



Grade 1/2 Newsletter

"A view to the future"



Term 1

Important Information

We extend a warm welcome to our 2024 Grade 1/2 students and families. We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and are ready for a busy and engaging term one. Our initial focus will be on establishing classroom routines, setting high expectations and developing a strong sense of belonging to our new learning communities.

There are lots of engaging activities planned for the term! Please read our newsletter to discover more about our topics and focus areas for the term! We encourage you to take the time to carefully read the term dates and keep an eye on Compass for further information on our upcoming events, such as our three-way conferences, parent information evening and Student Expos! We thank you for your patience as we organise our take-home levelled readers and weekly spelling programs to support your child's reading development.

Thank you,
The 1/2 Teaching Team

Teachers are available after school on Monday, Thursday and Friday for arranged meetings. Alternatively you can email or call the school office:
(03) 5968 1313

gembrook.ps@education.vic.gov.au



January Dates	
Tuesday 30th	First Day of Term for students
February Dates	
Monday 13th, Wednesday 14th	Getting to Know You Interviews
Tuesday 20th	Getting to Know You Interviews
Friday 23rd	CURRICULUM DAY
March Dates	
Friday 1st	March Master Month
Monday 11th	Labor Day
Monday 25th	March Master Month Expo
Thursday 28th	Last Day of Term

Reading Nights

Students will be expected to change their readers and have their diaries open on their tables by 9am.

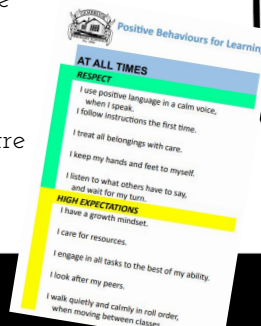
We would love to see lots of 300 night readers' in the Grade 1/2s. Please remember to assist your child to count their nights of reading all year!

Will your child be a 300 night reader?



PBL and Respectful Relationships

In term one, we will focus on developing our Positive Behaviours for Learning in relation to At All Times. We will look at how our school values of Respect and High Expectations are shown at all times across our school to help maximise our learning potential. Our work in the Respectful Relationships space will centre around inclusion, friendships and conflict resolution.





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Literacy

In literacy, students will begin the term by exploring recounts and narratives. They will think carefully about how to select words that convey emotions linked with favourite memories, places and objects. Students will explore the characteristics of narratives and examine their structures, so they can develop and write their own. Students will learn about text organisation, including settings, plot development and characterisation. We will look at how to analyse narrative texts, investigate how descriptive language is used to enhance imagery, and provide students with skills on how they can embed some of these techniques within their own writing.

In reading, we will work on our comprehension and decoding strategies and develop our use of schema to aid understanding. We will extend our ability to 'track our thinking' in our Reader's Notebooks and delve deeply into fiction and non-fiction texts.

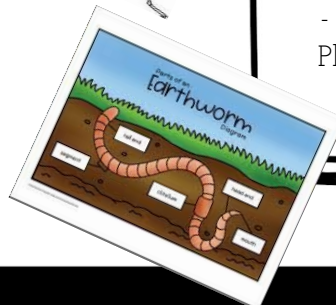
Within our word work units, we will continue to develop students phonological awareness and vocabulary. There will be a focus on long vowel sounds, onset and rimes, as well as compound words and homophones. Students will continue to work on spelling M100W words and individual spelling words will be sent home as your child requires them.

Timetables

	1/2A	1/2B	1/2C
Auslan	Thur	Thur	Wed
Art	Tues	Wed	Wed
P.E.	Wed	Tue	Thur
Music	Wed	Wed	Tue

Science

In science this term, students will be participating in a biological science unit called 'Schoolyard Safari'. Students' interests will be captured by observing the habitats of different living things found around our school. Students will examine how the small animals move, feed, and protect themselves in their habitats.



Resources Needed

Students will be creating a diorama and a wiggle worm observer this term. The following resources would be appreciated:

- shoeboxes
- cereal boxes
- 2 litre plastic bottle

Please send to school at your earliest convenience.





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Numeracy

Students will work to consolidate and extend their understanding of the place value system. They will explore skip counting concepts, and build their automaticity skills through regular Blitzmaster sessions.

Students will investigate the relationship between addition and subtraction. They will begin to explore the process of division, using their knowledge of related multiplication facts.

In our applied topics students will investigate 2D and 3D shapes, and how they transition. Students will explore the concepts involved with time, including days, months, years, hours and minutes.

Problem solving tasks will provide students with the opportunity to interact and build confidence with different strategies.



Curriculum Links:

For more information on the curriculum for your child, please visit the 'curriculum' section on our school website:

<https://www.gembrookps.vic.edu.au/wp/> and the Victorian

Curriculum:

<https://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au>

March Masters coming soon!

Reminders

Student Hats: Students will need their hats for all of term 1, in line with our sunsmart policy.

Drink bottles: Students need to bring a named drink bottle that they can drink from during class time. Please only fill this with water.

Inquiry

This term, students will participate in a history unit focused on the past and present. The students will investigate how people, places and objects have changed over time. They will compare their own lives to those of the adults around them. Please be on the lookout for some questionnaires for you to fill out in week 2!

