

## Stage 1 Term 1 Overview

Dear Stage 1 Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term 1 2023. We hope you all had a lovely break and are ready for a new and productive year!

Below, you will find a Term 1 Overview of teaching and learning programs, class routines and expectations.

### **English**

#### **Speaking and Listening**

Students will be provided with numerous opportunities to develop their public speaking skills through stage and classroom learning activities.

#### **Reading and Viewing**

Students will participate in class reading groups, where they will engage in modeled, guided and independent learning experiences. Reading groups will be differentiated to cater for student abilities.

As part of our homework program, students will take home a 'take home' reader twice a week, to consolidate learnt skills and strategies. Please ensure your child returns their reader to school in order to receive a new text.

#### **Writing**

This term, Stage 1 students will be viewing, appreciating and studying quality literature to develop their English language skills. They will be learning about various texts including: recounts, narratives, information reports and expositions.

#### **Spelling**

All students will be participating in the whole school K-6 Soundwaves Spelling program. This program is differentiated to cater for all abilities.

## **Mathematics**

This term students will be investigating and exploring:

- Representing whole numbers
- Combining and separating quantities
- Data
- Forming groups
- Geometric measure: Length
- Two-dimensional spatial structure: 2D shapes, Area
- Three-dimensional spatial structure: Volume
- Non-spatial measure: Mass

The Mathematics teaching and learning program involves students learning through hands-on learning experiences, problem solving and mathematical investigations.

## **Investigations**

Investigations is a program that merges the hands-on creative learning of Investigations with the organisational skills that students will need in middle primary to participate in ProjectNEST. Students will practice the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills of communication, critical thinking and creativity, as they move through a variety of learning stations. Learning stations are centered around student interests and intentionally constructed by teachers to consolidate the learning gained in explicit teaching sessions of Literacy, Numeracy, Science, History and Geography.

*We appreciate any donations of small boxes for Investigation construction activities this year.*

## **History & Geography**

History will be taught in Term 1 and Term 2 and Geography will be taught in Term 3 and Term 4. The focus unit for Term 1 and 2 is called *Past and Present Family Life*. Students will begin to develop a sense of chronology, investigate the diversity of family structures and compare families in the past to those of the present. They will use historical tools such as timelines, family trees, and primary sources such as photographs.

## **Creative Arts**

### **Visual Arts**

The Stage 1 visual arts program will be delivered by Ms Bowman. Students will learn about line, shape, colour and form. They will be supported to produce a variety of artworks using mixed media, collage, watercolour and oil pastels.

## **Music**

In weekly music lessons, students will be singing and dancing to a wide range of familiar and unfamiliar material, demonstrating an awareness of their own capability in using voice and other sound sources. They organise sounds into simple structures and begin representing creative ideas symbolically.

## **STEAM**

Ms Loxton will be leading the whole school STEAM program this semester. Students will participate in STEAM lessons, where they will have opportunities to learn about scientific concepts and digital technologies.

*NB: Classes will rotate with specialist teachers on a fortnightly basis.*

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

This year Personal Development, Health and Physical Education will be taught by Mr Baumann. Children will participate in a variety of fitness activities and cooperative games. In Personal Development and Health, students will be learning about emotional literacy and exploring how they can act in a productive and respectful way in different environments and social situations. Students will practise social problem solving skills, including assertive communication, active listening, compromising, and emotion management.

Child Protection will be taught by your child's teacher during Term 1. This unit teaches the children about different body parts as well as strategies to keep themselves safe. Students will be participating in the 'Footsteps' Dance Program in Term 1. During this program, students engage with new dances that promote fitness, coordination and gross motor skills. It runs for 30 minutes each Friday, commencing on Friday February 10.

## **Library**

Library lessons will be taught by Ms Whelan. Your child is able to borrow two books each fortnight to take home. The library is also open before school Monday - Thursday, if your child would like to borrow more frequently.

## **Homework**

### **Spelling**

Balmain Public School will continue the K-6 Sound Waves spelling program. Starting from week 3, your child will bring home a list of differentiated spelling words to learn.

### **Home Reading**

We strongly encourage that each child reads for 10 -15 minutes every day. This should be an enjoyable experience. We also suggest reading to your child on a regular basis, as this allows children to learn from a proficient reader.

Quality picture books often have a richer vocabulary and are more interesting to read, so these are encouraged when your child is able to make the transition from levelled readers. Some children are also reading chapter books. Please ensure that you chat with your child regarding what they have read to enhance comprehension. Discussing any new vocabulary will also support their learning.

## **Contacting Classroom teachers**

If you would like to get in touch with your classroom teacher, please send an email to [balmainps@gmail.com](mailto:balmainps@gmail.com) with the name and class of your child in the subject line and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

## **Classroom Communal Items**

All stationery items are for communal use within the classroom as Stage 1 students do not use personal pencil cases.

Option: if you are in the position to assist, please organise the following items listed below for communal use;

- Tissues
- Disinfectant wipes

We look forward to working with you and sharing in your child's learning!

## **The Stage 1 Team, 2023**

Emma Archibald (K-2 Assistant Principal), Ariana Davis, Louise Jennett and Sophie Parsons