

YEAR 1 BULLETIN

TERM 2 - Week 1

We hope you all enjoyed the break from school routine and managed to have some valuable family time. Allira, Jenny, Pauline and I took advantage of our time away from school to recharge our batteries and we are now excited to work with you and your children to build on our learning and deepen our understandings.

Last term saw us commence our journey into unpacking our enduring understanding (or more simply, the big idea), *'Understanding ourselves and others helps us to become better learners'*. Throughout this unit of inquiry we have planned experiences that have guided children to explore how they learn and deepen their knowledge about the learning process. This learning has led us to the revelation that our learning is simply not acquiring knowledge but what impacts knowledge acquisition and how this knowledge is applied to promote new learning. Children have been particularly interested in understanding how making mistakes promotes learning. Discussions on children's reflections of their experiences has been crucial to deepen understanding of how we all need to make mistakes in order to learn.

As we continue to unpack this big idea, we have reached a consensus as to class expectations that will enable us to become better learners. Children's understanding that learning does occur beyond the traditional walls of the classroom has been exciting. Recognising the importance to cooperate and collaborate when learning has been explored extensively during Investigations, Buddy sessions and during morning recess and lunch play.

To further deepen children's understandings of our 'big idea', they participated in a drama and dance workshop today that was run by Incursions 'R' Us. The company is owned and run by Christine, the parent of Isabella in year 2. The language used throughout the workshop was most useful in equipping our children to be proactive and reactive in developing social and emotional 'smarts'.

What we have been learning about:

Unpacking our 'big idea' has led to many discussions about how we can promote an environment conducive to learning in and out of the classroom. Digital and printed texts have been used to support our discussions.

In our spelling, we have focused our attention to hearing digraphs in words and representing them with the corresponding letters – sh, th, wh, ch and ph. We have made some discoveries including the 'sh' sound is **usually** represented by the letters *sh* but words such as Russia, sugar, and Porche are exceptions. When spelling, we have been guiding the children to make discoveries about words and then devise theories.

In Maths, we have found that with this group of children it is important to promote 'maths' as being a part of life. The reality of using and applying maths in our everyday lives is something that we need to continue highlighting. To begin our conversations, we have started to think about how we can purchase a big outdoor clock for the schoolyard. Last term we wrote a letter to School Council requesting a clock as this would help us manage our time efficiently. Children wanted to be able to go to the toilet and get a drink before the bell rang. School Council responded and have given us some money towards the purchase of a clock but we still need to think about how to raise further funds. This project will be a focus for the next couple of weeks.

What you can do at home:

The start of term usually means changes to timetables and helping your child manage these changes will support him/her at school. Devising a weekly planner together and referring to it on a daily basis will help your child understand the importance of being organised.

Some of the things you might like to include in this planner include:

- Daily reading
- Tri skills (school uniform is to be worn but choose options where clothing is comfortable- no stockings please)
- Library (bring red bag)
- Digital Technologies (ensure you have your headphones at school)

To help with putting this planner together you might like to know the following:

Tri skills – Friday (all year 1's)

Library – Friday (all year 1's)

Health/P/E- Monday 1C; Tuesday 1K & 1P; Wednesday 1Z

Please continue to read the newsletter as there is important information regarding whole school events. Tri skills will be starting next week but your child will not be able to participate if permission has not been given. The newsletter has all the details.

Have a great week

The year 1 Team