

Mr Wyett Term 1 Overview

Year 3/4 2023

English

Language

Students will use the Words Their Way phonics program to further develop understanding of how to use spelling rules, word features, base words, suffixes, prefixes, spelling patterns and generalisations to learn new word features. A focus is on word understanding, as there is little point in students knowing how a word is spelt without knowing the meaning. Through word meaning then comes the application of these words to various tasks. Assessment will occur through bi-weekly word feature tests, which seeks to see if students can identify word features, word meanings and spelling of words.

A focus will be on word vocabulary through the use of our class novel. Students will recognise the importance of word meanings and how they can be different, depending on the context they are used. Also highlighting how important understanding of word meanings is when decoding text for comprehension, class read along used for this. Quick writes will also serve as great indicators to where students currently sit with language within written text. Highlighting language choices and showing exemplars to students will also guide learning.

Literacy

The creation of texts will be underpinned by a cross-curricula approach, so that students can see the relevance and power of written texts. This term's history topic of the first fleet will be explored through written context. As a class we will explore a shared book, 'Brindabella' as a way to explore literacy in a guided format. This term's class book will also provide an excellent platform of ideas and tasks to drive the English curriculum content, including reviewing imaginative texts with some quick writes.

Students will focus on narrative texts and how simple and complex stories can be composed. The story elements will be broken down and explored with a focus on students creating their own texts. While we will do many shorter texts, a long narrative write will also occur, with students being asked to plan, create, edit and publish one major story.

Peer reviewing, rubrics and criteria sheets will all be used as part of feedback for students' work. Quick writes will also enable students to engage in more writing, through the use of high stimulus writing prompts.

Literature

Students will engage with a variety of classic and modern stories to develop comprehension skills. The use of explicit teaching and guided texts, will ensure that all students develop inferencing skills, including some challenging concepts from the class read along 'Brindabella'. Ability grouping for comprehension activities will also be used, with levelled readers targeting students' individual needs. The ability grouping will also occur within a grammar/reading rotation to ensure that students have a variety of activities at their level to engage with. Library time will serve as a platform to engage students into independent reading, with teacher directed book sharing.

Mathematics

Maths is not confined to maths lessons, with a cross curricula approach taken across the term. Links will be made within the STEM lessons and the HASS unit on colonial Australia. Every lesson will be underpinned with sharing of work samples, either from student work or pre-created work samples.

Daily mental maths will foster the fluency of maths skills, with revision of key maths operations. These also give students a chance to do revision on taught concepts throughout the year.

The major units this term will be based on revision of number and place value. With problematised situations used as the vehicle to deeper understanding of what really makes up numbers. These problematised maths situations will enable extension activities and entry points for those students who maybe struggling.

HASS

This term the focus will be on the history aspect of the HASS curriculum. The knowledge and understanding will focus on colonial Australia, with students posed numerous questions relating to the impact of colonising the lands. What were the impacts of European settlement on the environment and Indigenous Australians? Timelines will be used to show sequence of events and also link to the maths curriculum. Student role plays and investigation sessions will enable students to engage in differing ways and provide multiple platforms for assessment. The use of 'My Place' by the ABC will also provide lots of enquiry based learning opportunities from the students.

STEM and Technologies

Using the STEM engineering by design process students will investigate popcorn and structures required to withstand load. How does popcorn pop? Why does popcorn pop? How can we increase the pop rate through controlled variables. What shapes can support the largest loads and why? Students will be given challenging problems to solve in authentic ways. The use of various technologies will be used to make and test their ideas.

The Arts

Using the cross curriculum lens again, students will engage in visual arts and drama for term one. Students will explore ideas, practices and methods used by artists to represent different ideas. Experimenting with different mediums and techniques such as oils and charcoal will enable students to represent their own artistic abilities.

In drama we will explore parts of our class novel and re-enact scenes to develop skills of voice and action to convey meaning.

Health/PE

Social Skills: Starting year program will heavily focus the school values and show what these values look like at school. Play is the Way games will be used to create teachable moments for students to reflect upon and learn. School values will also be incorporated through the games.

Health: Bullying, identifying ways to stay safe and knowing what to do when things aren't safe.

PE: Play is the Way games used to incorporate enjoyment of physical activity and various class games. Game of the week will also be introduced to foster health and social skills attributes of the program.