

Wednesday 7th February 2024



Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to Stage 1. The children have settled into their first days at school, and we are looking forward to an exciting and engaging year ahead.

A warm welcome is extended to our new families who have joined the Terrey Hills community.

Our 2024 teachers across Stage 1 are: Mrs Michelle Wilson teaching 1/KW, Mrs Kate Walker teaching 2/1W and Miss Samara Jennings teaching 2J.

This note provides some information relevant to your child's routines and requirements. We will cover this information and subsequent information in more detail at the **Parent Information Night** on Monday 19th February at 5:30pm. These sessions will be held in your child's classroom.



Terrey Hills Vision: Children are always the only future the human race has; teach them well.

- Provide them with love and belonging.
- Enable them to be powerful.
- Create freedom for them to choose.
- Inspire them to have fun.
- Ensure they have everything they need to survive.

Terrey Hills Public School is committed to ensuring that how we teach your child is based on what we know makes the biggest difference to their learning.

Staff use current research and evidence-based practices in effective teaching. The themes that we use to guide our teaching come from the Departments' 'What works best: 2020 update'. The practices include:

- High expectations
- Explicit teaching
- Effective feedback
- Use of data to inform practice
- Assessment
- Classroom management
- Wellbeing

Weekly Class Timetables

	1/KW	2/1W	2J
Monday	Science	Science	Science
Tuesday	Scripture Sport – sports uniform	Scripture Sport – sports uniform	Scripture Sport – sports uniform
Wednesday	Music: Miss Deakin Library: Ms Wilson - library bag required	Music: MissDeakin Italian: Signora Leroux	Library: Ms Wilson - library bag required Italian: Signora Leroux
Thursday	Italian: Signora Leroux Homework due History	Library: Ms Wilson - library bag required Homework due History	Music: Miss Deakin Homework due History
Friday	Assembly (fortnightly) Homework sent home	Assembly (fortnightly) Homework sent home	Assembly (fortnightly) Homework sent home



The outcomes for **English** K–2 fall under two key processes - Understanding texts and Creating texts.

Outcomes and content are organised under:

- Oral language and communication
- Vocabulary
- Phonological awareness (ES1)
- Print conventions (ES1)
- Phonic knowledge
- Reading fluency
- Reading comprehension
- Creating written texts
- Spelling
- Handwriting
- Understanding and responding to literature.

Our focus topics for this term are set out below:

Year 1 Grapheme/Phoneme	Year 2 Grapheme/Phoneme	Literacy concept focus
Long a sound	Medial double consonants e.g. -ff- -bb- etc,	Context
Long e sound	Vowel diagraphs ou, oo, au	Narrative
Long i sound	Diagraphs represented by the schwa sound le, el, al	Character
	Consonant diagraphs kn, gn	Imagery, symbol and connotation
		Perspective and argument
		Representation



In **Mathematics**, explicit teaching occurs daily. Each lesson follows the structure of an explicit introduction to the key concept with a focus on number talks and unpacking the vocabulary around the mathematical concept. Our lessons involve the teacher working through guided, worked examples with the class, with a focus on working out and using the ‘think aloud’ strategy. Students then undertake independent activities that are differentiated to suit their ability level. Through each lesson, students are encouraged to share their answers, strategies and also listen to the solutions of others to build a working bank of mathematical strategies. Below is an outline of the focus for Term 1.

Strand	Sub strand focus
Number and algebra	Representing whole numbers
	Combining and separating quantities
	Forming Groups
Measurement and space	Two-dimensional spatial structure (2D shapes and Area)
	Three-dimensional spatial structure (3D objects and Volume)
	Geometric measure (length)
	Non-spatial measure (Mass)
Statistics and probability	Data



In **Science**, Stage 1 will be studying the unit 'Dinosaurs and More'. Through hands-on activities students explore the external features of modern animals and compare them with the skeletons of dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals. Students learn about the protective features of dinosaurs and use those ideas to design, make and appraise a 'dino shield'.

This term we will study the **History unit** – 'The past in the present'. This topic provides a study of our Terrey Hills history. Students will explore, recognise and appreciate our local area by examining remains of the past and considering why they should be preserved.

Inquiry Questions:

- What aspects of the past can you see today?
- What do they tell us?
- What remains of the past are important to the local community? Why?
- How have changes in technology shaped our daily life?



In **Personal Development, Health and Physical Education**, we will be learning about health and wellbeing through the **Bounce Back program and Life Education**. Stage 1 students will engage in sports activities on Tuesdays. Sports uniform will be required on these days.



In Years 1 and 2 some formal **homework** will be set. Students will be asked to read books aloud with an adult or older sibling, learn spelling words, prepare for news topics and complete mathematical activities. Time recommendations for homework is 15 - 20 minutes per night including home reading. Homework will go home on a Friday and is to be returned to school on a Thursday. We do understand that children do have additional commitments and that sometimes homework is challenging to complete. If your child has not had time to complete their homework in a given week, we simply ask for a short note from you in your child's homework book. This is to ensure that you are aware your child has not completed set homework and acts as a tracking method for both you and us. Homework will commence from Week 4 after our Parent Information Evening where we will explain homework expectations further.

