



Stage 1 Parent Information Session 2022

Welcome to Year 1 and Year 2 (Stage 1)!

We are very excited to welcome you and your children to an extraordinary learning filled year at Mount Terry Public School. We aim to create happy, safe, nurturing and challenging learning environments and work in partnership with you and your child to ensure we meet their academic, social and emotional wellbeing.

YEAR 1 will be holding a Zoom session on WEDNESDAY 16th FEBRUARY at 8:00am

YEAR 2 will be holding a Zoom session on TUESDAY 15th FEBRUARY at 8:00am

We will be introducing ourselves and chatting about our classroom routines. Please read through the following information carefully and come to the Zoom session with any questions you have. Your child's teacher will send the zoom link via the Seesaw and Skoolbag app.

Our Stage 1 team includes:

Miss Amber Kenny (1A)

Mr Keith Eshman (1E)

Mr Michael Huppertz (1H)

Miss Rebecca Kencevski (1K)

Mrs Leia Blanch & Renee Harris (2A)

Miss Ash Brooks (2B & Stage 1 Assistant Principal)

Mrs Melissa Hood (2H)

Mrs Katrina Tighe & Liv Bailey (2T)

Ms Robyn Gilmore (RFF Year 1 - History, Geography & Health)

Miss Dilara Alevli & Mr David Freel (RFF Year 2 - Science)

Mrs Melinda Williams (RFF Year 2 - Science)

Mrs Bronwyn Stafford (Library)

Equipment - Notes were sent home with your child regarding class resources. Thank you to all the parents who have ensured their child is equipped with the necessary items to begin the year. These may need to be replenished throughout the year.

Seesaw App – A letter and sign in information were sent home with your child. We highly encourage you to join your class Seesaw to keep up to date with classroom happenings, photos, reminders and teacher messages. If you have any questions or concerns please see your classroom teacher.

Skoolbag App: Our app helps to keep families informed with messages directly from the staff of Mount Terry. It contains newsletters and notes to download along with reminders of upcoming events and urgent messages from the school. It is free to download on your smartphone and very simple to use.

Newsletters and Notes: All fortnightly newsletters and notes are available digitally on the school website and on Skoolbag. Please read these as they contain vital information, any changes to events and interesting parent reads. Newsletters can be emailed to you and can be found on the Skoolbag app.



School Payments: All school activities requiring payments will be invoiced each term. Permission notes will be sent home as per usual and payments will be made after you have received the invoice. Any cash payments need to be made in a clearly marked envelope and placed into the mail slot in the office.

Interviews: If you have any concerns, issues or would like to discuss your child's school behaviour and/or learning, please do not hesitate to make an appointment with your child's teacher. All teachers are available to meet with parents when requested. Please remember to make an appointment so we can give you the time and attention you deserve.

Formal parent-teacher interviews will be held later in Term 1 and a letter with appointment dates and times will be sent home.

Open doors: Stage 1 teachers are only too happy to discuss any questions, concerns or issues you or your child may be having. Our priority is student well-being and learning, and we pride ourselves on being approachable and willing to assist. We endeavour to give you the time you deserve, so if we are unavailable to discuss things with you on the spot, we will make a time to discuss at a later date. We appreciate you not discussing things with teachers on morning bell time as we are settling and beginning the day with our students. Classroom issues/questions should always be taken to your child's classroom teacher first. If your concern needs to be followed up further, your next step is to contact the Assistant Principal. School based concerns/questions also can be asked at the front office.

When COVID restrictions are lifted it is important to remember if classrooms are unattended for any reason (teachers are often at meetings or organising resources) parents and students are NOT to enter the classroom for safety and privacy reasons. We appreciate your consideration. Students are not permitted to enter the room before school. They are asked to put their bags down outside their rooms and then move to the play areas until the 8:50am bell and the students are required to line up (seated) outside and wait for their teacher.

MTPS Photography Protocol: At Mount Terry Public School, our protocol regarding photography is to maintain a safe learning environment for all students that extends into our community and external activities and/or events. We kindly ask that parent/carers record and capture images of only their child/ren and if other students or staff are photographed (including photos from Seesaw) please refrain from publishing these images/recordings on social media and other internet platforms. Publishing any images of students, particularly where parental or guardian consent has not been obtained, can contravene Permission to Publish guidelines and personal choices of families/carers and staff at Mount Terry Public School.

Homework: Home reading and preparing for news/topic talks will be Stage 1's homework focus. Students will also receive optional tasks to complete covering a range of topics and subjects. Home readers provide wonderful opportunities to allow you to feel confident in supporting your child in their beginning stages of reading along with sharing the joy of stories together. As your child becomes a more independent reader, they will choose their own books to read during their Library lessons to read at home. Reading is highly valued by all teachers and daily reading is essential for skill development and ongoing success. Although homework is not compulsory it is highly recommended to reinforce what your child is learning at school. Please see your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns



Library: During library sessions students will have the opportunity to borrow and return library books. Children need to bring in a library bag in order to be able to borrow a book. Books need to be returned weekly.

Your child's library day is:

1A - Friday

1E - Friday

1H - Thursday

1K - Wednesday

2A - Wednesday

2B - Thursday

2H - Wednesday

2T - Wednesday

Sport: Stage 1 will be having Sport on **Thursday** each week. Full sport uniform is required on this day, including hats and appropriate footwear.

