WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL
Welcome back everyone to the 2017 school year! It has been great to see happy faces and enthusiastic students settling into their new classrooms. This term is all about creating a safe and happy environment for our students, developing relationships and beginning an exciting learning journey together. This year we are lucky enough to have added an extra 1/2 class making our class sizes much smaller. We are excited to introduce a couple of new members to the 1/2 Team. Anne Donoghue has come from year 5/6 to work as the Team Leader and we welcome Ms Lauren Curwood who has come to us from Park Orchards Primary School. Please say hi and make her feel welcome. Ashleigh Franklin, Dylan Sendeckyj and Dee Chadwick complete the rest of the 1/2 team.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL
Classes are open for students to hang up their bags and get themselves ready for the day at 8:45am. This time is really important as it allows your child to prepare themself for the day ahead. Instruction time begins at 9:00am and a reminder also that if your child arrives at school after 9.10am you will need to sign them in at the office so they can be included on the Compass attendance system.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU INTERVIEWS
These interviews will be held on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st February. A parent questionnaire will be sent home shortly to help the teacher gain a better understanding of your child. Please return these forms as quickly as possible as online booking will be available soon. Please keep a look out for this in the newsletter.

INFORMATION NIGHT
This year our Junior School Information Night will be held on Wednesday, 15th February from 6:30 – 7:30pm. We will be meeting in Rooms 11 and 12 to discuss the Level 1 and 2 curriculum, expectations and organisation. The teachers will be available to answer any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you there!
COMMUNICATION POUCHES AND TAKE HOME BOOKS

Each student has their own plastic pouch which we refer to as their communication folder. These pouches will contain the Reading Diary, a Spelling Homework book, take home books and any notices. Spelling words will be given fortnightly on Mondays and tested the following Monday. Please help your child to focus on both the reading and spelling of the Oxford Words in the alternate weeks. You will receive a laminated sheet of Oxford words to be kept in the communication pouch.

READING

Students are encouraged to read every day at home for at least 10 minutes. The more they read, the better readers they become so it is really important that parents are able to put aside 10 minutes each night to listen to their child read or read to them. After reading please fill out the diary by writing the title of the book and a short comment. Teachers will check the diaries on a regular basis.

Students have been given a book box for their ‘Good-Fit’ books which is kept at school for the year. They are allowed to bring books, magazines or comics from home to keep in their book box and read at different times during the day. Their book boxes will also contain books from the library and reading tubs.

BANKING

School banking has already started on Tuesdays, so don’t forget to send your child’s bank book along.

DISCOVERY LEARNING

To assist with a smooth transition from Prep to Year 1 and Year 1 to Year 2 we will be continuing with Discovery Learning. These sessions are an excellent opportunity for our students to develop their independence and take ownership of their learning. Discovery learning ensures learners’ brains are engaged at all times. Students may be manipulating pieces on a game board, working with others to make a decision, or gathering seemingly disconnected pieces of information to solve a problem — but they’re actually learning! Discovery learning simply accelerates the educational process and results in higher levels of retention than more traditional learning approaches. The teachers support and extend student learning through challenging investigations. It is wonderful to see the students putting their imagination and problem solving skills into action. Be prepared for some interesting creations coming home this term!

HATS

Terms 1 and 4 are sunsmart terms. All students must wear school uniform, including their sunsmart hats (legionnaires or brimmed – named). Students should leave their hats at school to avoid forgetting them.
**SUNSCREEN**
Sunscreen is welcome on sunny days throughout terms 1 and 4. Students are required to apply their own sunscreen.

**CANTEEN**
The canteen is open for lunch orders every day except Wednesdays with over counter sales available at recess and lunch time each day.

**WATER BOTTLES & FRUIT/VEGIES**
We encourage all students to have a fresh bottle of water on their table everyday and bring a piece of fruit or vegetables.

**FOOD ALLERGIES**
Please advise your class teacher if your child has food allergies or if there are foods you would prefer they did not eat. A number of students in the Junior School are anaphylactic. Parents are requested not to include any nut or egg products in lunches to avoid potentially fatal reactions. Please remind your child to NOT to share food or buy food for each other from the canteen.

**TISSUES**
To assist with sniffles and runny noses it would be greatly appreciated if parents could send along two boxes of tissues.

**JUNIOR SCHOOL SWIMMING PROGRAM**
The Junior School students participate in a swimming program at Aquahub (Croydon Leisure Centre). Dates and session times are:

- Monday 6th March – Friday 10th March
  - 1/2C and 1/2L & Year 1 students from 1/2D – 10:30 – 11:20am
  - 1/2F and 1/2S & Year 2 students from 1/2D – 11:30 - 12:20pm

During the week of swimming, we would like students to arrive at school with their bathers under their school clothes and thongs/slip on shoes and underwear in their swimming bags. Before we leave for the pool students will change into their thongs and leave school shoes and socks at school. We have found this works well. Lessons will run for 45 minutes. As students are often very hungry after swimming please could you add more healthy snacks and lunch to sustain them. A roster will be displayed on the classroom window asking for volunteers to accompany us on the bus. If you would prefer to meet us at the pool extra help is always appreciated.
IMPORTANT DATES

February

Information Night
6:30 - 7:30 pm
Wednesday 15th February

Getting To Know You Interviews
Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st February

Japanese Day
Tuesday 28th February

March

Swimming Week – Croydon Leisure Centre
Monday 6th March to Friday 10th March

Labour Day
Monday 13th March

Term 1 ends
Friday 31st March

April

Term 2 begins
Tuesday 18th April

We look forward to sharing lots of exciting learning experiences with your child this year.