



Penrith South Public School

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Principal: Craig White

Thursday 8 February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

K.2.21 Term 1 Overview

Welcome to K.2.21 for 2024. We hope you have enjoyed the sunshine over the break and had a relaxing holiday. We are looking forward to working in partnership with you for a positive and successful year of learning for your child. Below is some organisational information about routines and the teaching and learning programs that will run in the K.2.21 throughout the year.

Support Unit classes:

- K.2.21 – Ms Loretta Newcombe, Mrs Elizabeth Johnson and Mrs JoAnn Stoker
- 3.6.22 – Ms Dianne Richards and Mrs Maree Dunn
- 3.6.23 – Ms Amber Lee and Mrs Angela Kurtulmus

English

Over the year students will learn within the 2 domains of English: Understanding Texts and Creating texts. Within these domains students will engage in experiences to build their skills in the areas of; oral language and communication, vocabulary, phonic knowledge, reading fluency and comprehension, writing, spelling, and handwriting. There are some exciting opportunities occurring for our students within each of these domains.

As part of our English work students will be asked to present news each week. To help facilitate this each Monday please send in a note about what happened on the weekend or in the holidays. Your child is welcome to bring in photos, brochures or special items to assist in their news presentation each week.

As part of our English literature study, K.2.21 will be enjoying *Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen.

Mathematics

Students will continue to learn within the 3 domains of Mathematics: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Space and Statistics and Probability. Throughout the year students may be investigating, depending on their individual education plan, the following parts of Maths:

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|-------------------------------|------------|
| • number | • 2D space |
| • place value | • Length |
| • addition and subtraction | • area |
| • multiplication and division | • time |
| • patterns | |

Science

For this semester, students in room 21 will be completing a unit of work titled Sound and Light.

HSIE

Throughout Semester 1, we will complete the History unit of work titled Past and present Family Life.

PDH

This year Penrith South will be implementing the Resilience Project as our whole school PDH program. The fun and captivating program includes a suite of digital presentations and workshops which inspire students to practise positive wellbeing strategies. Hosted by Hugh van Cuylenburg or Martin Heppell, their humour and unique stories inspire resilience across the whole school community. All presentations and weekly lessons are centred around gratitude, empathy and mindfulness (GEM); principles linked to positive emotions and positive wellbeing.

PE

This term our sport will focus on gymnastics. Gymnastics will be held weekly on Wednesday and Thursday, with each class attending one session per week. K.32.21 will also undertake a class fitness program that will run based on class needs.

Creative Arts

This term, students in Room 21 will enjoy participating in dance and drama activities related to *Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen.

Individual Education Plans

All students will be engaging in the work outlined above in line with their Individual Education Plan. This plan will be formulated in Term 1. The class teacher will use information from assessments, work samples, observations and discussions with previous teachers, your child and you to develop the Individual Education Plan. The majority of the assessments will be conducted one to one in order for the teacher to observe how your child worked out an answer and what level of support as required. To help ensure these plans are as accurate as possible please pass copies of any previous reports you have received from any intervention specialist your child attends e.g. occupational therapy, speech, physiotherapy etc. I.E.P meetings will be held in Term 1.

Communication Book

The purpose of the communication book is to provide students, you and staff the extra support needed to provide the best education for your child. It is used to send and receive information between school and home. We cannot stress enough the importance of checking this important source of information each day. Please be assured that the class teacher will read the communication book every day.

Library

All Support Unit classes will participate in library lessons. We encourage all students to regularly borrow books from our school library to support the development of their reading skills as well as a positive attitude towards reading. Please ensure your child has a library bag to protect the books they bring home. K.2.21 library day will be on a Friday.

Homework

Students in K.2.21 will be asked to complete homework to help consolidate skills learnt in class. It is usually given out on Monday to Thursday, with no homework on the weekends. Teachers will communicate with you regarding when to return homework in an A4 sized exercise book / plastic envelope folder. Communication books / folders need to be returned each day.

Annual Review of Student Placement

The purpose of our annual review meeting is to ensure the current educational setting is the most appropriate for your child. Meetings are attended by the class teacher, Assistant Principal Support, the school Principal, the school Psychologist, our Learning & Support Team coordinator and yourself. You are welcome to bring a support person or other professional if you think it would be helpful.

Reviews will be held in Weeks 8 and 9 of Terms Term 2.

School Psychologist Testing

In order for a student to be eligible for placement in the support unit they need an assessment. Generally, students are tested by the school psychologist. You may be asked to complete a lengthy checklist. Your child's teacher will discuss this with you. It is often better to complete the checklist with the school psychologist or class teacher so that you can discuss and clarify the meaning of some questions.

Using the information compiled from testing and checklists the school Psychologist then completes a Disability Confirmation Sheet (DCS) stating the primary and sometimes secondary disability (e.g., I.O, I.M, Autism, Physical, Vision, Hearing, Mental Health, etc). The DCS is attached to every application made for disability services within the Department of Education.

