**Painting Tips**

**Here is a list of suggestions while you are learning to use acrylic paint:**

* Squeeze **only a little bit** of colour out of each tube. Acrylic paint dries quickly, so you should only put out the colours you are going to use within the lesson. I do not want to see a quarter of the bottle on the palette!
* Acrylic paint needs to be mixed with water. The more water you add, the more the paint thins out and becomes transparent. It also helps to smooth the brushstrokes.
* Use 3-5 brushes so your paints don’t become muddy. One can be for your shadows, mid-tones, highlights and one as a blending brush to help blend the colours and tones together. You often paint highlights last. Don’t forget to constantly wash your brushes and change your water.

**Different brushes give different effects!**

* A round brush is used for precision work and detail.
* A flat brush is good for blocking in areas and creating sharp edges.
* A filbert brush is feathered at the top and is used for blending. They are mainly used for portraits.
* A wet brush produces smooth brushstrokes and a dry brush produces scratchy brushstrokes.
* A big brush is used for the background and large areas, a small brush is used for the intricate details.

**Consider what sort of effect you are trying to create before dipping your brush in the paint!**

Build your painting up in layers. Don’t go straight to the detail. Block in the colours first and add the detail last.

I also suggest bringing in some of your own acrylic paints to school as the ones at the school are quite ordinary and limit your ability to utilize colour effectively.