



# Year 1 Information Session 2017

## *Teaching staff:*

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# WELCOME TO YEAR 1

Welcome to the 2017 school year and to your child's new Year 1 class. Thank you for taking the time to read the information contained in this booklet. Some of it you will already be familiar with from our recent newsletter.

This year our Information Session will be held on *Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February from 6-7pm* in the Junior Music room (adjacent to the junior playground). This is an opportunity for you to ask any questions about Year 1. We recommend attending if you are new to our school.

The information provided in this booklet is for your reference. If at any time during the school year you have any queries or problems please don't hesitate to come and see your child's teacher. All of the Year 1 teacher's email addresses are included below for your reference.

It would be appreciated if you could have your child at school at 8.45am every day. This is an important time for reading practise. Green reader bags must be brought to school every day. To ensure teachers have time to listen to morning readers, please try to save important conversations for after school/at a mutually acceptable time, or email.

It is easier getting your child to school on time if they have had a good night's sleep. Experience has also shown us that rested children learn and behave better.

Please also help your child develop a greater degree of independence by having them carry their own school bag, be responsible for their belongings and change their "take home books". This also includes logging on to Mathletics and Readings Eggs at home. A greater degree of independence will aid them in later years.

## COMMUNICATION

While your child's classroom teacher should be your first port of call, please do not hesitate to contact any of us about anything involving your child's education. Our teachers are very approachable ☺

Jessica Gray:	<a href="mailto:gray.jessica.e@edumail.vic.gov.au">gray.jessica.e@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
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Nicholas Crane:	<a href="mailto:crane.nicholas.o@edumail.vic.gov.au">crane.nicholas.o@edumail.vic.gov.au</a>
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## MORNING READING

We encourage as many parents as possible to assist with daily classroom reading. Morning Reading runs on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Students are asked to change their take home readers from the book boxes in their individual classrooms. All reading must take place in the classrooms. The classroom teacher will have a group of children to listen to each day. These are typically displayed on the interactive whiteboard.

Please ensure our classroom environment is calm and quiet so that all students can concentrate on their reading. It is important to our daily curriculum that Morning Reading concludes by 9.05am. Please respect that entering the classroom late may mean your child misses out on morning reading. Reading is embedded throughout our daily teaching planners.

## ENGLISH

Each day all children in Prep to Year Two are involved in a two-hour session of reading and writing. Children join in activities that allow them to practise essential literacy skills.

### TAKE HOME READING BOOKS

Each child is encouraged to read at home each night during the week. Please fill in your child's yellow reading diary every time you read with them. Take home books are given to children in order for them to practise the reading strategies learnt at school. Your child is responsible for choosing their book to read. These books are meant to be read with a minimum amount of assistance by an adult. In other words, they should be "easy reads". Many of the coloured dots on the take home readers cover a range of levels. More difficult texts are read by your child at school under the direction of the teacher during Guided Reading sessions. We also encourage wider reading from sources like your local library.

Children will be tested on their reading when the teacher observes that they are ready for the next level. Students cannot change reader levels on their own.

### WORD LISTS

A series of Oxford words will be sent home for reading practise throughout the year. All students have been given Word List 1 to begin with. These words are repeated from the Prep word lists to revise and consolidate students' recall of these sight words. We ask students to read their lists 3 separate times to an adult before they request the next list. In order to provide more time for reading, writing and spelling practice, we made a team decision that word lists will be checked and new word lists given out on your child's Morning Reading day. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

### COMPREHENSION

All children are involved in daily, explicit comprehension tasks. Why do we teach comprehension? Reading is about understanding, not just the physical activity of decoding words! Engaging with different text types and making connections is equally important.

### WRITING

In Year 1 we cover a range of text types, some of which students were exposed to in Prep and others that are new and exciting. These include recount, description, narrative, letter writing, procedure, persuasive, information reports and poetry. Across all text types we use an explicit writing approach called VCOP; Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation.

## SPELLING

Students are involved in a variety of activities that teach and enhance their spelling skills and increase their ability to transfer the learnt spelling patterns into their writing. If your child shows interest in spelling at home, they can practise the suggested activities included with their words lists.

## HANDWRITING

Students will continue refining their handwriting using the Victorian Modern Cursive format. Throughout the year we will be emphasising the importance of starting and finishing places for upper and lowercase letters, as well as using the correct lines of the dotted thirds. Handwriting will be taught explicitly once a week as part of the Writing program.

