

Term Overview – Term 3, July 2025



Middle Learning Community-MLC

Portarlington Primary School

Class	Teacher	Preferred Name	Email
LC 4	Jess Wailes (Cochran)	Jess	jessica.cochran@education.vic.gov.au
LC 5	Sarah Evans	Sarah	sarah.evans3@education.vic.gov.au

- 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 Middle Learning Community Families,

Welcome back to a new term at Portarlington Primary School! The Middle Learning team is excited to continue fostering your child's growth and success throughout 2025. We kindly ask that all students come prepared for learning each day with the necessary resources, including their student diary, drink bottle, lunch and brain food. This will help us support them in becoming the best versions of themselves.

This term, students will engage in Specialist subjects including STEM, Physical Education, and Art. For homework, we encourage students to read at home and record their reading in their diary, as well as practice their spelling words. The diaries will be checked daily.

General Reminders:

- The school sends information home in a variety of ways including Compass, Email, SMS, notes in the diary and paper notes.
- Any paper notes are placed in the children's bag.
- Teachers check the diaries each day. Please check the diary and your child's bag daily.
- Please have your children at school between 8:30 and 8:45am.
- We also have brain food daily which includes fresh fruit or vegetables. Thank you.
- This term we will have student led conferences in week 2 and our school concert in week 6.

Looking forward to a great term ahead!

Best regards,

The Middle Learning Team, Sarah and Jess

English

Years 3 & 4

- Spelling, vocabulary and grammar linked to our weekly spelling focuses

Phonics/Word Knowledge/Morphology

Years 3 & 4

This term we will continue the SMART Spelling Program is based around whole words with an emphasis on meaning and vocabulary development.

Each week your child will be bringing home a new list of words to practice each night and will have a spelling test/dictation at the end of the week.

This term will include a multitude of spelling and grammar focuses which will be sent out in our fortnightly overviews. Students will increase their word knowledge by exploring letter patterns in their weekly spelling that caters for phonological awareness and morphology (word definitions).

Handwriting

Years 3 & 4

Students will continue to develop fluency and consistency with their letter formation by practising joined cursive handwriting.

Reading

Years 3 & 4

This term will focus on building reading fluency, through 'paired fluency' with our new texts:

- "Storm Boy", by Colin Thiele (Wks 1-5)
- "The Wild Robot", by Peter Brown (Wks 6-9)

At home, encourage your child to read at home as it is an important lifelong skill that we are constantly rehearsing.

Writing-Seven Steps

Years 3 & 4

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 will cover:

- Information Text
- Narrative

Maths

This term we will cover:

Years 3 & 4

- Multiplication and Division
- Angles
- Time Telling
- Decimals
- Mass and Capacity

Inquiry

Years 3 & 4

Our Inquiry Unit this term is entitled, *"Frame by Frame"*. Throughout this unit we will cover:

Students will practise thinking creatively as they explore different ways to tell stories and develop a stop-motion animation. They will create a simple story and learn how to use a storyboard. Students will build a character and a set for their stopmotion animation and practise photographing and editing an animation using the Stop-Motion Studio Application.

Inquiry: How you can help your child at home:

Years 3 & 4



Brain Strom: Sit down with your child and brainstorm simple, fun story ideas. Keep it light and imaginative—think short adventures or funny situations. Ask guiding questions: "What does your character want? What's the problem they have to solve?"

Create a character: You can make the character out of clay (like Play-Doh), small toys, or even paper cut-outs. If you're using clay, you could show them how to mold simple shapes like heads, arms, and legs.