A Focus on the Basics

At Pakenham Springs Primary School we have a clear focus on the development of students' literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy skills. We see these as the foundations for continued learning and as such need students to become proficient with these skills as they progress through their education. At Pakenham Springs we feel the curriculum needs to build the basics, but also extend students’ knowledge and understandings in the key areas of English and Mathematics.

In this leaflet, we outline the important skills and knowledge that your child will be learning this term.

Working together:

We hope that you can assist your child at home by practicing the skills that they will be learning at school. By working together over the coming term, we aim to ensure your child has mastered these important skills, which will be built on in coming terms and coming years.

Reading:
During this term students will be learning to:
- identify the difference between facts and opinions.
- distinguish between real and make believe.
- identify word meaning in context.
- make predictions.
- identify the main idea of a text.
- understand how and why a text is written.
- decode unknown words.
- compare and contrast features of a text.
- identify the author's purpose.

Writing:
During this term students will be learning to:
- write a variety of sentences.
- identify a variety of text types that inform the reader.
- write a procedural text.
- write an information report.
- write a biography.
- plan using subheading.
- write topic sentences.
- separate ideas into paragraphs.
- use topic specific words.
- research and find facts.
- distinguish between facts and opinions.
- find facts and write them in their own words.
- write an introduction for an information report.
- write a conclusion for an information report that includes pictures and diagrams to support their topic.
- re read and edit writing.
Mathematics:
Number:
During this term students will be learning to:
- read, write and order 4 and 5 digit numbers with numerals and words.
- order numbers up to 5 digits in ascending and descending order.
- identify the value and the place value of a digit in a larger number, including decimals.
- expand/partition a number up to 5 digits.
- regroup numbers in different ways.
- use place value to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000.

Inquiry Learning:
During this term students will be learning to:
- observe qualitatively how speed is affected by the size of a force.
- explain and explore how non-contact forces are similar to contact forces (in terms of objects pushing and pulling another object).
- compare and contrast the effect of friction on different surfaces.
- investigate the effect of forces on the behaviour of an object through actions such as throwing, dropping, bouncing and rolling.
- describe common materials and their properties.
- select materials to use based on their properties.

Measurement & Geometry:
During this term students will be learning to:
- measure the length of objects using informal measurements.
- measure the length of objects using formal measurements.
- calculate the perimeter of shapes.
- calculate the area of a shape.
- identify the volume of an object.
- identify the capacity of an object.
- measure the mass of objects.

Home Tasks in Year Four
Each week’s home tasks may include one or more of the following:
- Individual Spelling words
- Daily reading which will be recorded in their reading logs
- Numeracy tasks - may include Mathletics
- An Inquiry or Writing task

Contact Us
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Visit us on the web: www.pakenham springs.vic.edu.au