

Year 1 & 2 Newsletter

Term 1, 2018



Important Dates

- **Mon 12th February** – Whole School Assembly (Stadium)
- **Thurs 15th February** – Year 1 & 2 Information Night
- **Mon 19th – Wed 21st February** – Getting to Know You Chats
- **Mon 19th February** – House Assembly
- **Friday 23rd February** – School Photo Day
- **Mon 26th February** - Whole School Assembly (Stadium)
- **Mon 5th March** - House Assembly
- **Mon 12th March** – Labour Day Public Holiday (no school)
- **Fri 16th March** – Whole School Colour Run
- **Mon 19th March** – Whole School Assembly (Stadium)
- **Mon 26th March** – House Assembly
- **Thurs 29th March** – Last day of Term 1
- **Mon 16th April** – First day of Term 2

Welcome to the Year 1 and 2 Learning Community! We hope that you have had a fabulous break and that you are feeling refreshed and ready for what we anticipate will be a great year! It's going to be an exciting year kicking off with 2 weeks of Quality Beginnings, so we can maximise our learning both at home and school. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new families that have joined us this term. We have many interesting and exciting events planned for term 1 and we look forward to developing relationships with students and families.

Communication between school and home

Every day, from 8.40 – 8.50am homegroup teachers are in the Learning Community and welcome any parents/guardians that need to have a 'quick' chat. To discuss issues that are more detailed please see your child's teacher to make an appointment, or write a note in student diaries or telephone the school to make an appointment.

Please check Compass regularly for important dates and reminders. Reminders will be updated on Compass each Wednesday.

Information Night

Parents and guardians are invited to come to our Year 1 and 2 Information Night where we will be presenting an overview of processes and structures for the year. We would love to see you there!

When: THURSDAY 15th FEBRUARY.

Time: 6pm – 6:30pm

Where: Year 1s in the Roald Dahl Building

Year 2s in the Discovery Centre

Getting to Know You Chats

Information will be coming out via Compass for parents/carers to book in a 10 minute getting to know you chat. These will be held on Monday 19th February – Wednesday 21st February. The purpose of these chats are for parents to meet home group teachers and tell us about your child's strengths, interests and goals. We look forward to meeting families and learning more about our students.



Bell Times

Just a reminder that students enter classrooms at 8:40am in the morning. It is important that students arrive at school on time so that they can settle into the routines of the day. In our experience, late arrivals at school leave children feeling flustered and overwhelmed by trying to catch up with what they have missed. Please help your child to have a happy and settled start to the day by ensuring that you are on time!

Students are dismissed at 3:20pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. School finishes at 2:30pm every Wednesday.



Compass

At Wilandra Rise Primary School, we use a school management system called COMPASS. Parents are given access to make payments, record student absences, access student reports and generally communicate with the school. Parents are able to login to Compass using their family login details. If you have any difficulties accessing Compass, please contact the office.

Specialist Programs

We are proud to offer students at Wilandra Rise Primary School a range of specialist classes. Students will attend PE, Art, Music, Science and Auslan each week. For specific times your child attends these classes, please contact your child's teacher.

Student Diaries

2018 diaries have been given to students. These diaries will be used to record nightly reading, which will begin in the next few weeks. Diaries can also be used to communicate with your child's home group teacher. Students need to hand their diary in each morning and they will bring them home each night.

WRPS Learning Environment

We have had an excellent start to the school year, with our students settling well into our new Learning Community. As you are aware, we are lucky enough to be working within a brand-new, purpose-built, flexible learning space. This means that the structure of our program differs to a 'traditional' school, in which children learn in one classroom with one teacher. The children in our Learning Community have the benefit of access to a range of learning environments and the expertise of eight teachers in Year 1 and four teachers in Year 2. As a team, we are working hard to build our students' sense of belonging within the Wilandra Rise Community on three levels; the Home Group community, the Year 1 and 2 Community and the School Community. We recognize that belonging to a Home Group and the connection with a Home Group teacher helps children to feel settled within our school environment. Some activities throughout the day will happen in a Home Group setting, while others will take place with different student and teacher groupings. All activities are carefully designed and planned to help students get the most out of their learning time. As a team, we are committed to the design and delivery of a program that meets individual student needs and engages students through a variety of activities that appeal to a range of learning styles. Our current school-wide Quality Beginnings program is designed to help students engage with their new peers, teachers and learning environment and to better prepare them for a rewarding year of learning.

Runner's Club

Every Friday morning from 8.10 - 8.40.

Around the school oval.

Who: Year 1 to Year 6.

You can run, walk or jog any number of laps.

First session: Friday 9th February.
Must bring runners, drink bottle and a hat.

