

Term 1 Week 8 Bulletin

It's been a busy few weeks in Year 2 with 2Z finishing up the one-to-one iPad program, Investigations in full swing, Harmony Day celebrations this week and kids meeting their buddies. With the conclusion of term one fast approaching, the following provides a snapshot of our current learning...

Maths

We have been exploring the concept of number, place value and skip counting. We are investigating numbers in everyday life and finding incidental opportunities to consider different counting strategies.

We put our measuring skills to good use with all three year 2 classes, investigating together, the height of a plank tower that was created during investigations. Children enjoyed working collaboratively and discussing strategies to determine the actual height.

Literacy

We are enjoying a wide range of texts that support our enduring understanding, 'What I say and do affects more than just me'. While activities continue to target the needs of all students, they are also designed to help reinforce the school values, in addition to gratitude, empathy and mindfulness.

Our writing focus continues to be based around sentence structure, the correct use of capital letters and full stops with frequent attention given to handwriting as well. We are looking at the long vowel sounds and adopt a multi-sensory approach to the teaching and learning of such sounds and spelling patterns.

Investigations

Students are now actively exploring individual pursuits during Investigations, with a focus on supporting students to ascertain their purpose for what they are investigating. They are also beginning to reflect on what they investigate through written reports. We do not follow a roster with focus children, but rather, select children at each session to work closely with. Our focus of independence, accountability and reflection, will help prepare year 2 students for the transition to year 3 and the introduction of Educational Research Projects.

Take-Home Reading

A reminder that red bags must be brought to school each Monday so children can swap their books for the week. It is important children read aloud but also listen to others read to them. Just as important as the reading itself, is the discussion about the book, questions you could ask and the conversations you could have.

The books children take home are designed to support skills explicitly being taught in class, they should not be difficult to read and we do not place an emphasis on exactly which 'letter' books children take home. They are simply supplementing content covered in class. These books are also good opportunities for children to use punctuation to inform their expression when reading aloud.

A common query from parents is about the reading progress children make and how they can support their child at home. The following article (also included in the year 1 bulletin) may help to clarify...

<http://theconversation.com/knowning-your-childs-reading-stage-and-how-to-help-them-37215>

Mindfulness

We continue to focus our attention to mindfulness and understanding the importance of it in the midst of the very busy lives we all lead. Mindfulness involves the ability to pay attention to our emotions so that we become more aware of them and better able to manage them. Throughout the year, year 2's will continue to build a repertoire of mindfulness strategies so please discuss and practise these in the home environment as well.

The following article includes useful ways to use mindfulness to help build children's resilience.

<https://www.heysigmund.com/5-simple-ways-build-resilience-well-children-dr-hazel-harrison/>

