Welcome to Westgarth Primary School

Grade 1 Information Night

Our Values:
Being our Best, Integrity, Respect,
Working Together.

Being Safe, Fair and Friendly.
Team Members

- Vicky (Team Leader)
- Michael
- Winter
- Ellie
- Taryn
School Values

- "Foster a community that empowers students to be their best"

- Our school values are:

- Respect, Integrity, Being Our Best, Working Together
Literacy

- Develop students’ skills in **reading, writing, speaking and listening**.

- Every morning students are involved in a range of Early Years Literacy activities.

- Literacy lessons run using a ‘Whole-Part-Whole’ approach, with students working in small groups on activities targeted to their learning needs.
Reading

- Reading lessons will be run with students working in small groups on activities targeted to their learning needs.

- When reading we will be developing comprehension strategies, including predicting, visualisation, questioning, paraphrasing and development of vocabulary.

- Early Years is broken up into three different components:
  - Guided Reading - Teacher Group
  - Independent learning tasks - often linked to inquiry including; spelling, ICT, comprehension, grammar, hands on, games
  - Share Time *What have you learnt?*
    - *What was challenging?*
    - *What did you find easy?*

- Our Reading program includes the following aspects:
  - Independent reading
  - Shared reading
  - Modelled reading
  - Home reading
Writing

- **Writing genres**
  - Students will develop their writing using various genres including recounts, information reports and poetry etc.

- **Writers workshop**
  - We use Writers’ Workshop to encourage students to write about their own interests in genres of their choice. Explicit teaching of sentence formation, verbs, adjectives, contractions and editing techniques will be features of the writing sessions this term.

- **Handwriting**
  - Handwriting is focused on in explicit lessons and also throughout all writing tasks. During these sessions students are taught to write using the Victorian Modern Cursive Script. Correct Letter formation is modelled including starting points.
Spelling

- Weekly spelling words are individualised to students’ point of need using the Oxford word lists.

- The SWST (Single Word Spelling Test) identifies letter, letter combinations and blends that students need to work on to improve spelling.

- Words are selected from the appropriate level and regularly tested. It is important to practise spelling words each night with your child (approx 5 – 10 min).

- Spelling is also practised throughout the day in all curriculum areas.
Numeracy

- Our Numeracy program will explore topics from the domains, Number, Statistics and Probability, Measurement and Geometry.

- Number fluency will form a major component to launch our Maths lessons.

- The emphasis during numeracy sessions will be to develop sound understandings using concrete materials. Students will be able to explain strategies and explore alternative methods to problem solve.
Discovery

- Our Discovery sessions provide opportunities for our students to develop and apply understandings about their world. An Inquiry-based curriculum approach allows students to **explore and make observations, pose questions and make predictions, participate in different types of guided investigations and to explore and answer questions and to reflect and draw conclusions.**

- Our Discovery program encourages students to become critically and creative thinkers, communicators, risk-takers, knowledgeable, reflective

- Our Discovery topics this year are :-
  - Oceans
  - Our Community
  - Sounds Sensational
  - Sustainability.

- We ask students to bring along things that they can share with the class about the discovery topic including photos, books and stories. Students will be involved in some scientific experiments throughout the topics also.

- Each Discovery Unit will include either an in-school activity or excursion to help in extending their engagement and learning.
Oceans

I wonder how seaweed grows? Audrey.

I wonder what the Whole Ocean looks like? Bailey.

I wonder how many eggs sharks lay in a year? Leo.

I wonder how many fish are in the ocean? Jess.

I wonder how big rocks can get under the sea? Carla.
Home Learning

- Continue to read to and with your child each night.

- Help your child learn their spelling words.

- Students work hard at school each day so homework at year 1/2 would be no more than 15-20 minutes each day. Establishing a regular routine helps students to develop a positive approach to learning and will benefit them as they progress through their schooling.

- If you have any concerns or queries about your child please speak first to the classroom teacher. You will need to organise a mutual meeting time either before or after school.
Communication

- Communication is 2 way- home school partnership
- illnesses and absences please contact office or send a note the following day
- Yellow home reading diaries
- Important notices will be displayed in class room windows
- Making appointments - email via school admin-phone or drop in before or after school
- School newsletters are available online weekly
How you can help?

- Please make sure your child is at school on time every day.

- Ensure that ‘take home reader folders’ are placed into your child’s bag every night in preparation for the next day’s learning.

- Our Early Years Reading program runs every morning and we look forward to your support in listening to students read and check spelling. Parent Helpers in classrooms will begin after the information session. TBC

- Ensure your child’s belongings are clearly labelled. This includes clothing and lunchboxes (lids too).
The Physical Education program helps students develop a broad range of motor skills and movement patterns, using different sporting equipment in a range of environments. We will be encouraging fair play, good sportsmanship and participation throughout the program. Most importantly we will be having lots of fun while keeping fit and active.
Art & Science (Spanish)

- Art and Science are delivered in the Spanish language in a one 50 minute session each per week.

- In Science, students are involved in hands on investigations that promote individual and collaborative learning.

- In Art, students create and make 2D (1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} terms) and 3D (3\textsuperscript{rd} and 4\textsuperscript{th} terms) art pieces inspired by Australian, Spanish and other cultures.

- The Science and Art programs are planned and delivered so that Spanish language introduced in one is recycled, consolidated and expanded in the other, and vice versa.

- A separate Information Night on the Spanish Art and Science program will be held in Term 2 with the exact date communicated in due course.
Music P-2

- All students in the school participate in a 50 minute music session per week.
- Prep – Grade 2 work within the AusVels dimension “Creating and Making.”
- Although AusVels doesn’t have a great deal formal music theory making up the content, the music program at WPS does incorporate elements of theory so by the end of grade 6 the students have a solid grounding of the more formal elements of music.
- The students sing, dance, move, listens and play instruments as they learn.