

K/1B Newsletter

2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to your child's 2020 learning journey, whether it be as a new Kindergarten student or expanding upon those early foundations in Year 1.

Positive Behaviour for Learning Expectations (PBL)

Each class has developed their classroom code of co-operation, setting up the expectations of how the students want their classroom to run following the school PBL core values of students being safe, respectful and engaged learners. They have also developed rewards within the classroom, both at a whole class level and as individuals. There are also strategies put into place across the school in case students make inappropriate choices. This starts with giving warnings and if the behaviour continues, they have time out in the classroom, followed by time out with the class buddy teacher. Further misdemeanours involves time spent in the "Time to Talk" room. This is where the students reflect on their behaviour and what may have been a better option. As a parent/carer, you will be informed by either the class teacher or the executive if there are concerns with your child.

Our Class Expectations

Becoming an independent student. This involves separating from parents/carers at small COLA and walking to class with other students, being able to quickly get home reading folders, fruit break fruit, lunch and recess out of their bag and transitioning to the next activity.

- **Be safe** - hands and feet to self, moving safely and handling equipment in a safe manner.
- **Be respectful** - listen to others, follow instructions, good manners, sharing and looking after school equipment and the environment.
- **Engage in Learning** - have a go at everything, eyes on the learning, staying on task and trying to do your best work at all times.

The overarching theme for all expectations is **RIGHT PLACE RIGHT TIME**

Crunch and Sip

Crunch & Sip® is a set time in primary schools for students to 'refuel' on vegetables, salad and fruit and 'rehydrate' with water. Students who are not hungry and are well hydrated perform better in the classroom, show increased concentration, and are less likely to be irritable and disruptive. Many students are not eating enough vegetables and fruit or keeping sufficiently hydrated. Crunch & Sip® means vegetables, fruit and water only. You can visit this website for some ideas about what to pack for Crunch & Sip: <https://www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au/campaigns-programs/crunchsip.aspx>



English

Students will be involved in the following activities:

- **Speaking and Listening** - A key component to every lesson where students listen to instructions and explicit learning concepts and then have the opportunity to explain their understanding, ask questions to clarify and discuss ideas.
 - Reading and responding to quality literature - Students respond to stories read to them each day and ask and answer questions based on this story.
 - Verbal Presentations— once a term as part of that terms homework projects
- **Jolly Phonics** - Kindergarten students participate in Jolly Phonics every morning straight after fruit break.
Please ensure that your child is at school on time so they don't miss learning the sound for that day.
Students learn the sounds associated with each letter and then some diagraphs (two letters making one sound). 3 sounds are introduced per week and then sounds are put together to make words on Thursday and Friday.
- **Spelling** Year One students will participate in a differentiated spelling program that will teach spelling rules and revise word families, diagraphs and blends. Words are tested on Friday.

- **Sight words** All students will have a sight word list sent home each term. Students learn to read and write these words independently. Learning these words supports confidence and progress in reading and writing. The word lists are closely linked to the readers used in the classroom.
- **Daily Literacy Groups**- Reading texts with the teacher and rotating through independent activities that reinforce sight words, spelling lists, sounds and writing concepts previously taught.
- **Writing** - Kindergarten will be involved in a writing program that teaches students how to use high frequency words to write sentences. Year One will learn to write imaginative, informative and persuasive texts on a variety of topics throughout the year.
- **Home Reading** – Home reading is essential to supporting your child’s reading fluency and confidence. Readers sent home are a level below that read in class for these reasons. For best results, I recommend daily home reading. Students earn awards for every 25 nights reading until the Amethyst level. From this level on, 50 nights reading is required to earn that level award.

Mathematics

- Students will be involved in warm ups and explicit learning tasks covering whole number concepts, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, measurement, space and geometry and data throughout the year.
- **Warm ups** - Students will revise previous learning through daily warm ups at the beginning of each lesson.
- **Number Talks** For the first 100 days of school students look at a number for the day starting with 1. Students offer ideas about what they know about that number.

Science Units

Term 1 – Living Things focus ‘Growing Well’ (K) and ‘Dinosaurs and More’ (Year 1).

Term 2 units – Material World focus

Term 3 units – Earth & Space focus

Term 4 units – Physical World focus

Geography -This Semester students will be learning about different people and places, including learning about places in Australia and people’s connection to these places.



History - History will be taught in Semester 2.

Personal Development/ Health/ Physical Education (PDHPE)

- **Sport** sessions teaching a variety of fundamental movement skills and team work skills will be taught every Friday from 9:15am to 10:15am. Please ensure students wear their joggers and sports uniform on Fridays.
- **PE** - teaching a variety of gross motor skills will be taught on Tuesday afternoons after recess.
- **Movement breaks** Students are given movement breaks between lessons in both the morning and middle sessions each day. This helps students to reset their brain, have a quick drink of water and be ready for the next learning task.
- **Relationships** This term students will be learning about how to care for and include each other. Child Protection, Road Safety, Drug education etc. are taught within personal development topics throughout the year.

Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)

- Visual Arts - using a variety of media to create artworks and craft using a variety of techniques and covering a variety of concepts including multiculturalism, aboriginal culture, performing arts and celebrations.
- Dance/Drama - **The main focus for this will be the whole school musical in Term 4.** Students from K-6 will create and perform a dance/drama item as part of this whole school spectacular.
- Music - singing, moving to a beat and following rhythms. Music is incorporated into all Key Learning Area

Assembly

Assemblies will be held fortnightly on a Friday afternoon from 2:30 – 3:00pm. Classes presenting at each assembly will be printed in the newsletter. You are most welcome to attend.

Scripture/ Ethics

Your child is automatically enrolled into the same activity in which they participated last year. Please indicate in writing if there are any changes to preferences. There is no ethics for Stage one or Kindergarten at this point in time.

Maroyiba (Library) Maroyiba is open throughout the week for student use.

Our Library day will be Thursday. Please make sure your child brings a library bag on this day so they can borrow a library book.

Projects/ Homework – MPS procedures for homework. Stage projects based on content being taught in each class are set each term for completion at home. All students are given a project sheet with a marking rubric. Projects are also available on the school website.

Release from Face-to-Face (RFF)

RFF is an entitlement for all teachers. During this time students will be doing a Maths strand, attending Library and technology activities.

Learning @ Morisset

Our termly Learning @ Morisset sessions are a great way to share in your child's learning journey. Dates will be advertised in the newsletter, website and School app.

Student goals

Each student has developed learning goals to meet their individual needs.

- Teacher and student negotiated
- Literacy and Numeracy focus
- Developed from previous reports

School Attendance

It is mandatory for all students 6 years and over to attend school every day that instruction is offered.

- Daily and punctual school attendance is extremely important to your child's learning. Arriving late disrupts the learning of other students in the class and your child misses the outline of daily activities and important messages related to school activities.
- We commence Literacy lessons at the beginning of each school day, therefore it is imperative that your child is at school on time. Before school supervision is from 8:30-9:00am.
- All absences must be explained. This can be done via the school app, phoning the school, responding to the sms that is sent to your mobile phone, sending in a note or talking to your child's teacher. Absences need to be explained within 7 days.
- School Attendance is monitored by a Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO). If your child's attendance falls into the area of concern, below 90%, HSLO may request additional follow-up by the school. It is important to establish a routine of attending school unless too sick to do so. Do not give your child days off for birthdays, or because they don't want to go to school. This can create issues with school attendance in the future. Be firm and be consistent.
- Where possible it is best to plan family holidays outside of school time. If you are taking a family holiday of 5 or more days you are required to fill in an application for Extended Leave – Travel. This application needs to be submitted to Mrs Warham (Principal) before you go on holiday.

Communicating with Teachers

Please respect that I am giving my full attention to organising and monitoring students at the beginning and end of the day when they are lining up to go to class or go home. At these times I will not be able to communicate at length with you. If you need to convey any information to me throughout the year regarding your child's wellbeing that I need to be made aware of, please make an appointment to see me via the office.

Parent Helpers

Once students are settled into school routines I would love to have parents or carers come into the classroom and help out with literacy group activities of a morning. There will also be other times when the school needs the help and support of parents to create resources, make things for the classes or major events or to help out at special activities. Please let us know if you are interested in helping out in your child's classroom.

Change of Address/ Emergency Contacts

In the event your circumstances change, please notify the office as soon as possible.

Child wellbeing/ Health

If your child has any wellbeing/ medical concerns, please provide the office with current Asthma/ Anaphylaxis or Allergy plans.

Notes and money

Payments can be made online and recorded on the permission note which needs to be returned the next school day after payment. Alternatively, all cash payments need to be made at the office. Students returning notes and money need to hand these into the office. *A reminder that due dates for events are necessary to finalise student numbers, costs and arrangements.*

Reporting to Parents

Term 1 – Meet and Greet information sessions and class letter

Term 2 - Semester One Report

Term 3 - Parent/ teacher interviews and three-way conferences later in the year.

Term 4 - Semester Two Report

School Website/ School Stream App/ Newsletter

- Newsletters are sent home fortnightly with the eldest sibling.
- School website: <https://morisset-p.schools.nsw.gov.au>
- For up to date notifications, please download our school stream app.

All newsletters, permission notes, projects, upcoming events are available on the school website.

Upcoming Events – Easter Hat parade End of Term 1, Harmony Day March 20.

Bags and Lunch Boxes

Many students are struggling to get lunchboxes in and out of their bags as they are extremely large and take up the majority of room in the bag. Less is best - a small lunch box, fruit container and drink bottle. This helps to leave room for hats, reading folders, work and notes sent home and later on, school jumpers.

Class Equipment Wish list

A paint shirt to protect clothing when doing art and other messy tasks. Please ensure that you label your child's shirt so they can be return to you at the end of the year.

Donations of the following items to be shared in the classroom are very much appreciated.

- Tissues
- Paper towel
- Small playdough tubs
- Glue sticks

Thank you for all your support. I look forward to getting to know both you and your child as the year progresses.

Wendy Boyd (K/1B teacher)