



1W Class Newsletter  
Term 1 2020



*My name is Leah Wood and I'm really pleased to be a part of the Wyrallah Road Public School teaching team this year. I have been teaching in Sydney, on the Northern Beaches since I graduated from Macquarie University with a Bachelor of Education in 2011. Being passionate about ensuring that students develop strong foundations academically, socially and emotionally, my experience and love for teaching has focused on the lower years of Kindergarten and Year One.*

*Being very family orientated my husband and I have moved to the Northern Rivers so that our 2 young boys can be close to their grandparents and cousins. We love spending our free time at the beach and going for little camping trips. We are very much enjoying all the things that the area has to offer and look forward to exploring the region even more.*

*Hello My name is Rachael Ricketts and I'm excited to be a teacher on 1W this year, I will be teaching on Wednesdays and Thursdays. I completed my teaching degree at Southern Cross University in 2011 and I started my teaching career in Broken Hill, Far West NSW, where I taught all year levels k-6 for 4 years. I then moved back to the Far North Coast where I have continued to teach students across all year levels. I am also employed by TAFE NSW where I teach Education support to adult learners. I enjoy both of my teaching roles and am passionate about student welfare and their learning.*

	<b>Class Teachers:</b>	<b>Support Staff:</b>
<b>Stage One Team</b>	<b>2B</b> Mrs Katelyn Bignell (Assistant Principal) <b>2P</b> Mr Mark Platt <b>2S</b> Mrs Maegen Toms (Mon-Tues) and Miss Emily Stevens (Wed-Fri)	<b>Tech Time – Mr Brad Lane</b> <b>R.F.F – Mrs Fay Browning</b> Mrs Peita Patch Ms Bridie Walmsley <b>Music – Mrs Suzanne Roberts</b>
	<b>1L</b> Miss Emma Legg <b>1G</b> Mrs Renee Golding <b>1W</b> Mrs Leah Wood (Mon, Tues & Fri) Miss Rachael Ricketts (Wed – Thurs)	<b>Year 1 School Learning Support Officers:</b> Mr Jamie Cottee Mrs Silvana Barlow Mrs Kath Molloy
<b>Weekly Organisation</b>	<b>Library borrowing: Thursday afternoon Even week</b> <b>Computers:</b> Thursdays with Mr Lane <b>Sport:</b> Thursday This term, sport comprises a variety of cooperative and team games that build teamwork and further develop fundamental movement skills. Please ensure that your child has their hat, water bottle and appropriate shoes on this day. Year 2 may wear sports uniform on this day. <b>PE:</b> Daily- Please ensure your child has a school hat every day. <b>Music:</b> Mondays with Mrs. Roberts. <b>Homework:</b> Homework occurs weekly and will begin in Week 3.	



	<p><b>Whole school assembly:</b> Every second Friday afternoon (even weeks) 2:10-2:50pm in the school hall. All are welcome to attend this assembly. Begins in Week 4, 21 February.</p> <p><b>Super Speakers:</b> In Stage 1, rather than just 'News', students receive topics on which they will make a short presentation each fortnight. These will include a variety of specific topics and some 'free choice'. Preparation for this forms part of our weekly homework. An outline of this term's topics and your child's <i>Super Speakers</i> day is attached.</p> <p><b>Scripture:</b> Wednesday afternoons.</p>
<p><i>Scripture</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scripture lessons are on Wednesday afternoons for half an hour. These lessons are conducted by volunteers and are supervised by your child's classroom teacher.</li> <li>• Students who do not participate in religious education will be engaged in independent revision activities supervised by a classroom teacher.</li> </ul>
<p><i>General School Information – Routines</i></p>	<p><b>Bell times-</b> Supervision for students begins at <b>8:30</b>.</p> <p>Parents requiring earlier drop off may wish to contact 'Helping Hands' after school care. Contact number: 0448125995 Email: <a href="mailto:wyrallahroad@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au">wyrallahroad@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au</a></p> <p><b>8:55</b> - First bell for morning assembly then class begins  <b>11:00 - 11:25</b> - Recess  <b>12:55 - 1:45</b> - Lunch  <b>2:55</b> – School departure procedure  <b>3:00</b> – Final bell</p> <p><b>Late to School</b> A parent will need to accompany student to the office for a late note to be taken to their teacher.</p> <p><b>Early Pick Up</b> Parent will need to obtain a sign out note from the front office before collecting your child.</p> <p><b>Change in Pick Up</b> Please notify your child's teacher if there is a change in routine.</p> <p><b>Afternoon Procedure</b> All students assemble under the shelter at <b>2:55</b> to be supervised by staff for their departure from the school. There are designated lines for carpark, parent pick up, buses, walkers and 'Helping Hands' after school care. Parents are asked to collect their child from the designated areas and <b>not</b> from the shelter area.</p>
<p><i>Communication</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your child is away from school for any reason (being family commitments or illness) could you please send a note with your child the day they return explaining their absences or use our Skoolbag app. It is a legal requirement to report absences.</li> <li>• If you need to get a message to me during the day, please ring the office. My day can become very busy and I don't always check my emails until after the school day. If you have a non-urgent message, I can be contacted via the office or email. I will only be corresponding during business hours which are 8:30 to 4:30 weekdays.</li> <li>• If you would like to organise a time to have a chat, please ring or email to make an appointment.</li> <li>• Our school has an excellent website and Facebook page, which highlights many exciting things that happen at our school. Our website contains information about individual classes and notes for upcoming events and excursions.</li> </ul>



