Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2015 and for your child, the start of Kindergarten. This is the first note for 2015 in what will be an exciting school year. I would like to begin by saying how much I am looking forward to working with your child this year. We will be busy establishing routines and learning habits that will enable each child in the class to work and learn in a safe and supportive environment.

Home Reading
In the next few weeks we will begin sending readers home. Each student received a reader folder in their book pack to store their readers and reading log. Children will change readers every day. If students have a book at home or borrowed from the library that they wish to read they can be entered into the home reading booklets as well. Home reading is an essential part of a student’s learning. It consolidates what has been taught in class and helps develop fluency and confidence in young readers. To develop their independence, students will be tasked with changing their readers daily and putting them in their bags. Please encourage them to do so.

Home Learning
We will begin sending home learning activities home in week 5. Home learning will consist mainly of activities based on children’s interests and family involvement. This may include helping to cook dinner, playing a board game, sharing a story with a family
member etc. Home learning will be sent home each Monday and should be returned each Friday.

Library
The children will attend library lessons each Wednesday and should bring library bags for borrowing on this day.

Book Packs
Thankyou to all those who have purchased the book packs. These have been allocated to your child and as part of the increased level of responsibility being placed upon the children, they are responsible for the whereabouts of their equipment.

Parent Information Session
Parent information evenings have been arranged for Wednesday 18th February. My session has been planned for 3:45pm in our classroom. During this session I will model a reading and writing lesson and also talk about maths content and strategies to be covered this term. During the session I will also explain any routines, rules and expectations that you need to be aware of. I look forward to seeing you there.

Crunch and Sip Break: We have an eating break each morning. This is an important part of our routines considering that the children work each morning for two hours without interruption. I would ask that children have an easy to eat fruit/vegetable option for this break. Things such as cut up apple, banana, grapes or cut up melon are great options as we only dedicate a short period of time to this break. Please encourage your children to try a variety of fruits and vegetables during these breaks.
Art smock
Can you please send in an art smock with your child in the coming weeks as we will be using them frequently throughout the term. An old shirt is suitable if you do not wish to purchase an art smock.

Anaphylaxis
We have several students who are identified as Anaphylactic (that is: they could die or at the very least become extremely ill from touching, tasting or swallowing certain foods).

At school we do not allow students to share their lunch and recess food and ask that you please discourage your child from sharing their food and that you encourage your child to wash their hands after eating as part of their eating routine. We will continue to prompt students to do so and your encouragement will aid us in this endeavour.

If you intend to bring in a treat for your child’s birthday could you please provide a list of the ingredients to prevent any dangerous situations occurring for other students.

Parent Helpers
If anyone would like to volunteer to help in the classroom during the year can you please let me know a time and day that would suit you so I can organise a roster. Any help is always welcome, however, having too many adults in a classroom can sometimes be confronting for some of our younger students. If there are any parents that would be willing to give up their time to cover some books that would be very much appreciated as well.
I look forward to a busy year, one filled with learning opportunities and challenges. As always I extend the offer to contact me at any time to organise a meeting should you have any questions or concerns you wish to discuss regarding any aspect of your child’s schooling.

Thank you

Adena Reeves

Classroom teacher