

M1

Dear Families,

Welcome to the new school year! I hope you have all had a lovely holiday break with your children. For our new families, my name is Zebedy and I am excited to continue in my role as the classroom teacher in M1. Julie-Ann will be the classroom SSO and will be supporting the class throughout the week. We are looking forward to working as an enthusiastic and dynamic team! We have a number of new students joining M1 this year – A very special welcome to Harry, Valentina, Gurtaj and Aniketh! Welcome back to Jalen, Shourya and Juan.

There will be a large focus on learning school routines this term. Students will be encouraged to sit on the mat and join in group times as well as engage in table-top learning in short bursts. The children will also participate in play based learning experiences, which will provide them with opportunities to develop their communication and social skills. Visuals and schedules will be used to support instructions and develop student understanding. A 'First, Then' approach will be incorporated to foster engagement in a wider variety of activities, including non-preferred tasks.

In English we will be learning letters and sounds using the Jolly Phonics program. In numeracy, the Mathseeds program



will be used as an interactive tool to introduce and consolidate key concepts. A structured teaching approach will also be incorporated, where each student will be encouraged to complete highly visual task box activities, consisting of personalised learning tasks to support engagement and participation. In Technology, each child will have access to a Chromebook, which they will use to navigate online programs.



Morning & Afternoon Routines

Due to COVID-19 recommendations and social distancing requirements, parents/carers are asked to avoid entering classrooms. Each morning, families are encouraged take their child to the classroom, entering via the external door located outside the M1 classroom (by the quad). The classroom will open each morning from 8:40am and children are not to enter the building before this time. Alternatively, classroom staff can meet students in the front office area as required. As the children enter the room they will unpack their bags by placing their lunch boxes, water bottles and reading bags in the labelled purple tubs. School bags will be kept in the lockers outside the classroom. We will start





our days with play based learning and task box activities. If your child arrives after 9am, then you must sign them in at the front office or they will be marked as absent. At the end of the day we will meet families at the Robson Playground, located by the lower car-park. Please see the front office if you would like to organise a parking permit. Without a permit you will be unable to access on-site parking.

Reading Bags

Student reading bags will be sent home each night containing a take home reader, reading record booklet, sight word list and any notes that are sent home. Please check these folders for notes regularly. In your child's reading folder you will find a reading record booklet, which can be used to document any reading your child completes at home. I will send home short texts according to their reading level. It is important to read with them every day, even if they are at the very beginning stages of learning concepts of print. This means you reading aloud to them, with them or having them read to you.



Library Day

Thursday is M1's Library Day - Please ensure your child is returning their library book each week so they can borrow a new one!

Specialist Lessons

Our specialist teachers involved with M1 this term are Richard Thom (Physical Education (P.E.)), Sudesh Chawla (Science & Dance) and Rachel Clarke (Italian).



Monday – 11:50-12:40 - P.E.
Tuesday - 11:50-12:40 – P.E.
Wednesday - 11:50-12:40 – Science
Thursday - 11:50-12:40: Dance
Friday - 11:50-12:40: Italian



Seesaw

I will be using the Seesaw app to share student learning and communicate important messages and reminders. Invitations to connect to your child's learning journal were sent home in Week 1. Please follow the instructions provided, as they will enable you to connect with your child's journal and view pictures of their learning journey at school. You will also be able to respond by liking and commenting on posts. Seesaw enables you to instantly communicate important messages and reminders to me, and this is my preferred method for day to day communication.



Illness

Please do not send your child to school unwell. Any child with cold type symptoms must stay home as per COVID-19 recommendations.

Absences

If your child is going to be absent from school for any unexpected reason including illness, can you please call and inform the school directly on (08) 8337 1411 in the morning. For any planned absences, please let me know beforehand, either in person or via Seesaw/email.

Donations

It would be much appreciated if families could each donate a box of tissues to be used in the classroom. Other donations that would be much appreciated include empty plastic bags, wet wipes and paper towels.



Swimming

The children will access swimming lessons throughout the year through the Department for Education Students with Disability Policy. We currently have two lessons scheduled for Term 1 (Thursday Week 7 & 11). More information will be sent home in the next few weeks. Lessons will take place at The ARC, Campbelltown. Please send a swimming bag containing clearly labelled bathers, goggles, towels and dry underwear on swimming lesson days. Please ensure all school clothing items are also clearly labelled.

Water Play

With the warmer weather upon us, we will be regularly using our Nature Play area, where the children will be able to engage in water play. Your child may end up getting wet on these occasions, so I ask that you please keep a change of clothes (t-shirt/rashie, shorts and jocks) or bathers in your child's school bag. It would also be great if you could pack a pair of crocs or thongs if possible. Please send these items to school in a plastic bag within your child's school bag.



Looking forward to an amazing year of learning and fun!

Warmest regards,

Zebedy Hallett

TERM 1 KEY DATES

Week 3	Tuesday 09/02	Acquaintance Night Governing Council Meeting
Week 3	Friday 12/02	Assembly
Week 6	Friday 05/03	Assembly
Week 7	Monday 08/03	Public Holiday – Adelaide Cup
Week 7	Thursday 11/03	Swimming Lesson
Week 8	Tuesday 16/03	Governing Council Meeting
Week 8	Friday 19/03	Assembly
Week 9	Monday 22/03	Harmony Day
Week 9	Friday 26/03	Sports Day
Week 10	Thursday 01/04	Pupil Free Day
Week 10	Friday 02/04	Public Holiday - Good Friday
Week 11	Monday 05/04	Public Holiday - Easter Monday
Week 11	Thursday 08/04	Swimming Lesson
Week 11	Friday 09/04	Assembly Last Day of Term 1: 2pm Dismissal

