of basketball, including dribbling the ball, dodging, passing and catching. We will play modified games that are inclusive and intended to improve cooperation, fair play and an understanding of rules and boundaries. In the second half of the term we will begin preparing for the athletic carnival events, scheduled early in term two. Class activities will include mini hurdles, sprints, jumps, shot put, discus throw and javelin with modified equipment for safety. There will also be some additional longer running to prepare the students for the cross-country carnival in week 10. Please ensure your child is wearing suitable footwear for their PE sessions.

### **The Arts with Amanda**

For the Performing Arts this term the students will be learning about drama. The lessons will be aimed at further developing their awareness of voice, movement, situation and space through acting in different roles for dramatic play, improvisation and games. They will also be developing their understanding about where and why people make drama as well as responding to the different dramas that they experience.

### **Things to Remember:**

**Munch and Crunch** – in the morning session children are permitted a short time to have a fresh fruit or vegetable or cheese snack to fuel their brain for more learning. Please do not send in foods that require a spoon to eat. Foods need to be something that can be held in one hand while the child is still eating. Some examples are apples, banana, carrots, celery, cheese sticks or squares.

**Library days:** All classes have library day on Monday.

### **Homework:**

Latham Primary School's homework policy states that reading is an essential skill that is to be practised by all as regularly as possible. Teachers may identify that individual students require additional support in their learning. After a conversation with the parents an agreement will be made, and other activities assigned. Additional to this, parents may request other activities for their child to complete. More information about the policy is available on the school website at

[http://www.lathamps.act.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/409592/Latham\\_PS\\_Homework\\_Policy\\_2017\\_2.pdf](http://www.lathamps.act.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/409592/Latham_PS_Homework_Policy_2017_2.pdf)

### **Home reading:**

Children will be encouraged to change their home readers daily. This ideally will be done in their large mesh zipper folders. Books are located in tubs at the end of the corridor. We encourage parents to listen to their children reading for at least 10 minutes each night. Don't forget to read to your children too. Read the cereal box, the street signs, letters from friends and relatives. There is lots of research showing the intimate connection between being read to and vocabulary development.

Please feel free to make an appointment with us should you have any concerns or questions relating to your child. We look forward to working with you and having a great year. Please note that Sim Riddle works Mon – Thurs and executive Melissa Mongan will be on class every Friday. Melissa Orton, Mike Smith and Tania Blak are here all week. We look forward to meeting with you at the 'meet the teacher' event next Tuesday.

Happy learning

Year 1/2 Team

Sim Riddle, Melissa Orton, Michael Smith, Tania Blak and executive Melissa Mongan