2nd February 2012

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to the 2012 school year. My name is Deb Barnett 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.

STATIONERY
All children should have the following items for their personal use: HB pencils; pencil sharpener; eraser; colouring pencils; pencil case; glue sticks two per term; textas and folders for homework and home reading. Two extra display folders are required for portfolios.
It would be appreciated if each child provides two boxes of tissues and a pump soap for class use.

HOMEWORK
Commences Week 3. 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
Home Reading commences Week 4. I strongly encourage you to support your child with this program. Children who read appropriate texts regularly will show significant improvement. A zippered plastic pocket is ideal for keeping home readers and the record sheet in good condition.
There are home readers in the classroom 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 or challenging comments if they need to make more effort.
Two merit awards will be presented at each K-2 assembly on Fridays (9:30am to 10:10am). 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 and you may be contacted to discuss your child’s behaviour.

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 10:10am in the hall. Parents are most welcome to attend. I will make every effort to inform you if your child is receiving an award.
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 will be sent home today to be covered and labeled over the weekend. Please return ALL books on Monday. Children show more pride in their books if they are covered.

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 25 children in 2B.

LIBRARY
Our library lesson is on Monday from 12:10pm till 1:10pm. The teacher will be Mrs Beesley. A library bag of some sort will be needed.

COMPUTER
We have computers on Wednesday from 12:10pm till 1:10pm. The teacher will be Mrs Simpson.

CLASS TOY
We have a class toy that will go home with a student each day who has shown great class work and behaviour. Please encourage the class toy as children benefit from reading and writing with it.

READING GROUPS
Reading groups will begin Monday Week 4. We will be joining with 2B for reading groups. Days are Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:10am till 10:10am. If you are able to help during any of these times please complete the attached form.

FRESH FOOD BREAK
At approximately 10:20am each day we will have a short break. The children are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit or vegetable to eat. Lunch is eaten from 11:20am until 11:30am. The children may go to the canteen at 11:30am. Afternoon recess will be eaten between 1:40pm and 1:50pm.

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. Please refer to the attached news roster.

YEAR 2 CHOIR
All year 2 students will be participating in the year 2 choir.

INFORMAL MEETINGS
Please feel free to make an appointment before or after school if you need to speak to me.

STAR OF THE WEEK
Each week we choose a student’s photo from a bag. This student becomes the star of the week. Every child then adds nice comments about that student, which is displayed on the star of the week poster. Star of the week encourages students and allows them to show their class members all their lovely attributes.

GO MATHS
This year all year 2 students will need to purchase Go Maths text books (3) from McDonalds Bookstore, High Street Maitland. These are essential for the new maths program to be successfully implemented in class.

DEB BARNETT
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SEAN ANDREWS
Principal