

Launching Place Primary School
Term Planner – Grade 1/2
Term 4, 2017



WELCOME BACK TO TERM 4!

Wow, can you believe there is only one term left. We will continue to participate in like ability Math Focus Groups, grow our writing skills by delving into the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing to enhance our writing and continue to challenge ourselves across all areas of our learning.

We will continue to expect the high levels of productivity in student work and behaviour that we did last term. At Launching Place Primary School we believe that all students have the right to learn, be safe and be respectful. Our whole school expectations support this belief.

What's Happening in the Classroom:

English

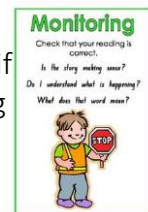
The Victorian Curriculum divides English into three strands: Reading and Viewing, Writing, Speaking and Listening.

Reading and Viewing

During CAFÉ Reading sessions, classes will focus on the areas of Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanded Vocabulary to improve overall reading. Each session consists of a mini-lesson where a specific skill is taught. Students then move into independent and shared reading where students have the opportunity to practise these skills. Students then divide into levelled activities which again require the use of the CAFÉ skills. Each week students spend time in a small group working intensively with their teacher on targeted skills.

Some ideas to help your child with reading:

- Encourage your child to read to the end of the sentence to enable him/her to gain further cues when identifying an unknown word.
- Make sure that reading is an enjoyable experience for your child. Therefore if your child wants to read a difficult book he/she has an interest in, read along with them. Reading is a sharing time that can give you the opportunity to discuss the content of a book.
- Encourage your child to read a range of fiction and non-fiction texts and ask questions that will help them improve their comprehension.
- Praise every effort in reading, especially if confidence is low. Don't compare your child's performance with that of relatives or friends.



Writing

During Term 4, we will continue to work through the 'Stages of Writing' (prewriting, drafting, editing, revising and publishing). We will provide opportunity for students to select their own writing topics and work through the stages. The students learn to self-edit their own writing. The students use the process of CUPS to help with their editing.



During our Writer's Notebook sessions students will engage in various mini lessons that focus on improving many areas of their writing. We will use a range of mentor texts to provide examples of the 6 + 1 traits of writing. During the writing process students will work towards enhancing their writing pieces by applying the 6 + 1 traits.

Our focus this term will be developing our knowledge of 'Persuasive writing'. We will focus on what we already know about persuasive writing and move towards increasing our understandings of the genre. Students will read a range of persuasive writing pieces and will focus on how people have different opinions. We will examine writing to recognise the difference between fact and opinion and realise the importance of fact to support your opinion. Students will then focus on developing their own persuasive pieces by identifying a topic of interest and selecting a specific stance on a topic, then writing several arguments to support their stance using some persuasive words. To celebrate the end of our unit, the children will present their persuasive writing pieces in a debate style presentation to the rest of the class.

The WRITING PROCESS

Prewriting – gathering ideas and thoughts

Drafting – putting thoughts and ideas together into sentences

Revising – reworking the writing piece to make changes to the details and organisation

Editing – reviewing and assessing what has been written (students use CUPS to help them edit their writing)

Publishing – presenting final writing for others to share



The 6 + 1 Traits of Writing

Ideas – The main message

Organisation – Structure of the writing piece

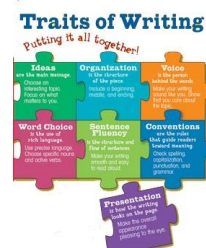
Voice – The person behind the work

Word Choice – The use of rich language

Sentence Fluency – Structure and flow of sentences

Conventions – Rules of writing

+ 1 Presentation – How the writing looks on the page



Spelling and Handwriting

Each week the students will be provided with opportunities to further develop their understanding of a given spelling pattern/sound. This term we will participate in inquiries related to the 'er' sound and 'or' sounds. We will also teach the following sounds and patterns: oy/ oi sound, short vowel sounds, ay/ai sound, long e, long i, long o and magic e. In our word work sessions we will also focus on syllables, compound words, contractions (eg. can't, don't), possessive nouns, plurals, irregular plurals, common & proper nouns, synonyms, antonyms, homophones and homographs.

Handwriting will continue to be a focus to ensure correct starting point of letters, consistent size and correct placement on lines. This term we will focus on words, learning to write number names and the days of the week. We will also look at tricky words later in the term, such as because and some of the months of the year, and revise tricky letters such as b, y and f.

Some ideas to help your child with writing

- Allow your child to write letters to family and friends.
- Have them write out the shopping lists.
- Encourage your child to write about their day or their own creative and imaginative pieces.
- Where possible, encourage them to practise forming their letters and use lower case and capital letters correctly.
- Write the name of their nightly readers into their diaries.

Speaking and Listening

Speaking and Listening is a vital component of the English program. In order to improve their skills, your child will be encouraged to participate in different activities which may include: Share Time, group work, circle games, class discussions and oral responses in Literacy rotations.

Share Time topics will relate to class activities and will allow your child to further explore what they have learnt. During Share Time children will be encouraged to use appropriate volume, tone, eye contact and posture when presenting ideas to the grade.

Resources to help your child prepare their Share Time have already been sent home, please see your child's teacher for another copy. We encourage you to use these resources to help your child prepare for their Share Time. The outline of the weekly Share Time topics has also already been sent home.

Mathematics

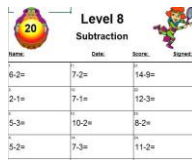
Mathematics is divided into three dimensions: Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry and Statistics & Probability.