<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Curriculum Overview Term 1</i></p>	<p><b>English:</b> Reading groups occur daily and operate on a rotating basis. Students are organised into small groups and work directly with the teacher on specific reading skills and strategies specific to that group. Groups not working directly with the teacher, engage independently in literacy tasks that support their spelling, phonics, handwriting, reading, comprehension and writing development until it is their turn to read. Students are also engaged in modelled reading sessions where specifically chosen texts are read by the teacher and discussed as a class over several sessions. Many of our writing tasks stem from these books. Our writing focus this term centres on informative texts. Students create texts such as recounts of events, narratives and descriptions that inform and entertain their audience.</p> <p><b>Maths:</b> We will be covering syllabus strands of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, Statistics and Probability, underpinned by the processes and skills of Working Mathematically. A typical maths lesson will begin with a warm up activity or game to engage students and revise skills. The body of the session will include explicit teaching of skills and opportunities for students to consolidate their understanding, practise those skills and discuss their findings. This may happen in a whole class setting, small group or individual basis, depending on the topic. Tasks are matched to the ability and specific learning needs of the student. Supporting our daily Mathematics lessons is the TEN program (Targeted Early Numeracy) which consists of short, focussed, ten minute sessions that build students' number sense and early arithmetic strategies through games and simple activities. Students are tracked as they move through developmental stages of their mathematical learning and activities tailored to suit.</p> <p><b>Integrated Unit:</b> In our Term 1 unit, 'Ready, Set, Grow!', students will explore their natural surroundings and the mini-beasts that inhabit them. They will investigate how plants grow and how to care for them. Through scientific inquiry, students will study insects, plants and life cycles. Students will develop knowledge, understanding and skills drawn from the History, Geography, Science and Technology, Creative Arts and English syllabuses.</p> <p><b>PDH:</b> This term we will be doing a unit on 'Getting Along With Others'. Within this unit the students will learn and develop skills to cooperate, communicate and share with others both in their own families and within different community groups. Students will work on developing strategies to help in a variety of group situations.</p> <p><b>PE:</b> During this term Stage 1 will be completing a variety of activities around throwing and catching. We will be learning these skills during a range of activities and completing games to develop our hand eye coordination.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Crunch and Sip</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each day, students are encouraged to eat a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable and drink water during the morning session. This gives students an extra boost to get through the long morning session. If required, fruit is available at the canteen and needs to be purchased before school.</li> <li>• Only unpackaged/ unprocessed fruit, vegetables and water is consumed at this time and lessons continue as students eat.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Equipment Requirements</i></p>	<p>In Stage One, all necessary stationary and equipment is provided. Items such as pencil cases etc. become an unnecessary distraction and we would prefer that they be left at home.</p> <p>We encourage and greatly appreciate if you could purchase the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art shirt / old t-shirt (please label with your child's name)</li> <li>• Pump soap</li> <li>• A box of tissues</li> </ul> <p>This just ensures that we have plenty of tissues and soap on hand, particularly over the winter months.</p>



