

### Year 1/2 Mascots

1/2A- Our class mascot is a butterfly. We chose this because they are continuously changing and growing as they metamorphosis from a caterpillar to a butterfly. Our class motto is, **'Spreading our wings to learn'**.

1/2C- Pelicans are the mascot for 1/2C. Pelicans are social birds and live in large colonies. They're uniquely capable of high-altitude flight. Our motto is **'Aiming high.'**

1/2S- Wedge-tailed Eagles are the mascot for 1/2S. Wedge-tail Eagles are often seen soaring near Research Primary School. Our motto is **'Flying high with our learning.'**



Dear Parents,  
Welcome to 2023 at Research Primary School.  
We have had a fantastic start to the year and the students have settled in well. This book explains the operations of the Year 1/2 area and is designed to assist you to understand the programs and classroom procedures.

Regards,  
Andrea Sutterby, Ben Arnold and Tim Clarke

# Year 1/2 in 2023

In 2023 we are excited to deliver an engaging and dynamic curriculum program for all students. We are focused on assisting the children to develop academically and socially. A key aspect to the Year 1/2 program focuses on what matters most: the development and extension of key literacy and numeracy skills in a creative and curious way. The year will also be about the children starting to become more independent learners, taking responsibility for their decisions and thinking for themselves. We also focus on building positive relationships and establishing the routines of school life.

## Curriculum

### LITERACY:

The English program is built around the three interrelated strands of language, literature and literacy. The focus will be developing students' knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating. The students will build on their prior knowledge and skills developed in earlier years, and we will revisit and strengthen these as needed.

### Reading & Comprehension

There are three main components to our reading and comprehension program in Year 1&2. The first is centred on continuing to develop the relevant word recognition skills and the fluency of reading.

The second is guided by the reading strategies set out by Fountas and Pinnell. This program focuses on the following strategies: summarising, adjusting, searching for and using information, maintaining fluency, monitoring and self-correcting, solving words, predicting, synthesizing, inferring, making connections, analysing and critiquing.

The third component is allowing students the opportunity to appreciate, enjoy, use language and develop a sense of its richness and its power to evoke feelings, to form and convey ideas, to inform, to discuss, to persuade and to entertain. Through the use of rich texts we aim to encourage a love of literature for every student.

We also listen to students read regularly during daily Guided and Shared Reading sessions. The teacher led sessions vary, responding to the individual needs of the student.

## Home Reading

Home Reading is also an important part of learning. Students are asked to record the books that are being read with a parent and comment in their Home Reading Logs. We ask that all Year 1/2 students read every night. We ask that students have their home reading pockets at school, so please help your child to return them daily. Please remember that home reading needs to be a positive experience. Word lists will also be sent home to be practiced. Students will be tested on these words in the classroom. Certificates will be awarded for the number of nights read, so get reading everyone!

## Writing

In Year 1/2 students are involved in daily writing sessions. Sessions may focus on word study strategies, grammar and the different text types. We also focus on paragraph organisation and the development of sentence structure. Students are taught to proofread and edit their own work (up level) and apply these strategies in their published and personal writing.

We also implement a teaching and learning strategy for writing throughout the school called the Big Write and VCOP (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation) Through games, activities, writing tasks, conversations and discussions, students will learn not only where their abilities lie in a fun and engaging way, but also the steps they need to take, in order to continue to improve.

Another important part of the VCOP Literacy curriculum in our school is 'The Big Write' and 'Talk Homework'. 'The Big Write' has proven an exciting and effective way of encouraging children to think about four key areas for developing both their spoken and written language: VCOP. Students take part in a variety of oral and written activities, including games throughout the week to develop and enhance their skills in these areas. To assist with 'The Big Write' at school, students and their families are asked to complete 'Talk Homework' about the proposed topic. The aim is for the students is to talk and explore their knowledge of a focused topic. *'If they can't say it, they can't write it'*, we teach children to become articulate thinkers and speakers, who will then become articulate writers.

In Year 1/2 the focus will be on building students' knowledge of grammar. This will be explicitly taught both as a standalone lesson and incorporated into writing sessions.

## Handwriting

Year 1/2 students will be given weekly handwriting activities in class to help improve their letter formation. We encourage children to practice at home as well, as many children still have difficulties with letter and number reversals.

## Spelling

As part of our spelling program the children learn common letter patterns and sounds, which make up words. This is an important skill, as many words in the English language are not words which can be sounded out. Often in English, letters make different sounds when they are put together. The children will learn various strategies that can be used when attempting to spell unknown words. In addition, some children will be revising the Oxford 100-300 high frequency words throughout the year. The children will also be introduced to different spelling blends throughout the year, reinforced using 'Soundwaves'; a spelling approach used school wide. The Soundwaves approach is designed to develop reading, spelling, and writing through phonemic awareness. Phonemic awareness is essentially a knowledge and understanding of the sounds and sound patterns of our language. Weekly spelling words will begin to go home when your child confidently and accurately reads all the word lists.

## Numeracy

The mathematics program explores all areas of the curriculum throughout the year: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. Maths is taught 5 hours per week. We use a variety of programs, including 'Top Ten Numeracy' to assist with the delivery of our maths program. Each Numeracy session operates the same way where students work as a whole group, individual practice and come back together as a whole group. Students explore and consolidate their learning through differentiated activities appropriate to their level of ability. All students have access both at school and at home to Mathletics on-line to support our Numeracy program.

