Friday, 17 February 2017

Dear College Families,

Welcome to a brand new year! We hope that you had a safe and restful Christmas holiday. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead with Mrs Shaw teaching Stage 1 Turtle, Miss Skinner teaching Stage 1 Koala, Mrs Elton teaching Stage 1 Frog, Miss Kay teaching Stage 1 Perch and Mrs Jacobs teaching Stage 1 Coral. We are blessed to have specialist teachers who will also teach your child this year – Mr Christie for Music, Miss Huang for Mandarin, Mrs Goudie teaching RFF for Stage 1 Coral, and Mrs McGrath teaching Science, Health and Drama and Mrs Bates teaching Health and Drama.

This year, our theme is sustainability. Our classes are named after different species that are endangered due to human influence. The animals chosen for Stage 1 are different animals from 5 different categories that are currently endangered. Students will be encouraged to look out for and care for all of God's creation.

Communication

The College uses email as the primary form of communication. Class communication notes will be found each fortnight in Directions, the College newsletter, that is emailed to your nominated email address. It can also be found on the College website. Please ensure that the College has the correct email address so you receive these regular updates. If you need to contact your child’s teacher urgently, please call the office, as teachers tend to be very busy during school hours and may not have a chance to check emails until the end of the day.

School Books

Over the next few weeks we will send uncovered books home in packs on Friday afternoons. Please cover them in the provided Norwest covers remembering to write your child’s name and subject before covering with clear adhesive or plastic. Books are to be returned to school on the following Monday, regardless of whether they are covered or not. Students may cover their Homework book with their choice of cover. All books are to be covered by the end of Week 5. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Home Reading

The College’s Home Reading program will commence on Monday, Week 4. Each student will receive a pack with three books to be read over three nights. Home Readers are changed on Mondays and Thursdays. Once your child has read their books, please sign the recording sheet and return the books to school. Parent helpers are required to change the Home Readers on Monday and Thursday mornings. For some of our Stage 1 students, there may be a move away from the set Home Reading program and students will use a reading log to record the books that they have read each night.
**Homework**

Homework is a part of student learning that is introduced in Stage 1. Homework will be issued each Friday and is to be returned the following Thursday. Students will have one book for homework and this book will contain Spelling, Literacy, and Maths homework. Homework will start from Week 3, Friday, 17 February and is to be returned Thursday, 23 February. Homework is completed on a voluntary basis in Year 1 and is compulsory for students in Year 2.

Please check that your child has completed all homework and initial the recording sheet each week. If your child is struggling with the set homework, please encourage them to bring in their book so that their teacher can assist them before the homework is due. If you have any questions, please contact your child's class teacher. For Year 2 students, should there be a reason for the non-completion of homework, please write a short note/email and an extension will be permitted.

According to the College's Homework Policy, Year 1 students are required to complete 10 minutes of reading each school day. Year 2 students are required to complete 10 minutes of homework and 10 minutes of reading each school day.

**Absentee/late notes**

If your child is absent for any reason, it is a legal requirement that parents provide an explanation. You may respond to the SMS notification or send a written note or email. All students arriving late to school must be signed in by a parent/guardian at the office. If students are leaving early, they must be signed out at the office by a parent/guardian. It is helpful for you to notify us of any changes to the routine with a written note/email also.

**Class Dojo**

We will be using Class Dojo in Stage 1 as part of our classroom management system. Students will receive positive points throughout each school day, which will accumulate over the term. They will receive rewards as they reach certain levels of points. These points will go towards the award of merits in the Norwest Challenge.

**Library**

Students will need to bring their library bag and any books needing to be returned from the previous week's borrowing. Students are encouraged to borrow new books every week.

**Premier's Reading Challenge**

You will soon be receiving more information about the Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC). The PRC is included in the Norwest Challenge, and we strongly encourage all students to participate. We will inform students throughout the year when we read texts at school that are on the PRC list. More information will come regarding the Norwest Challenge shortly as well.

**Crunch N Sip**

Students need to bring fruit/vegetables and water daily for Crunch N Sip time. Please ensure that it is in a labelled container and only fresh fruit or vegetables are to be eaten at this time.

**Parent Participation**

The College highly values the times and talents of our parents. If you are interested in helping in Stage 1, there are a number of different events through the year and occasions where jobs can be completed both at home and at school. Please let us know if you are interested in helping out in any way. Please note that in order to help on campus, you will need to have completed the Volunteer Induction Seminar and have a current Working With Children Check number. Contact the office for further details. Specific help is requested for Reading Groups (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) for all Stage 1 classes.
What's on in Stage 1 each week:

Monday  Assembly/Chapel (on alternating weeks) – After lunch, students will attend either Assembly or Chapel. If your child is receiving an award at Assembly, you will be notified the Friday before. Our classes will also do Assembly items at various times during the year. Home Readers swapped.

Tuesday  Library – Stage 1 Coral, Stage 1 Perch, Stage 1 Turtle

Wednesday  Sport – Students are to wear their sports uniform and must have their sports hat

Thursday  Home Readers swapped

Friday  PE – Students are to wear their sports uniform and must have their sports hat

Library – Stage 1 Frog, Stage 1 Koala

What are we learning this term?

Geography  People, places and the Environment

Science and Technology  Push and Pull

English  Writing Persuasively

Questions

Please feel free to contact us with questions and use email at any stage to set up an appointment.

Please remember to label all of your child's items and belongings. Labelling assists us in returning lost items and can save you money!

We are looking forward to this special and significant year, and pray for the Lord's guidance and blessing as we work together throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

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