



# Leonay Public School

Stage 2 Newsletter  
Term 1, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2021. The purpose of this document is to inform you of what we will be learning about in all key learning areas so that you can discuss and/or support your child's learning. Newsletters will be distributed at the beginning of every term.

Teachers have now set up their Class Dojo and are working to ensure all parents are connected. Please note the following guidelines that have been set regarding the use of Class Dojo:

*All messages must be written in a positive manner and must not be disrespectful towards staff or other students. Should you need to discuss an incident regarding your child and other students, then a phone call is more appropriate. In 2021 staff will only respond to messages between 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday... Outside of these times Class Dojo will be set to quiet hours. All messages from parents will be acknowledged with a 24 hour period. If you require a more immediate response, please ring the school on 47355999.*

Last week, a note was distributed to all families which asked you to provide us with information about your child. This is a chance for you to tell us what we need to know so that we can support your child, not only in their academic growth, but socially and emotionally as well. Please take the time to fill this in and return it to your child's classroom teacher.

Yours in Education,  
Miss Mills, Mrs Druce and Mr Davies

## Upcoming Events in Term 1

For Year 3 students, the ZooSnooz overnight excursion at Taronga Zoo is planned for Wednesday 31 March to Thursday 1 April. More information will be distributed soon. It is planned for Year 4 students to attend Yarramundi later in the year.



## Homework

In 2020, we completed a comprehensive review of our homework practices. After listening to student, parent and teacher feedback and implementing changes, the data continues to show a particularly low rate of homework completion across the year groups. As such, we have agreed to set less and more open-ended tasks while reducing reliance on online platforms for the setting and completion of homework. However, Google Classroom may still be used at times. Therefore, Term 1 homework will be as follows:

- Home Reading & Log – a minimum of 15 minutes sustained reading every day is hugely beneficial. Please prioritise this. Students will be given a reflection book to add to daily. Home readers may be used for some students this term, however most will be expected to read borrowed library books.
- Speaking and Listening – Students are asked to prepare and present on a set topic every three weeks.
- Spelling – Students are encouraged to access the Sound Waves website to practice their list words using the segmenting tool, then play other games related to the weekly phoneme.
- Mini projects – these will be closely related to class learning. This term, there will be one set for weeks 3 – 6 and another set for weeks 7 – 10.

With regards to mathematics, data indicated that in 2020, use of Mathletics was not sufficient to justify the cost. Therefore, teachers will be providing a list of websites students can access to improve their mathematical fluency related to concepts being learned in class. Some to start with are:

ABC Maths Education: <https://education.abc.net.au/home#!/resources/-/mathematics> (use Google Chrome)

IZL Hit the Button: <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Top Marks Maths: <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games>

# Term 1 Learning Overview

## English – Narrative

**Speaking & Listening:** Students will be learning how to orally tell a short story using changes in volume, pace and voice pitch to convey emotion. They will begin by practising the reading of a favourite picture book to a younger audience before moving to telling a ‘yarn’ to a small group.

**Reading:** Student will be completing a detailed study on the reading strategies of **predicting** and **visualising**. Good readers predict before, during and after reading. They take clues from images, titles, events, individual words and text structures. An expert reader makes predictions with the intention of confirming or refining them. Visualising helps understand characters, events and settings. It is particularly useful when reading descriptive passages or detailed explanations of how events have taken place.

**Writing:** Students will be revising and building on their understanding of narrative structure. Quality story writing involves careful planning of events, as well as effective characterisation, meaning choosing what to describe about a character as to make the reader think or feel a certain way about them. Students will be learning how to write with varied punctuation using direct speech, noun groups, correct tense (past, present and future) and take paragraphs when the time, place or character changes.

**Spelling:** We will begin our Sound Waves program for the year as per the following learning sequence:

Week 3 – ‘b’ as in balloon

Week 4 – ‘a’ as in apple

Week 5 – ‘k’ as in kite

Week 6 – ‘e’ as in egg

Week 7 – ‘d’ as in duck

Week 8 – ‘i’ as in igloo

Week 9 – ‘f’ as in fish

Week 10 – ‘o’ as in orange

**Handwriting:**

*Year 3 will revise basic letter formation and begin learning cursive entries.*

*Year 4 will revise cursive entries and exits and begin practicing fluency joins.*

## Mathematics

We will begin maths groups in Week 3. Each student will be placed in one of four groups. These groupings are flexible and students may move in and out of groups depending on their learning needs.

All groups will be broadly focusing on:

**Whole Number:** Using knowledge of place value to generate large or small numbers from given digits; relating addition and subtraction number facts; recalling multiplication facts of two, three, five and ten (Year 3) and up to 10 x 10 (Year 4); model and represent fractions up to fifths; and developing mental strategies for addition and subtraction

**Measurement and Geometry:** Use a ruler to measure and draw lines using cm and mm; tell the time to the minute using the terms ‘past’ and ‘to’; using formal units to measure area (square cm or m) using the litre as a unit for measuring capacity; and identifying and naming three-dimensional objects.

**Statistics and Probability:** Collecting data, organising it in categories and representing it in data displays.

## History – First Contact

Students will be learning the reasons behind why the British chose to transport convicts on the First Fleet. They will examine first and second hand sources of information to learn about life in 18<sup>th</sup> Century England and the conditions that led to overcrowded prisons. Students will research the conditions experienced by those who sailed on the First Fleet and the struggles experienced on the journey to Australia.

## Sound waves passwords:

Year 3: doll860

Year 4: tree989

## Science - Physical World Unit

Students will be learning about forces and how they act on objects. Forces can either be contact (push, pull, friction, drag etc.) or non-contact (gravity, magnetism etc.).

## PE – Fundamental Movement Skills

Students will work towards mastering the skills of ‘skip’ and ‘overarm through’, and refine their ability to ‘leap’, ‘kick’, ‘dodge’ and perform a ‘two-handed strike’

## Personal Development – Does who I am affect

**who you are?** Social and Emotional Key Competency – **Self Awareness**

Students will explore the concept of identity, exploring what this term means and the various aspects that define one’s identity. They will explore their own and examine how to use strengths to positively contribute to their communities.

## Creative Arts – Abstract Art interpretation and creation

Students will be engaging in a study of abstract art by observing common objects and representing them in their own creative ways. They will view and discuss artworks created by Piet Mondrian, Henri Matisse and Sonia Delaunay. In music, student will be learning about musical concepts with Mrs Munday through learning the recorder.

## Routines

In Term 1, Stage 2 teachers have decided to take on one key learning area that they are passionate about and teach it to all three classes on a rotating timetable. Mrs Druce will be teaching science, Miss Mills will be teaching History and Mr Davies will be teaching sport. We ask that you make note of your child’s sport day and ensure they are wearing appropriate uniform and footwear.

|                      | 3D                       | 3/4A     | 4M      |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------|---------|
| Science (Mrs Druce)  | Wednesday                | Monday   | Tuesday |
| History (Miss Mills) | Monday                   | Tuesday  | Friday  |
| PE/Sport (Mr Davies) | Tuesday (with Mrs Renny) | Thursday | Monday  |