Welcome back to Term 4, which always tends to be a very busy, but productive term at Westgarth Primary School. The 1/2 journey so far has seen students developing their academic ability, continuing their enthusiasm for learning, exploring new friendships, growing confidence, taking on more personal and communal responsibilities and growth in maturity. We look forward to the amazing progress that will no doubt continue to be made this term from students and expect them to be their best in all that they do.

The team would like to say a huge “Thank You” to all the parents/carers who continue to be part of classroom activities including reading with the children, assisting during numeracy sessions, involvement in special events and even joining us on excursions. Teachers and students always appreciate and value your ongoing involvement and support.

WHAT WE ARE LEARNING THIS TERM

DISCOVERY

This term the students in 1/2 are investigating how the choices we make can have a positive or negative effect on our environment. This discovery, aptly titled ‘What a load of rubbish!’ is all about exploring how we can become ‘waste busters’ for our planet. Students will be looking at the amount of ‘rubbish’ we create at school and home. We will explore the concepts ‘sustainability’, ‘reduce’, ‘re-use’ and ‘recycle’. Students will explore how goods are sold, the plastic and packaging used and the resources needed to supply goods. We will also investigate how natural resources are finite and challenge their understanding of ‘needs’ and ‘wants’.

Please talk to your child at home about having ‘rubbish free’ lunch boxes with minimal or no plastic and packaging and discuss the reasons why.

Our excursion to Edendale Farm last week engaged students in a range of sustainability activities including growing our own food, saving water, litter audits, smart choices when shopping and separating our waste. Our Discovery is always integrated into our Literacy, Numeracy and Information Technology programs and is developed and driven by the student’s knowledge, understanding and interest. We have already written stories and reports about our visit to Edendale Farm, drawn pictures, read books about sustainability, created ‘word walls’ in classrooms and had insightful discussions.
Already the students are talking about what they can do to share their learning with their classmates, other students, families and the wider community.

**LITERACY**

This term we will continue to develop students' reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Every morning students are involved in a range of Early Years Literacy activities that focus on developing a range of reading strategies, comprehension, spelling, handwriting and oral language activities. Teachers work with targeted groups during this time where students are taught explicit skills and strategies that are appropriate for their learning. This term we will be developing narratives and information texts as well as continuing to expand on already learnt genres of descriptions, procedures and persuasive texts. Explicit teaching of adjectives, contractions, homophones, plurals, synonyms and rhyming words will be features of the writing sessions this term. When reading we will be developing sound comprehension strategies with students, including predicting, questioning, paraphrasing and development of vocabulary. Weekly spelling words are based on ‘sound families’ and activities are undertaken in class including using Soundwaves books. Handwriting continues to be an important feature in all classrooms and is not confined to Literacy sessions but is emphasised at all times.

**NUMERACY**

Students will continue working on place value, counting, pattern and order while strengthening, applying and learning new mental strategies (eg doubles and near doubles, skip counting, adding 10, counting on from the highest number) Students will revisit addition, subtraction, multiplication and division using concrete materials and most importantly talk about the strategies they used to find solutions. We will investigate the topic of shape including flip, slide, turn, symmetrical patterns, enlargements and 2D and 3D shapes. Students will also be working in several areas of measurement including volume and capacity, perimeter and area and developing individual garden designs involving length. Students will continue to learn about these mathematical concepts through exploration, discussion, group work, games, use of concrete materials and teacher directed tasks that are closely linked to our Discovery unit.

You can assist your child at home by practising counting and writing numbers, skip counting patterns from various starting points, using money and adding small change, telling the time to the hour, half hour and quarter hour and measuring household objects (length, mass, volume, capacity) using informal units to measure.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

- Please make sure your child is at school on time every day. We find that children are far more settled and focused when they are on time for the start of the day.
- Continue to read to and with your child each night.
- Help your child learn their weekly spelling words.
- Students work hard at school each day so homework at year 1/2 would be no more than 15 - 20 minutes each day. Establishing a regular routine helps students to develop a positive approach to learning and will benefit them as they progress through their schooling.
- If you have skills/knowledge/expertise relating to our discovery of sustainability we would welcome you to come along and speak to the students or share your skills.
- Please check that your child’s belongings are clearly labelled – this includes clothing and lunchboxes (lids too)
- All students must have a ‘Sun smart’ hat in Term 4 as students without hats will need to spend recess and lunchtimes in a shaded area of the yard.
- If you have any concerns or queries about your child please speak first to the classroom teacher. You will need to organise a mutual meeting time either before or after school.

Kind Regard,
MUSIC

Grade 1/2 students will be working on learning some new folk dances. We started last term with the Heel and Toe Polka and will continue this term with another couple of simple dances. This really helps the students feel the beat and identify different rhythms in the music we dance to. I will also be getting the students to continue to develop their skills in playing xylophones through various activities such as question and answer improvisations and developing strategies to work out short tunes from reading a stave.

We will also be preparing for our end of year concert where the children will perform some of the songs that they have learnt throughout the year as well as some new surprises.

John Carr
Music Specialist

LANGUAGES

Grade 1 and 2 students will be building on their knowledge of the Greek alphabet. Our Inquiry focus this term is ‘Zoo Animals’. The students will be looking at selected zoo animals where they will be able to explore and make connections with animal names that sound very similar in English and derive from the Greek language like elephant/’elefandas’, zebra/’zevra’. Students will develop their vocabulary by engaging in familiar games and using interactive apps to explore characteristics of zoo animals. Students will use modelled text to generate simple sentences describing zoo animals. The students will work in small groups to perform a play in front the class based on a simple Greek story about ‘A trip to the Zoo’. This performance will encourage students to further develop their pronunciation skills and confidence in using Greek.

Vicky Noutso
Language Teacher
**P.E.**

Prep-2 students will continue to practise fundamental motor skills through stations and minor games and start to explore some major games towards the end of the term in P.E. lessons. The focus as always will be on participation and showing good sportsmanship. Please help your child by encouraging them to wear runners on the day they have their P.E. lesson and wear a SunSmart hat.

Ricky Davis
P.E. Co-ordinator

**ART**

We have a very busy term ahead of us in the Art Room. The Art Show is all set for Thursday 21st November from 5.30 to 8pm in the WEB. All students will have one 2D piece and one 3D piece of art work for you to marvel at.

This term we will be covering the areas of painting and drawing with particular focus on lines and patterns. We will be learning about the famous Swiss-German artist Paul Klee and his use of lines and colour. After the Art Show we will enjoy some whole class collaborations.

We will be calling out for some parent helpers to assist us with the Art Show. We would love some help putting up and taking down displays. More details to follow in the school newsletter closer to the time.

If you ordered a calendar, card pack or IPhone cover they are currently being printed and you should receive them by the end of November. Thanks for your support in fundraising for the school.

Rushe Lynch & Julia Reeves
Visual Art Teachers