

Friday 3rd February



Dear Grade 1/2 Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to HWPS and to the 1/2 Community. We hope you all had a wonderful, safe and relaxing break, and are ready for an action packed year ahead. We are really looking forward to developing a thriving learning community where students and teachers come together to achieve success. It is an exciting time of year and our aim is to ensure that we make all students feel confident, curious and connected to their learning. Our team will work collaboratively to create meaningful and challenging learning experiences to ensure your child is supported, gets the best out of their learning and the opportunities given to them.

As you may remember from last year, the bell time in the morning is 8.55am. The music will be played a little before this time prompting the students to move quietly into their spaces, leaving their bags in the allocated area. If you arrive after 9am please go to the office to sign in and receive a late pass as we will have already marked the roll.

Our home reading schedule will begin next week. This is an integral part of our program and regular home reading helps to support the learning happening at school. Students will need to bring their reading satchel or a durable bag to school that they can use to take books home. This helps to keep the take home reading books in good condition and avoids books being damaged by drinks or food in school bags.

The school newsletter is sent home via Compass every Friday. It is vital that you read them as they contain all the current and important information.

Below you will find some information about the teachers in the 1/2 Community. We have also attached a brief questionnaire with questions relating to your child. This provides the opportunity for you to share any information that you feel would be valuable in helping us to understand how to best support your child's needs. These can be handed to your child's teacher.

We are really looking forward to an exciting year ahead! At any stage if you would like to meet with a teacher please email or call the school to arrange a time. Our doors are always open, so please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards,

Nicole, Ainslie, Lee, Catherine, Eliza and Lucy

Hey everyone! My name is **Nicole Gillespie**. I am originally from Ireland and that is where I began my teaching studies. I completed my Masters Post Graduate Certificate in Education in 2013 and have been teaching since in both London and Melbourne. Outside of the classroom I love road trips, eating out at cafes and restaurants, visiting the beach, reading books and exploring new places. I am looking forward to meeting you all and getting to know your children, and their interests. I am also excited to work with you this year to make sure your child works to the best of their ability and that they are happy at school. ☺

My name is **Ainslie Kissick** and this is my third year teaching in Grade 1/2. Before beginning my teaching career at Hawthorn West Primary School, I taught sustainability and horse riding lessons to children at the Collingwood Farm. I love cooking (and eating), gardening and travelling. I am really forward to getting to know your child and spending the year exploring new and exciting concepts together.

My name is **Lee Giddings**, class teacher of 1/2L. If you have spoken to me in person, you may have detected the last surviving remnants of an English accent. However, by virtue of being married to an Australian, I have been a permanent resident in this fine country since 2005. My teaching career began in London 16 years ago. I embarked on my journey with Hawthorn West Primary School in 2006 and have since taught every grade level from Year 1 to Year 6. I have managed the school library since 2009, proudly building up a collection of books to rival most other public schools. In my personal life, I am a voracious reader and book collector, and have 2 cats called Lorca and Feathers. I have enthusiastically embraced the Richmond Tigers since all of my in-laws are mad Tigers fans. As ever, we live in hope for the coming season. I look forward to a wonderful journey with your children in 2017.

Hello! I'm **Catherine Wilton** and I began my teaching career at HWPS last year. I am looking forward to engaging the students and bringing my enthusiasm for teaching and learning into Grade 1/2. I am looking forward to getting to know each and every family within and beyond my class. I love seeing students get excited about their learning and engage in new ideas. In my spare time I like to spend time with family and friends, cook, dance and get involved in my vegetable garden (if you have any gardening tips, I would love to hear them!).

Hi, I'm **Eliza Beazleigh** and I am excited to be a part of another year teaching in the 1/2 team! This is my second year teaching at HWPS. After completing a Bachelor of Education (Primary) at Deakin University, I was fortunate enough to embark my teaching career at this wonderful school. Along this journey I gained a passion to create a classroom that is engaging, safe and supportive, one where your child can take risks and not be afraid to make mistakes. Outside of school, I love going to the beach and spending time in the outdoors, travelling, playing netball and keeping active. I also enjoy searching for new café spots and spending time with my friends, family and my Golden Retriever Charlie. I am looking forward to the year ahead with your child, overcoming hurdles and celebrating all the wonderful learning.

Hi, I'm **Lucy Foster**! I'm so excited to be joining the HWPS community this year as part of the Grade 1/2 team. I have just graduated from my Masters of Teaching (Primary) at the University of Melbourne and have previously studied Psychology and Spanish, which led to a year working as an English Language Assistant in a primary school in Spain. I love dancing (especially ballet) and all the performing arts, going to the beach, the footy (go Pies!), and spending time with friends and family. I'm also passionate about travelling and learning about foreign cultures and languages. I'm really looking forward to having fun and learning with all the lovely children in 1/2F, getting to know their families and becoming involved in the school community.



Lee, Nicole, Ainslie, Catherine, Eliza and Lucy.

Student Profile- Parent's Perspective

To enable a smooth transition into Year 1/2 and for us to get to know your child effectively, it would be greatly appreciated if you could take some time to fill in the details on this form.

Name of child:

Name of parents or guardians:

My child's strengths:

Areas we would like our child to improve:

Socially I would like my child to:

Anything else I should know about your child to help make the school year most successful?

If you have any skills that you believe might be beneficial to the class, could you please write them here: