Year 2 Newsletter – Term 3 – 2014

Dear Year 2 Parents / Caregivers

Welcome back to term 3. This term, also will be a very busy time as we combine our normal classroom program with lots of exciting extracurricular activities such as NAIDOC Day, book parade and trivia and swim scheme at the end of the term. So buckle yourselves in, we’re expecting a fast and furious ride!

English
In Semester Two, we will continue using the new English syllabus to guide us in an integrated unit of work (English, HSIE & science) focusing on: Kids Care and A Need For Shelter (more information in the HSIE and Science sections of this letter).

Writing
The focus for this term is information report writing with some revision of other text types. Attached to this note you will find examples and rubrics for information reports.

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 continuing ‘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, if requested.

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

Reading
**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’ (BBB) challenge and points will be awarded. This term, BBB will have an additional aspect of class competition which will begin shortly.

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

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 policy for technology, USB sticks cannot 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 continuation of the Year 2 curriculum, with adjustments made up or down as necessary. Please continue with Mathletics to support the classroom learning and ask your child to speak to their teacher if adjustments need to be made.
Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) & Science & Technology (S&T)

This Semester we are working on an integrated unit of work with a focus on *The need for shelter (HSIE)* and *Kids Care (S&T)* – through an English lens. Students will explore the audience and language features of advertisements, signs, brochures and media articles etc, concerning conservation of the local environment. They will recognise that technological activity affects people and their environments and expore texts that deal with this theme. Students will explore how people and other living things need shelter, and how built and natural environments can provide this. This unit includes an indepth look at how indigenous Australians lived in the local area, in the past and provides opportunities for students to explore how local natural environments provided for them. This unit will give students the opportunity to explore texts (multi modal) related to the environment and to create their own texts (multi modal) about conservation of the environment.

**Creative and Practical Arts**

- Visual art – integrated with other key learning areas, exploring different mediums.
- Wednesday – 2P - Thursday with Mrs Lukic.
- Singing / drama – in class, K-2 Assembly and our new ‘Year 2 music gathering’.

**PD/Health**

- PBL – Positive Behaviour for Learning. This is a whole school system based on the reinforcement of school expectations (rules).
- Bounce Back – encouraging resilience.
- Child protection - taught by class teacher.
- Aspects of the S&T unit, Kids Care focuses on safety in the home and environment, this includes safety around water (whilst attending the swim scheme) and a visit from the local fire brigade and police.

**Fitness/Sport**

- Fitness – Mon, Tues & Thursdays (approximately 10-15 mins) – Folk dancing.
- Sport – we are continuing with our games and skills program from last term, focusing on modified T-ball, soccer and hockey games.

**Computer Technology**

- 2R – Tuesday, 12:45-1:30
- 2P – Wednesday, 10:20-11:20
- 2C – Thursday, 9:20-10:20

**Library**

- 2P – Thursday
- 2C – Friday
- 2R – Wednesday
- *Please ensure your children have a library bag and encourage them to be borrowing and reading library books.*

**Excursions** – At this stage no excursions have been organised for Year 2, other than the swim scheme in weeks 9 & 10.

Please note:

- Please ensure your child has a *small amount of fruit / vegetable and a bottle of water* for ‘crunch and sip’ time, *EVERY DAY.*

Mrs Deborah Pickering  Mrs Rosemary Cacitti  Miss Elky Roberts
Year 2 Teacher     Year 2 Teacher    Year 2 Teacher
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