

## Term Overview – Term 1, February 2024



# Junior Learning Community-JLC

Portarlington Primary School

Class	Teacher	Preferred Name	Email
LC 1	Kim Mikelsons	Kim	<a href="mailto:Kimberlee.Mikelsons@education.vic.gov.au">Kimberlee.Mikelsons@education.vic.gov.au</a>
LC 1	Tim O'Hara	Tim	<a href="mailto:Brian.OHara@education.vic.gov.au">Brian.OHara@education.vic.gov.au</a>
LC 2	Melissa Meaney	Ms. M	<a href="mailto:Melissa.Meaney@education.vic.gov.au">Melissa.Meaney@education.vic.gov.au</a>
LC 3	Brooke McLaren	Miss Mc Laren	<a href="mailto:Brooke.McLaren@education.vic.gov.au">Brooke.McLaren@education.vic.gov.au</a>

- We are using our school website to communicate future events. Please visit our website <https://www.portps.vic.edu.au/>.
- Please communicate with your child's teacher through the Communication and Learning Progress Diary unless the information is private and confidential.

Dear Junior Learning Community families,

Welcome back to a new year at Portarlington Primary School.

We are very excited to welcome you and your children into our learning communities and we look forward to developing a welcoming environment for you and your child.

We ask that all students come to school ready to learn, ensuring their bag is packed with: -

- **School diary** – this comes to school every day.
- **Brain food** – fruit or vegetable – a quick bite, pre peeled or cut ready for eating.
- **Drink bottle** – filled with water only.

We will continue to follow School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) systems at our school, and we are excited to introduce "Dolphin Dollars" to our students.

A few reminders for our students:

**Hats** - Please bring your hat to school every day. It must be worn whenever you are outside.

**Valuables** - Please do not bring any valuables to school as we cannot secure them. If you are bringing a toy from home, you are responsible to keep it safe at school. Please do not trade toys at school.

**Labelling** - All uniform pieces need to have your name on them so if it gets lost, it can come back to you quickly!

## English

### Reading

This term will cover:

- Working together to build a community of readers and the expectations when we learn and practise reading behaviours at school.
- Practicing how to use our new school diaries and exploring the different parts of our diary.
- Reading as a class, in small groups and independently.

- Independent Reading Time: - practise decoding words and using the comprehension strategies of prediction and summarising main parts of shared texts.
- Read texts that are targeted to their individual goals and needs.

**To progress your child's reading skills, our expectation is that all students read for at least 10 minutes each night. This can take the form of reading to or listening to your child.**

### Spelling

This year, we are excited to start the **SMART Spelling Program** at our school. In the JLC, the SMART spelling program encompasses many parts of literacy, and we are enthusiastic to start working with our students and teach them the aspects of this program.

This term we will work together to familiarise ourselves with the structure of SMART spelling and will be learning strategies to practice our words each week. Students will be given words based on their learning needs.

Students will bring home words from the SMART Spelling program each week. There will be further communication sent home in the coming weeks about SMART spelling.

### Handwriting

This term will cover:

- Learning and revising the correct formation of letters and words.
- Practising copying words and sentences, focusing on the size of the letters and placing the letters on the correct lines.

### Seven Steps Writing

Our school uses the Seven Steps framework for developing student writing skills. All staff were updated on the framework on the 29/01/2023.

This term will cover:

- Investigating how a 'Sizzling Start' can make a story fun to read.
- We will think about the best ways to start a story and how authors use a 'sizzling start' to get our attention.

A large component of the Seven Steps program is thinking and talking. As they say, **"Verbal is vital."**

- Encouraging students to think and talk about what they would like to write.
- When writing, reinforcing our understanding about simple sentence structures.
- Your child will be writing to entertain, with a focus on writing about ourselves and our own experiences.

## Maths

This term we will cover:

- Number, Measurement (Days and Months of the Year) and Statistics.
- Participating in active math lessons and using a range of concrete materials to help support them in their learning.

## Inquiry

This term will cover:

- Focusing on History and specifically our local history.
- Exploring the history of their family and learning about historic places around our region.



### Inquiry: How you can help your child at home:

- Discuss with your child the history of your family.
- As you are moving around our region, discuss what history means and point out historical places.  
E.g. The Mill, The Bakehouse, Heritage Building etc.

## Sport

This term will cover:

Practising for the upcoming cross- country by practising running around the oval.



### Sport: How you can help your child at home:

- Click on the website calendar [March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024](#). View the map and take your children for a walk, ride, jog, scooter along the cross-country course.
- Sign up for the 4km Sunset Run: - Bully Buster 4km Run or walk.

**Standard entry 12 years and under: - \$10**

**Register [here](#).**

