



18 May 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

## Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) Parent Information – Term 2 2009

Welcome back to Term 2! We send a warm welcome to all our new students and families to Westmead Public School. We are anticipating an exciting and busy term for our students and looking forward to continuing working with you and your child.

### The Stage 1 teachers are:

1D - Mrs Davis	1W - Mrs West	1H - Mr Haydon	1S - Mrs Snell
1E - Miss Hall	1N - Miss Daher	1/2T - Miss Di Chio	2A - Mrs Chawla
2H - Mrs Han	2M - Mrs Moss	2C - Miss Chan	2/3B - Miss Ballantyne

### Support teachers working with Stage 1 are:

Reading Recovery and ESL - Mrs Short	Reading Recovery and RFF - Mrs Rawle
ESL - Miss Miller and Miss Dobbins	Library - Mrs Kobeleff and Mrs Pickett
RFF - Mr Hutchinson, Mrs Ewing and Mrs Methven	

The following overview provides a general outline of the teaching/learning program for Term 2. Similar content is taught across each grade and students are working towards achieving Stage 1 outcomes by the end of Year 2. Learning experiences may be presented differently and at different times throughout the year.

### ENGLISH

**Talking and Listening:** Students develop confidence using spoken language as they learn to talk and listen for different purposes. Talking enables students to clarify their ideas, explore issues, solve problems and develop understandings in all Key Learning Areas. Students may engage in a range of activities such as presenting news to the class, presenting topic talks, working as part of a group or answering individual questions. Class discussions are a valuable way for students to learn. Students are encouraged to participate in discussions by listening attentively and responding to others in an appropriate manner.

**Reading:** Learning to read is a complex process. For students to read well, they need to develop a range of reading strategies. Reading and writing skills are closely connected. Students develop reading skills, strategies and comprehension through modelled, guided and independent reading experiences. In guided reading students (individual or small groups) are taught a range of strategies to read texts at their level. We encourage your child to borrow books from the school and local libraries, read at home for pleasure and read for the Premier's Reading Challenge.

**Writing:** Students develop handwriting, spelling, grammar and writing skills during writing lessons. A range of text types will be taught throughout the year. Students will be involved in the different stages of writing from planning and drafting to editing and publishing.

### MATHEMATICS

The strands of mathematics are Number, Patterns and Algebra, Data, Measurement and Space and Geometry. The process strand, Working Mathematically is embedded into the five strands. Mathematics concepts will be taught through daily lessons where students are encouraged to use concrete materials to investigate mathematical concepts. The language of mathematics plays an important role in Mathematics education. Students are encouraged to explain what they are doing using mathematical language. Learning experiences may be whole class, small group or individual learning activities.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY and HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE)**

Classes will be covering the following units this term:

1W, 1H, 1S & 1D - Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign / Identifying Us

1E, 1N, 1/2T - Build It Up / The Need For Shelter

2M, 2C, 2A, 2H - Energy Everywhere / Transport

## **CREATIVE ARTS (CAPA)**

The strands of Creative Arts are Visual Arts, Music, Drama and Dance. These strands may be taught by the class teacher or RFF teacher.

## **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PD/H/PE)**

Students will participate in a variety of fitness and sport activities. Years 1 and 2 students will be involved in Drug Education lessons. Year 1 students will focus on Fundamental Movement Skills, skipping and relay activities. Year 2 students will be learning athletics skills as a part of Sport in order to prepare for participation in the Stage 1 Athletics Carnival. We encourage your child to continue to bring healthy, nutritious snacks and lunches to school.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**School Uniform and Classroom Equipment:** For Terms 2 and 3 students need to dress appropriately in full school winter uniform. Students should be wearing black footwear each day - sneakers/joggers are allowed for sport. The uniform shop may assist you with all the necessary uniform supplies. Please remember to label all clothing and personal belongings such as library bags, lunchboxes and drink bottles. Please ensure to replenish your child's equipment such as HB lead pencils, coloured pencils and glue sticks.

**Upcoming Events:** Please keep a look out for upcoming events in our school's newsletter. Some upcoming events include; Life Education Van, Mothers' Day Stall, Years 1 and 2 excursion to Rouse Hill House and Farm in Terms 2 and 3, Stage 1 Athletics Carnival, Semester 1 Reports and Student Progress Conferences.

**Homework** is given on Mondays and collected for marking (as a class or by the teacher) on Fridays. Please encourage your child to do 10-30 minutes of homework per night. This will help establish regular study patterns. Homework is based on work being studied in class and should be able to be completed with minimal supervision and help. If your child is having difficulty please encourage him/her to see the class teacher. Home Readers are sent home weekly.

**Assembly:** Fridays 12.15-12.50pm. Your child will tell you when his/her class is running the assembly so you can come and watch.

**Birthdays** are a special time. Your child may like to bring mini donuts, cupcakes or fruit to share with the class. Please do not send large cakes, lolly bags, balloons or party poppers as these are too difficult to manage and are inappropriate at school. Balloons may also cause choking or severe allergic reactions in some students.

**Nuts:** Please do not send nut products to school with your child for recess or lunch, these include peanut butter, Nutella and fruit and nut mixes, as several students in the school have allergies to nut products.

Should you have any queries please make an appointment to see your child's teacher so the matter can be discussed at an appropriate time. If you have any further queries, please make an appointment to see Miss Daher (Assistant Principal – Stage 1 supervisor) or Mrs Methven (Deputy Principal). Please be reassured teachers will contact you if there are any concerns or questions about your child. For this reason and in case of an emergency, we ask that you ensure your contact information is up to date at the office.

Working in Cooperation

Jennifer Simmonds  
Relieving Principal

Kathryn Methven  
Deputy Principal

Nina Daher  
Assistant Principal - Stage 1