Welcome back to school! What a wonderful start to the school year with everyone settling in to their new classes. This term we will be focussing on ‘classroom communities’, developing classroom routines, expectations and establishing positive work habits.

Arrival at School
Please remember that school begins at 9:00 am. It can be distressing for students who arrive late and feel that they have missed out on instructions and introductory activities. Our classroom doors are open before 9:00 for students to settle in for the day!

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.

Information Night
This year our Junior School Information Night will be held on Monday 15th February. We will be meeting in Room 13/14 (1/2C and F) at 8pm for a discussion covering the Level 1 and 2 curriculum, expectations and organisation. We look forward to seeing you there.

Getting to Know You Interviews
These interviews will be held on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd February. A parent questionnaire will be sent home shortly. Please return these forms as quickly as possible. Online booking will be available soon. Please keep a look out for this in the newsletter.

Banking
School banking will start back on Tuesday, 9th February.

Canteen
Please remember that the canteen is open for lunch orders every day except Wednesdays.

Hats
Hats are compulsory in Terms 1 and 4. Students are permitted to leave their hats at school to avoid forgetting them.
DISCOVERY LEARNING

This year we have included in our program two mornings of Discovery Learning, which will take place on Wednesday and Thursday each week. The learning intentions for each of the activities will be designed to challenge and extend the Year 1 and 2 students and at the same time cater to their individual interests. During these sessions the teacher will employ strategies such as guiding, facilitating and scaffolding to support the students in their learning. The students’ interests are used as the motivation for learning experiences. We like to promote creativity, imagination and scope for the students to invent and explore. We offer a variety of activities which are chosen to develop skills such as fine motor control, hand and eye coordination, literacy and numeracy concepts as well as important social and communication skills such as sharing, taking turns, problem solving, etc.

We like to keep the same activities on the table for two weeks to ensure that all students have the opportunity to have a go at each one and revisit them to build up their competency and confidence.

CLASS REPS

Thank you to those who have already volunteered to be Class Reps. If you are interested in being a Class Rep please notify your child’s class teacher as soon as possible. (This can be a shared role).

SUNSCREEN

Sunscreen is a great idea on hot days but it is necessary for the students to apply their own.

WATER BOTTLES & FRUIT

We encourage all students to have a fresh bottle of water on their table everyday and a piece of fruit to eat at an allocated time during the day.
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. We ask that students do not share food or buy food for each other from the canteen for this reason.

COMMUNICATION POUCHES AND TAKE HOME BOOKS

This year we have decided to do away with the reader folders. Instead students will use their communication pouches. The pouches will contain the Reading Diary, a Spelling Homework book, take home books and any notices. Spelling words will be given fortnightly on Mondays beginning Monday 15th February and tested the following Monday. We ask that you 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.

PERFORMING ARTS

YEAR 1/2

PERFORMANCES

During Semester One in Performing Arts the focus is on Drama/Acting. The students will create a film titled ‘It’s Story Time’ and each class will re-enact a picture storybook written by Australian author Mem Fox. The short films will be premiered at Reading Cinemas, Chirnside Park on the big screen during an evening in the week of May 2nd 2016 (the exact night is still to be confirmed by Reading Cinemas). The students have already selected their books, and the casting and improvising of the script will commence next week. This media production ties in strongly with our Café Reading program as it highlights the work of one particular author.

Jacinta O’Leary

Performing Arts Specialist

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 7th March – Friday 11th March
1/2P and 1/2S – 9.30-10.20am
1/2C and 1/2F – 10.30-11.20am

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 consider adding 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.

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

IMPORTANT DATES
February
Information Night – 8pm
Monday 15th February
Photo Day
Tuesday 16th February
Getting To Know You Interviews
Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd February
March
Swimming Week – Croydon Leisure Centre
Monday 7th March to Friday 11th March
Labour Day
Monday 14th March
Term 1 ends
Thursday 24th March
Good Friday
25th March
April
Term 2 begins
Monday 11th April