



March 11, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

My name is **Tayla Way** and I will be your child's teacher this year in **K/1W**. This term will be an exciting and busy term for both Kindergarten and Year 1 and I am looking forward to the amazing learning journey we will go on together in 2020. We have been learning about routines and expectations. These are important to establish at the beginning of each year so learning can begin in a calm and safe environment. Years 1's have been amazing role models by assisting Kindergarten students in demonstrating our class expectations and routines.

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

Each class has developed their classroom expectations incorporating the PBL core values of students being safe, respectful and engaged learners. They have developed rewards within the classroom, both at a whole class level and as individuals. There are school wide strategies to support students who make inappropriate choices. This begins with a reminder of our expectations, time out in the classroom, followed by time out in a buddy class. Further misdemeanours involves time spent in the "Time to Talk" room where students reflect on their behaviour and what may have been a better option. As a parent/ carer, you will be notified by either the class teacher or executive if there are concerns with your child.

K1W Class Expectations

Safe Learners: Hands and feet to ourselves, walk in the classroom, right place right time and use equipment safely.

Respectful Learners: Follow instructions, use manners and kind words, listen to others and take care of equipment.

Engaged Learners: Be organised, stay on task, do your personal best and display 5L's.

Key Learning Areas:

English

- Daily Literacy Groups: Students engage in a range of activities including fine motor activities, word work, writing activities, spelling activities, independent reading, and Guided Reading and Writing takes place in small groups with the teacher.
- Jolly Phonics or Targeted Spelling Program: Students in Jolly Phonics will learn sounds associated with each letter, followed by blends and digraphs later in the year. In the Targeted Spelling Program, students will expand their knowledge of how to spell words and recognise and apply spelling rules.
- Writing: In Kindergarten students will learn a new sentence a day along with key elements of a sentence such as applying capital letters, finger spaces, full stops and writing left to right.
- Year 1 will be learning to write imaginative, informative and persuasive texts on a variety of topics throughout the year.
- Reading Warm Ups will be delivered daily. They are a quick revision of sounds, letters, blends, digraphs and reading/writing strategies.

Mathematics

- Students will engage in Math Warm Ups daily that revise previously learnt content and explicit learning tasks. Students will move around Math rotations where they will practice and apply the new skill in games, hands on activities, technology and time with the teacher.
- Students will engage in daily Number Talks, promoting flexibility in students thinking around the way we can interpret and represent numbers.

Science and Technology

- In Term 1, Kindergarten students will explore the unit “Growing Well”. Students will learn living things have basic needs including food and water. Year 1 will engage in the unit “Dinosaurs and more”. Students will explore the external features of modern animals and compare them with skeletons of dinosaurs.
- Term 2- Material World Focus, Term 3- Earth and Space Focus, Term 4- Physical World Focus.

Geography

- This Semester students will be learning about different people and places. They will learn about different places, why and how to care for them and why places are special to people.
- In Semester two, students will engage in a History unit discovering families past stories and changes we see in our lives today.

Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)

- Visual Arts: Students will use a variety of media to create artworks and craft by applying different techniques. Art is linked to concepts including multiculturalism, aboriginal culture, performing arts and celebrations.
- Dance/Drama: Our School musical will be held in Term 4 where students will participate in a class performance.
- Music: Students regularly engage in singing, rhymes and playing percussion instruments.

Personal Development/ Health/ Physical Education (PD/H/PE)

- Friday is our Sport day. Please send your child in their sports uniform and joggers. Students will learn a variety of fundamental movement skills and team work games. PE will be taught on Thursday afternoons, students will engage in a range of games to build gross motor skills. Over the year, road safety, child protection, sun safety and health concepts will be taught.

Additional Information

- We love to celebrate birthdays at school. If you want your child to celebrate his/her birthday at school, please send in cupcakes to share. This eliminates the need for a knife in the classroom and less crumbs on the floor. Serviettes will be greatly appreciated as well. **If you don't want your child to participate in birthday celebrations and/or eat cupcakes provided, please let me know.**

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.
- Literacy lessons are 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 within 7 days. This can be done via the school app, phoning the school, responding to the SMS sent to your mobile phone, sending a note or talking to your child's teacher.
- 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. 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 consistent.
- Where possible it is best to plan family holidays outside school terms. If you are taking a family holiday of 5 days or more 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.

Assembly

- Assemblies are fortnightly on Friday afternoons from 2:30 – 3:00pm. Classes presenting at each assembly will be printed in the newsletter or on the website. Parents are most welcome to attend.

Changes of Address/ Emergency Contacts/ Court Orders

- 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 plan.

Communication

- 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 contact the office to make an appointment to see me.

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>

Digital Devices

- As per school procedures, all phones and smart watches (or any device with the capacity to connect to the internet) need to be handed in at our school office when students arrive at school and then collected by students at the end of the school day.

Home Reading

- Regular home reading supports your child to become a confident, fluent reader. Your child will read with me multiple times a week, however, for your child to improve their reading skills they need to consolidate this with regular home reading. Please send your child's reading folder back daily along with the record sheet. These accumulate to awards presented at assemblies. I will also send home sight words for your child to practice. Once they can read, write and use the word in a sentence they will bring home new words to practice and consolidate. Some students are continually practicing how to write their name in class. If you continue to consolidate this at home they will build their confidence and keep track of their work.

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.

Maroyiba (Library)

- Maroyiba is open throughout the week for student use. Students will go to the library on Wednesdays with Miss Michalef. Please make sure your child brings a library bag if they wish to borrow a book.

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 in at the office.
- Due dates for events are necessary to finalise student numbers, costs and arrangements.

Parent Volunteers

- Once students are settled into school routines I would love to have parents or carers come into the classroom and help. 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 me know if you are interested in helping out in your child's classroom.

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, K1W will be engaging in a Mathematics Strand, Library and Technology activities.

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, further information and upcoming events are available on the school website.

Scripture

- 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 at this stage.

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

Upcoming Events

- Term 1- Harmony Day Activities and Easter Hat parade.

Classroom Equipment

- We use a lot of materials in the classroom to create engaging, hands on experiences to support your child's learning. If you wish to donate any materials it would be greatly beneficial to creating quality learning experiences in the classroom. Materials always needed include: a glue stick, a box of tissues, a roll of paper towel, a paint smock/shirt, a whiteboard marker and a tub of playdough.

Thank you for your support, I am looking forward to a wonderful year!

Mrs Way
(K/1W, Classroom Teacher)