Welcome
Welcome back to school for 2012. My name is Sara Johnston and I look forward to working with the parents/caregivers of the students in 4J.

Being Prepared
One of the expectations of the students in 4J is that they come to school fully prepared. This includes, bringing the correct writing equipment, wearing school uniform and any other additional equipment if it is needed.

Homework
Students will be given weekly homework starting from Term 1 Week 3. They will be given their homework on Monday and are expected to bring it back completed on the following Friday. The homework will focus on reading, spelling and writing. Maths homework will be provided by their maths teacher. Students are expected to complete the homework themselves and hand it in on time.

Reading
All the students in 4J will need to bring a novel or another suitable reading material which will be read independently in class everyday for 10 minutes. Students are also expected to read for at least 10 minutes every night at home. Reading is crucial in the development of skills which are used across the curriculum, as well as having many benefits outside of school.

Reading Groups
Reading groups in 4J will be small, temporary and may be organised through interest as well as ability levels. Reading groups will operate on Monday and Wednesday mornings at 10:30am.

School Magazine
To assist the focus on reading and comprehension, students in 4J and 4R will need to purchase a subscription to The School Magazine. The School Magazine is published by the NSW Department of Education, and contains a mix of short stories, poems, plays, Indigenous tales, fables and non-fiction articles. The cost of the subscription is $12 for the year. Students will receive a new magazine every month. Please return this payment to school as soon as possible.

Maths
Stage 2 Maths lessons will be organised into ability-based Maths groups. Maths groups will run everyday for 1 hour after lunch.

Behind the News (BTN)
The students in 4J will be watching BTN every week to prepare for Year 5 the following year. BTN is an ABC current affairs program aimed at young students. 4J will be involved in watching, discussing and debating topics brought up in the program. There will be no written work or homework involved.

Water Bottles
Students are allowed to bring water bottles into the classroom. Their drink bottles should only contain water. No other drinks will be allowed in the classroom.
**Library**
All students in the class will participate in library activities on a weekly basis. 4J will be in the library on Thursday mornings at 10:20am for one hour. Students are encouraged to use the library to borrow books which may be read in class during independent reading sessions or in their spare time.

**Scripture**
Scripture will be held on Tuesdays from 1:10pm and will run for half an hour. If you wish for your child to opt out of scripture lessons, simply write a note or come and see me. Students not participating in scripture will have extra Maths work.

**Computers**
The students in 4J will be participating in computer activities for at least 1 hour per week. The scheduled time for this is Tuesday at 9:20am. The class is run for 1 hour and will be taught by Mrs Carr.

**Assembly**
Stage 2 Assembly will be held on Thursdays at 1:10pm. The assembly will take place in the school hall.

**Sport**
All students in 4J are expected to participate in sport. Sport will run for approximately 1 hour per week for the entire year. Sport will be held every Friday starting from Week 4. Students are expected to bring the correct clothing and equipment, such as sport shoes, to participate in their chosen activities.

**PD.H.PE**
All Stage 2 students will participate in PD.H.PE activities every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:10am to 9:30am. Students in 4J will also participate in physical and theoretical skills from the PD.H.PE curriculum on Wednesday afternoons.

**School Photos**
School photos will take place early in Term 2.

**Contacting Me**
At the beginning of the year I provide parents with my mobile number. This allows me to keep in touch with all the parents regarding any news about our classroom, as well as good and bad news about students. This also allows for you to contact me when you need, or to send me reminders. If you would rather see me in person, I usually arrive at school at about 8:00am each day and leave at approximately 4:00pm. I have also provided my email address if you would prefer to contact me via email.

I am always available to discuss any issues you may have, please do not hesitate to contact me to organise an appointment.

Regards,

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Class Teacher
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