22 February 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

STAGE ONE - YEAR 1 & 2 NEWSLETTER 2016

Welcome back to the school year. The teachers for Stage One for this year are-

Year 1- 1H- Mrs Hughes, 1O- Mrs O’Connor, 1R- Mrs Roberts, 1S- Miss Smith
Year 2- 2D- Ms Dickenson, 2L- Mrs Whiticker, 2P- Mrs Pace, 2W- Miss Whitby

Class Requirements
The following items are needed for your child to fully take part in day to day activities in Year 1 and Year 2:

- Art shirt (Mum or Dad’s old shirt will do) – with name
- A4 size Homework book with lines please – covered and sent to school as soon as possible—not too thick – stapled 100-124 pages. Spiral bound books not suitable as they fall apart! No scrap or small exercise books.
- Four Glue Sticks per term (Bostick are the best brand – these may be shared) Glue pots, pens, liquids are not suitable
- Box family size tissues (these will be shared)
- Paper towel (1 roll for class use)
- 2 whiteboard marker pens
- New USB stick – labelled with name and class
- A4 ream of paper
- Small pencil case and set of textas (12-20 only) labelled with name and class
- A4 Clip Board
- USB/Memory Stick
- All children require a cloth library bag for borrowing books from the library- classes have their own library sessions across the week to borrow books.

Personal Belongings
It is very important that children have all their personal belongings clearly labelled with their name and class (up-date for 2016). This includes items such as hats, jumpers/jackets, raincoats, lunchboxes, drink-bottles, work items, books etc. Misplaced items can usually be returned quickly when a name and class are clearly displayed. Please note, broad-brim hats are to be labelled clearly inside the hat. No writing is to be on the outside of the school hat. Please encourage your child to become responsible for their possessions.
Book Club
Book Club is available twice a term. It is due the week following distribution and takes two-three weeks to be delivered. All orders/monies should be sealed in an envelope labelled book club with your child’s name and class on the front and dropped off before school through the special slot in the counter of the front office.

Parent Helpers
This year the Stage One classes will be looking for parents to help out in a variety of activities to support classroom programs. This includes reading, small group activities, special skill developmental programs etc. Please let your child’s teacher know if you are interested in supporting one or more of these programs. All helpers require a current ‘Working With Children’ check (from RMS) and must sign in and out of the office.

History and Science Theme Work
This year Stage One will be studying a variety of focus areas in History drawn from the different disciplines of history such as societal change, culture etc. The Stage One over-riding History theme for 2016 is Present and Past Family Life. Science units of study for Stage One in 2016 will be Light Sound Force and Watch It Grow. These are drawn from the different strands of Science study such as geology, biology, botany etc.

Personal Development/Health/ Physical Education
Stage One will work in a variety of areas of PD/Health/PE this year. School Sport for Stage One will be held on Wednesdays and include:

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Our Release from Face to Face Teachers this year will be Mr Ryan and/or Miss Oudkerkpool and/or Mrs Appleby and/or Mrs Dalitz who will be teaching Personal Development and Physical Education, Music and Library skills. Stage One children may wear sports uniforms including gym shoes/joggers on Wednesdays as well as on their class PE day each week. It is essential that your child has the school broad brimmed hat for sun protection.

Homework
Each week your child will receive homework activities composed primarily of Spelling, Maths and reading. We seek your support in ensuring that this homework is completed, glued into an A4 exercise book and returned to your child’s class teacher on Friday mornings each week. Please contact your child’s class teacher if your child is consistently coming home with no homework so the situation can be rectified. Homework is a stage expectation and will be monitored and reported on.

Home Reading
Home Reading folders will be issued shortly to children on a weekly basis with accompanying information on how to support your child’s literacy development at home. Folders should be returned to school on a regular basis as per the class teacher’s instructions. Please care for the books by keeping them safely in the plastic sleeve when not being read.
Uniform
Children are to be dressed in full school uniform including a broad-brim hat each day. Children should wear hard wearing school shoes or joggers. Variations to the uniform during the year do require a brief explanation note.

Awards
Each class has its own practices of earning points that can be traded for an Orange Merit card. Once five of these are collected they are handed in to the class teacher who will trade them for a Blue Merit card. Four Blue merit cards are handed in and traded for a Silver Merit card, which is recorded on the school data system, and presented at the next available K-2 Assembly, to which parents are invited. Students who earn three Silvers trade these for a Gold Merit card and when two Golds are gained, an Honour Award is achieved. Students achieving this level are rewarded at the Presentation Day Assembly and publication in the school’s newsletter.

Crunch and Sip
On a healthy note, we will continue to promote the whole school healthy eating program through the daily ‘Crunch and Sip’ break. At 10 o’clock each morning, when energy levels need a boost, children are allowed to eat a piece of fresh fruit (no tinned or processed fruits) and/ or have a drink of water in class. Please ensure that glass drink bottles are not brought to school for any reason.

Medical Information
Please ensure that the school has information on your child’s medical needs including emergency contacts and current phone numbers and please up-date if details change during the year. If the need arises, any medications sent to school should be left at the front office with an accompanying explanation note.

Internet Use
Parents are asked to ensure that they supervise their children’s use of the internet. The internet can be used as a tool for research and on-line activities and games. For further information about keeping your child safe online parents can access the Federal Government website at Cybersmart.gov.au

Interviews
Please contact your child’s teacher through the office or via a written note to make a time for a parent teacher interview as required. We look forward to a close relationship that encourages your child’s learning and development.

Ms Dickenson, Assistant Principal
Natalie Mansour
ON BEHALF OF STAGE ONE TEACHERS PRINCIPAL