From Ms Harper & Mr Grimmatt



Sun Smart – School Hats

As part of our Sun Smart Policy, each student is required to bring a school hat to participate in outside activities during terms 1 and 4. At Wilandra Rise, we have a 'no hat no play' policy, so students without a hat will be required to sit under the shade sails during recess and lunch. School hats can be purchased from PSW in Hampton Park.

Drink Bottles

It is important that students bring a drink bottle to school each day, filled with water, to keep hydrated. Please ensure that drink bottles are named and they do not contain cordial, juice or soft drink.

Fruit Stop

We encourage students to bring a piece of fruit or some vegetables to eat during the day in class. Please do not bring nuts. If students bring yoghurt or fruit cups, these need to be eaten at snack or lunchtime.

Numeracy

This term in numeracy, students will be building on their understandings of place value, including using materials to make models of numbers, counting, number patterns and comparing numbers. Students will also learn to describe time using months, weeks, days and hours as well as identifying simple geometric features of common shapes, making and drawing them. Our numeracy program will target individual and group needs through a range of experiences including investigations, games and small group explicit teaching.

Chat Time

Chat Time is a chance for children to further develop their speaking and listening skills. Children are allocated days to present to the other children in their Home Group and speak in front of an audience of their peers. A letter was sent home last week indicating your child's day to present. Themes are based upon the areas we are exploring in class. You can help your child by preparing items needed and possible points for discussion prior to their 'Show and Tell' day. We have loved listening to students present their 'Me Bags' this week!

Class Mascot

Over the next few weeks, families will begin to meet their child's class mascot. A class mascot is a teddy bear that loves spending time with children and going on adventures! Children will be allocated a weekend with their class mascot, where they can take photos, draw pictures and write about their weekend with their class mascot. A letter will come home in the next few weeks with more information about this – stay tuned!



Helping your Year 1 & 2 Child to Read and Write Successfully

This year students will continue to have the opportunity to learn the English Alphabetic Code in a systematic, structured and meaningful way. Students will be encouraged to sound out through words as they read and write rather than relying on memory or guessing.

At home, families can support their child's vocabulary and oral language development through fun, informal activities, such as visiting the library, museums or zoos and generally exploring the world around them. One of the most effective things families can do is TALKING with children, listening, and answering their questions. Families should maintain shared reading activities where adults **read to children** and then, when students are ready, ensuring they have appropriate reading material to read. Students will only ever bring home books which support the sounds (phonemes) and letters (graphemes) they are learning to read and write at school.

We invite you to maintain an open dialogue with your child's teachers so that you know what part of the *English Alphabetic Code* your child is learning at school as well as the reading *skills* they are focusing on.

The school will be holding a range of parent workshops on Literacy – keep an eye out on Compass / Facebook for upcoming dates.

Homework

In the next few weeks, we will begin to establish homework routines. Homework is an important part of the learning journey and students are encouraged to complete it each week to the best of their ability. Homework will consist of:

- **Nightly reading:** students will bring home decodable books. Please record the book read in student diaries.
- **Mathletics:** www.mathletics.com.au Students are to complete 2-4 assigned tasks each week (due on Friday).

Mathletics usernames and passwords will be glued on the inside cover in student diaries.

We appreciate your support in assisting your child to establish their homework and home reading routines. If you have any difficulties accessing the website, please see your classroom teacher.



What You Can Do At Home

Talk to your child about what they did and enjoyed at school each day and the things they had concerns about as well. You can also continue to support your child's learning at home through everyday experiences, such as:

- tapping into their problem-solving abilities with problems they can help solve, like a jigsaw puzzle or helping you sort the laundry. Doing things that interest them, like an existing hobby or activity they love. For example, if your child likes helping you cook you can introduce a lot of learning – like reading, maths and science – while you cook together
- Enjoying spontaneous activities in response to your child's questions to encourage their curiosity
- helping them find answers or solutions to problems themselves. You can show your child how to look things up in a book, or on the computer.
- asking reflective questions like 'how' 'why' or 'what if...' as this helps them to think deeply about their responses.

Introducing the Wilandra Weekly!

This will be our last 1/2 Learning Community Newsletter as we are excited to announce that the Wilandra Weekly will be sent home every Wednesday via compass. This weekly bulletin will include Year Level specific information from each Learning Community detailing upcoming events, reminders and current happenings in class. By providing information on a weekly basis we hope to make it easier for parents and families to know what is happening in our wider school community and to help their children be prepared for upcoming events. Stay tuned to Compass, where you can expect our inaugural Wilandra Weekly, next Wednesday the 21st February.

Year 1 Teachers:

Hub A Teachers – Bec Rosen, Burcu Altay, Marni-Lee Dickson, Rachael Richards



Hub B Teachers – Bethany Baillie, Catherine Ritchie, Gill Quinn, Tegan Puts



Year 2 Teachers – Jacqui Higgins, James Baltas, Madaline Curtin, Amy Rewell

