Dear Parents,

Welcome, we are looking forward to working with such a great group of students this year. We thought we would take this opportunity to outline a few things to help kick the year off smoothly.

Classroom:
Our classroom is a “no put-down” zone, which means that students are to make sure they speak positively about themselves and others. This is to ensure that each student in the 4/5 team has the opportunity to do their best and take risks with their learning.

Many of the tasks undertaken in class are designed to have different entry and exit points so that students of all abilities can work to their potential. Student progress in these tasks is carefully monitored, with extra help or extension work given when appropriate. Over the coming weeks a number of assessments will be completed so that we can give students learning tasks that meet their current needs.

Each fortnight students will be setting learning goals and reflecting on their progress. With assistance the children will identify the skills and attitudes that they need to work on, to become confident and independent learners. The students will also complete daily learning reflections that will assist them in keeping their goals in mind.

Mathematics groups will operate across the Grade 4/5/6 Unit as they did last year, with pre-testing allowing us to target teaching to students’ individual needs.

This year students will be undertaking either Art or Music during each semester. This first semester we will be involved in Art and music will commence Term 3.

Diaries:
Each student has been provided a diary and it is expected that this will be brought between home and school daily. Students will be using their diary to record reading homework, due dates for work, important dates and notices. As teachers we will be also using it as a communication tool between school and home and invite you to use it if you need to let us know about anything. We ask if you could please sign your child’s diary once a week. At school diaries will be checked by a teacher and signed weekly, however if you have written something you need us to see on a particular day please ask your child to let us know.

Rotations:
This year on a Wednesday afternoon the Grade 3/4/5/6 students will be involved in learning rotations. In groups they will complete rotation topics of LOTE (Japanese) with Mrs Fowler, Science with Mrs Mahoney, Philosophy for Kids (P4C) with Mr C and Genius Hour with Mrs Connolly. The Grade 3/4 students will work with Mrs Mahoney and Mrs Connolly during Term 1 & 2 and the Grade 5/6 students working with Mr C and Mrs Fowler.
**Homework:**

At this level students are expected to complete between 20 - 30 minutes of homework a day, which will consist of reading and mathematics. Throughout the year there may be additional homework given.

The expectations of homework to be completed are:

- **Reading:** Students may read a book of their choice and it is expected they read a minimum of 15 minutes, 5 times each week. The title and author of the book is to be recorded in their diary when they commence each book and then each night they read they are to record the title and number of minutes or the number of pages they read. This is to be signed by a parent or responsible adult at least once a week.

- **Mathematics:** A goal for our class this year is that all students know their times tables and basic number facts so they can automatically recall these. Therefore, any times tables that your child doesn't know or is unsure of, they need to focus on practising each night. They also need to practise their number pairs that add up to 10 or 100. Students can verbally answer times tables or pairs questions that you ask them, or they can complete tables grids and 100 pair sheets. There are table grids and practise ideas on our page on the school website. If your child knows these already the focus is on speed and accuracy of automatic responses.

Class newsletters and information will be available on our page on the school website:


**Housekeeping:**

- Could each student please supply one box of tissues for use in the classroom.
- Students are reminded to bring a bag for library borrowing and MARC Van. We will let you know which days these will be and when MARC Van commences.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to make a time to see either of us. Wednesday afternoons are our staff meeting nights and we sometimes have meetings either Tuesdays or Thursdays, so we are generally available Monday or Friday afternoons. If afternoons are difficult appointments can be made for mornings between 8.30 and 8.45am.

Regards

Clare and Gillian