

1/2 Durrong Community Newsletter

Term 1, 2017



HARVEST HOME
PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been an exciting start to our year in the Durrong Community! We have been very busy investigating our school behaviours of *Being Respectful*, *Being Safe* and *Being Your Best*. Our community students have been earning 'Hero Stamps' for showing these behaviours inside the community and 'Hero Cards' when showing these behaviours outside.

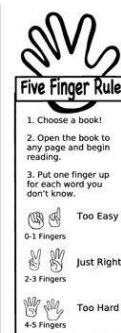
This term we are focusing on:

Reading:

Students have been assessed to ascertain their instructional reading level (with satisfactory comprehension) and grouped according to their abilities and point of need. These groups and levels may change throughout the year depending on assessment results and the learning needs of your child.

Your child may be working on one or more of the following skills in their group:

- Picking *Just Right* books, using the 5 Finger Rule
- Establishing our Independent Reading behaviour expectations
- Building up stamina during Independent Reading
- Letter sound recognition
- Blends and digraphs
- Reading with fluency
- Making connections
- Making predictions and inferences using clues from the text
- Using the text as a tool to assist with answering questions
- Generating questions about the text before, during and after reading



Writing:

Students have been assessed using initial writing samples and grouped according to their learning needs. Our writing genre this term is Recount. Each writing group may be working on different stages of the writing process (planning, composing, editing, publishing).

Within their groups, students may be focusing on the following skills:

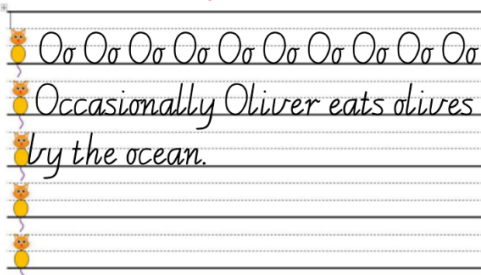
- Placing letters correctly on the lines and putting spaces between words
- Grammar and punctuation
- Vocabulary and sentence structure
- Sound knowledge and spelling



Handwriting

Students in the Durrong Community begin most days with a handwriting fluency task. Each week, the focus is on forming letters correctly, correct size and orientation of letters and ensuring correct starting position and pencil control.

Wednesday 8th March 2017



Problem-based Learning (PBL)

- Exploring how we learn best
- Working on the school value of Cooperation, exploring team work
- Setting personal goals related to learning and teamwork and reflecting on these goals

Numeracy

Students have been assessed according to their knowledge in relation to counting and place value.

Within planned activities, students may be focusing on the following skills:

- Counting – forwards and backwards by 1 from various starting points 0-120, before and after numbers and skip counting by 2, 3, 5 and 10
- Patterns – investigating and describing number patterns formed by skip counting and with objects
- Place Value – recognising numbers, making numbers with icy pole sticks and other materials, writing numbers and ordering numbers from smallest to largest. Students will be working with 2, 3 or 4 digit numbers depending on their assessed skill level

Grade 1/2 Homework Expectations:

It is recommended that students in Grades 1 and 2 participate in a minimum of **20 minutes** of homework per day. Students are to read either their take home book or a book on Wushka/Reading Eggs on a daily basis. Please record the book read each night in their yellow home reader book. **After** reading, parents are encouraged to discuss the meaning of the books and give your child a deeper, richer understanding of what has been read.

Being a 21st century learning school we have school and home access to some exciting online programs to support the curriculum. In your child's yellow home reader book you will find the login details to the following websites:

Reading Eggs- www.readingeggs.com.au

Wushka: www.wushka.com.au

Mathletics- www.mathletics.com.au

Students can also access the program **Spellodrome** www.spellodrome.com.au using their Mathletics password.

In the future we will be sending home personalised home learning tasks, however we are still in the process of assessing the students – we appreciate your patience in regards to this matter.

Reminders:

If for some reason your child is absent from school, you can explain the absence on Compass or make contact with the school on 8468 9000.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email one of us via Compass, or call the office to arrange a time to pop in for a chat.

*Kind Regards,
Bianca, Christina, Di and Kellie
Grade 1/2 Community Teachers*