31 January 2017

Dear Parents / Guardians,
Welcome back to school for 2017. We hope that you and your families enjoyed the Christmas break and that everyone is looking forward to an exciting year of learning and new experiences. The focus for 2017 is based on discovering the ‘Learning Pit’ and building strategies to work through challenging problems.

The information below covers an overview for all primary classes.

**Communication Diary & Reading Log**
Students in K to 4 are required to have their Communication Diary at school each day. The diary will be sent home each fortnight on a Monday. Please write any comments you would like to inform the teacher about through the diary if required, or send the teacher an email. Students in Stage 3 will use the App4 Students diary on their iPads.

It is imperative that all students continue to read each night to consolidate and improve their reading skills. Students in K to 2 will use a home reading log to track their nights of reading. Students in Stage 2 will use their Communication Diary to track their reading nights and Stage 3 will email their class teacher/s once they reach 25 nights.

**Parent helpers** are invited into the classroom. Literacy will take place between 9:05am to 11:05am and Numeracy between 11:45am to 12:45pm for all classes. Numeracy on Friday will be 12:45pm to 1:45pm. If you would like to be involved in the classroom, a letter will be sent home early Term 1 to indicate your availability. Your support is greatly appreciated by all teaching staff and your children.

**Sports Uniform & Library Days**

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<th>Sports Uniform</th>
<th>Library</th>
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<tr>
<td>ES1C 1 Cootamundra</td>
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<td>ES1M 1 Mudyi</td>
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<td>1D 1 Dharramalin</td>
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<td>2GH 2 Girragirra Heart</td>
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<td>2W 2 Wandiyali</td>
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<td>3B 3 Bindari</td>
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<td>3M 3 Maliyan</td>
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**Homework**
Homework will begin in week 3 of Term 1 and run through to week 8 of Term 4. Each week, the students are asked to complete Maths Mentals and daily reading. Guidelines for the Maths Mentals are inside the cover of each book. If your child is experiencing difficulties with the Maths Mentals, please circle the question and the class teacher will clarify these each Friday.

The students will again be offered special homework projects during each term. These homework tasks will be acknowledged and celebrated in the school community. Below is an outline of the programs:

- Term 1 – Contextual spelling and reviewing NAPLAN style questioning
- Term 2 – Public Speaking and Talking Topics
- Term 3 – Integrated Matrix (Students select project based activities from a grid)
- Term 4 – Times Tables Challenge

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Information Evenings
There will be two information evenings through the year for all parents from K to 6. These two sessions will focus specifically on Literacy and Numeracy. These sessions will only run if sufficient interest is shown by parents. More information will be sent home closer to the date. Parents will need to register using PTO.
- Literacy – Monday 27 February 6pm to 7pm (Dr Kaye Lowe)
- Numeracy – Tuesday 21 March 6pm to 7pm (Leonie Anstey)

Parent, Teacher and Student Goal Setting Conferences
The primary interviews and conferences will be held in Term 1 and Term 2. The students will also continue to set goals and these will be sent home through the year.
- Term 1 – Tuesday 7 March 3:30pm to 6pm & Thursday 9 March 3:30pm to 4:30pm
- Term 3 – Tuesday 25 July 3:30pm to 6pm & Thursday 27 July 3:30pm to 4:30pm

All conferences will need to be booked using the PTO (Parent Teacher Online) system. Information regarding your login details will be sent home prior the interviews.

Important Primary Curriculum Dates
- Writing Publication Celebrations – 17 March & 9 June
- NAPLAN - 9 to 11 May
- Science Fair – 10 August
- Book Week / Parade – 25 to 28 July
- Wrap and Read Celebration – 1 September

Please continue to check the school calendar for regular updates, as extenuating circumstances unfortunately necessitate some changes throughout the year. If you have any questions regarding the primary curriculum/events or would like to provide any feedback, please do not hesitate to make contact.

Kind regards,

Mr Brad Winsor
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Mrs Janet Cartwright
Principal
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