

# CLASS INFORMATION

# BOOKLET

# 2017



Room 9 Year 4  
Mrs Sugg and Mrs Milentis

## **WELCOME**

We would like to welcome you and your children to Room 9, Year 4. We are looking forward to teaching them this year, in a safe and welcoming environment. You are welcome to come into the class and look around before or after school. Mrs Sue Sugg will be the class teacher each Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Diane Milentis will be the class teacher on Tuesday.

## **CONTACT**

We are available to discuss your child's progress with you, or any concerns or celebrations you have about your child. Please contact either one of us to make an appointment, by calling the school office (9405 4007) and leaving a message, or by emailing [Sue.Sugg@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Sue.Sugg@education.wa.edu.au) . Sue is available most days of the week after school for parent meetings, and during DOTT times marked on the timetable. Diane is available on Tuesday after school.

## **CLASSROOM/TEACHING PHILOSOPHY**

All children have the right to learn to the best of their own ability. We strongly believe in supporting all children to achieve their best, no matter their current academic level. We believe education is a joint venture between the school and the home. We all have a vital part to play and open communication is important. The more we know about your child, the better we can cater to his/her needs. Sometimes, an event at home can impact on school, and likewise, an event at school impacts at home. Awareness leads to understanding. Each day is a new day in the class. The school vision aims to develop aspirational, confident and respectful learners, and this is very important to us.

## **CLASS ORGANISATION**

Each day a visual timetable is displayed so that children know what to expect during the day.

Children are responsible for looking after their own property, keeping their trays neat and tidy, and returning their completed homework each day.

The desk arrangement in the classroom will be varied throughout the year, and as needed, to allow for group work and a range of activities.

## **TEACHING METHODS**

We prefer to use a variety of teaching strategies such as whole class teaching, small group work, pair work and independent work. Small group work can involve children working together to achieve an individual task, or cooperatively to achieve a group task. We mix the members of groups up regularly so that the children have the opportunity to work with a range of people in the class, not just their friends. Being able to complete tasks in a range of situations is an important life skill.

We expect children to produce work they can be proud of. This means we have high expectations for the content of the work they complete. If children are applying consistent efforts in their learning, then it will be reflected in their work. We also expect consistent standards in work presentation – neat work; careful ruling up; errors crossed out with a single line; no scribbling or graffiti on work or books; tidy desks and trays. We endeavour to mark all the work the children do each day so they get immediate feedback on how they have gone with the content and work standards.

## ENGLISH

The English learning area includes the literacy skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening, as well as the conventions of spelling, punctuation, grammar, and handwriting. Each day there is a literacy/English block on the timetable that will include a combination of these skills.

The class completes spelling activities four days/week, with testing occurring on the fifth day. Spelling involves focus words of the day with a discussion about the sounds and unusual spelling patterns that they contain. The class may complete a proofreading sentence/passage either orally or in written form so that the children are practising identifying spelling, grammar and punctuation errors. Then the children complete word analysis activities. Each set of words is designed to be practised for one week. Each week, the current list of spelling words is used as the homework list words.

Reading is taught formally 5 days/week using a variety of strategies. Guided reading, as a school focus, is one major strategy used. The teaching and assessment of 12 reading strategies using STARS (Strategies to Achieve Reading Success) and CARS (Comprehensive Assessment of Reading Strategies) will be ongoing throughout the year. Silent reading is done regularly and we like to model reading using a class novel. Reading is taught using a cross-curricular approach. Both Science and Humanities & Social Sciences (previously called Society & Environment) include a large comprehension component from a range of texts and sources of information. Class computer time has a large research and presentation component, allowing reading for information to be the focus.

Library is on **Thursday**. Children will exchange books and learn essential library skills.

The Semester 1 writing focus is both narrative writing and persuasive writing. The skills of writing, including sentence and paragraph structure, punctuation, spelling, appropriateness for the audience and vocabulary, will be developed during writing lessons using a process called "Talk 4 Writing". This starts with a good example of a text that is shared orally and visually using a story map. Children learn to recite the text using the story map and then write the text. The text is then adapted by the teacher and children together, before the children write their own text independently. Term 3 will focus on writing an informational report using the same process.

Children who are not involved in choir will be viewing and discussing Behind the News (BTN), and completing follow up activities related to the show each week. BTN is an ABC TV show which provides broad coverage of current events and issues, in language that children understand. Follow up activities usually take the form of orally expressing, and justifying, an opinion related to an issue in BTN. The children in choir are encouraged to watch BTN at home through the website: [www.abc.net.au/btn](http://www.abc.net.au/btn)

Handwriting will focus on legibility, fluency, letter shape, letter slope and letter size. Children will be given practice in speed handwriting so that they learn to be able to produce written work more quickly. During the year, the children will revise and practise cursive script (joined handwriting) and will be encouraged to complete all their work using cursive script.

