

G3 Classroom Information 2016

Teacher: Mr. Jonathan Kurtjak

Welcome to G3. I look forward to working with you and your child to achieve their goals for Year 3 2016.

At Hammond Park Primary School, over 50% of our day is focused on English and Mathematics. These activities consist of whole class instruction (explicit teaching of content/topic), group work, partner work and individual work. Throughout our day, we will use a variety of learning approaches including written tasks, group tasks, consolidation activities, IT and hands on activities.

English Block

The English block in G3 takes place after the Morning Meeting through to before recess. During English, students engage in a range of differentiated activities such as: reading, writing, spelling, grammar, listening and speaking. Students will also interact with our online program called "Reading Eggs/Express". Through this program, the students are able to use IT (iPad/MacBook) to engage with a range of differentiated English activities that are both engaging and educational.

At the end of Year 3, some of the target goals for English include:

- Write in compound sentences using capital letters, full stops and other punctuation
- Write in paragraphs
- Use joined letters in handwriting
- Use a variety of reading strategies to help with text comprehension
- Read at level 25 in reading
- Use a range of spelling strategies
- Participate in oral language activities

In Year 3, we use a spelling program called "**Words Their Way**". It's a program that assists children to explore and understand patterns in spelling and think critically about the word choices they select when speaking and writing. The program also allows us to differentiate our spelling lessons to help cater for a wide range of spelling needs.

Each week, your child will bring home their spelling words. These words will be printed on an A4 sheet of paper and placed into their Homework Folders for safe keeping. At school, the students will keep a copy of their words in a zip-lock bag for use during spelling lessons. At home, children could perform a variety of spelling activities. They could speed sort their words using a timer, they could write the definitions of their words, they could say words back to you or practice spelling their words out loud.

Children will be tested every 7-10 days on their spelling words and they will also receive a new set of words.

If you would like any further information regarding the spelling program or any more ideas for spelling activities, feel free to come and speak with me before or after school.

Mathematics

The Mathematics block will usually take place after recess and will conclude at the start of lunch. During Mathematics, similarly to English, students will engage in a variety of learning activities. Some concepts covered in Year 3 include: number and place value, measurement, money, time, shape and statistics and probability.

By the end of Year 3, some targets include:

- Recall two, three, five and ten facts and relate these to division
- Tell the time to the nearest minute
- Give change to the nearest 5c
- Count, order and partition numbers up to 10 000
- Model, represent and multiply fractions of $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{5}$
- Use a variety of mental and written strategies to add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers
- Describe key features of three-dimensional objects
- Interpret, collect and organise data

Additional Curriculum Areas

In addition, the students will also engage in other curriculum areas, all of which are aligned to English and Mathematics. These areas include: Science, History, Geography and Health.

During Science lessons, the Inquiry Approach is used to help learn about the characteristics of living things, investigate solids, liquids and gases, the transfer of heat and how the Earth is tilted on its axis and rotates and revolves around the Sun causing night and day.

HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences)

In History and Geography, students work on refining their Inquiry Skills to help form questions when exploring important events in Australia's history, celebrations from around the world, features of our land and some features of our neighbouring countries. Students are encouraged to ask 'open' questions instead of 'closed' (yes/no) questions. The HASS curriculum is integrated into other areas as well as being addressed in isolation.

STEM

Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics. STEM is a current initiative to restore the focus and increase student interest in these four areas as we adapt to 21st century learning. This is integrated within other curriculum areas and is supported by our high ratio of IT in iPads, MacBooks and interactive software. Students will engage in inquiry based learning that supports their ability to reflect and become critical thinkers.

Specialist Classes

This year at Hammond Park Primary School there are three specialist teachers. Mrs. Gilks will continue to teach Art, Ms. Whinfield will teach Music and Mr. Negre is teaching Physical Education. The students in G3 have Art on Tuesday, Music on Monday and Thursday and Sport on Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday afternoon,

the Year 3's will also be joining our Years 4-6 for Senior Sport. If your child suffers from asthma, please ensure they bring their puffer and spacer to school.

