

## Term Overview – Term 1, February 2025



# Senior Learning Community-SLC

Portarlington Primary School

| Class | Teacher          | Preferred Name | Email                                                                                            |
|-------|------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LC 6  | Michelle Primmer | Michelle       | <a href="mailto:Michelle.Primmer@education.vic.gov.au">Michelle.Primmer@education.vic.gov.au</a> |
| LC 7  | Jasmine O'Brien  | Jasmine        | <a href="mailto:Jasmine.OBrien@education.vic.gov.au">Jasmine.OBrien@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 Senior Learning Community Families,

Welcome to the 2025 school year at Portarlington Primary School! We hope you all had a wonderful summer break and are ready for an exciting year ahead. This term, our senior students have the opportunity to participate in a range of sporting events, including the Cricket and T-Ball Lightning Premierships and Girls AFL. We encourage students to get involved, challenge themselves, and represent our school with pride.

A reminder that our school gates open at 8:30 AM, with the school day beginning at 8:50 AM. To support their learning, please ensure your child comes to school each day with the following: Student diary, charged device, drink bottle, hat, brain food, snack, and lunch. Supporting your child in bringing these essentials will help set them up for success.

We look forward to meeting with parents and carers at the upcoming February interviews. Bookings can be made via Compass, or you can contact our friendly administration team for assistance. Please also check the online calendar and student diaries for important upcoming events.

### Building a Community of Learners

This term, our focus is on creating a strong learning community. We will:

- ✓ Set high expectations for learning
- ✓ Implement School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)
- ✓ Reinforce our school values
- ✓ Celebrate positive behaviours through our 'Dolphin Dollars' reward system

### Home Learning & Communication

To support student growth and engagement, we encourage daily reading at home, with students recording their progress in their diary. Diaries should be brought to school each day.

Additionally, year 5 students will participate in NAPLAN which is an assessment of reading, writing, language conventions and maths skills of students.

Each week, students will receive a Mini Homework task to develop organisational skills and establish good habits for high school. Please also keep an eye out for our fortnightly overviews to stay informed.

We look forward to a fantastic year ahead and appreciate your support in helping our students thrive.

Michelle Primmer and Jasmine O'Brien

## English

### Daily Reviews

#### Years 5 & 6

This term we will cover:

- Conventions of Language such as spelling, punctuation and capitalisation
- How to use parts of speech to form complete sentences i.e nouns, adjectives and verbs
- The difference between proper nouns and nouns
- Spelling of high frequency words such as their, does and said

### Phonics/Word Knowledge/Morphology

#### Years 5 & 6

This term we will cover:

- The common letter patterns and their use in more complex words during weekly spelling
- Students will develop their phonological awareness and morphology (word definitions).
- Each week, your child will write a new list of words in their diary, to practise daily at both school and home
- Students will complete a spelling test at end of the week to measure their growth and set spelling goals
- Regular practice will help build confidence and strengthen spelling skills. Thank you for your ongoing support!

### Dictation

#### Years 5 & 6

This term we will cover:

- Students will practice applying spelling patterns, handwriting fluency and language conventions while a teacher reads aloud simple, compound and complex sentences.
- Once a week students will listen to the teacher read aloud sentences that contain words that include the spelling focus of the week.

### Handwriting

#### Years 5 & 6

This term we will cover:

- Students will develop a fluent handwriting style by practicing handwriting daily
- Students will use handwriting efficiently to communicate their ideas
- Students will develop consistency with their letter formation
- We have introduced Victorian cursive with joining loops for those who are ready for it.

### Fluency

#### Years 5 & 6

This term we will cover:

- Teachers will model fluent reading, demonstrating accurate reading, appropriate rate and good phrasing, intonation and expression
- Students will read short passages to practice their reading rate, expression and word accuracy
- Students will track their reading progress by setting personal fluency goals and monitoring their growth through weekly fluency read-alouds
- Students will participate in regular MAZE (Multiple-choice Cloze) fluency reads to develop reading rate and word accuracy

### Reading /Vocabulary/Comprehension

#### Years 5 &6

This term we will cover:

- Students will analyse and discuss author techniques in our mentor text, 'Nevermoor' by Jessica Townsend
- Students will decode and explain the meaning of archaic and complex vocabulary in 'Nevermoor' i.e. scarcity and formidable
- Students will read their Just Right Reader (JRR) during regular Accountable Independent Reading lessons
- Students will show comprehension of texts by discussing the impact of language features on the tone and mood of a story
- Students will use text evidence to make predictions, draw connections, summarise key ideas, and respond to comprehension questions about our mentor text and their JRR

### Reading

## Years 5 &6

This term we will cover:

- Students will read daily at home and record in their diary
- Students will listen to their family, peers and teachers read

## Writing-Seven Steps

Our school uses the Seven Steps framework for developing student writing skills.

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

This term we will cover:

### Years 5 &6

- We will continue to explore the 'Seven Steps Writing' process in developing writing to Entertain and writing to persuade an audience.
- Students will practice the conventions of writing, focusing on sentence structure, punctuation, paragraphs, nouns, adjectives
- Students will practice writing simple, compound and complex sentence
- Students will write 'Sizzling Starts' to engage the reader
- Students will practice writing cohesive paragraphs, that include a topic sentence, main idea, supporting detail, transitions and conclusions
- Students will follow the '7-Steps to Writing Success' to plan, draft, edit and revise short texts

## Maths

This term we will cover:

### Years 5 &6

- The mindset and strategies of mathematicians
- Explore the properties of composite, triangular, prime numbers
- Students will explain, write, read and expand whole numbers
- Practice counting in multiples and patterns
- Collect, sort and display real life data sets
- Use addition strategies to find the average of data sets
- Develop strategies to solve simple multiplication and division problems
- Developing strategies to solve problems using rich tasks
- Participate in problem solving, active math and authentic applications of key number skills.

## Inquiry

### Years 5 &6

This term we will cover:

**Inquiry Unit:** My Identity!

Students will explore the questions

- How am I influenced by others?
- How can I support myself and others to cope with challenges?
- How do experiences shape my identity?
- What is a responsible risk?
- How do I respond to pressure?
- What are some changes that may occur during puberty?
- We will cover health, social and personal capabilities, ethical capabilities

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

### Years 5 &6

This term we will cover:

- Ask your child who their celebrity role model is and why
- Discuss family beliefs
- Discuss current topical issues that are appropriate for children
- Ask your child about their identity and characteristics they think make them who they are



## Physical Activity: How you can help your child at home.

Increase the physical activity opportunities for child this term practicing for the whole school cross country event on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of February, 2025.

### Years 5 & 6

- Ride your bike or scoot the cross-country track. Familiarise yourself with the track.
- Click on the website calendar [Friday 28th of February 2025](#). View the map and take your children for a walk, ride, jog, scoot along the cross-country course.

### Portarlington Primary School Cross Country

Click on the website calendar February 28th, 2025.

View the map and take your children for a walk, ride, jog, scoot along the cross-country course.

