

Year 1 Parent Information 2024



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Father,

We thank you for the opportunity to begin the 2024 school year, and we ask that you bless the teachers, the students, and student families.

We pray that you will guide us in all ways, and that we will seek your will in everything that we do.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Welcome to Year 1. I look forward to working with you and your child during 2024.

The following is information that will explain some of the organizational matters and procedures to help you and your child start the year successfully. Please use it as a reference and if you have any queries please see me.

Contact Details

If you have any concerns or queries regarding your child, then please make an appointment with me. I am usually available before and after school. Please note I am on gate duty on Tuesday afternoons. I can also be contacted by phoning the school office on **62168400** or by emailing me at gina.nickels@cewa.edu.au

Emails will be responded to within 24 hours of receiving it.

Resilience and Independence

At Matthew Gibney we are committed to encouraging our children to be resilient and independent. Resiliency is vital in helping to develop problem solving skills, building interpersonal relationships and coping with change or setbacks. Helpful parent websites include www.parentingideas.com.au and www.maggiedent.com for free downloads. We will also continue to focus on the power of 'Yet'.

Mindfulness

One way to assist in the development of mental well-being and resiliency is through using mindfulness meditation. Each session builds on from the previous session. The Smiling Mind app will be used. The Smiling Mind app was developed by an Australian company called Reach Out and is a free app. For further information, check out ReachOut.com.

Behaviour Management Plan

Within our classroom we adhere to the school's policy on discipline and have also created a set of class rules which we try to follow. Our school rules are based on the following beliefs –

- 1) Learning is a co-operative activity.
- 2) Every student has the right to learn.
- 3) Every teacher has the right to teach.
- 4) All members of the school community have the right to be treated with courtesy and respect.
- 5) All members of the community have a right to feel safe.

Year 1 Rules

- 1) Follow directions.
- 2) Listen to others.
- 3) Work and play safely.
- 4) Work quietly.
- 5) Keep to your own space.
- 6) Respect others' property.

By following these rules, it is hoped that the children will continue to further develop their co-operation skills, good manners and work habits.

Consequences

If the rules are not followed, the procedure will be –

1. The child will be given a verbal reminder about the expected behaviour.
2. A second verbal reminder about the expected behaviour.
3. Time out for 5 minutes. The child will be moved to work in an area in the classroom away from their classmates.
4. The expected behaviour will be discussed with the child.
5. If the behaviour continues then the child will either miss 5 minutes of their play at recess or lunchtime.
6. Parents and Mrs Hussey will be notified.

Desired or positive behaviours are rewarded with:

- Verbal praise/stamps/stickers.
- Sticker chart. Each child has a sticker chart. Once the chart is completed (10 stamps) the child can choose a prize from the prize box.
- As a whole class motivator, we have a Jellybean Jar and when the whole class is working well or displaying positive behaviours, a jellybean is placed in. When there are 20 jellybeans in the jar the children are rewarded with **Golden Time** (free time).
- Honour certificates at school assemblies. Parents will be informed by a sms. At Matthew Gibney we have developed a school-wide approach to recognising positive behaviours such as examples of MJR being lived out, academic excellence or improvement in a learning area and displaying genuine effort in class. Each child will receive at least one honour certificate per year.

Learning Intentions

You will be notified of the learning intentions for each learning area and what the success criteria will be via See Saw usually on a fortnightly basis.

Topic Overview

Religious Education

Two topics are covered each term. During Term 1 the topics are Eucharist and Lent/Easter. We will learn prayers to say at the start of the day, lunch time and home time. Students will participate in school masses and liturgies. The Protective Behaviours Program will be integrated into some of the Religious Education and Health topics.

Making Jesus Real (MJR)

The Making Jesus Real program is centred on the belief that we are the image of Jesus to all those around us. We are the representatives and our actions should reflect His values. These include the values of: showing care and compassion, respect, honesty and trustworthiness, understanding, tolerance and inclusion. We will learn about ways we can be like Jesus in our daily lives. Once a term we will participate in MJR buddy groups to encourage friendships across year levels and further developing MJR values.

Year 6 Buddies

Each child will also be assigned a Year 6 buddy. We will do activities together and the children will sit with their Year 6 buddy when we attend school Masses at St Francis of Assisi Church.

English

We will cover various forms of writing including recount, report, narrative and persuasive writing. We will also continue to work on printing, phonics, grammar, comprehension, reading skills and using spoken language to express opinions and make judgements.

We will continue to use the 'Secret Stories' Spelling resource. The stories help to explain the sounds the letters make when they get together to make words and are a visual prompt.

Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)

In Year 1, Humanities and Social Sciences consists of Geography and History. This term the topic covered will be, Places have Distinctive Features. We will look at how weather and seasons vary and learn more about the Aboriginal seasons.

Science

Mrs Keddie will teach Science this year in the Science Lab (formerly the Computer Lab) The below topics will be covered.

Biological sciences
Chemical sciences
Physical sciences

Technology and Enterprise

The children will learn process and production skills including developing ways of designing as a means of communicating ideas. Technology and Enterprise skills will often be integrated in our art activities.

We will use iPads in the classroom. The children will continue to use See Saw as a means of sharing with you what they are learning at school. A Digital Technologies agreement will need to be signed by each child and a parent or guardian. Please return this letter to me as soon as possible.

Mathematics

This term we will work on further developing counting skills, addition strategies, measuring length and 2D shape.

Health

Mrs Hawley will be teaching the Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum. Topics to be covered will include; Contributing to Healthy and Active Classrooms, which includes following class rules and sharing class resources. This term our topic will include Feelings, Being Safe and Warning Signs.

The Arts

This term we will experiment and explore the visual elements of shape, line, colour and texture to make various pieces of artwork. The children will also take part in drama activities.

Class Routines

Seating Arrangements

The children will sit in small groups. Groups will be changed once a term. The children will also have access to using the outside area for small group activities, partner work or individual activities.

Homework

Your child should be taking their homework folder home every night. It needs to be returned the next morning. All homework books and reading logs are to be handed in on Friday mornings to be checked.

Please remember students should only spend approximately 10-15 minutes per night on homework. If your child is taking longer than this to complete their work please see me so that we can look at altering their homework plan. If your child has a problem with any homework or if circumstances do not permit the completion of homework, please speak to me or email me.

Reading

Reading homework will start Monday of week 3. A picture book with a comprehension card will be sent home to ease the children back into the homework routine. A note will be sent home to explain the process of using the comprehension card. From Monday of week 4 **each child will receive two books and a picture book with comprehension card on Mondays only**. Students are expected to read each night (Monday – Thursday) and parents are asked to sign their child's reading log. **New books will not be given if the Reading Log book has not been signed.** They are to read the same book for two nights. I would also encourage you to read together, for example, read your child's library book. There are many strategies to assist you and your child in the Reading Log book. A bookmark has also been included to remind the children of the reading strategies. There is a roster for exchanging books near the year 1 door outside the classroom.

Reading Levels

The emphasis is not only on word recognition but also on reading comprehension and fluency. Therefore, your child should be reading their homework with ease and fluency. Each child is expected to be reading with 95% accuracy before changing level.

Mathematics

A 150-number chart has been provided for you to use at home. I encourage you to practice counting in patterns such as 2s, 5s and 10s, writing numbers at home and identifying numbers by using vocabulary such as 'before', 'after', 'one more' and 'one less'. If your child reverses a number, please correct your child so that correct formation develops.

Spelling

Spelling homework will start in week 6. The children will be given a list of words to practice sounding out at home and a short dictation passage to read. Dictation activities encourages children to apply their spelling knowledge to their writing. Spelling homework will be given out each Monday.

News

We will be using news telling to further develop narrative skills, confidence when speaking and listening skills. Each child has been assigned a news day and is asked to bring in an object to talk about. Please do not send in valuable or precious items. Your child's news day is on their weekly planner. News will commence in Week 2.

Log on information

Your child will receive a password for the following educational website, Mathseeds. The Reading Eggs password is the same password as Mathseeds. The passwords are on the bottom of your child's weekly planner.

Progress Meetings and Reports

On Tuesday 19th of March 2024 Parent/Teacher meetings will be held to discuss your child's progress. There will be an early close on this day as interviews will occur from 12:30 pm. Reports are sent home in Terms 2 and 4.

Punctuality

The classroom door will be opened by 8:35am to allow the children time to get organized for the day. Classes commence at 8:45am and it is policy that students arriving after this time to sign in at the front office and collect a blue late arrival card. If you need to take your child out of school, for example, for a medical appointment, you will need to sign your child out at the office and bring the green release card to the classroom. If you are going on a holiday during the term, please inform Mrs Hussey in writing.

The children need to wait in the undercover area and not outside the Year 1 classroom. The children will be told when the classroom door is open.

