1. HOW DO WE WORK OUT OUR SCHOOL STRUCTURE?
A number of factors are considered before we place students into grades. Our prime objective is to place each student in the classroom environment that enables them to learn best. We firstly ask students to nominate people they would enjoy being in a grade with. We then look at the numbers of students in each year level, male/female ratios, consider the individual and academic needs of each student and finally with consultation between teachers and support staff we begin the process of placement. We always endeavor to structure grades with the lowest possible student/teacher ratio within our staffing budget.

2. WHY DO WE HAVE A FOCUS ON MULTI-AGE CLASSES?
At Clifton Springs Primary School we focus on Multi-aged classes in years Prep/1 and years 5/6. Within the general school structure there may alternatively be some multiage or straight classes. We focus on multi age classes to give students the best and most stable start and finish to their schooling. Wherever possible we allocate students to the same teacher over a two-year period. This assists in developing a strong relationship between student’s, families and teachers. Multi age classes structured in this way settle far more quickly as students benefit from having role models within the classroom to show them the routine of classes, extend their thinking and allow for a greater social experience. Students in these classes work at their individual level as the curriculum is designed around their needs. We deliver a curriculum on a two year cycle to ensure students do not repeat topics in consecutive years.

3. WHAT CURRICULUM DO WE TEACH AT CLIFTON SPRINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL?
Like all Victorian State Schools, we are moving towards the implementation of the Australian National Curriculum. The Australian Curriculum sets out the core knowledge, understanding, skills and general capabilities important for all Australian students. It provides the foundation for their future learning, growth and active participation in the Australian community. This teaching and learning framework makes it clear what all young Australians should learn as they progress through schooling and is the foundation for high quality teaching to meet the needs of all students.

4. HOW DO WE DELIVER OUR CURRICULUM?
Our aim is to develop the whole child academically, socially and emotionally. Students at Clifton Springs Primary understand their individual learning styles and know the optimum conditions for learning. They are encouraged to inquire further and extend their thinking. Students are highly motivated to learn and excel in this environment. Underpinning our curriculum we use the highly successful ‘Kids Matter’ framework to positively affect our students mental well being.

Areas covered in our teaching and learning programs are:
Mathematics, English, Science, Humanities, Geography and Economics. Much of this curriculum is delivered through an integrated approach where learning is related to real life. Our dedicated staff plan in teams to ensure the curriculum taught is sequential and consistent across each year level.

Our specialist subjects are:
Health and Physical Education, The Arts (Visual Arts, Music & Performing Arts) and Languages other than English (French).

Information Communication Technology is incorporated into all subject areas to enhance student engagement, encourage innovation and prepare our students for 21st Century learning.
Personalised Learning and Individual Goal Setting:
We believe that every student comes to school with different experiences, skills, interests and needs. This is why we have a focus on Personalising Learning for individuals. Classroom teachers develop strong relationships with every student and use their knowledge of individuals to plan and deliver lessons that meet the needs of every student. Students are encouraged to develop their special skills and talents and to use their interests as part of their learning. Every student at our school sets individual learning goals in literacy, numeracy and personal learning. Students negotiate their learning goals with classroom teachers and are supported to achieve these goals. We support students to be independent learners who have ownership over their learning through student conferences. Students spend time with their classroom teachers demonstrating their abilities, sharing achievements and negotiating future goals.

5. DO WE HAVE A BUDDY PROGRAM?
Our buddy program is based on the Allanah and Madeline Foundation ‘Better Buddies’ program. Our senior students undergo training on how to be an effective buddy and how best to support the younger students at our school. At the beginning of the year our junior and senior students are observed during informal activities such as shared lunches and developmental inquiry play sessions to allow teachers to successfully allocate buddies. Buddy sessions occur regularly between classes as do multi age days and special events for the students in our middle grades.

6. HOW DO WE KEEP PARENTS INFORMED?
Parents are always welcome to speak to their child’s teacher about their progress. Twice yearly we conduct three way interviews where student’s individual learning goals are discussed. A written student report is given to parents along with a portfolio of student work samples mid year and at the end of the school year. Parents and teachers generally communicate through the student diaries, which are an important communication and organizational tool used at our school. We publish a weekly newsletter that is also available via email or on our school’s website. Our newsletter gives an outline of what is going on in our school, dates to remember and information about events and programs operating within our school. Our student leaders conduct our whole school assembly every Friday morning in the gym. Here you can expect to see class presentations, the handing out of student achievement awards and a general celebration of what we are learning and doing in our school.

7. CAN PARENTS COME INTO THE CLASSROOM?
Your child loves to see you involved in our school! Parents can be involved in a myriad of ways. Parent volunteers working with students are expected to obtain a Working With Children card.

- Work within classroom or specialist areas.
- Attend camps or excursions.
- Parents’ Club or School Council.
- Assist with special days and sporting events.
- Attend weekly assemblies.
- Work in the library.
- Assist with fundraising.
- Volunteer for a shift in our Market Food Van.
- Helping in our school canteen.
- Assist in our gardens or attend working bees.
- Make student resources for our classrooms such as cushions and playdoh.

8. WHAT LEADERSHIP AND EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR MY CHILD?
At Clifton Springs Primary we have a strong focus on student leadership and developing responsibility in our students through extra curricular activities. Some of these include:

- Junior School Council.
- Choir.
- Friendship group.
- Robotics.
- Sporting events such as golf and soccer clinics.
- Incursions and excursions.
- Buddy program.
- Environment Group.
- Library monitors.
- Media team.