Information Technology (IT)

Technology is an excellent way to both engage students in learning and also help encourage and nurture their academic growth. At Hammond Park Primary School, we are lucky enough to have a range of IT we are able to integrate into the classroom. These are: iPads, MacBooks, teacher SmartBoards and a range of other interactive resources that students are able to engage with daily. Parents have signed an IT usage agreement on behalf of their child; with the expectation their child will follow the rules outlined in these documents. This year, Hammond Park Primary School will be holding an IT expo showcasing all of the wonderful activities our students are involved with through the use of the available digital technologies.

Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

At Hammond Park Primary School, we differentiate the learning and instruction that takes place in each classroom to cater for a range of diverse needs and abilities. An IEP will be written for your child with additional needs and goals to ensure they are able to access the curriculum at an appropriate level.

Should your child require an IEP, I will contact you so that we can organise a suitable time to meet to discuss short-term, achievable goals. IEP meetings generally take place around week four or five of the term. The IEP will be reviewed in week nine of each term. If you have any questions regarding IEPs please come and see me before or after school.

Morning Meeting

At the beginning of every school day, the students at Hammond Park Primary School are involved with Morning Meetings. The purpose of the meetings is to focus each student on a specific skill or concept, develop essential social skills and also to promote group cohesion. Every morning I will place a Morning Message Board out the front of the classroom. Students are encouraged to read and interact with the activity displayed on the board to start them thinking about the skill or concept to be discussed during the meeting.

Homework

At Hammond Park Primary School, homework is set and provides students an opportunity to consolidate their learning within the classroom. Students in Year 3 are expected to complete up to 15 minutes of set homework per night during the week (Monday-Thursday). Homework may consist of the following:

- Home Reading – students record the book they read and the number of pages read
- Multiplication and Division facts
- Reading Express/Reading Eggs (online)
- Mathletics (online)
- Words Their Way (Spelling)

Mathletics and Reading Eggs/Reading Express

In order to engage with these online educational programs students will require a log-in. Should your child need their login details please come see me and I will be happy to provide them for you.

Home Reading

Hammond Park Primary School's home reading program is an excellent way for your child to consolidate their learning and skills from the classroom. The program enables them to build confidence with their reading and helps contribute to their research and comprehension skills. Moreover, the program also helps create pride and excitement in one's reading.

As part of the 15 minutes of homework, the student's are encouraged to engage with home reading. We understand that some afternoons/nights your child/children may have other activities they engage with outside of school so there may be a few busy nights that reading might not be possible. However, the children are asked to open their reading folders every morning to be checked by the teacher. If they have completed their home reading for that night they receive a tick on a record sheet. If they receive three ticks for the week, they receive a stamp. This makes it easy for the teacher to keep a record of who is reading at home as well as encourage students to develop a healthy routine when it comes to homework.

Visible Learning

At Hammond Park Primary School we use the school-wide strategy of "Visible Learning" to keep students accountable and up to date with their learning expectations and goals. At the start of each lesson, the students are made aware of the 'learning intention' for the lesson. The 'learning intention' helps establish what is to be the focus for that lesson and is expanded upon with 'success criteria'. The criteria are often generated with the assistance of students and focus on what needs to be achieved in order for the 'learning intention' to be reached. Your child's achievement is also celebrated through the use of a 'data wall'. This enables your child to clearly see how much progress they have made as well as locate specific areas for improvement in the future.

Library

G3 will go to the library before lunch on a Wednesday. Please help support your child's literacy and reading skills by encouraging them to borrow a library book each week and return it on the appropriate day. (the following Wednesday). It is important that your child comes to school on these days with a library bag to ensure they are able to care for their borrowed book. Your child will have the opportunity to borrow one book per library session. Students are able to change their library books again before their next library session in their own time. The library is open during recess and lunch on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Before School Processes

At Hammond Park Primary School, we have a *No Playing Before School Policy*. Students are encouraged to put their bag outside their classroom when they arrive at school and then move to the undercover area where they will be supervised until 8:40am. Please remind your child of this policy should you drop them off before 8:35am.