<p><i>Important Dates</i></p>	<p><b>Meet the Teacher:</b> Tuesday, 4 February 3:30 – 4:15pm  <b>Swimming Carnival:</b> Thursday, 13th February (only for those students turning 8 and over this year who <b><u>can confidently swim 50 metres unassisted</u></b>)  <b>Harmony Day:</b> Friday, 20 March  <b>School Photos:</b> Thursday, 26 March  <b>Parent-Teacher interviews:</b> Wednesday, 25th March 3:00pm-7:00pm</p>
<p><i>Homework and Home Reading</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written homework will be handed out each week. Homework is a revision of the work covered in class during the previous weeks, Home Reading and preparing for their ‘Super Speaker’ task. Homework gives students the opportunity to practise what they have learned and gives parents an insight into the content being taught in class.</li> <li>• Homework will be handed out each Monday and needs to be returned each Friday.</li> <li>• Students are encouraged to read for at least 15 minutes each evening and log this time in their Home Reading Journal.</li> <li>• Students will receive an award from their class teacher for every 25 nights of home reading they have completed.</li> </ul> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Reading is vitally important to your child’s reading development. <b>Reading aloud to an adult</b> each night allows them to practise the reading skills learnt at school and improve their confidence and reading ability. Students are provided with a reading log to record each session of home reading they undertake. Please remember to sign your child’s home reading log each time they read to you and send it to school to be marked off. If your child misplaces their log please let me know and I will organise a replacement. A plastic file/ folder with a snap clip is a great way to keep both the book and your child’s reading log protected when coming to and from school.</li> </ul>



<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)</i></p>	<p>Wyrallah Road Public School is a ‘Positive Behaviour for Learning’ (PBL) school, taking a school wide, systematic and proactive approach to explicitly teaching expected behaviours.</p> <p>At Wyrallah Road we are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Respectful</b></li> <li>• <b>Responsible</b></li> <li>• <b>Safe</b></li> </ul> <p>As a PBL school, teachers at WRPS explicitly teach expected behaviours covering the many different school settings. This is reinforced by both our formal and informal recognition system.</p> <p><b>Win Bins</b> are used in both the classroom and across the wider school context. Win Bin tickets are issued by all staff. They are issued to students who have demonstrated positive behaviour/effort/achievement. The purpose of a Win Bin is to reinforce positive behaviour immediately. Four times per term (Friday non-assembly weeks beginning Week 3 each term) draws are made from accumulated Win Bins for canteen vouchers (4 x \$1 per stage).</p> <p><b>Merit Certificates</b> are given by classroom teachers to recognise special and positive behaviour/effort/achievement. Two awards are given for each class at each whole school assembly.</p> <p><b>PBL Owl Badge</b> is a PBL award. This award is presented to students who <i>consistently</i> demonstrate positive behaviour and follow school rules. It is received in the form of a Wyrallah Road Owl Badge (‘Wyrowllah’) and accompanied by a photo display in the school foyer for the fortnight following the presentation assembly. One PBL badge <i>may</i> be awarded for each class at whole school assemblies.</p> <p><b>Gold Day</b> is our way of recognising students that consistently follow all school expectations both in the classroom and on the playground. All students begin each term as a Gold level student and will stay on Gold level if they maintain their good behaviour. Gold level indicates that the student is a cooperative, tolerant student who works with others and participates in the opportunities provided by the school. Students who have remained on Gold for a whole term will be entitled to attend Gold Day activities at the end of each term to celebrate their positive behaviour.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Opportunities</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Throughout the year, Stage 1 students have a number of extra-curricular opportunities, some of these include: Chess Club, Choir, Dance Group and Public Speaking. Students 8 years and older also have the opportunity to go on to representative level in sporting events such as swimming, cross country and athletics.</li> <li>• We also undertake excursions and incursions where possible that supports learning relevant to our integrated units. Details of these will come to you as they arise.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>School Fees</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is easier than ever to pay school fees with parent online payment (POP). This is a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Log onto our school site at:- <a href="http://www.wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.edu.au">www.wyrallahrd-p.schools.nsw.edu.au</a></li> <li>• If paying online does not suit, you can also pay in person at the front office (EFTPOS or cash) or write a cheque made out to Wyrallah Road Public School. \$55 per student, \$100 for two children or \$130 for a family of 3 or more children.</li> <li>• Although voluntary, school fees are a vital part of our budget each year and pay for essential items in classrooms such as pencils, books and art supplies.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you in advance for your prompt payment.</i></p>



*At WRPS we understand and value the importance of effective communication and building relationships with our parents. Communication is one of the most important parts of the relationship between school and home as it helps us to better understand your child. We recognise that every child is a unique individual with varying social, emotional and learning needs.*

*So please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or information you need to share.*

*Warm regards,  
Leah Wood and Rachael Ricketts*

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