### **The Number foci for 2023 are;**

- Term 1 Place Value, Length & Mass
- Term 2 Addition & Subtraction, 2D Shape & Location
- Term 3 Multiplication & Division
- Term 4 Number and Algebra (Money, Finance, Fractions, Decimals & Probability)

Throughout Year 1/2 an ongoing focus is to ensure children have a solid foundation of the basis of our number system and can efficiently use number strategies when processing maths tasks. Such strategies include a knowledge and recall of number bonds, doubles, near doubles, adding to 10 and bridging to ten. Students are assessed prior to beginning each focus area in order for the teaching to address their point of need.

## Project Based Learning

The Year 1/2 students will be involved in Project Based Learning which will provide students with the opportunity to develop new strategies, continue building skills, independence, foster their curiosity, research skills, unpack problem solving skills, cooperation, collaboration, relationship building, skill sharing, openness, optimism, resilience,

concentration, creativity and communication capabilities and to also help to develop student voice. This will build on skills learnt in PBL in Years Prep and 1.

## Design, Creativity and Technology

We endeavour to integrate Learning Technologies into the classroom program in as many different ways possible and through the regular use of the computers and iPads in the classroom. We see the internet and mobile technology as valuable resources, but acknowledge they must be used responsibly.

## Personal Learning

A big focus in Year 1/2 this year will be on taking responsibility for our own learning. The children can start by packing and unpacking their own bags, remembering to hand notices in and returning their home reading book everyday. These tasks aim to help encourage independence and to establish routines.

## Reports

During the year there will be four formal ways of reporting the students' achievements to you. Two Parent/ Student/ Teacher interviews in Term 1 and 3 and two written reports in Term 2 and 4. Please make sure the children come to their conference in school uniform. You can make an extra time to chat with us if you wish to have an update or are concerned about your child's progress.

## Excursions, Incursions and Special Activities

Excursions and Incursions are an important part of the student's learning and supporting the classroom topics. They allow your child to discuss and participate in 'real life' experiences that build on their skills and understanding.

## Punctuality

It is most important that all children aim to be at school on time in the morning, ready to begin class at 9.00am. Lateness does occur occasionally however we urge you to ensure your child is punctual as constant lateness upsets the classroom routine and causes lost crucial teaching time.

## Collecting Children Early

When you need to collect your child early from school it is necessary to visit the office where your child will be called to meet you at the office. Similarly, if your child is late they must also sign in at the office and receive a Late Arrival pass.

## Water Bottles and Healthy Snacks

We encourage students to have a bottle of water in class each day so they can access it when needed. We also ask children to aim to bring healthy snacks to school every day.

## Welfare

To maximise your child's learning we ask you to consider the following;

- The importance of establishing routines
- Encouraging independence
- Promoting healthy eating and sleeping habits
- Helping with the establishment of organisational skills and responsibility
- Being punctual
- Understanding the importance of rest and relaxation time

## Specialist Classes & Timetable

Your child will be participating in the following classes this year:

Art, Phys. Ed. Library and Science. The weekly Specialist timetable can change but children are given plenty of advance notice, wherever possible.

## Japanese

Japanese is taught by the classroom teacher for approximately 1 hour a fortnight. This may be broken up throughout a week or taught in a solid chunk of time depending on what is more suitable for the class. Although the program does teach basic language skills, it begins to incorporate both the oral and written components of the language.

## Science

A new specialist program in 2023, students will be provided with one hour of science focused lessons, taught by a specialist science teacher. The Science curriculum is directly linked to the Victorian Curriculum with focus areas including biological sciences, chemical sciences, Earth and Space sciences and physical sciences.

Welcome to Science and Technology, my name is Ms Rebekah and I look forward to an exciting year of discovery with our RPS students. This year we shall be exploring the world around us. In Biology, the students will be investigating various fruits and vegetables, sustainability including saving water and bush tucker. In Chemical Science, the students will enjoy experimenting with foods, observing what they produce when mixed together. In our Earth and Space unit, the students will learn about the seasons, weather and traditional materials including those used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, In Physical Science, the students will experiment with the push and pull effect and various vibrations. During the sessions, the students will have the opportunity to explore through hands-on experiments, to predict, test and reflect on their own learning

## Physical Education

The Physical Education program will provide opportunities for students to learn through movement. It supports them in broadening the range and complexity of fundamental movement skills they are able to perform in a range of settings, including indoor, outdoor and aquatic. They learn how to select, transfer and apply simple movement skills and sequences individually, in groups and in teams.

Students also further develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to movement by exploring simple rule systems and safe use of equipment in a variety of physical activities and games. Through active participation, they investigate the body's

response to different types of physical activities. In addition, students develop personal and social skills such as cooperation, decision making, problem-solving and persistence during movement activities.

## Art

In Art this year the students will be investigating elements of art such as colour, line, shape, value and texture. They will explore these elements using different mediums like paint, oil pastels, collage and clay. RPS students do not need to bring their own art smock, they will have access to one in the art room.

## Daily Structure

9:00 - Session 1  
 10:00 - Session 2  
 11:00- Recess  
 11:30 - Session 3  
 12:30 -Session 4  
 1:30 – Lunch Eating Time  
 1:45- Lunch Play Time  
 2:30 – Session 5  
 3:30 – Home time

## Home - School Communication

We are more than happy to discuss the learning progress of your child with you throughout the year. Please try to make an appointment before or after school. You can also contact us via the school email on [researchcps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:researchcps@edumail.vic.gov.au) or alternatively on Compass.

### - With the School or Office

The following are the school's contact details:

**RESEARCH PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**1570 Main Road Research 3095**  
**Tel 9437 1917 Fax 9437 1058**  
[www.researchcps.vic.edu.au](http://www.researchcps.vic.edu.au)

