



## Year 5 and 6 Opportunity Class (OC) - Term 2, 2022

Dear 'Treehouse' Students, Parents and Carers

Welcome to Term 2 at Balmain Public School! We hope you've had a restful, safe and enjoyable break.

### Message for the Year 6 cohort

Congratulations to Year 6 students, who sat the Selective High School Placement Test on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Thank you to parents, friends and families, who supported students in the lead up to this day. Year 6, your hard work and efforts throughout this year and last, prepared you for this opportunity. Remember, this was only one test - a snapshot of your learning. This test doesn't measure your passion, empathy, creativity, courage or strength. Your teachers are incredibly proud of the way you have managed and navigated this unique experience with perseverance and resilience.

### Message for Year 5 cohort

In Week 11 of Term 1, Year 5 families received a 'Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Selective High Schools Application Process and Placement Test' document via SkoolBag. As stated in this document, we will begin the Selective Schools Ranking Tests (SSRTs) with Year 5 students this term. We will endeavour to commence the SSRTs in Week 2. Due to the busy and changing nature of our school timetable, specific test days cannot be provided in advance. However, we will always ensure that students are aware when taking one of these tests. For any questions regarding the process, please refer to the FAQs document.

### English

In Term 2, all students will participate in our in-school Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking competition. As such, students will focus on persuasive language and devices, as well as 'Manner, Matter and Method', in speech writing and presenting. Students will have opportunities to build upon their speaking and listening skills as they present their prepared and impromptu speeches later in the term.

Our English literature unit will continue to be driven by the theme of 'sustainability', as it is our overarching theme for Semester 1 (Term 1 and 2). Using a variety of multimodal texts including information articles, websites and videos, students will continue to critically analyse and explore ethical and social dilemmas. Students will continue to engage in various writing and representing, speaking and listening, as well as viewing and responding opportunities. Students will also continue to engage in literacy rotations, encompassing guided reading and writing with a teacher, spelling and grammar, reading comprehension, goal setting, handwriting and Sustained Silent Reading (SSR). We'd like to remind students to make sure they always have a book of interest kept in their tote trays, to draw upon during these sessions.



## Mathematics

During Term 2, students will engage in the explicit teaching and learning of the mathematical sub-strands:

- Patterns and Algebra
- Multiplication and division
- Fractions and decimals
- Angles
- Two-dimensional space
- Three-dimensional space
- Position
- Volume and Capacity
- Mass
- Area
- Chance

The learning across these sub-strands will be consolidated with problem-solving sessions, as well as mathematical investigations. These sessions will be designed to support students' ability to work mathematically across different topics, as well as to effectively communicate their mathematical understanding and reasoning.

## History

In history, students will continue exploring the topic, *The Australian Colonies*. This term, students will focus on the impact of a significant development or event on a colony, specifically, the gold rushes and the Eureka Stockade. In addition, students will also explore the different reasons people migrated to Australia from Europe and Asia, as well as research the experiences and contributions of a particular migrant group within a colony.

## Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)

PDH – Health, Wellbeing and Relationships

This term, students will focus on developing the knowledge, understanding and skills important for building respectful relationships, enhancing their personal strengths, as well as exploring their personal identity to promote the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves and others. Students will examine factors that influence identity and behaviour, as well as investigate strategies, to manage the changes associated with puberty. Students will practise skills to establish and maintain caring and respectful relationships, and will also explore the influence of emotional responses on relationships.

PE – PSSA, PCYC and school sport

This term, on Fridays, students will participate in either PSSA soccer, PSSA netball, fitness at the PCYC Balmain or school sport. For PSSA soccer and netball, students have been offered the opportunity to trial for the teams. Alternatively, students may choose to explore the fitness options offered at PCYC Balmain. This information will be shared with students at school. As both the PSSA and PCYC options involve payment, students will also have the free option to engage in structured sport activities at school with classroom teachers.



## ProjectNEST

ProjectNEST is a project-based learning unit that looks to integrating Key Learning Areas. This semester, the driving question for this unit of work will be: 'How can we sustain our connection with the Earth?' This unit will be underpinned by both English and history syllabus outcomes, and students will produce a series of 'Mini-Outcome' products to demonstrate their understanding and learning.

- Mini-Outcome #1 - Diary entries (Completed in Term 1)
- Mini-Outcome #2 - Informative website (Students will begin this term)
- Mini-Outcome #3 - 3D model

## Music, Visual Arts, STEAM and Library

Each fortnight, students will participate in:

- Music for 1 hour with Ms MacDonald
- STEAM for 1 hour with Ms MacDonald
- Visual arts for 1 hour with Ms Bowman
- Library for 1 hour with Ms Whelan

## Hard Copy Planner and Homework

We'd like to remind students to bring their hard copy planner to school every day. We will continue to use these planners during our morning admin sessions, to keep track of homework tasks, as well as note upcoming school-based events. Please note that these due dates and reminders are also available through our online 'Google Calendar', accessible via the 'Student Portal.'

## Stationery

As we begin a new term, we request that all students take the time to check their belongings, to replenish any needed stationery items. Specifically, students should come to school with their own lead pencils, coloured pencils, blue or black pens, 30 cm ruler, eraser, glue stick and whiteboard markers.

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Kind Regards

Mrs Annabel Sun and Miss Rose Reedy  
Stage 3 OC Teachers