3rd February 2012

1/2N Class Newsletter

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Welcome to the 2012 school year. My name is Gavin Gillard and I am pleased to be your child’s teacher this year. I hope I can answer most of your questions in this note, but please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns. You are always most welcome in the classroom and I encourage you to organize a regular time to assist the children with their work. Parent helpers are especially needed for reading groups (10:30am to 11:00am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday).

STATIONERY
All children should have the following items for their personal use: HB pencils; pencil sharpener; eraser; colouring pencils; pencil case; glue stick; textas: and a folder for homework and home reading.
It will be appreciated if each child provides a box of tissues for class use.

HOMEWORK
Commences this week. Homework will be related to the class work for the week. If your child doesn’t understand any homework on Monday or Tuesday, it is possibly because they haven’t done that work in class yet, so leave it until later in the week. Homework allows your child to practice what they have been doing in class and it also lets you know what we are doing.
I will keep a record of completed homework and it will be noted in semester 1 and semester 2 school reports.

HOME READING
I strongly encourage you to support your child with this program. Children who read appropriate texts regularly will show significant improvement. I suggest that home readers and the record sheet be kept in the homework folder. There are home readers in the classroom, which children may borrow at any time, or you may wish to use books from home or from the school or town library.

REWARDS & DISCIPLINE
I will use stickers, stamps and positive comments if the children make a good effort. I will make encouraging comments if they need to make more effort.
Two merit awards will be presented at each K-2 assembly on Fridays (9:30am until 10:00am). These awards will be for good effort, excellent achievement, or for good behaviour.
If children misbehave in class they will be given a warning. If the behaviour persists, they will be isolated in the classroom (moved to a desk away from the other children). If they cause further problems, they will be sent to another classroom to finish their work.

PARENT HELPERS
I welcome parental assistance at any time. Your child will benefit from your presence in the classroom.

ASSEMBLIES
K-2 assemblies will be held each Friday between 9:30am and 10:00am in the hall. Parents are most welcome to attend. I will make every effort to inform you if your child is receiving an award. Assemblies will begin in week 3.
BOOKWORK
All children are expected to show pride in their books. If work is careless and messy, it may need to be re-done. HB pencil only should be used for writing in workbooks and on stencils. Only colouring pencils may be used for colouring in workbooks. Textas may be used on stencils. Workbooks may be covered, but it is not necessary. However, children tend to show more pride in their books if they are covered. I plan to cover books with the children’s artwork, but you are welcome to cover books at home.

BIRTHDAYS
We would love to be able to celebrate your child’s birthday in class. You are welcome to send in a cake or cupcakes when it is your child’s birthday. There are 23 children in 1/2N.

LIBRARY
Our library lesson is on Friday from 12:10pm until 1:10pm. The teacher will be Mrs Beesley. Children may return books to the library on any morning before class and they may borrow at lunchtimes. A library bag of some sort will be needed.

COMPUTER
We have computer on Wednesdays from 10:20am until 11:20am with Mrs Simpson.

MR DAWSON
Mr Dawson will have the class on Mondays from 1:10pm until 3:10pm and on Thursdays from 2:10pm until 3:10pm.

SCRIPTURE
Each Tuesday from 12:10pm until 12:40pm.

FRESH FOOD BREAK
At approximately 10:15am each day we will have a short break. The children are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit or vegetable to eat. I will usually have something for the children who forget. Lunch is eaten from 11:20am until 11:30am. We will usually sit outside the classroom with some other year 1 and year 2 classes. The children may go to the canteen at 11:30am. Afternoon recess will be eaten from 1:40pm until 1:50pm. The children may go to the canteen at this time.

UNIT OF WORK
The unit for this term is “Local Places”. We will be exploring our relationship with the natural, built and heritage environments in our local area. We will also be learning about the geography of Australia.

NEWS
Each child has a news day. This is an important speaking activity and children will be encouraged to use correct posture, pronunciation and grammar. ___________________________ news day is ___________________________.

INFANTS’ CHOIR
Separate year 1 and year 2 singing. Combined choir will be formed for special events. Teachers will be Miss Day and Mrs Goldthorpe. Please encourage your child to try out for choir.

INFORMAL MEETINGS
I will usually be in the classroom before school on Thursdays and Fridays and after school on Wednesdays. I will be at the bus lines on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. If you have an urgent matter and you can’t find me, please ask at the office.

GAVIN GILLARD
Principal

SEAN ANDREWS
Principal