

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 and coming full time) I ask our families to wait outside the building until the bell rings at 3.30pm. Students will be dismissed outside and then you are welcome to come in. This allows the children who work in the Hall space until 3.30pm to not be disrupted or to disrupt you!

When the children arrive in the morning they are to bring in their **blue book satchel** and after changing their take home books, they are to place it in the white box at the front of the room. You will also find notes and other important information in here.

Each Monday the children will visit the school library where they are able to borrow a book. These can be returned to the library box in front of the classroom, when they are finished with them. Please remind your child to return them by **Monday** morning so they will be able to borrow again later in the day.

On a daily basis we have SQUIRT. During these sessions children will develop their reading skills choosing books for enjoyment and to suit their reading level. Students choose their books from the classroom library that contains a variety of books.

As mentioned earlier children will need to choose books to take home in their books bags. These books are of free choice, chosen by the children and can be books they can read to you, they would like you to read together or they would like you to read to them. Sharing books is a great way to promote a love and enjoyment of reading. Books are to be changed between 8.45-9.00 am by **your child**.

Children attend hall in small groups where they will have the opportunity to partake in a variety of social learning opportunities with children from different grades.

Children are welcome to drink water in our classroom at any time. We ask every child to bring a **named water bottle** that is to be kept in the classroom, saving trips to the taps and encouraging them to drink water, particularly when it is hot! All children need a **named wide brimmed hat** for recess and lunch times and for P.E. and outside learning experiences. A spare, **named change of clothing** is to be kept in your child's bag in case of any accidents!

When we're settled, **parent helpers** would be greatly welcomed to assist with a variety of jobs (reading with children, publishing books, work groups, filing etc.) This can be a regular thing or a one off, come for a chat and we can work out a time that suits us both. Parent helpers will need a **Working With Children Check** (they last five years so if you have had one done you do not need to worry.) These are also needed if you plan to accompany us on any excursions.

Our specialist timetable is as follows:

Monday – library at 12.30pm

Tuesday – Hall 11.30am and 12.30pm.

Wednesday – Hall 9am and 10am.

Thursday – Japanese 11.30am, P.E. 12.30pm. (Please ensure your child wears appropriate footwear.)

Friday - Performing arts 10am and Creative Arts 11.30am.

I am looking forward to a great year with you and your children.

Kind Regards,

Lee Hessenthaler

