

2 February, 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2015!

We hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and enjoyable holiday. Our new look Grade 1/2 team is very excited to be back and we are looking forward to working together to provide the best learning opportunities for your child. It was great to see the smiling faces of students; keen and eager to start their new year. Thank you for supporting our assessment days, this has given us a really smooth start to the year and we will be able to set learning goals very quickly.

The children will be participating in our '**Quality Beginning**' program for the first two weeks. This involves participating in a variety of activities with a focus on having a great start to our new year. Students will get to know their peers and teachers during this time. This is also a time where students learn the routines and expectations of our class. As part of this program, this year, we are introducing the concept of **Positive Mindset** – that is having a can do or have a go attitude.

This year, we will use a 'Diary' system. Each Monday, a new note will be added to your child's diary. This note will keep you informed with upcoming events, teacher communication notes and learning focuses throughout the week. It also has a 'How you can help at home this week' section to help support your child's learning. Parents are also asked to record home reading in this note and the spelling words your child will be working with during the week will be added. It would be great if your child's diary can be at school every day.

Our **home reading** has started! It is important to get back into the 'swing' of things as soon as possible; as often children have not read during the holidays and their reading needs a little attention to get them back on track. It is important for your child to practise reading as frequently as they can. We thank you, for the support you give in this area, as we know how busy life can be at the end of each day.

Students will also get spelling words to practise, but this will not start until Week Three.

To encourage your child to read we have developed a reward system including:

100 nights of reading = milo with teacher

150 nights of reading = small prize

200 nights of reading = milkshake with the teacher

Individual awards for children who read past 200 nights

Please note: Children are rewarded for the number of nights/days they read, not the number of books they have read.

We welcome parent helpers to our classrooms; however we ask that you are patient with us, whilst we settle into the new year. We find it works better for all, if we **do not start our parent helpers for the first couple of weeks**. If you are interested in helping in the classroom, please write a note in your child's diary. We look forward to working with you! Please do not feel guilty if you are unable to assist in the classroom, we understand that many people work or have other commitments.

We have a fruit break at 10 o'clock, so it would be wonderful if you could pack a piece of fruit for your child to enjoy, cut up if possible. Children are also encouraged to have a water bottle in class.

We look forward to working as a T.E.A.M (Together Everyone Achieves More)!

Kind Regards,

Cathy, Katie, Anita and Emma