High Potential Gifted Education

At Terrey Hills teachers differentiate learning to cater for all student's individual needs and our HPGE programs are underpinned by evidence-based research. A variety of opportunities will be offered this year to cater for HPGE students across all domains (intellectual, creative, physical and social-emotional). This can take the form of differentiation by your child's teacher, learning adjustments, support in the classroom, enrichment groups or specific programs and opportunities.

Library

We are excited to welcome Year 1 and 2 students back to the library. This term during Library, Year One and Two will be learning about the organisation of the Library. They will be learning how to locate and put away books by reading the spine label. We will be reading a broad selection of fiction and non-fiction books and explore concepts such as theme, genre, character, setting and main idea. Students will compose short books reviews and will learn how to publish their reviews in Orbit.

Borrowing: This year, Stage 1 students can borrow TWO books at a time. The loan period is two weeks. Students will need a library bag to protect the books they borrow from being damaged. Students will not be able to borrow without a library bag or if they have outstanding books at home.

Premier's Reading Challenge

All students are encouraged to participate in the Premier's Reading Challenge. In Years 1 & 2 students will have the opportunity to read all 30 of the required books during class and Library lesson, however, we encourage students to select PRC titles to read at home as well. Students will be learning how to access PRC website and will be responsible for managing their Personal Reading Logs. They will receive adequate time during library to do this. In addition to students reading themselves, parents are encouraged to continue to read aloud to their children each night. The PRC reading list is a fantastic resource to assist in selecting quality children's literature. Further information will be communicated via School Bytes when the challenge commences at the end of February.

Digital Technology & Coding

This term, students will be participating in coding lessons. Students will continue to expand upon their coding experience from last year. These sessions will be held in the Library and will be delivered collaboratively with Ms Wilson and the class teachers.

Play Equipment

Students are not permitted to play on the playground equipment before the 8:50am school bell or after school. Students use the equipment during the school day under staff supervision. We appreciate your assistance by not letting your child/children on the equipment before and after school.

Fruit Break

Each day in the morning session children will have fruit break. The children should bring in a small snack of fresh fruits or vegetables for example carrot/celery sticks, strawberries, apricots (no processed food). Please cut all fruit/vegetables and place in a separate container to their recess and lunch.

Allergies

Please notify us of any allergies your child may have. Please be aware that some students may have nut allergies. We ask you to assist us by not sending products containing nuts or traces of nuts to school.

Birthday Treats

Birthday treats that are individually sealed can be sent to school to share with all class-mates. You may also purchase ice-blocks or popcorn packs through the canteen.

Pick and Drop Off Procedures

Students need to drop off their bags off at their classroom and go to the 3-6 playground from 8:50am. In the afternoon, students will meet their parents at the K-2 playground.

Absences

If your child has been absent from school, please provide written notification to explain the absence either via the school office or using the School Bytes App.

Diary Dates

- **Parent Information Evening – Monday 19th February 5:30-6:15 pm**
- **Swimming Carnival** – Wednesday 28th February (optional for 8-year-old Year 2 students only)
- **Easter Hat Parade** – Week 9 Date to be confirmed.
- **Good Friday** – Friday 29 March (Public holiday)
- **Easter Monday** – Monday 1 April (Public holiday)
- **Healthy Harold** – Week 10 (2 – 4 April)
- **Parent-Teacher interviews** – Week 10 and 11 Dates and times to be confirmed.
- **End of Term 1** – Friday 12 April

School Information and Communication – School Bytes App

It is highly recommended that all families at the school have the school app. The app is used for emergency and general communication sharing, it is also how all permission notes for excursions are distributed. The following functions are also available from the app:

- Report absences
- Report changes of addresses / phone details
- Link to school newsletter via Parent Calendar



Health Alert

A student in our school is currently receiving treatment for a chronic illness which results in a lowered immune system, this means, the student is more prone to getting ill from infections. This student is not contagious but, it is important he/she participates actively in the day-to-day school program without any major limitations.

A major concern is that if this student develops measles, chickenpox, whooping cough or influenza, he/she could become seriously ill. I seek your cooperation in preventing this situation. If your child has or may have chickenpox or measles, we ask that you please:

- Do not send them to school.
- Notify the Office and Principal as soon as possible.
- Take them to your GP or medical centre to confirm the diagnosis if possible.

Communication

To ensure **concerns or queries regarding your child are actioned it is important that the school office be contacted either by phone or email.** This is to ensure that messages are received and passed on to the appropriate person (whether that be a teacher or your child).

Please ensure that, if you do email your teacher through the school office, you put the teacher's full name in the subject line.

Normal school office hours are 8.30am – 3.30pm and messages will only be forwarded during these times.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher via the school email: terreyhill-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au or phoning the school office on 9450 1612.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year and getting to know your child and you.

Kind Regards

Mrs Michelle Wilson (1/KW), Mrs Kate Walker (2/1W), Miss Samara Jennings (2J)

Stage 1 Class Teachers

Miss Catherine Wyles

Stage 1 Assistant Principal

Mrs Adrienne Bruce

Principal