

# Mathematics

Our focus is:

- **Whole Number**
- **Addition and Subtraction**
- **Patterns and Algebra**
- **Length**
- **Problem Solving**

This term we have a big focus on building students' understanding of Number concepts. We do this as having a good understanding of Number builds the foundations for every other topic covered in maths.

We will also be exploring strategies to improve students' ability to solve mathematical problems and explain their reasoning.

You can help at home by:

- Encouraging your child to complete their maths homework each fortnight once this commences.
- Encouraging your child to regularly practise their times tables.
- Discussing your reasoning with your child when you apply mathematical concepts in everyday situations eg. doubling a recipe, calculating value for money when shopping

# Creative Arts

Our focus is:

## Music

Students will learn about musical concepts including duration, pitch, dynamics, tone colour and structure through composing, performing and appreciating a variety of types of music.

You can help at home by:

- Encouraging your child to experiment with organising sounds to make basic songs/rhythms.
- Singing along with your child.

# PE/ Sport

Our focus is:

Developing fundamental movement skills including: **sprint run, static balance, vertical jump and dodge.**

Students will develop these skills through explicit instruction as well as participation in modified games and sports during PE and Sport lessons.

The swimming carnival will also be held this term and is a great opportunity for students to develop their confidence in competition.

Sport lessons this term will link with the Commonwealth Games being held on the Gold Coast in April.

You can help at home by:

- Playing a variety of active games/sports with your child and encouraging them to be active for at least an hour each day.

## WCS Term 1 Learning Newsletter Year 3/4M

**Find out what your child  
is learning this term and  
how can you support  
them at home**

# English

Our focus is:

## Reading comprehension skills

Students will read, view and respond to familiar and challenging texts. They will explore comprehension strategies such as predicting, monitoring and making connections.

You can help at home by:

- Exposing your child to various forms of quality literature including novels, picture books, visual, spoken and digital texts.
- Encouraging your child to read every day. This is very important and will assist your child in all aspects of English.
- Reading aloud to your child as often as you can. Share stories that you love.
- If you have a reluctant reader, source appropriate educational literacy apps.
- Encourage your children to think critically and question what they are reading or viewing. Ask them to give you a short summary of each book.

# Personal Development

Our focus is:

## Personal Safety

This will cover various aspects of safety including sun safety, emergencies, water safety and road safety.

You can help at home by:

- Discussing the meaning of road signs and the importance of following the road rules as a passenger and driver.
- Reinforcing safety messages regarding sun and water safety and encouraging your child to take responsibility for applying sunscreen and wearing their hat.

# Writing

Our focus is:

## 7 Steps to Writing Success

This term we will continue to teach the *7 Steps to Writing Success* in order to teach effective writing skills in manageable 'chunks'.

You can help at home by:

- Encouraging your child to write for fun (letters to friends/family, diaries etc). They may like to publish their work on a computer/tablet.
- Focusing on and praising interesting ideas when reading your child's writing rather than focusing on grammar.

## Inquiry Unit

Our focus is:

### Community and Remembrance

Students will use an inquiry approach to explore the questions:

- 1) Who lived here first and how do we know?
- 2) How has our community changed? What features have been lost and what features have been retained?
- 3) What is the nature of the contribution made by different groups and individuals in the community?
- 4) How and why do people choose to remember significant events of the past?

Students will also attend an excursion to Alison Homestead to examine what has changed and what has stayed the same throughout history in our local area.

You can help at home by:

- Encouraging your child to be inquisitive about local and Australian history.
- Discussing what life was like for Aboriginal people prior to the arrival of the Europeans.
- Exploring the history of the Wyong region and/or visiting local historical places of interest.

## Spelling

Our focus is:

Developing students' understanding of the relationship between sounds, word parts and spelling patterns. We use a levelled spelling program from Yr 3-6. Students may complete spelling lessons with another teacher in order to tailor lessons to match their ability.

You can help at home by:

- Encouraging your child to attempt to spell words independently.
- Discussing the various ways of spelling certain sounds.

## Genius Hour

Our focus is:

### Allowing students to research an area of interest

Students will participate in Genius Hour once per fortnight. They will be guided to choose a topic of interest and then work on a project in this area. Students will develop a product (presentation, book, models etc) to present to their peers to demonstrate their learning.

You can help at home by:

- Taking an interest in your child's topic and helping them gather any information/resources they need.

## Do you have a question?

Please call the office on 02 4356 2888 to leave a message for me to call you back or send in a note through your child. We can talk over the phone or make a time to meet.

## Other Information

Our class is known as 3/4M.

All students have settled in well to our class and are following our routines and rules. We have been discussing the importance of teamwork; working together to help each other learn. We have also discussed the importance of trying our best and how mistakes are great as they provide opportunities to learn.

You can help at home by:

- Encouraging your child to really try their best and take risks in class, and reassuring them that mistakes are a natural and essential part of the learning process.

3/4M will also work closely with other classes in our grades throughout the year.

We love parent helpers working with us in the classroom, so if you are free and willing to come in an assist, please let me know your availability.

We will be using ClassDojo to keep you updated about school events and to celebrate the achievements of students. Information will be sent home soon detailing how to connect.

## Specialist Teachers

Our RFF Teacher/s are:

### Mr Booth & Mrs Hindmarch

They are teaching us:

Monday morning (1hr) – Ms Hindmarch  
Wednesday (all day) – Mr Booth  
Both RFF teachers will work closely with Mr McNeill to ensure program consistency.

Our specialist High School teacher is:

### Ms Ellie Woods

She is working with us on:

### Inquiry (History)

## Library

Our library day is:

### Wednesday

In library we are focusing on:

Consolidating our understanding of how to use the library and how to access information using digital resources. 3/4M students will complete library lessons with their class teacher rather than with the librarian.

You can help at home by:

- Encouraging your child to regularly borrow and read books from the library.