## MATHEMATICS

Each day in Mathematics, lessons start with mental mathematics, and then a short session of daily problem solving practice. The children are introduced to vocabulary associated with mathematics and these words are discussed and displayed on the 'Maths Word Wall'. Mathematics lessons include rehearsal of times tables, days of the week, months of the year and rapid recall of basic mathematical knowledge. Mathematics lessons are based on the 'Oxford Maths' programme which has been written to reflect the Western Australian Curriculum. 'Oxford Maths' involves a sequence of topics that are presented to make

mathematics more applicable and relevant; allowing children to see how important it is in our everyday lives. Problem solving is an integral part of the mathematical work completed in class.

## SCIENCE

Science will focus on the investigating scientifically process, so that children are conducting fair experiments that manipulate one variable. These experiments will be related to the content areas of science. Throughout the year, the children will be learning content from the areas of the Western Australian Science Curriculum: physical science, biological science, chemical science, and Earth & space science.

## HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Being able to investigate forms an essential part of the Humanities and Social Sciences curriculum. Children will be researching topics, retrieving information from a variety of sources, collating information, looking for patterns in information, obtaining information from pictures and diagrams, reading and interpreting maps, and then presenting their information appropriately so that they can communicate what they have learned.

The content area of History involves looking at Australia before colonisation, early world explorers, the reasons for the initial colonisation of Australia, and the effect of British colonisation on Australia, including impact on the environment, and Indigenous Australians. Geography focuses on the continents of South America and Europe. Civics and Citizenship investigates local government, rules and laws.

## HEALTH

During Term 1, the teaching of Health will revolve around a series of lessons that focus on resiliency skills from a resource called, "Bounce Back". To start with, we are concentrating on the values linked to the Bounce Back programme, like honesty, fairness, responsibility, support for others and cooperating. In addition, 'TEAM' (Together Everyone Achieves More) is an important part of everything we talk about in the class and is part of the Bounce Back programme.

## SPECIALIST AREAS

During the week, the children will attend lessons conducted by specialist teachers. Chinese Mandarin lessons will be on Monday, with Dr Geoff Law teaching. Art lessons will be on Tuesday, with Mrs Pat Abbott teaching. Physical Education lessons will be on Thursday, with Mr Russell Grey teaching. Music lessons will be on Friday, with Mr Nevad Hadzic teaching.

## HOMEWORK

In line with the school policy on homework the children will be given homework each week from Monday to Thursday nights.

A major part of the homework will be reading each night – 20 mins of combined oral and silent reading is sufficient, however, more is good! This is on a trust system. We trust the children are reading for this time. If you like to listen to your child read aloud, we would encourage you to let them read the passage silently first for meaning, and then orally. A good way to check your child has understood what they are reading is to read the text they have read and ask some "W" questions – **what**, **where**, **when**, **who**, **why** and **how**. Questions that require more than a one word answer are best. We use library books and the books that children may borrow from the silent reading shelf, but if you would like us to arrange home reading books for your child, we can provide those for you.

As mentioned earlier, your child's current spelling word list will form part of the homework each week and the children are required to practice the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' routine. **Copying words does not help them to learn the words** so the '**Cover**' step is **vital**. Children can spell their words orally as part of their homework.

Times tables are an important part of Mathematics in middle primary, with automatic recall allowing for easier and quicker computations in multiplication and division. For this reason, we will be getting the children to work through one of their tables each week. The children should be encouraged to recall the basic facts in various formats, not just recite their tables. Addition and subtraction basic facts, along with division basic facts are important too.

Some children will be asked to complete class work for homework that they have not completed in a reasonable amount of class time. In addition, if your child produces work that does not meet their normal standard, we will ask them to rewrite it neatly at home.

While we understand that from time to time, events prevent your child from completing their homework, we would ask that you encourage them to do their homework as often as possible.

## **ICT/COMPUTER**

During our computer sessions we will be completing some activities on cyber safety to ensure that children understand how important this is when accessing the Internet, both at school and at home.

We will be learning computer coding using materials sourced from code.org. Students will learn through problem solving how to write code in order to have the computer do something that they have planned.

The children will be learning to perform tasks required by the Western Australian Curriculum for Year 4 children, and as described in the Edgewater Primary School's K-6 ICT Scope and Sequence.

Research skills will be taught alongside computing skills. Students will be guided to view websites and decide whether the information presented is reliable and accurate. They will be encouraged to refer to at least two sources of information in order to increase the chance of obtaining accurate information. Students will be guided to use their judgement to make these decisions.

## **SCHOOL WEBSITE/SCHOOL APP**

The school website and the app are your 'one stop' shop for information about the school, including events, upcoming activities and online forms. Please download the school app as soon as possible from either the App Store or Google Play. The app's name is Updat-ed and it is free to download. Further instructions are on the website.

