

Grade 1/2 Newsletter

2026 Term 1

Welcome Back!



We hope you have all had a wonderful summer break and we warmly welcome you back to the 2026 school year. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions about the information in this newsletter or if you have any concerns throughout the year.

Kind Regards,

Sarah Matti, Susie Trumble, Catherine Watts & Effie Pilakis

Attendance

Why going to school is important

Going to school every day is an important part of your child's education. Children and young people learn new things at school every day, connect with friends, have fun and develop good habits that help them to succeed. Attending and participating in school will help your child:

- develop important skills and knowledge to help them learn
- develop social and emotional skills such as good communication, resilience and teamwork
- establish friendships with peers which help develop self-esteem and a sense of belonging.

There is no good number of days for missing school. Being away from school for 1 day a fortnight adds up to missing 4 whole weeks of school a year. Where possible, you should avoid your child missing school, for example, make appointments for your child outside of school hours and if possible, keep family holidays to outside term time.



However, if your child is sick they should stay at home to stop the spread of the illness to other students and staff. If your child is away the reason needs to be added to Compass. Please phone the school or record it on Compass on the morning of the absence.

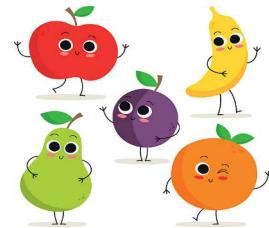
By attending school consistently when healthy, students give themselves the best chance to learn, grow, and succeed.

Our school day begins at 8.50am, so please ensure your child has been to the toilet and is lined up on time.

Please use Compass to formally notify the school of student absences.

Brainy Bites

Brainy Bites are fresh fruit or vegetable snacks that the children eat in class between breakfast and morning tea. A healthy snack helps brain activity and concentration. This year we are encouraging "wrapper-free" days, **EVERYDAY**, with the focus on fresh food rather than packaged food.



NO NUTS PLEASE

As we have children at Clarinda who are **highly allergic to nuts** (anaphylactic), we strongly recommend no nuts including all spreads, for example, Nutella, and any other products that may contain nuts. We know you will assist us and take care when preparing your child's snacks and lunches. Please continue to remind your children about not sharing any food.



Lunch Boxes

Please be mindful of your child's lunch. If your child requires a spoon or fork to eat their lunch, please provide one. Ensure any knives have been removed from the cutlery set before coming to school. We request that students are only provided with water in their water bottle to drink. Please do not send juice or juice boxes to school.

Important Dates

FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
	Tuesday 3rd - Getting to know you interviews Monday 9th - Labour Day Holiday Tuesday 10th Curriculum Day Tuesday 24th Harmony Night Tuesday 31st School Photos	Thursday 2nd - Last day of term. Finish at 2:30pm.



Purple/Blue Folders

In your children's bags, you should have already seen the purple/blue Communication Folders. These folders contain all the important information that is sent home to parents. It is necessary for you to check these folders on a daily basis so that the notices from school are dealt with promptly.



Labels

Please label ALL of your child's clothing, if you haven't already done so.



Tissues

We would appreciate your donation of a tissue box for the class.



Reading

It is vital that the children read daily at home and are encouraged for their efforts. Remember to ask them to tell you about the book after they read to develop their comprehension skills. Please regularly practise reading and talking about what they have read. Take home readers will start from Week 3.



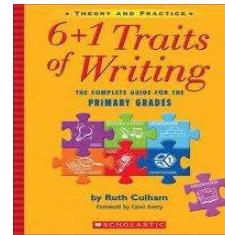


Mathematics

This term we will explore several concepts including place value, counting by ones, twos, fives and tens, addition, subtraction, 2D and 3D shapes and patterns.

Writing

This term, the students will develop their knowledge of the '6+1 Traits of Writing' through the Clarinda Instructional Model. We will be writing a variety of text types with a focus on narrative.



Homework

Number facts should continue to be practised each night, and the homework sheets must be brought to school every Friday. Spelling should also be practised on a regular basis. Homework will commence as follows:

Take home readers – From Week 3

Maths – Week 5

Spelling – Week 6

Wellbeing: Play is the Way and Respectful Relationships

Children will explore our program 'Play is the Way'. This is a practical methodology for teaching social and emotional skills using guided play, classroom activities and an empowering self-reflective language. In addition, we will also continue to engage in 'Respectful Relationships Education' which includes promoting respect, positive attitudes and behaviours. It teaches children how to build healthy relationships, resilience and confidence.