Assisted School Travel (Special Transport or Taxi Transport)

If you require assistance in getting your child to or from school you are able to apply for Assist School Travel. Application forms are available from the school. Students who have been approved for this service will be continually monitored for behaviour. Support from parents/carers by being on time for pick up and drop off is essential to maintain eligibility for this service

NDIS

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is a support offered by the Australian Government that assists in funding costs associated with disability.

If you are receiving NDIS please inform us of the therapies or services your child is receiving in order for us to build upon that support at school, where appropriate.

If you are not receiving NDIS please contact the school to arrange an interview so we can assist you begin the process of applying for this funding.

Allergies

At Penrith South Public School, for the health and safety of all our students, we prefer not to have any nuts or nut products brought to school and acknowledge that nuts and nut products may be present at school. We discourage the sharing of food. We also ask that all birthday celebration food, e.g. cupcakes, donuts, chocolates be sent to the Front Office in the morning to be safely stored until the class teacher can issue them to students.

Crunch and Sip

Each day we will hold "Crunch and Sip". During this time students eat a piece of fruit or vegetable, brought from home, and have a drink of water.

Whole School Routines

School Expectations

- Our School STAR expectations are: Safe Teamwork, Achieving Respect and are the values we continually expect and encourage from our school community.
- Supervision for children commences at 8.30am each morning.
- School hours are 8.58am to 2.55pm.
- Full school uniform, including a school hat, is expected to be worn every day.

Absences

Please give your child the best opportunity to experience success with their learning by ensuring that they attend school, on time, each day. It is a legal requirement to provide a note explaining any absences from school for your child. Please send a note on your child's return to the classroom teacher or complete the form via the SENTRAL Parent Portal App.

Attendance is tracked through the school. If your child's attendance rate falls below 90% which is the state target, you may be contacted by the class teacher to develop support systems to assist your child in attending school.

School Behaviour System

Promoting the learning, wellbeing and safety of all students at Penrith South Public School is our highest priority. We implement teaching and learning approaches to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our STAR expectations. This is achieved in two ways; recognition of positive behaviour and structured support for students requiring additional assistance.

Recognition of Positive Behaviour

1. Individual Classroom Teacher Systems

Class teachers organise individual reward systems within their own class. These are designed to encourage and promote improvement and excellence across a wide range of activities and behaviours. These systems support the school's whole school reward system.

2. Whole School System

Each week, all teachers issue a set number of STAR awards to their students for exhibiting behaviours that meet our STAR expectations, for example outstanding work, positive behaviour, citizenship. These STAR Awards are collected by students over the year and lead to:

- 5 STAR awards = Bronze Award
- Bronze Award + 5 STAR awards = Silver Award
- Silver Award + 5 STAR awards = Gold Award
- Gold Award + 5 STAR awards = Emerald Award
- Emerald Award + 5 STAR awards = Ruby Award
- Ruby Award + 5 STAR awards = Sapphire Award
- Sapphire Award + 5 STAR awards = Platinum Award and STAR badge

Structured Support Systems

1. Referral to Assistant Principal

For any major, or continued, behavioural incidents teachers may refer students to the Assistant Principal for further follow up. The details of these incidents will be recorded in the relevant database.

2. Reflection Room

Reflection Room is hosted by the Assistant Principals and is held during second break. The purpose of Reflection Room is to assist students to reflect on their actions, the impact of these actions on others and support them to use more appropriate strategies in the future. You will be informed by either phone or letter if your child is placed in Reflection Room.

Extra-curricular activities

During the year there will be extra-curricular activities and opportunities offered to all students at Penrith South Public School to support the teaching and learning programs being run. These include, incursions, excursions, performing arts, sporting and academic opportunities to name a few. We ask that you keep a close eye on our school website, school newsletters, utilise the SENTRAL Parent Portal app as well as check your child's bag regularly for detailed information and permission notes that are sent home.

Please always note the cut off dates for permission notes and payments. School assistance is available to assist with the cost of these activities. Please contact your child's class teacher, if required.

Communication

Should you have any enquires or concerns regarding your child, it is best to contact your child's teacher in the first instance. Your child's teacher is the primary provider of care and education for your child on a daily basis and is usually the best place to solve any issues. This will assist in the issue being dealt with promptly in most situations, as well as help to develop positive parent-teacher relationships. If the issue is unresolved after communication with the teacher, the next point of contact is the stage supervisor, Ms Richards. If you wish to speak with Ms Richards, please phone the school office to arrange a suitable time.

Penrith South Public School uses a variety of forums to communicate information with families. School newsletters are posted on Sentral fortnightly. The school Facebook site is a wonderful forum that showcases the fabulous work and achievements of our students. Information is also communicated through the Parent Portal on the SENTRAL app. We recommend all parents and caregivers access this portal. This app allows you to receive notifications about school events and submit absence notes. Settings on the app can be customized to suit your child's grade. If you require access to the Portal please contact the school to organize a personalized security key.

We thank you for taking the time to read this information. As teachers, we believe all students learn best in a positive, happy learning environment where they are stimulated, interested and motivated. This is our aim for the Support Unit. If your child is facing any difficulties, and we can be of assistance, please let us know and we will do our best to help.

Thank you for your support.
Yours sincerely,

Craig White
Principal

Dianne Richards
Support Unit Assistant Principal