## **ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE**

Any absence from school must be supported by an explanation – this can be by note, email, phone call to the office (9405 4007), or by using our online absentee form from the link on the home page of our website. Explanations must be made within three days of the student returning to school. Family holidays during term time must be notified in advance and in writing to the principal.

## **INCURSIONS, SWIMMING LESSONS AND EXCURSIONS**

These occur from time to time during the year and payment should be made as soon as possible with the return of any permission slips. See the Contributions and Charges sheet on the school website for more details.

## **NEWSLETTERS**

These are published on the website fortnightly on Friday commencing in Week 2. If we have your email address on file you will receive an email alert to indicate that the newsletter has been published, and the links to it. Important information is always placed in the newsletter.

## **BULLYING/GRAFFITI**

The school has a zero-tolerance policy to both bullying and graffiti. In the case of the former, please contact the classroom teacher in the first instance if you believe that it is occurring. The sooner we know about it the sooner we can deal with it.

## **UNIFORM AND SCHOOL HATS**

School uniforms must be worn each day. They are available from Uniform Concepts in Joondalup. The school has a *no hat—no play in the sun* policy – only bucket, broad-brimmed or Legionnaires styles are permitted. Caps are no longer part of the school uniform.

## **SUPPORTING POSITIVE CLASSROOM BEHAVIOUR**

Classroom Behaviour is managed using 'Levels of Behaviour'. A copy of this is displayed in the classroom. The focus of classroom behaviour is on allowing the teacher to teach, and children to learn. The best environment to learn in is a safe, welcoming and positive one. 'Levels of Behaviour' encourages good behaviour and positive choices, leading to an enhanced learning environment (with occasional rewards).

When a child chooses to misbehave, they will be guided to select an appropriate behaviour from the 'green' section of the chart hanging on the wall. The 'green' behaviours form our class rules.

The aim of 'Levels of Behaviour' is to return students to their learning as quickly as possible. We are happy to explain this system of behaviour management to you more fully, and we can arrange a suitable time with you on request.

### **CLASS RULES FOR 2017 (GREEN BEHAVIOURS):**

Follow all school rules.

Produce work of a high standard.

Work quietly without disturbing the other children in the class.

Follow all instructions given by the teacher. Don't fiddle during instructions.

Encourage others. No put downs!

Express opinions appropriately, and speak politely and respectfully to each other.

Treat all personal and classroom property responsibly and correctly.

Move around the classroom safely and quietly.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **FOOD AND DRINKS**

We encourage the children to have a water bottle and a piece of fruit in the classroom. Cordials and fruit juices are to be saved for recess, lunch or after school. In line with the school's healthy eating policy, we would like to request that packets of chips, lollies, chocolates and similar pre-packaged foods be kept for out of school hours. Special occasions such as class birthdays and class events are, of course, the exception!

## PERSONAL ITEMS

Please ensure that any items your child brings to school are named. This includes the clothing they wear. It is much easier to make sure everything is named than to deal with the emotions of missing items.

## STUDY LADDER

Study Ladder is a website that provides free resources for children to use to reinforce and practice skills they have learnt at school. The class will be registered with Study Ladder and children will be provided with their login details. This programme can be used at school or home.

## CLASSROOM TIMETABLE

A copy of the class timetable is attached to this booklet. Mathematics and English are taught every day. As these skills are essential in every aspect of the school curriculum, it is worthwhile to focus on them. While we endeavour to follow the timetable, events may happen that disrupt the normal routines in the class. As we view Mathematics and English as priority areas, if an excursion/incursion/interruption occurs when they are scheduled, we intend to replace other learning areas with the missed Mathematics or English lesson.

## STUDENT INFORMATION PAGE

Attached is a Student Information Page that we would appreciate you completing and returning to us as soon as possible. This helps us to understand your child's needs more easily. The information is kept confidential at all times.

**YEAR 4 ROOM 9**

**TERM 1 TIMETABLE 2017**

**MRS SUGG & MRS MILENTIS**

	<b>MRS SUGG</b>	<b>MRS MILENTIS</b>	<b>MRS SUGG</b>	<b>MRS SUGG</b>	<b>MRS SUGG</b>
	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>
<b>8.45</b>	MATHS	MATHS	MATHS	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	ASSEMBLY / CHOIR
<b>9.45</b>	LOTE	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	MATHS
<b>10.45</b>	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS	RECESS
<b>11.05</b>	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ENGLISH	ICT
<b>11.35</b>				MATHS	
<b>12.05</b>	ENGLISH	SCIENCE	HEALTH		ENGLISH
<b>12.35</b>				LIBRARY	
<b>1.05</b>	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
<b>1.50</b>	SILENT READING	SILENT READING	SILENT READING	SILENT READING	SILENT READING
<b>2.00</b>	HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES	ART	SPORT YR 3-6	SENIOR CHOIR/ ENGLISH	MUSIC