

Term 2 Overview

Stage 3



A focus on...new curriculum

This year, all teachers in NSW are implementing a new Science and Technology K-6 syllabus. Through studying Science and Technology, students explore scientific and technological concepts and gain knowledge and understanding of the world. They develop skills in conducting scientific investigations and designing and producing solutions through learning about different content, organised in strands. Some strands from the previous syllabus have remained but one major change has been the introduction of a new strand – Digital Technologies. The focus of these strands is:

Living World – to explore living things and their needs

Material World – to explore the characteristics and observable properties of substances and materials

Physical World – to explore the physical characteristics of objects and how this affects their movement

Earth and Space – to explore the Earth's dynamic structure, its place in the universe and the changes that occur on Earth

Digital Technologies – to provide students with opportunities to investigate existing technologies and create digital solutions by exploring key concepts from computer science, information systems, software engineering and project management

If you would like to explore the syllabus in more detail, you can access it through the NESA website:

<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/k-10/learning-areas/science>

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KLA Content Summaries

English

In Stage 3 students communicate through speaking, listening, reading, writing, viewing and representing. They use language to shape and make meaning according to purpose and audience. They take part in activities that support their appreciation for the independence gained from thinking imaginatively, creatively, interpretively and critically.

In Term 2 we will begin to use a school wide approach to writing called the 7 Steps. Through this, students will investigate elements of planning and writing narratives that strive to make a real impression on the reader. They will work as a whole class, in small groups and individually to create sizzling starts to stories that have endings with real impact.

Students will take part in this year's Multicultural Perspectives Competition initially at a class level, with some students progressing to a stage competition. To support the tricky nature of public speaking, Stage 3 students will take part in regular classroom games and activities that attend to areas such as planning, projection, timing and audience engagement.

Our Stage 3 students work at various levels of reading and will continue to work in differentiated groups that support individual needs. Fluency is an important part of comprehension and both classes now participate in a daily peer reading program to address this need. They will also focus this term on identifying and creating both literal and inferential questions from their own reading to support comprehension.



Mathematics

Year 5

Students will take part in a variety of activities that help them to recognise, represent and order numbers to at least tens of millions. They will identify and describe factors and multiples of whole numbers and use them to solve problems.

Students will solve problems involving multiplication of large numbers by 1 or 2 digit numbers using mental and written strategies. They will look at how estimation and rounding help when checking the reasonableness of their answers.

Hands on activities will support understandings used when estimating, measuring and comparing angles using degrees. They will compare, describe and name prisms and pyramids, connecting three-dimensional objects with their nets and other two-dimensional representations.

Year 6

Students will identify and describe properties of prime, composite, square and triangular numbers. They will select and apply efficient mental and written strategies, when solving problems involving all four operations. They will explore the use of brackets and the order of operations when writing number sentences.

They will compare fractions with related denominators and locate and represent them on a number line. They will investigate angles on a straight line, angles at a point, and vertically opposite angles, using known results to find unknown angles.

Students will compare observed frequencies across experiments with expected frequencies when investigating chance. They will describe probabilities using fractions, decimals and percentages.

Science and Technology

Students will initially share their current understandings of how plants and animals adapt to particular environments and how adaptations vary between environments. Then they will look more specifically at the adaptations of plants and animals in desert and semi-arid regions. Through class discussions, individual work, group tasks, and an investigation they will develop an understanding of behavioural and structural adaptations that enable plants and animals to survive. Students will engage in a case study on kangaroos, looking at the adaptations kangaroos have made to assist them surviving in semi-arid environments as well as how they can adapt to changes in environmental conditions. Later in the term, students will look at how technology helps when designing digital solutions to problems.

Geography

Students will explore countries of the Asia region. They will complete activities to discover which countries are on the continent of Asia and map their locations. They have the chance to explore some interesting things about some Asian countries and think about the continent in relation to others including Australia. They will study some key geographical features of the Asian continent, including mountain ranges, National Parks, deserts, volcanoes and significant waterways and conduct their own research into one particular feature. The geographical concepts addressed are place, space and interconnections.



PDHPE

As part of our Positive Behaviour for Learning initiative, classes will spend time discussing the “Value of the Week” and what this looks like in various contexts within school life.

Students will also take part in weekly Bounce Back sessions which focus on the importance of courage, particularly the courage to speak up against negative behaviours and to seek support when needed.

In the final week of term, we are being visited by the Life Education van and will spend time with Healthy Harold in the first of our class discussions centered around the use of drugs in society. This will become a focus for health lessons in Term 3.

Our sport lessons will begin with a skills-based approach to the learning of Newcombe Ball. Focusing on catching, throwing and teamwork, these lessons will lead up to our interschool Newcombe Ball Gala Day this term.

The remainder of Term 2 will focus on our preparation for the athletics carnival. Skills including sprinting, long jump, shotput, discus and relay running will be covered by both Stage 2 and Stage 3 teachers. Our fitness activities will focus on striking and kicking.

Creative Arts

In visual arts, students will develop their observational skills by completing a unit of work called “Feathers and Wings.” The students will create a print of a waterbird, draw insects in detail, with overlapping wings, and use wire and buttons to create dragonflies to place on their own imaginative background.

Creative Arts groups will continue this term, every Wednesday afternoon, allowing students to explore interests in art, drama and music.

Homework Support:

Term 2 is certainly a busy one, just look at the important dates below for a start! Whilst there are few small differences in the homework approach by Mr Atkinson and Ms McMahon, the following requirements are the same:

1. Preparing for a public speech.

Please confirm with your child what their topic is for this year's Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition. A conversation about why they have chosen it is a great place to start. Research is key to substantiated claims in a speech and your guidance in some of this research at home is invaluable.

2. Science presentation

Students are studying how animals and plants adapt to their environment (see Science information). At the end of the term they will be presenting various forms of information about a chosen animal and are asked that at home they make either a model of their chosen animal or a diorama to accompany their information.

3. Read, Read, Read.



Important Term 2 Dates

8 May – Mother's Day Stall

10 May – Futsal Gala Day

14-16 May – NAPLAN (Year 5)

17 May – Walk Safely to School Day

17 May – P&C meeting

20-22 May – Book Fair

21 May – Grandparent's Day

21 May – Book Parade

24 May – Zone Cross Country

27 May – Principal's Assembly

28 May – Senior Recorder Cluster Rehearsal

5 June – PJ Day (Year 6 Fundraiser)

11 June – P&C meeting

14 June – Newcombe Ball Gala Day

20 June – Great Book Swap

28 June – Student Reports go home

1 July – Principal's Assembly

5 July – PBL Mufti Day (blue)

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