Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to you all. I hope you enjoyed the lovely warm weather during the holidays. This is an opportune time to remind you that I have an ‘Open Door Policy’. It’s great to have chats informally, but if you would like my undivided attention please make a mutually suitable time. Here is a description of programs for this term.

ENGLISH

We will continue our weekly spelling test. Our focus in Written Language lessons will be to consolidate our earlier topics of persuasive text (putting forward a strong point of view), recounts and narratives. This term we will focus more specifically on an analysis of text (developing reading strategies, questioning and comprehension).

Oral Language: This is a continuing focus throughout the term. Poetry, songs and Show and Tell are an integral part of oral language. It is also given special attention during ‘No Pen Days’.

Close Reading: These are weekly lessons where we join with Room 24 students and work on the Interactive Whiteboard to analyse aspects of texts such as: identifying unfamiliar words and improving fluency.

Guided Reading: The students are exposed to a variety of texts. They work in small groups according to their reading ability.

Grammar: Our work this term will focus on various aspects such as verbs, proper nouns and conjunctions.

Handwriting: Each week we have a letter and number focus. We use the Interactive Whiteboard to help the children practise correct letter formation. We also discuss posture, placement of book and pencil grip.

MATHEMATICS

Components of the Number, Measurement and Geometry Strands will be our focus for the next couple of months. The children will use a variety of resources to carry out investigations in measuring area; analyse the effect of one-step slides and flips; and work on fractions, such as half, quarter and eighths. They will also undertake tasks relating to time, e.g. quarter past and quarter to.

SCIENCE

This term our work is based on the Primary Connections program entitled “Push, Pull”. It is part of the Physical Sciences module that involves undertaking experiments in force and impact, exploring human movement and recording observations. It would be much appreciated if you could help your child with the homework component.

STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths

STEM learning in term 2 will see students focus on reducing the effects of plastic in our environment. The children will do an audit on class and school litter, then work in groups to identify ways of minimizing rubbish at a local level.

TECHNOLOGIES

This term our focus will be on the Design component of this subject. The students will design, make and appraise a playground. The unit of work will culminate in self evaluation as well as peer and teacher assessment.
**HA**SS
History will be our HASS subject this term. We will focus on various elements such as toys, schools and clothing. We will make comparisons with the past, the present and predict designs for the future.

**VISUAL ARTS**
This term we will have a focus of indigenous art, Reconciliation Week and dinosaurs. The students will be involved with Dreaming Stories and make artworks about prehistoric creatures.

**Health and Wellbeing Program with Ms Stephanie Ryan (every Wednesday)**
In Term 2 students will be continuing their focus on keeping healthy, safe and active. In Health students will examine the benefits of physical activity and physical fitness to health and wellbeing. Students will learn about nutrition, the human body, naming body parts, describing their functions and the five senses. The Child Protection Curriculum focus for this term will be on Rights & Responsibilities, Identity and Power in Relationships.

In Physical Education students will examine the benefits of physical activity by participating in fitness challenges. Students will adopt inclusive practices when participating in physical activities and will practise fundamental movement skills and concepts in different movement situations.

Some students have been coming to PE lessons without appropriate footwear and drink bottles which has prevented them from participating properly. Your child’s PE lesson is on a **Wednesday** so please make sure your child wears sports shoes on this day.

**Music and Drama with Ms Georgia Yates (every Tuesday)**
This term in music students will read, write and compose rhythms using ta, titi, za and ta-a. They will continue showing simple pitch using hand-signs and demonstrate how to show this on a stave. Students will learn about meter (how many beats) and dynamics (volume) and learn the musical names to describe it. In drama this term students will explore the characters and storylines in picture books. They will participate in activities using their voice, body language and facial expression and will learn about establishing a clear setting for their drama to take place. In dance they will experiment with force, dynamics and movement qualities to create a dance that shows an environment.

**AUSLAN with Ms Christine Krohn**
During this term the Yr 2 students will be reviewing and expanding their Auslan vocabulary through sign activities, songs, video, the use of IT equipment, and written projects. We will cover a “Food” topic exploring foods found in a healthy lunch box. Basic o’clock time will also be covered through sharing daily eating routines.

**OTHER INFORMATION**
- Thank you for contacting the office when your child is absent. A text message will be sent to you on the day, if you have not notified the school by 10.00am.
- Donations of empty 2 litre ice cream containers that we use for storage at school, would be appreciated.
- Students are required to wear their hats at recess and lunch times throughout the year. Please ensure your child also has a named, school jumper or jacket in readiness for the colder months.

**HOMEWORK**
I know that as parents, there are many demands made on your time, but setting aside a couple of 10 or 15 minute time slots daily for reading and spelling practise, is a great way to improve your child’s literacy. Where possible, a quiet time in the morning and another time in the afternoon is ideal for consolidation.

**FRESH FRUIT FRIDAYS**
As adults we are all aware of the benefits of fresh fruit and vegetables. I would like the students to also become increasingly aware of this. To this end we will begin a “Fresh Fruit Friday” program, where I ask for your support in providing your child with a piece of fresh fruit for recess (and/or lunch) - especially on Fridays. I will use a digital sticker system as a motivational tool to encourage student involvement. This project will begin in Week 3 (Friday 17th May). Thank you for your anticipated support.

**PALS (Partners At Learning)**
This term our children will begin making cross age friendships. The older students will help Room 23 pupils with reading and later in the term this tutoring will have a special focus when we undertake tasks together for Reconciliation Week.

**School Code of conduct for students**
- Follow instructions given by staff
- Work and play safely
- Care for property
- Share and include others

I look forward to another productive term with the students.

*Kind regards,*

*Sue Pasalidis*