Dear Year 2 Parents / Caregivers

Welcome back to the 2014 school year. Year 2 have been very busy and the new classes are settled and working well. Following are some of the learning experiences for this term:

**English**

In Semester One, we will be using the new English syllabus to guide us in an integrated unit of work (English, HSIE & science) focusing on a country study: cultures and celebrations and how the continuity and change of culture affects different families.

**Writing**

The focus for this term is recount, narrative and descriptive writing with some revision of other text types. Attached to this note you will find examples and rubrics for recounts, narratives and descriptions.

**Spelling**

In Year 2 we will continue teaching spelling within the context of meaningful written language experiences. We will be explicitly teaching students about the phonological, visual, morphemic and etymological aspects of spelling, relevant to individual developmental stages. In line with this, children will be learning to spell words based on the four spelling knowledges. In line with the new ‘no homework’ policy, children will not have to learn their spelling words for homework. However, any home practice would be beneficial and the weekly spelling lists will be emailed to the children.

**Grammar and Reading**

Will be taught within the context of shared and guided reading and writing.

- **Shared reading** – daily reading of various texts for enjoyment and cross-curricular learning.
- **Guided reading** – reading groups catering for the specific needs of individual children.
- **Independent reading** – home reading continues where children borrow levelled books that are at least 2 levels below the level they are reading in their guided reading groups. Some children are now reading various texts from the library or home for their home reading. These books will count towards the ‘Berowra Book Busters’ challenge and points will be awarded. Home reading and the ‘BBB’ challenge will begin shortly.

**Handwriting**

NSW Foundation font - taught within the context of all writing lessons along with two formal handwriting lessons per week.

**Talking and Listening — Talking to Learn** program – children are encouraged to give an oral ‘text’ based on learning that is happening in the classroom, using scaffolds and prompts. Following the guidelines in the school’s new policy for technology, USB sticks can no longer be used at school. Any presentations or power points that your child may wish to present can be emailed to their class teacher as well as to the child’s own school email account.

**Homework**

The only homework children will be expected to complete is home reading and the ‘Talking to Learn’ tasks.

**Mathematics**

This term we will be focusing on consolidation, revision and assessment of concepts, processes and skills covered in Year 1. Please continue with Mathletics. Children’s ‘Mathletics’ levels will be adjusted in the near future.

**Human Society and Its Environment/ Science / COGs**

This Semester we will be starting off with world studies. 2P is studying Vietnam, 2C is studying Italy and 2R is studying Pakistan. The world studies will culminate with ‘Harmony Day’ and a festival of world cultures (more
The country study will be linked closely to English and science. We will be looking at cultures and celebrations and how the continuity and change of culture affects different families. This unit of work provides opportunities for students to explore, through multimodal stories, the reasons why certain people, events, objects, days, stories, songs and dances, are important to themselves and their families. The unit focuses on continuity and change of culture in different families, looking at the value of what is retained and why changes are made. The science component looks at how we get information from pictures and how we use pictures, sounds and language to tell a story. Students will design and make a visual program accompanied by a sound track / use text and graphics software to create a visual story / investigate how pictures can give us information / investigate how pictures can be combined to tell a story.

**Creative and Practical Arts**

- Visual art – integrated with other key learning areas, exploring different mediums.
- **Dance** – 2P - Wednesday with Mrs Lukic
- Singing / drama – in class and K-2 Assembly.

**PD/Health**

- PBeL - Positive Behaviour engaging Learning. This is a whole school system based on the reinforcement of school expectations (rules)... continuing from last year.
- Bounce Back – encouraging resilience.
- Child protection - taught by class teacher.

**Fitness/Sport**

- Fitness (focusing on building stamina, coordination, fitness and skills) – Mon, Tues and Thursdays (approximately 10-15 mins) – Year 2 will rotate within the Year 2 classes.
- Sport – Year 2 will be participating in a gymnastics program. 2P and 2R have gymnastics on Thursday, 2C on Friday. **Sports uniform is required only on the gymnastic day.**

**Homework**

- Term 1 –
  - Talking to Learn
  - Home Reading
  - Mathletics and Spellodrome are encouraged.

**Computer Technology**

- Days to be confirmed.

**Library**

- 2P – Tuesday
- 2C – Friday
- 2R – Monday

**Excursions** – At this stage no excursions have been organised.

**Please note:**

- Please ensure your child has a small amount of fruit / vegetable and a bottle of water for ‘crunch and sip’ time.
- A big thank you to all the families who have already sent in their classroom supplies.
- If there are any parents who are interested in helping with book covering and/or pencil sharpening please see your child’s teacher.

Mrs Deborah Pickering  
Year 2 Teacher

Mrs Rosemary Cacitti  
Year 2 Teacher

Miss Elky Roberts  
Year 2 Teacher
Dates for your diary

- 19th Feb – P& C Meeting
- 25th Feb – P & C Fair Mufti Day
- 3rd March – Swimming Carnival for those Year 2 children who are turning 8 this year and would like to enter (must be able to confidently swim 50m). More information to follow.
- 7th March – school disco
- 11th March – Zone swimming carnival.
- 18th March – Mufti Day
- 19th March – P & C Meeting
- 21st March – Harmony Day (wear a bit of orange with your uniform)
- 9th April – Hat Parade
- 11th April – last day of Term 1
- Please note: parent-teacher interviews will be held towards the end of Term 1 – information to follow.