Absences

If your child is going to be absent from school, please notify the office by 9:00am. Please provide a letter or an email to explain why your child has been absent from school. When emailing me could you please also cc the school office. It is a legal requirement that a written note is required for anyone who misses a day of school. A reminder will be sent and if after three reminders, if a note is not received, then Mrs Hussey will contact you.

Organisation and Independence

I will be encouraging you to say goodbye to your child at the door so that each child is developing their organizational skills and independence. You can assist your child by getting them to carry their own homework folder into the classroom, placing their reading and homework books in the provided baskets.

Specialist Days

Our **Sport** day is on Thursday with Mrs Hewitt and Mrs Davies. If your child is unable to participate in sport a written note will need to be provided. Please ensure your child has a drink bottle as this will be taken to each sport lesson.

Italian with Signora is on Tuesdays.

Health with Mrs Hawley is on Tuesdays

Science with Mrs Keddie is on Wednesdays in the Science Lab.

Music with Mrs Aldred will be on Wednesdays in the Library.

Library book exchange is on Tuesday and it is important that your child remembers his/her library bag and book to return. Library will start in week 3.

Education Assistants

On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, Mrs Iffla will assist in the classroom until late morning. Mrs Iffla will often work with small groups of children in the classroom and in the support room for short periods of time. Mrs Fanetti will assist in the classroom on Wednesday mornings. I will speak with you, if your child will be involved in a support program.

Lunch Orders

The canteen operates on Tuesdays and Fridays. Lunch orders need to be taken to the canteen before school starts or can be ordered online. Students can buy items at recess and lunch. Please ensure that your child has a secure purse or wallet with their name on it. This is a great opportunity to talk about the different coins, how much things cost, change and identifying coins. The canteen provides a range of nutritious foods to encourage healthy eating.

Crunch and Sip

Students are welcome to bring in fresh fruit (no dried fruit) or vegetables and a water bottle for crunch and sip time. Please provide a bottle of water for your child each day.

Allergies

Please be aware that our school is a Nut Free Zone as there are a number of students at Matthew Gibney with severe nut allergies.

Head Lice

It is important to be vigilant in checking your child's hair on a weekly basis. If your child does have head lice, please let me know so that a Head Lice Alert notice can be sent home.

Newsletters

It is important that parents read the newsletter. It will be emailed on Friday and contains important information regarding upcoming events etc. The term planner will also inform you of significant dates such as the **Pre-Primary and Year One Palm Sunday Liturgy on Tuesday 26th of March 2024**. More information will be provided closer to the date.

Excursions

Throughout the year we have a number of excursions and incursions planned. At these times we will ask for parent helpers. Anyone volunteering on these occasions needs to be aware that they will be supervising a small group of children and that no younger siblings are permitted to accompany us on class outings.

Parent helpers

There may be times when parent helpers are needed to work with the children within the classroom, for example, a sewing activity later this term. Parent helpers need to have completed a **Working with Children Declaration Form**. Grandparents/Family members over the age of 18 need to have a **current Working with Children card**.

Uniform

Correct school uniform is expected at all times. **Please ensure that hats, jumpers and sport jackets are named.** If for whatever reason your child is not in correct uniform, please write a note or send an email. Just a reminder that earrings need to be plain gold or silver sleepers or studs, long hair needs to be tied up and nail polish is not permitted at Matthew Gibney.

Spare Clothes

Please put a spare pair of underwear and school socks in a small resealable bag in your child's school backpack. Whilst spare underwear is kept in the classroom, it is very handy to be able to access spare underwear when children have had a toilet accident during recess or lunch. Let your child know that they do have spare underwear in their bag.

Star of the Week

Each week a child's name will be randomly drawn to be the Star of the Week. The Star of the Week is asked to bring in something for news each day. On Friday a special book will be made by the class for the Star of the Week to take home. This will start in week 2 and you will be notified by a special note.

Social Media use

The school has a Social Media policy so please be aware of your legal rights and remember that confidentiality is of the utmost importance to ensure that we keep our children safe at Matthew Gibney. Just a reminder regarding the publishing of photos.

'In order to satisfy privacy agreements, the school now requires parental permission in order for photographs to be published on the various media that we have available to us.'

Birthdays

Birthdays are celebrated in Year 1. You are very welcome to send in a small treat such as **Freddo Frogs** to share with the class. Please do not send lolly pops into school.

Year 1 Parent Representatives

Thank you to Jessie Hunter, Katelyn Kollar and Sarah Young for volunteering your time to be our representatives. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for taking the time to read this handout and I look forward to working with you to enhance your child's learning in 2024. If you have any questions, please email me.

Regards
Gina Nickels