In our focused strategy groups on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, this term we will investigate fractions, money & place value. The students complete a pre-test for each of the above topics and are then grouped accordingly to their area of need. Once we have completed a sequence of focus groups, the students complete a post-test to show their growth.

This term in our classroom Maths sessions on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, we will be revising measurement of length and area, chance & data & problem solving, months and seasons and number patterns.

Blitz Master and Counting Patterns

Each day students will continue to participate in regular number fact sessions to enhance their automatic recall of number facts and counting patterns. Blitz Master aims to improve the automatic recall of the four processes (+, -, ÷ and x). Students progress at their own level and speed through the program.



Some days the students will complete counting patterns. Students will be given time to practise the skip counting and Times Tables they are working on, before working with a partner and being tested by the teacher.

*By the end of grade 1 students should be able to confidently skip count by 2s, 5s and 10s.

*By the end of grade 2 students should be able to confidently skip count by the above as well as by 3s.

Some ideas to help your child with Mathematics:

There are countless ways to help your child grasp mathematical concepts and skills. Calculation is not the only mathematical skill necessary at school. Space and Measurement, Chance and Data are all part of the Mathematics Curriculum and opportunities for experiences in these abound.

Games – many children’s games are mathematically based. Jigsaw puzzles provide early experience for visual planning skills to develop. Games where dice are used give opportunities for number use and understanding. Logic and strategy games sharpen young minds for thinking and planning ahead. Apart from the social language opportunities inherent in these games, the mathematical thinking involved is of huge value and cannot be taught in a formal sense.

In the kitchen – cooking and preparing food involves numbers and measures. Ask your child to contribute at an early age, from counting how many people and how many potatoes, to doubling the recipe which calls for one and a half cups of flour. Temperature, weight, mass, time and length are all part of life in the kitchen, as are fractions, decimals and dozens.

Number patterns – each student has been working on a counting pattern during class time (such as counting by 2s, or 5s). Find moments in the day to ask your child to practise their pattern out aloud.

Attitude – the most important thing is that these activities provide useful, happy experiences in mathematical thinking. Keep it enjoyable. Learning happens best when the learner is ready and wants to learn.

Mathletics – covers a whole range of mathematics topics.

Integrated Studies

“Schoolyard Safari” is this term’s integrated topic.

We will have lots of fun learning all about minibeasts and the features they have which help them to survive, protect themselves and find food.

We will also include science based lessons from the Primary Connection unit ‘Schoolyard Safari’ to enhance our understanding of the structure of minibeasts. Through observations and investigations, students explore the world of minibeasts, the unique features that different kinds have, and the environments that each thrive in.

Homework

Each child in grades one and two will be provided with a reader and diary to record their home reading. Children will be encouraged to change and read their reader on a daily basis in order to promote positive reading and learning patterns. Please ensure home reading is recorded in your child's diary.

Each week other tasks are expected to be completed for our Share Time. Share time will take place on Fridays (unless otherwise specified).

LOTE – Toko

Japanese will be held on Tuesdays. The topic for the Grade 1/2 children this term will be '**Sea Creatures**'. Through this topic children will learn some Hiragana letters to recognise and pronounce accurately. They will use Hiragana flash cards, a traditional card game called 'Karuta', a matching game, a song, and tracing and copying those letters. Children will also continue to learn about how to describe their pet. In Week 6 (Tuesday, 14th November), they will participate in our Cultural Day. The day will be a special dress-up day and have a number of cultural activities throughout the day.

The Arts – Miss Nyman

This term The Arts will be held on Wednesday for 1/2M and Friday for 1/2C and 2R. Students will continue to receive an hour and half lesson each week that will combine elements of visual arts and performing arts, including music, drama and dance. In Visual Arts, students will begin the term by decorating a pot plant that will be available for sale at the Twilight Fair on the 27th of October. They will also use a paper plate and wool to create a dream catcher. Student will continue to participate in drama games that encourage students to improvise. In music, students will use instruments to portray and emotion, an animal or a place. They will need to think of how things sound and how can they recreate that particular sound using instruments. We will also continue to sing and dance in each lesson.

Physical Education (PE)- Mr Devisser

Phys Ed for these children will be held on Mondays (1/2C) and Wednesdays (1/2M and 2R). It would be great to see everyone wearing appropriate footwear on their PE days. School shirts and shorts or school tracksuits are ideal.

The fourth term will focus on running games and also lead into summer sport skill development. Simple orienteering and mapping skills will be taught in the earlier part of the term.

Grades 1 and 2 will also be involved in the Yarra Valley Junior Sports Day on Friday 3rd November.

Other

Tissues – Please bring a box of tissues into your classroom to help with the 'sniffles'.

Diaries - Please ensure your child's diary is brought to school daily in order to allow for effective communication between home and school. All home reading is to be written into the diary.

Snack Attack – Please provide your child with a fresh fruit or vegetable snack to have at 10am. Please keep in mind that the snack will be eaten while your child is working. (No 'messy' food if possible).

Absences – If your child is absent from school, it is essential that we are notified. You have a range of options; ‘Absence Hotline’ number 59647783, email, Flixibuzz, school website www.launchps.vic.edu.au or by filling in an absence form or writing a note.

Dates to Remember:

Saturday 21st October - Aerobics Spring Challenge

Friday 27th October – Country Fair

Friday 3rd November – Junior Sports Day

Monday 6th November – Report Writing Day (no students at school)

Thanks,

Heather Taylor, Jacinta Kemp, Tom Margary and Emily Rae.