Term 1, 2015

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to an exciting new year! We hope that everyone had a wonderful break and enjoyed a relaxing time during the Christmas holiday period.

We have a many wonderful events to look forward to this Term, including: Maths Roadshow incursion, Shrove Tuesday (pancake day), school photos and getting to know our new classes. The Grade 1 students have made a positive start in their new class, getting used to having older children working around them. The Grade 2 children have already shown themselves to be terrific leaders within each of the classrooms. How very exciting it is to move into a new grade and get to know even more people at our lovely school.

We look forward to meeting with parents and students at the ‘Getting To Know You’ interviews and finding out even more about you all. It would be terrific if the children can think about what they would like us to know about themselves before arriving on the day. We love to hear about your interests and special talents, which can help the teachers to set up interest tables for Investigation Time.

We would also like to congratulate all of the students on making such a positive start to the school year. At the start of the year, with the warmer weather and daylight savings, we notice that some students are getting quite tired by the end of the day. Please ensure that your child develops good sleep routines and gets a suitable amount of sleep for their needs. This is incredibly important for their social, emotional and academic development!

IMPORTANT DATES

Week 1
Wednesday 29th February – Term 1 Begins

Week 2

Week 3
Monday 9th February – Maths Roadshow Incursion
Tuesday 10th February – Maths Roadshow Incursion

Week 4
Tuesday 17th February – Getting To Know You Interviews

Week 5
Friday 27th February – Clean up Australia Day

Week 6
Monday 2nd Feb – School Photos
Thursday 5th Feb – Welcome BBQ for new families - 5-6pm

Week 7

Week 8

Week 9
Monday 23rd March – P-2 Classroom Afternoon Tea – 3.30-4pm
Friday 27th March – Last day Term 2 – 2.30 dismissal
DAILY ROUTINES

Classroom doors open at 8.45am and the official start to the school day is at 9am. The music will start at 8:55am so children are encouraged to come inside the classroom and get their things organised before the bell. We would like out students to begin their school day with independence, please expect your child to carry their own school bag to and from the classroom, change their take-home books and look after their own belongings.

EARLY DISMISSAL OR LATE ARRIVAL

Please remember that if you need to pick your child up early or if they arrive late (even if it is at 9:05am), you must sign them in or out at the Office, before going to their classroom. It is important to arrive before 9am each day, in order to allow your child to settle in to their day smoothly and easily.

READER POUCHES

As you will all now be aware our notices and home reading items come home in a reader pouch. They will continue to be sent home each day so please ensure that you check this daily, empty and share contents, and have your child pack their pouch back in their school bag ready for the next day. It is important to tell your child when you put a note in their reader pouch so they know to pass it on to their teacher first thing in the morning. Please also ensure that your child’s Word Book remains in their reader pouch as we use these during school times as well as at home.

NUDE FOOD LUNCHES

As part of our schools strong environmental focus, we have a ‘Nude Food’ focus for our food items. Please send your child to school with food in containers rather than sending wrappers. This includes glad wrap, zip lock bags and anything which comes packaged in non-recyclable materials. Please ensure that all containers are named, as they can tend to disappear throughout the day and they are much easier to return to you if they are labelled. We also encourage children to bring a pop-top style water bottle, filled only with water rather than any sugary alternatives.

UNIFORMS

Throughout each year we came across many of jumpers which are not named. Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled. Unnamed items of clothing will be sent to lost property and can be very hard to find. Labelled items are generally returned to the appropriate classroom quickly.

HEAD LICE

Please check your child’s hair regularly for Head Lice. If your child has long hair it is necessary to tie it back. Upon finding any Head Lice in your child’s hair, you will be required to ensure that you remove all lice and eggs prior to your child returning to school. Repeated treatments may be necessary in order to end the Head Lice cycle. Please notify your child’s classroom teacher and the office of any Head Lice problems as other parents can then be notified to check their child’s hair and assist with eliminating the spread of lice within the learning spaces.

GRADE 1/2 CURRICULUM

MATHEMATICS

This term the Grade 1/2 students shall be focussing on revising and further developing their skills in the area of place value. We shall be looking at addition and subtraction processes, and working towards developing a strong awareness of number on which to build upon throughout the rest of the year.

The students shall also be learning about reading the time on an analogue clock. Some students shall need to revise o’clock times, before they move on to learning about half-past, quarter to and past, five minute interval times and working towards reading any time on the clock! As with other areas of learning, students learn these skills at different times and you can best help your child by having an analogue clock in your house for children to see and by referring to the clock regularly throughout the day.

ENGLISH

The Grade 1/2 students will be refining their writing skills this term. We will be concentrating on ensuring letters are written in lower-case, facing the correct way around, written the correct size and using the correct lines and using punctuation accurately.

In reading, they shall be practising their fluency and expression when reading their take-home books. Teachers will be busy checking your child’s reading levels and matching them to the appropriate Take-Home boxes. Please respect that this is an important but time consuming task, which is ongoing throughout the year.

Speaking and Listening will be incorporated in a variety of different ways during each day. Focus children, reporters and photographers will share their learning during Investigation Times. The children shall be concentrating on skills such as: speaking at an appropriate volume, listening to others, joining in group discussions and asking relevant questions.

INVESTIGATION TIME

This Term, the Grade 1/2 students will be working on their investigations on Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings. They are very excited about this time and are enjoying being able to work across any of the three classrooms and working with a wide variety of friends. You will often see our rooms change, with new tables being created and interesting spaces popping up!

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

This year, Grade 1/2 students will be attending specialist sessions at various times throughout each week. The Visual Arts program, run by Mrs Rhonda Clifford, includes learning about painting, clay, construction and drawing techniques. The Performing Arts program incorporates elements of music, dance and drama. These sessions shall be taken by Mrs D. The children will have opportunities to work upon their ICT (computer) skills with Mrs McDonald in the computer lab. Physical Education sessions will be run by Mr Timothy Hughes. These sessions aim to develop basic motor skills, such as running, throwing, catching and kicking. Students look forward to participating in these sessions each week.