

Week 2, Term 1: Monday 1st February 2021

Hello Families,

Welcome to our first Year 1 communication of 2021!

We have really enjoyed our first few days of school, getting to know each other and settling into new routines. It has been so lovely to see the many smiling faces come into the learning space each morning and witness such enthusiasm for learning.

We are very excited for the wonderful term that lies ahead.

Our specialist timetable is finalised and we will visit our amazing specialist teachers on the following days:

Class	Monday	Tuesday (9am - 10:40am)	Thursday (1:50pm - 3:30pm)	Wednesday
1O	Library	Performing Arts & P.E	Art & Chinese	Year 1 Sport
1M		Art & Chinese	Performing Arts & P.E	
1B		Performing Arts & P.E	Art & Chinese	
1YB		Art & Chinese	Performing Arts & P.E	

Start and End of Day Routines

To support a smooth drop off/pick up process, we have many teachers out in the yard supervising students before and after school. So that we can ensure all of our Year Ones are safe and supervised, all 4 classes will meet and be dismissed from the courtyard side each day. Classroom teachers will endeavour to move students into the classrooms quickly to minimise congestion in the courtyard area. A gentle reminder that parents should not be walking students through the classroom spaces - our little humans are getting very good at following the morning routines independently.

Please endeavor to have your child here by 9am as we start our program and mark the roll straight away and your child may miss important lesson input. If you are running late, please ensure you sign your child in at the office before coming into our classrooms.

E-mail Communication and Protocols

Our classroom updates will come to you on a fortnightly basis via email. The purpose of our communication emails is to share with you our current learning focus, as well as any other important information for the weeks ahead.

Please use the Sentral Parent portal or email to communicate student absences. Should any issues or concerns arise throughout the year, we encourage you to arrange a time to meet rather than sending information via email that would be better conveyed face to face.

We are always happy to receive questions and information via emails from parents. It is important to note that part of our Parent/Teacher email agreement, emails will be responded to between 8am - 5.30pm, Monday to Friday and responses can be expected within 2 school days. Teachers who receive emails from parents over the weekend will endeavour to respond by 5.30pm Monday. With this in mind, it is always best to contact the office if you need to get a message to your teacher or child during school hours (eg. your child going home with another parent or going to after school care), as we can not guarantee we will see messages during teaching time.

Being Sunsmart

Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide. Our school Sunsmart Policy requires students to wear their school broad brimmed hat when outside and for sporting activities throughout Term 1 and 2 until 30 April and again from 1 September. If your child has lost or misplaced their hat over the holiday break, hats can be purchased

online from our school uniform shop. Children are asked to sit in a designated shaded area for the duration of play if they do not have their hats. It is also a good idea to pack some sunscreen in school bags (or lunch box) for your child to reapply during the day.

Allergies/Anaphylaxis reminder

Please be aware that we do have children in the school and Year 1 who suffer allergies and anaphylaxis. Although there are many allergens, please be mindful when packing school lunches to avoid common allergens such as egg and nuts.

Take in Take out policy

Here at APS, we strongly encourage Nude food lunchboxes and appreciate the efforts our families make to keep the rubbish at home, where it can be recycled or disposed of thoughtfully and appropriately. While Nude food is our goal, our 'Take in-Take out' policy is another way we can support a cleaner environment. The 'Take in-Take out' policy aims to minimise the rubbish that goes into our classroom bins and as a result ends up in landfill. In line with this policy, students will be required to take home any packaging/wrapping that comes to school in their lunchboxes. Canteen rubbish will continue to be disposed of at school. We appreciate your support with this policy/process.

Reading Folders and Art Smocks - A Reminder from the Art Room:

Every child needs to have an Art smock at school. If you still have one at home, please return it to school as soon as possible. It is important that the smock has a waterproof lining to ensure paint does not go through to students' uniforms.

If your child's reading folder is at home, we would also ask that they are returned to school this week, so that we can begin bringing home books to read. This includes the black folder used for recording students reading each night, as we are trying to minimise the need for replacement.

Thank you to families who have already returned their child's art smock and reading folder to the classroom.

Parent Representatives

Please make your classroom teacher aware if you are interested in filling the wonderful role of Parent Rep for your class in 2021. Being a Parent Rep involves:

*Typing up and distributing class contact lists

*Being a point of contact for class and school events

*Organising class social events

Hopefully for someone out there this is your dream role and we can't wait to hear from you!

Kind regards,

Shey O'Brien, Carla Youngs, Teresa Baker, John McHaffie, Emily Bourke

Dave the Therapy Dog

This year Dave the therapy dog will be returning to Aspendale Primary School. Dave will be attending school 1 to 2 days a week with Emily Bourke in 1B. Emily and Dave have completed the *Visiting Therapy Dog & Handler Certification Course* with the Lead the Way Institute.

If you have concerns about your child interacting with Dave due to health or anxiety reasons, please speak to Assistant Principal Tom Pearce. Our therapy dog program is completely voluntary and all students will be given the option to participate or not.

If you have questions regarding the benefits of therapy dogs in schools or would just like to meet Dave, you can speak to Emily Bourke in the Year 1 learning space.

It is a very special and exciting experience having Dave the dog at school, however, it is very important for Dave and the students to feel comfortable and safe at all times. Therefore, all students will be asked to follow the *Dave the Dog Essential Agreement*.

Dave the Dog Essential Agreement

We will all be able to touch and cuddle Dave, but we must agree to take care of him.

- We always listen to instructions from Miss Bourke when around Dave.
- It is important for Dave to feel safe at all times: we are calm and gentle.
- When Dave is in the classroom, we must be given permission to come and say hello to him.
- When Dave is in his cave, we leave him in peace.
- We let Miss Bourke know if we are feeling worried about having Dave near us or are afraid of dogs.
- We wash our hands or use hand sanitiser after touching Dave.