## READING EGGS

Reading Eggs subscriptions have been rolled over for 2017. The children are encouraged to continue accessing Reading Eggs at home to consolidate their phonics skills and further develop their comprehension skills through Reading Express. Information about Reading Eggspress will be provided as your child approaches the end of their Reading Eggs maps.

## MATHEMATICS

Daily Maths sessions occur which allow children to develop various mathematical concepts in the areas of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. When new concepts are introduced time is given for manipulating concrete materials (eg counters, unifix blocks, sticks, etc) to aid understanding. Children are encouraged to develop these concepts from their level of understanding. Sessions will vary between whole class, small group and individual settings.

## MATHLETICS

Continuing on from last year, children are encouraged to practise their maths skills at home using the Mathletics program. The program is designed to be fun while consolidating the skills taught at school. The children need to attempt the activities without adult help where possible. The students will have a timetabled Mathletics session in the ICT lab each week to practise concepts taught in class.

## MATHS INVADERS

Maths Invaders is a self-paced Mathematics computer program that develops automatic response using the 4 processes of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Maths Invaders work is always supported by practical activities in the classroom. It encourages children to use strategies (including using their fingers and the numbers on the keyboard) when learning to calculate mentally.

## INTEGRATED STUDIES

Each term, different themes are introduced to the children. We encourage them to bring in resources from home that might enhance their learning of the theme. This year our integrated topics will be:

Term 1: Knowing Me, Knowing You (Interpersonal skills) Term 2: Flash, Bang Fizz! (Science)

Time After Time (History)

Dr Seuss (Literary Focus)

Term 3: My Island Home (Australian studies)

Term 4: Where in the World is Carmen Kookaburra?  
(Geography)

## EXCURSIONS/INCURSIONS

During Term 2, the Year 1's will go on an excursion to Scienceworks. We will also be participating in an indigenous studies incursion during Term 3 and a penpal excursion.

## PENPAL PROGRAM

Last year's students were also eager to trial our penpal program with Berwick Fields Primary School. We are pleased to say that Year 1 students across both schools will again be paired together and have the opportunity to practise their letter writing skills via meaningful interactions. This program will culminate in an end of year excursion to meet our penpals.

## SAPPHIRE CARE

Last year the Year 1 students took part in a community-based program with residents at Sapphire Care, located a short distance on Centre Rd. More information will follow soon as to the running of the program in 2017.

## SPECIALIST CLASSES

The 2017 the Year 1 specialist teachers are:

MUSIC- Naomi Marsh, Stacey Lolos  
SPORT- Stacey Lolos

ART- Rochelle Hunt  
JAPANESE- Naomi Marsh, Sumiko

Library, Computer and Fitness sessions will be taken by Year 1 teachers.

## FINE MOTOR SKILLS

As 5, 6 and 7 year olds are continuously developing and refining their fine motor skills, we strongly encourage you to provide opportunities for writing, cutting, drawing, kneading, threading etc. at home, using child-sized tools.

## BRAIN FOOD/HEALTHY EATING

This year the Year 1's will be continuing on with the Prep Brain Food program. We request that all brain food be manageable for your child to eat within 5 minutes. Bite sized pieces of fruit and veggies are ideal! These healthy eating habits should extend to students' snacks and lunches. Please ensure your child's drink bottle contains water only.

## BUDDIES

Students will continue to catch up regularly with their buddies that they met last year in Prep (who are now in Year 5).

## RESILIENCE & WELLBEING

Last year Oakleigh South Primary School was proud to add 'Resilience' to our collection of school values. Student wellbeing is an important focus as we all work to ensure our students are happy and healthy members of our school community. In support of this, students will participate in mindfulness activities during Year 1 assemblies, alternating with Year 1 Fitness each fortnight.

## HEAD LICE

Please inform your class teacher if you have found head lice. Notices can then be sent home to all children in the grade. By prompting all parents to check hair, we can hopefully keep this under some level of control.

## TIQBIZ

Don't forget to download 'Tiq.biz' to your smartphone, tablet or computer. This is a very useful app for the school to communicate last minute news with parents via sms, e.g. *'The bus will be late home from the Year 1 excursion'*. The school newsletter link is published each week via Tiq.biz.

