

Moonee Ponds West Primary No.01- 2901

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Respect
Community
Honesty & Integrity
Creativity
Persistence
Inclusiveness
Freedom
Rights & Responsibility



Our vision at MPW is to foster a community of life-long learners. We strive to develop socially responsible and resilient individuals who are working towards achieving their full potential.

February 2018

Dear Families,

We have had a great start to the year, with all the children happy (well most of the time) and eager to be at school. I am looking forward to meeting or catching up with all of you over the first few weeks. My goal is to have a happy, relaxed start to the year, taking time to get to know the children and to develop routine.

As you may have noticed, Room 1 and Room 2 have created an open and shared space. As this is a new space for both classes, the design of this will allow for flexible and creative use of instructional time. During Term 1, as we trial with this new setting, we will trial cooperative activities, as well as shared lessons between the classes. The needs of the students will continually be our focus and as students become more settled, we may combine classes more often.

Learning is a social activity and students learn through interaction and cooperation with peers, teachers, families and community members. This new learning space may evolve with the aim of working together as one community of learners. However, it will be dependent on the needs of students and therefore may lead to doors being closed. Your child's teacher is still the first point of call if you have any concerns or questions. As we build our learning community, we hope for your support to make this learning environment the best it can be supporting your child development.

Just a few additional bits of information at the beginning of the school year...

Our room is open to welcome children at **8.45am**. At pick up times (once the preps are settled in and coming fulltime) we would ask our families to wait outside the building until the bell rings at 3.30 – students will be dismissed outside (with their bags) and then you are very welcome to come on in. This allows you to have a chat and catch up with each other without having to worry about disrupting the children who are working in the Hall space up until 3.30pm during the afternoons.

When children arrive in the morning, it's a good routine for them to get into by bringing in their **blue book bag** and placing in the yellow tub. Inside the blue book bag you will find all notes, completed student work and other important information. They can also borrow a library book each week – these can be returned any day in the library box at the front of our classroom when you have finished with them (return them by **Monday** morning to be able to borrow another book at Library that day). Remember, reading and enjoying quality books with your child every day is one of the most important factors in your child's reading success.

On a daily basis, we have SQUIRT (Super Quiet Uninterrupted Individual Reading Time). During these daily reading sessions, your child will spend time developing their reading skills, choosing books for enjoyment and to suit their reading level. Students have the opportunity to select books from our classroom library that has a variety of books. During these SQUIRT reading sessions, your child will spend time reading independently and in small groups.

On a daily basis your child will need to choose books to take home, using their book bags. These books are of free choice, they can be books that he/she will read with or to you, or books you may read to them. It is important that you are reading at home every night with your child; sharing books together. Please encourage your child to select books that interest them. Books are to be changed over between 8:45-9:00am **by your child**. Attached is more information regarding reading at home for beginner readers.

Children will attend Hall in smaller groups to socialise with children from other classes and to allow smaller groups to work with us in the classroom. Hall runs throughout the week, with Mandy 2-3 sessions a week.

Children are welcome to eat **healthy snacks** and **drink water** in our classroom at any time. It's a great idea to pack some extra bits of fruit for them to munch on during the day. We ask every child to have a **named water bottle** with them in the room – it saves on trips out to the taps during lessons and encourages them to drink more water. All children will need their **NAMED wide brimmed hats** everyday for play and Physical Education. A spare, **named change of clothing** kept in your child's school bag can help in case of accidents! We use lots of **cleaned boxes, containers, lids and plastic bottles** for our construction. Feel free to bring them in and we'll send them back to you in new and fantastic creations!

When we're settled, we'll be asking for any interested **parent helpers** to come into the classroom and help with a whole variety of jobs (reading with children, publishing books, writing workshops, maths groups, art, cooking, filing etc.). This can be a regular time each week, or a one-off – it's up to you! Come and chat to us if you have a particular interest or skill, and want to get involved! Parent helpers will all need a current **Working with Children** check (they last five years so if you've already had one done, you don't need to worry). These are also necessary if you plan to accompany us on any excursions. Forms are available at the Post Office.

Lastly, could you please supply our classroom with a **box of tissues** to get us through the sniffily winter months?

Just a few reminders for upcoming events:

- The week starting Monday 19th February will be the *Getting to Know You Interviews*. This is your opportunity to tell me about your child and their learning, discussing any relevant information linked to their learning. A note was sent home with more information regarding these interviews.

Our specialist program is as followed:

Monday: Japanese at 11:30 and Library at 1pm

Tuesday: Hall at 11:30 and 12:30 (10 students per session to attend)

Wednesday: Hall at 9am and 10am (10 students per session to attend)

Thursday: Physical Education (Sport) 11:30 and Creative Arts at 12:30 (Please make sure your child wears appropriate footwear on this day (runners) so they can participate in provided activities)

Friday: Performing Arts 10am

Please come and chat if you have any questions.

I am looking forward to a great year with you and your child!

Kind regards,

Anna