

# Grade One and Two Parent Information

Welcome to Grade One and Two. We hope this information will answer some of the questions that have been raised about school and classroom practices. Should you need more information or have further questions please contact us.

## Timetable

Each teacher will send a copy of the grade's timetable home with your child. This will show when your child is working in the classroom, the times they are in the library and when they have lessons with specialist teachers. Every week a class will complete ten hours of English and five hours of Maths as well as working on the term's topic and student wellbeing / social skills. Specialist lessons are Physical Education and Performing Arts. In terms three and four Visual Arts will replace Performing Arts. This year Mr Patterson will be taking our classes for two sessions each week when he will teach them Health and Physical Education.

We have a whole school assembly at 3:00 on Friday afternoons in the gym. Parents are most welcome to attend these. We will also meet regularly as a Prep – 2 group for sub-school assemblies. These will usually happen fortnightly at 2:30 on Friday afternoons.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has mandated that students in years Prep to Three should take part in twenty to thirty minutes of physical education a day. Therefore on most mornings of the week your child will participate in a short sport or physical education session. For more information about the links between physical fitness and learning go to [http://www.dsr.wa.gov.au/assets/files/Research/Enhancing\\_Academic\\_Achievement.pdf](http://www.dsr.wa.gov.au/assets/files/Research/Enhancing_Academic_Achievement.pdf)

## Home Reading

Reading at home continues to be vital to your child's progress and we encourage you to listen to them read each day and to read to them as often as possible. There's nothing like a good bedtime story! We are often told that the book a child has brought home is 'too easy.' This is intentional as home reading should be an enjoyable, successful experience where the child practises reading skills already learned.

Please ensure the book returns to school each day as there are often opportunities for your child to reread it in the classroom, perhaps to a parent helper or an older student buddy. Your child will choose their book whenever possible but there are often times when this is not possible and a book will be selected for them. When this occurs we do try to ensure they have not already read it but sometimes we slip up. Just encourage your child to read the book again.

[www.memfox.net](http://www.memfox.net) is an excellent website about books and reading with children.

## Towards Independence:

As they progress through Grades One and Two students are expected to become more independent both in their learning and in their ability to make decisions and be responsible for their belongings. You can help them in this by:

- Allowing your child to bring their bag into the classroom and unpack it. Their teacher will remind them to check if they have notes or lunch orders.

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- Encouraging them to check they have their bag packed for school each day and gradually allowing them to do it by themselves.
- Letting them enter and leave the classroom on their own each day and as the year progresses arranging a meeting place away from the classroom door. Many parents meet their child at a playground or gate.

### Classroom Routines

Students need to have a broad brimmed hat at school as part of our Sunsmart policy. These need to be worn during recess and lunchtimes and whenever the class is outside, eg Physical Education lessons, morning fitness and activities in the Barn on days when the UV is high. . Please make sure hats have names in them

Each student is expected to use their clipboard to bring home notices. Please check these regularly to make sure you don't miss any important information.

All students are encouraged to borrow from the library on a weekly basis. To protect our library books please ensure your child has a durable bag in which to carry them.

Students are encouraged to drink water during their day and may bring a water bottle to school to have on their table. This is for plain water only. Students can have fruit drinks and cordial at recess and lunchtimes but glass containers and canned drinks are not permitted at school.

### Student Wellbeing and School Rules

Somerville Rise Primary has five rules that apply throughout the school and in the playground.

**Safety (the red rule):** We will act safely towards ourselves and others.

**Learning (the purple rule):** We will allow others to enjoy school and learn.

**Respect (the blue rule):** We will be respectful of ourselves and others.

**Responsibility (the green rule):** We will be honest and accept responsibility for our behaviour.

**Courtesy (the orange rule):** We will be polite, considerate and caring towards others.

The main rule is **the white rule:** I must do as I am told, when I am told, by the teacher.

We use these rules to help each child develop a responsible approach to learning and others. Positive behaviour is constantly rewarded and celebrated in many ways, including "Super Star of the Week" and "Citizen of the Month" awards.

We follow the school's RISC program where incidents of misbehaviour are recorded. Should a student need to be withdrawn from the classroom or yard, a letter will be sent home notifying parents of this and the reason it occurred.

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### Fruit snack (Brain food)

We encourage children to bring a fresh fruit or vegetable snack to school each day. This will be eaten when the children return from morning fitness and settle down to the classroom work. We ask for your help in making this a quick and easy snack by cutting oranges into quarters, limiting it to one serve of fruit and not sending processed fruit that needs to be eaten with a spoon.

### Classroom Helpers

We welcome help in the classroom so if you have any time to spare during the week and would like to help please come and see us. There are many tasks that you can assist with, including changing home reading books, listening to students read, working with a small group on a Maths or Literacy task and helping publish student work. If you would like to help but are unable to spare time in the classroom there may be some things you can take home to do, such as cutting out items for display.

