

# 1/2 WELCOME BACK

## NEWSLETTER

# Welcome to 2021

The 1/2 teachers are very excited and eager to start the new year with your children. We trust you all had an enjoyable and relaxing break over the holidays, after such a challenging year, and the children are well rested and ready to begin their new learning journey with us. This year we will have a number of fun and engaging learning activities to broaden the children's knowledge and expand their thinking. We look forward to developing relationships with you all and building partnerships between home and school.

### Seesaw

Seesaw is a digital portfolio. where we will 'show what students know' using photos, videos, drawings and notes. If you were already signed into Seesaw last year, you will automatically rolled over into your child's 2021 classroom.

If not your child will receive a new Seesaw note with your login details. Please speak to your child's teacher if you require assistance with this.

### Soft Start

This year we have introduced a Soft Start to the beginning of the school day. The process is as follows:

- At 8:50 a classroom teacher will open the main doors for students to enter the building.
- Students will be allowed to come into their classroom to set up for the day.
- At 9:00 am classes will begin for the day.

### Teacher contact info

We love hearing from you and discussing your child's learning journey, however, to be fair and considerate to all children appointment times need to be arranged. Please contact the classroom teacher if you would like to arrange a meeting or you can communicate through Compass.

Diana D'Angelo	1/2 DD
Melanie Gibson (Friday)	Room 15
David Cenzato	1/2DC
	Room 16
Rose Cristiano	1/2 RC
	Room 13
Michelle Browne	1/2 MB
	Room 14
Mandy Buckingham (Greenbrook)	1/2AB
	Room 10

## Start-Up

# Our Learning

## SEA

Over the last two weeks all classes have been involved in the EPS Start-Up Program. The program ensures staff, students and parents begin the year together with a shared understanding of expectations while creating a positive climate for learning.

## Writing

EPS is a 'Big Write' school. Students have written a recount of their school holidays during the first week back at school. This piece of writing is used as a benchmark to assess writing growth over the year. Our first focus of study is narrative writing.

Part of the 'Big Write' program involves 'Big Talk' where students brainstorm as a class the week's writing topic. Students are invited to talk about the topic with their family at home.

## Reading

We will begin our year's reading journey by building a reading community, discovering who we are as readers and taking time to read for pure enjoyment. We use the CAFÉ Reading structure: (Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanding Vocabulary) to develop greater reading comprehension strategies in our students. Students will first concentrate on using the 'I Pick' strategy to select a 'just right book'. We encourage your child to continue reading every day at home to an adult. Students will have access to Reading Eggs at home. Passwords will be provided soon.

## Spelling

Spelling skills will be developed by using a range of strategies such as phonemic awareness (letter sounds). We encourage all students to regularly practise their Magic words and their weekly spelling lists. Sound Waves passwords will be provided soon.

SEA stands for Social & Emotional Awareness. Students participate in these lessons once a week with their classroom teacher. Social and emotional learning is about learning how to manage feelings, manage friendships and solve problems.

These are essential life skills needed to manage ourselves, relate to others, resolve conflict, and feel positive about ourselves and the world around us.

## Inquiry

Our Inquiry topic this term is All About Me and our Big Question is "What makes me the person I am?" We will be investigating things that make me unique and ways that I am the same as other people. We will be celebrating our similarities and differences and how we are part of a community. We will be using a wide range of resources and thinking tools for our unit.

## Maths

In the 1/2 area we will continue to build upon our knowledge and understanding of Mathematics.

We will begin the term with a strong focus on number & place value.

All students will have access to Essential Assessment and will be able to use the feature of "Sunset Maths." Passwords will be provided soon.

# Reminders!

Please remember that hats are to be worn outside until the end of Term 1. Students are to wear a broad brimmed hat which is named and sunscreen is encouraged. Please send a labelled water bottle daily too.

Please ensure your child has all the items listed on this year's booklist so they can begin the year smoothly.



# Brain Food



At Epping Primary School we encourage students to eat fresh, healthy food. We understand that sometimes children can be fussy eaters, however it is important that you provide your child with some fruit/vegetables (for a scheduled brain break) and a sandwich or another type of food for them to eat at snack time and lunch time. At EPS we also encourage 'nude food' (no wrappers or plastic and all food in a container). Please do not send any chocolates or lollies to school, as children will be encouraged to leave these for home. Water is also the preferred drink in a reusable bottle so please do not send juice or milk drinks to school. Your cooperation in this will be greatly appreciated.

## Specialists Italian

Students will be revising various topics previously explored and participate in oral interaction to express feelings and emotions.

## Performing Arts

In Performing Arts this term students will be expanding their rhythmic vocabulary as well as exploring high and low pitches in music and how to write them on the stave.

## P. E.

In Term 1 the Grade 1/2 children will concentrate on Ball Handling. They will be doing, throwing, stopping, catching and bouncing with different size balls.

They will also do jump rope work.

## Visual Arts

Grades 1&2 will be experimenting with a variety of drawing tools in the Art Room this term, and will be learning about the elements of line, shape and texture.

## Homework

- Read/be read to for 20 minutes
- Spelling words
- Magic Words

### OPTIONAL HOMEWORK:

- Essential Assessment –
- Sunset Maths
- Reading Eggs
- Soundwaves



## Student Planners

All students have a personal planner. The planner contains important information regarding EPS and is a place where students can organise their homework, weekly activities and record their home reading.

Planners should be at school every day and go home every night.

We encourage independence by Grade 1/2.

Due to Covid restrictions, please do not enter the building in the morning or after school.

This will also encourage your child to become independent by handing over notes, putting in their lunch order, hanging their own bag and being responsible for their personal belongings.

We appreciate your support with this matter.