



# Woonona PS Parent Information Sheet

## Stage 1 2019

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Welcome back to 2019! This note covers some important information that may be helpful for you as we begin a new school year.

### Teachers in Stage 1

Mrs Alanah Barnaby – 1B  
Mr Tristan Loosemore - 1L  
Mrs Rebecca Gibson – 1G  
Ms Hayley Mulrooney – 1M (Assistant Principal Stage 1)  
Mrs Katrina Bugg – 1M (Every Tuesday)  
Mrs Belinda Petrollo – 2P  
Ms Rebecca Chesher – 2C  
Ms Leah Weir – 2W  
Mrs Elizabeth Macedo – 2M

### Attendance

Marking the roll (a legal document) occurs first thing in the morning and it is important children are on time. If your child is late, please go to the office to get a late note to give to the teacher. If your child is leaving school early, please sign your child out before you go to the classroom or playground. If your child is absent from school, please send an explanation with your child when they return to school.

### Woonona Reward System

Our whole school reward system reflects the beliefs and vision we have for our school and aligns with our teaching practice of our Learner Qualities. Our reward system includes 2 awards per week – 1 for Citizenship and 1 for the Learner Qualities.

At the end of each month, 1 student is selected from each stage as ‘Citizen of the Month’ and will be presented with a special certificate, their name will be displayed on the noticeboard in the playground and their photo will be displayed in the school office. The chosen students will have been nominated from teachers across all grades and stages who have noticed their outstanding citizenship around the school.

## **Visible Learning**

Our Visible Learning journey is continuing at Woonona. We love what visible learning has done for our teaching practice and for our students' engagement and educational outcomes. By making learning visible for our students, we have enabled our students to know where they are in their learning journey, recognise what they need to do to be successful and can state how they are going to achieve their learning goals.

## **Learning Intentions and Success Criteria**

The Learning Intention is the specific curriculum expectation rephrased in student friendly language. Prior to our lesson or cycle of learning, the students develop a common understanding of the goal so everyone knows what it is they are striving to achieve.

The Success Criteria is the set of small goals that the children will strive to achieve, and by achieving these small goals, they will in turn achieve the main goal they are working towards. Therefore the success criteria outlines for the students what successful attainment of the learning goal looks like. It is a step-by-step guide to success.

## **How are learning goals identified?**

First and foremost – student data drives this process. We continue an ongoing cycle of data collection, from the beginning to the end of the year. We study this data and collate the results, which we then use to directly drive our teaching. This ensures that we are teaching our students exactly what they need to move forward in their learning.

## **Learner Qualities**

This year, the students will continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of our Woonona Learner Qualities. These qualities were created in 2017 by the teaching staff and in consultation with our P&C. We decided on these qualities as we believe these are the qualities that are possessed by strong learners. The qualities are: **risk taking, resilience, collaboration, wonder, persistence, reflecting and making connections.**

We have also started the year off with a social skills program, looking at the skills we need to be great citizens of our school and our community. Each skill will be taught over a one-week period.

## **Maths**

Stage 1 will continue to use the Stepping Stones program to teach maths. The program covers the NSW Mathematics syllabus and focuses on meeting curriculum expectations. The program also offers the opportunity to implement differentiation depending on the needs of the students. This year, the practice book will stay at school and it will be used to consolidate concepts being taught.

## **English**

In working with the NSW English syllabus, teachers prepare cycles of teaching and learning, which meet the syllabus guidelines. We have used our PAT data to drive our first cycles in reading and grammar and students completed a recount writing pre-test. This term students will be exploring imaginative texts.

## **Geography**

This semester the students will be exploring from the NSW Geography syllabus: Features of Places. Across the two terms, students investigate the natural and human features of places. They describe the reasons places change and identify the active role of citizens in the care of places. They learn about how people describe the weather and seasons of places. Students explore activities occurring in places and how the spaces within places can be used for different purposes.

## **History**

In Semester Two, students will be exploring from the NSW History syllabus: Present and Past Family Life. Students will be learning about the differences and similarities between students' daily lives and life during their parents' and grandparents' childhoods, including family traditions, leisure time and communications.

