

Term 1

Teaching and Learning



Early Stage 1

KAS and KG

English

In Early Stage 1, focus is on building foundational skills and increasing the confidence to read, write and communicate. A typical *English Block* includes phonics and spelling, handwriting, speaking about a variety of topics, reading teacher- selected books and writing in response to various prompts. Cultivating a love of reading and literature by introducing and responding to quality texts will also be a strong feature.

You may support your child at home by discussing characters, key events and ideas in books; predicting the meaning of unfamiliar words and extending your child's vocabulary are also beneficial. Making connections between key ideas in texts and the personal experiences of your child also helps to deepen comprehension.

Follow the subsequent link for tips about phonics. [Help with phonics](#)

Developing fine-motor control is also important in the early years of learning. Strengthening dexterity and hand-eye co-ordination enables students to build handwriting fluency and lessen the cognitive load needed to write and spell.

Further information about English in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 will be presented in an upcoming workshop early in Term 2.

Mathematics

The new K-2 Mathematics Syllabus aims to deepen number sense by allowing students to:

- understand the symbols that represent quantity
- learn the sequence of counting words and making the association between the words and quantities
- learn different ways of representing quantity – objects, words and symbols – as well as understanding that ten (10), for example, is not only a word or symbol but a combination of different number pairs, such as 5 and 5, 4 and 6, or 3 and 7
- identify links between measurement, space and number

Our mathematics tasks require students to:

- explore and connect mathematical concepts
- choose and apply efficient techniques to solve problems
- communicate their thinking and reasoning coherently and clearly

The following link provides parent and carer tips about Mathematics in the primary school years. [Helping your child with primary school maths](#)

You may wish to support your child by using mathematical language in everyday life - eg whilst cooking, during daily routines refer to the days of the week, recognising numbers and shapes in the environment.

Science

Lessons in Science will be implemented from Term 2 onwards.

Geography

Students in Early Stage 1 will explore the places they live in and belong to. They will develop an understanding of what makes a place special and how this may differ for different people. Students will also learn about the importance of looking after places and explore how the location of places can be represented (eg on maps).

History

Lessons in History will be implemented in Term 2.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

Students will be participating in activities that address how to be inclusive and respectful, responsible for their own and others' health and safety, and how to make healthy and safe decisions, and be physically active. At home, you may support this program by discussing ways to bounce back from setbacks and developing social relationships.

Early Stage 1 students will also be involved in Fitness and Sport activities which will develop fundamental movement skills and teamwork.

Creative and Performing Arts

Our Early Stage 1 students will also participate in visual arts, drama, music and dance activities. These lessons provide an opportunity for students to learn, appreciate, make and perform a variety of art forms.

Exercise your Brain

Phonics and Handwriting

Each week, students will receive a worksheet which may assist them at home to revise learning that has taken place in the classroom. We hope this is useful to support discussions at home about the sounds each letter makes (phonemes), the written symbol for each sound (graphemes), words that may begin with each sound, and the correct formation of letters.

High Frequency Words and Sight Words

Students will also receive copies of high frequency or sight words that have been taught in class. Some time spent at home regularly reading these words would be useful. Some activities that may be helpful to assist learning these words could include: playing games such as Snap or Memory, using items found in the home to make the words (e.g. buttons, pasta, sand, magnets) or using an implement to write them.

Home Reading

Regular home reading is highly beneficial for Early Stage 1 students. It allows your child to practise and further develop decoding, accuracy, smoothness, phrasing and expression. Your child's class teacher will recommend and assign specific texts to support reading fluency. Please record your child's reading on the log provided. Decodable home reading texts will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Mathletics

Mathletics is offered by the school once again this year. As of Term 2, teachers will assign tasks based on content that has been introduced in class.

For additional ways to support your child, refer to the tips included in this newsletter and the following link. [Primary school homework tips](#)

Early Stage 1 Weekly Events

- **Tuesday**

Scripture and Ethics

Fitness

KAS Library day

- **Thursday**

Sport

KG Library day

Throughout the year, we will be sharing regular updates on your child's learning through Google Classroom.

Early Stage 1 Team

Mrs Guilfoyle, Mrs Simmonds and Mrs Anastasiou