Absences

Should your child be absent from school, we encourage you to let the school know as soon as practicable on 9494 3200. If your child has not arrived before 9.00am they will be marked as absent. The first absence SMS will be sent out at 10.00am. Any absences from school must be covered with a signed, dated note upon the child's return. If you need to collect your child during school hours, you must first report to Administration and sign the child out. The yellow slip is to be returned to the classroom teacher before the child is released.

Crunch and Sip

Crunch and Sip is a program used by Hammond Park Primary School to help promote healthy eating habits amongst children. The program ensures your child remains hydrated and energized during the afternoon. The children in G3 participate in Crunch and Sip after lunch during Silent Reading time, whereby they sit and read at their desk while eating raw snacks such as **fruit and vegetables**.

Water Bottles

In G3, the children are encouraged to drink plenty of water during the day to remain hydrated. Their water bottles are kept on an appropriate shelf within the classroom to maximise learning time and we would appreciate it if your child's water bottle is clearly labeled with their name.

Birthdays

If it is your child's birthday you may bring in cupcakes to share. However, if you wish to share food with the class, please make sure they are **allergy friendly** and contain **no nuts or nut products** in anything that is sent.

Medication

Should your child require medication, teachers are only allowed to administer it if you have written paperwork from your doctor (see School Information Booklet). However, for children with asthma, they can keep their medication in their school bag. If your child does require medication please see Administration and fill in the necessary forms in order for a care plan to be created.

Newsletters

Hammond Park Primary is a Waste Wise school and as such, the newsletter is available on the school website for you to access. Please visit the website to keep up to date with Hammond park's events through the year on <http://hammondparkps.wa.edu.au>

Classroom Behaviour

At the end of last year, a Positive Behaviour committee was formed at Hammond Park Primary School to promote positive reinforcement for all children. As such, a set of school expectations have been created by the committee and teaching staff within the school. The expectations are:

We are RESPONSIBLE
We are RESPECTFUL
We are SAFE
We are LEARNERS

Within the classroom, these expectations are reinforced through the Classroom Dojo program. Children are awarded Dojo points for meeting these expectations during the day. Points may be taken away from individual children also. Dojo will also provide a fast and effective way for you to stay on track with what is happening in G3 and provides an open communication channel for you to use to communicate with the classroom teacher. Please note, messages on Dojo will be checked Monday through to the end of school on Friday. If there is an urgent matter please see Administration or the classroom teacher before or after school.

Dojo points can be viewed at home by downloading the app from the App Store (Apple devices) or from Google Play (Android devices). Thank you to those parents that have returned signed permission forms for Classroom Dojo. Visit <http://classdojo.com> for more information.

In addition, G3 uses the Traffic lights system, whereby students are placed along the traffic light according to behaviour. Hammond Park Primary School also has an anti-bullying policy in place. Please see the teacher should you require an outline of this.

Hats

Students are encouraged to wear a broad brimmed hat as part of their school uniform. School hats can be purchased from the front office (Administration). At Hammond Park we have a 'no hat, no play' policy. Students who do not have a hat are required to sit in the shade for the duration of recess and lunch breaks. Please ensure your child's hat is clearly labeled.

Head Lice

If head lice are found in the class, notes will go home to all students encouraging parents to check their child's hair before commencing any necessary treatment. The school does not provide head lice treatment for purchase.

Uniform

Students are encouraged to wear their school uniform, shirt and navy shorts/skirts everyday. On Friday students are permitted to wear their faction shirts.

Parent Help

In G3, parent helpers are welcomed. If you would like to volunteer time to work within your child's classroom to listen to reading and help with activities please fill out the Parent Volunteer Form on the days and times you are available.

Should you have any further questions about your child's learning and progress, please do not hesitate to organise a suitable time to meet up. I am available both before and after school should you wish to speak with me further.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,

Jonathan Kurtjak, Classroom Teacher

Hammond Park Primary School, 2016