## **Science and Technology**

Science will be taught in Stage 1 by Mrs Katrina Bugg and the unit being taught this semester is 'Physical World'. Students will be investigating how forces and energy are used for a specific purpose. Technology will be taught by Mrs Sarah Rolfe and this term students' will be focusing on developing their understanding of cyber safety.

## **Library Days**

Your child will be having a library lesson every week with Mrs Lake. Each class will have their own library day. They will need to have a library bag to take books home. This year the students in Stage 1 are allowed to borrow 3 books – 2 picture books and 1 information book. If you are unsure about your child's library day, please see your child's teacher.

## **Home Reading**

Home reading will start in Week 4 this term. Each individual class teacher will let you know how home reading will work in their classroom. Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions about home reading.

We are very lucky in Stage 1 to have lots of teachers that are Reading Recovery trained to share their knowledge and skills with everyone on the stage to improve all the student's literacy skills.

Your child will bring books home to read that will be familiar to them or that they can read easily. That means they will have read the book before it goes home. It is beneficial for the text to be familiar so your child has the confidence to work on other reading skills like fluency, working out difficult words and re-reading the text for meaning.

## **Equipment**

Thank you to everyone who has already given their child supplies for the classroom. Equipment requirements will vary with each class. If you have any questions about this, please see your child's teacher and they will let you know what your child will need.

Thank you to those parents who have already purchased the Stepping Stones Maths textbook. If you have not yet purchased your child's textbook yet, please do so as soon as possible. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher.

### **Headphones**

This year Woonona Public School requires all students to purchase headphones from the school. These will be a one off purchase, labelled with student names and will stay at school for the duration of your child's schooling.

### **School Magazine (Year 2)**

School magazines will be used throughout the year during reading lessons and as an addition to the students' option for independent reading. The school magazine is a fantastic resource as it provides students with a wide range of reading material such as scripts, stories, poems, comics and informative articles.

Once your child has purchased the magazines they will receive a new magazine each month, however these will stay at school until the end of the year. The school magazine costs \$12 for the year. Once students have paid for the cost of their magazines, they will begin to receive their monthly copies. Please note, this is only for Year 2 students.

### **Sport**

This year Stage 1 will be having sport on Thursday. Students are required to wear their sports uniform with appropriate shoes. Please make sure your child has a hat and a water bottle everyday but especially on sport day.

### **News Day**

News will be happening in all Stage 1 classes and it is an important part of Speaking and Listening. Your child will learn to be confident when speaking in front of an audience or a group of people and they will also learn how to be a good listener. Please help your child prepare for their news day by going over the topic, but letting them think of what they will say rather than telling them what to say.

Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions or you are unsure when your child's news day is. If they need to bring in something special to show the class for news, please make sure their name is on the item.

### **Parent Helpers**

At times during the year, we may need parent helpers to assist us in the classroom e.g. Reading Groups, Computers, Art etc. If your child's teacher needs helpers, they will send home a note asking for volunteers. If you do wish to volunteer to help within the school, you will need to complete a 'Working With Children Check' form and give the approval number to the office before you can help in the school. Please see the office staff if you have any questions about volunteering.

### **Stage Showcase**

Our stage showcase will be in Term 2. We invite all parents and families to come along as we share parts of our learning with you. More information will be provided closer to the date.

## **Building a Growth Mindset**

This year, students will continue talking about ‘having a positive mindset’ and identifying what that looks like. Students will be discussing the importance of their own growth, taking ownership of their learning, giving and listening to feedback, identifying what good feedback is, looking at different feelings that may occur during the learning process and attitudes that will allow them to make growth.

We have our scheduled parent teacher interview evening on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (Week 10) of this term. If you have things you would like to discuss with your child’s teacher prior to then, please schedule an appointment.

If you haven’t already met your child’s teacher, please come and say hello. We are looking forward to working with you and your child this year.

Kind Regards,

Stage 1 Teachers