Special Religious Education (S.R.E): SRE is taught on **Wednesday** mornings. If you need to make any changes to your child's S.R.E group, please put it in writing and send it to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL): Mount Terry Public School will be implementing a new behaviour and well-being system. This is based around the model of Positive Behaviour for Learning or PBL. It brings together the whole school community to contribute to developing a positive safe and supportive learning culture. The framework assists schools to improve social, emotional, behavioural, and academic outcomes for children and young people.

As a part of the PBL implementation teachers and students will have more time to focus on relationships in classroom instruction. Students and staff will benefit from:

- Reduced inappropriate behaviour, increased time focused on instruction
- Improved social emotional well-being
- Positive and respectful relationship amongst staff and students
- Support for teachers to teach, model and respond effectively to student behaviour and need
- A predictable learning environment where staff and students know what is expected to deliver effective practices that can be sustained overtime.

At Mount Terry Public School, we will be introducing PBL over the next semester for all students. This will involve positive reward systems, new rewards based on a set of values and a reflective thinking space for students who make inappropriate behaviour choices with a focus on restorative practices and teachable moments. The three core values at Mount Terry Public School are Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.



Awards: In conjunction with PBL we will continue with our current reward system. Every fortnight Stage 1 teachers will present 2 ACE awards for students in their class who have demonstrated excellence in Attitude, Conduct and Effort (ACE).

TOP awards are presented once a term to two students who have been 'Totally Outstanding Performers' during the term. These awards are a surprise and you will receive a phone call from the school.

P&C: The P&C are always looking for new members to help organise events and fundraising at our school, as is the canteen. Volunteering is fun and easy while benefiting all the students and teachers with funds, resources and exciting opportunities. Meetings are held twice a term. Look out for information in the school newsletters.

Parent Helpers: In order to work with children in our school you will need to have filled in a volunteer form at the front office. You will only need to fill this form in once while your child is at our school. Parent helpers will also need to meet Department of Education COVID guidelines and be fully vaccinated. Keep an eye out for a Seesaw message from your child's teacher about parent helpers in the classroom.

Parent/Caregiver Waiting Areas: Due to current COVID guidelines, in the mornings, children are to be dropped at the school gates where they will be assisted to their rooms for the first few weeks as their confidence grows. Parents and carers are asked to wait outside school gates for their children in the afternoons. If restrictions change in any way the school will inform you of new waiting areas for pick up. We appreciate your consideration and understanding at this time.

Medical Issues: Please inform the school of any allergies and/or medical issues your child may have. Medical plans are created for students with a medical condition and are used to assist teachers and staff in recognising and treating medical episodes. Please keep the school and your teachers informed of any changes to your child's health. If your child requires medication throughout the day please leave it at the office clearly marked with the child's name, dose and the time it is to be taken.

Allergies: Please be aware that we have students who have life threatening allergies to peanuts and nut products. Kindly refrain from sending food that contains these products to school. Our canteen and cooking program do not use any nut-based products.

COVID-19 Restrictions and Advice: With the ever-changing landscape regarding COVID restrictions, please make sure you regularly check Skoolbag messages as well as the fortnightly newsletter for updates as things change. Please remember that if your child is away from school, parents must contact the school to explain the absence. Please ensure you regularly test your child with the rapid antigen tests provided. All schools are required to follow this direction. Please also remember that at present, parents should not be entering the school grounds except to visit the office or the uniform shop. All volunteers must report to the office and sign in before going anywhere else in the school. Parents are able to enter the school for scheduled meetings with teachers, but they must sign in at the front office first.

If your child is isolating for any reason and is feeling well, you can find learning activities for them to complete on the Learning From Home Hub on the Department of Education's website at

<https://sites.google.com/education.nsw.gov.au/guided-learning-packages-3/home>



Books: Your child has been supplied with exercise/scrap books for each of their Key Learning Areas. Your child's teacher will cover the books.

Birthdays: We love celebrating birthdays in Stage 1! We would appreciate if you are sending in items to share that they be small and easy to distribute e.g. cupcakes, donuts, lollipops etc. All Stage 1 classes (at this stage) have a maximum 22 students. If your child suffers from any allergies please inform your class teacher as soon as possible to avoid any issues.

Sip & Crunch: Each day students are encouraged to bring a small piece of fresh fruit/veg and a water bottle to encourage hydration and healthy eating. We will eat this snack at around 10am in class.

Punctuality: School begins at 8:50am each day. Students need to be at school before this time to ensure smooth transitions into the classroom during optimal learning time. If children are late for any reason, they need to be signed in at the office.

Absences: If your child is absent from school please inform the school and/or your child's teacher as soon as possible in one of the following ways; an absent slip, a written note or via the Skoolbag or Seesaw apps. Teachers will phone you if no contact has been made after three days of absence by your child. We like to touch base and check that everything is OK.

School hats: We have a 'No Hat, Play in the Shade' policy. Students MUST wear a school hat.

*Please label all hats with your child's first and last name and class to assist in returning any lost items.

School Uniform: Students are to wear their full school uniform each day, inclusive of a school hat, black school shoes and white socks. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled with your child's full name and class. The only jewellery to be worn at school can be sleeper/stud earrings, a watch and a signet ring.

We look forward to getting to know your children and your families and appreciate your support in this very busy and exciting year!

2022 Stage 1 Teachers