## QKR

OSPS uses an app called QKR! as our preferred payment method. We ask that you use QKR! When making payments for all your school accounts. It is quick and easy to download and learn. Charges are child specific - please ensure you have selected the correct child before finalising a payment. Please visit the OSPS website for instructions and further information [www.oakleighsouthps.vic.edu.au/tiq.biz-q.kr](http://www.oakleighsouthps.vic.edu.au/tiq.biz-q.kr)

The following items are some examples of what can be paid: essential learning fees, excursions / incursions, production DVDs, ride wrist bands for the fete.

QKR link: [www.q.kr.mastercard.com/for-everyone-australia](http://www.q.kr.mastercard.com/for-everyone-australia)

Please contact the office if you have any questions regarding Qkr!

## AMBULANCE COVER

We strongly suggest that you have ambulance cover. We are legally obliged to call an ambulance if it is required. If this does occur you will incur the cost.

## PROBLEMS & CONCERNS

Children will make mistakes in their behaviour. This is normal and part of being a child. Please support us to encourage positive behaviours in your child. Please come and see us regarding everyday concerns. Many issues can be investigated and smoothly resolved through parent/teacher communication.

Try not to let playground problems continue unresolved- speak to your child's teacher. We WILL follow up on any issues of concern but it is impossible to support you or your child if we aren't informed. Always bear in mind there may be more to a story than what your child has explained to you. Having an open mind is very helpful. Ask yourself, 'What hasn't my child told me?'

NOTE: Please do not under any circumstances, directly approach other children in the yard to sort out playground problems. This is an extremely serious matter and always results in the situation becoming worse, rather than better. PLEASE allow the necessary teachers, team leaders, Assistant Principals or Ron Cantlon (Principal) to deal with such concerns.

## REMINDERS

- Please ensure you have supplied the following items;
  - a library bag to protect library books
  - an art smock to protect clothing during Art lessons
  - slippers to wear inside the classroom
  - a box of tissues (one for Semester 1, one for Semester 2)
- Tuesday morning is our whole school Assembly. It would be appreciated if all students are lined up in their classrooms by 8.50am ready to go to the hall for assembly. This year students will be seated in their house colours.
- As part of our OSPS dress code policy, please ensure your child is wearing full school uniform at all times. Black leggings or coloured knee high socks are not part of the uniform and hair accessories are limited to black, white or bottle green.
- When collecting your child at the end of the day, please stand well back from the steps at the end of the decking to allow a free flow of children.
- All notices will be put in the children's GREEN READER BAG. (There is no red plastic notice folder used in Year 1). Please return notices to your classroom teacher so they can be ticked off, rather than taking them directly to the office.
- Year 1 newsletters will be distributed at the beginning of each month. As with whole school newsletters, generic versions of these year level newsletters will be displayed on the school website- <http://oakleighsouthps.vic.edu.au>. Our school website is a fantastic port of call for all of the latest dates, news and information regarding events happening at our school.
- Please name ALL children's clothing and belongings.
- Classroom Cuisine lunch orders are available every Monday and Friday. Orders must be placed online by 8.30am; [www.classroomcuisine.com.au](http://www.classroomcuisine.com.au). Please note that lunch orders arrive at school at 12pm so your child will still require brain food and snack.
- All children must have a "Sun Smart" hat. "No hat, no play" policy.
- Please teach your child to tie their shoelaces. This saves our time and theirs!
- The Fete is Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Helpers will be needed for our class stalls. Please see individual classroom teachers for more details.
- Swimming dates TBC. The venue will be GESAC, the same as last year.
- ABSENCES- It is a Departmental requirement that an absent note be provided whenever your child is not at school. Where possible, notes can be provided in advance e.g. family holidays. Emailing your classroom teacher or phoning the school office are also acceptable.
- A sign in and out sign out slip must be completed if you arrive at school late (after 9.15am) or are picking your child up early.
- Parent helpers that volunteer their time with external school events eg. Swimming, excursions, will need to have a valid 'Working with Children Check. All paperwork is now done online. Any parents wishing to obtain a Working with Children Check will need to visit [www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au) and follow the links.
- Please be aware that driving into the driveway entrance of the school is not allowed to drop off or pick your child up.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT 😊  
WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU TO ENRICH  
YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION IN YEAR 1!