1 February 2017

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to 4D. I trust you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer break and are now looking forward to sharing an exciting and productive Term 1. I am looking forward to working with you and your children and feel certain that we will share many wonderful experiences and opportunities to learn and grow in the months ahead. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new students to our class, Archer Ryan and Isabella Ringrose. I am certain that they will be a wonderful addition to an already beautiful group of children.

As you are probably aware, there will be a Class Information Evening early this term to provide you with information about the year ahead. This will begin at 7pm in the Year 4 classroom next Tuesday 7th February. To assist you in the time leading up to that evening I will briefly outline some introductory information.

Books

I will send your child’s exercise books and Maths textbooks home this Friday to be covered. Please cover the textbooks in clear contact and the exercise books in either coloured or clear contact. It would be greatly appreciated if all of the books could be returned to school on the following Monday. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Supplies

Rulers, glue sticks, a white board marker, a red pen and highlighters will be provided by the school as required, but your child will need to bring the following items:

- 2 HB lead pencils
- School sport bag
- Textas (optional)
- Colouring pencils
- A library bag
- Erasers
- A pencil case
- Scissors
- A pencil sharpener (preferably with a barrel to store the shavings)

Also, the children are most welcome to bring in a standard sized cushion from home (Pillow Pets have been popular in the past). It is nice for them to have something special from home and they can use their cushions to sit on, and for their comfort during our quiet reading times (Comfy Time).

*It would be appreciated if you could clearly mark your child’s belongings to ensure that they do not get lost.*

PE and After School Sport

In Term 1 the children will be swimming during PE. Our day for PE is Friday. PE will begin in Week 1, please remind your child to wear their sport uniform on this day and to pack their swimming equipment. Also, please apply sunscreen each day before school during Term 1.

Afterschool sport continues to be held on Monday and Wednesday from 3:30-4:30. The students will swim on Mondays and if applicable, participate in their team sport training sessions on Wednesdays. They should wear their full summer uniform to school on both days but bring their sport uniform to get changed into (also swimming equipment on Mondays).

Swimming Carnival

In preparation for the Swimming Carnival, swimming heats will be held on Monday 6th February. All students should wear their sport uniform on this day and bring their swimmers in their sport bag. Also, the 100m Freestyle and 4 x 25m Medley will be held on Wednesday 8th February. Only those children who feel they are capable of swimming these events should bring their swimmers.
The Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday 17th February. Students should wear their sport uniform, including house shirt and plenty of sunblock to the Swimming Carnival.

**Term 1 Uniform 4D**
- Monday – full summer uniform (bring sport uniform and swimming equipment)
- Tuesday – full summer uniform
- Wednesday – full summer uniform (bring sport uniform if you participate in a team sport)
- Thursday – full summer uniform
- Friday – sport uniform (bring swimming equipment)

**Before School Reading**
Before School Reading will continue this year. Its success relies on parental assistance, any help would be greatly appreciated and the children love seeing their families at school too. It will begin next week, Tuesday to Thursday from 8:35-8:55. The children will also read aloud to me during their quiet reading times. Could I please ask that the children bring in a book that interests them as their Home Reading book. It would also be beneficial if the children could have a book that they leave in the classroom for our daily quiet reading sessions. This book can be sourced from our school library or they may have a book at home that they would like to use.

**Homework**
Maths and reading homework will begin next Monday. Spelling homework will begin in Week 3. Homework will generally include:
- **Oral reading.** Please listen to your child read for ten minutes every day. Books and ‘sign-off’ sheets will be sent home in a clear folder and should be returned to school each day.
- **Spelling.** This will begin on Monday 13th February and should be returned to school each Friday.
- **Maths** – This will be sent home each Monday and should be returned to school each Friday. The children should complete one unit of maths each week (2 pages)
- **Maths Problem Solving** – this is an optional activity that all students may choose to complete.
- **Instrument practice** – ten minutes each night.

Please would you not only encourage your child to complete their homework but also bring to return it to school on Fridays. We mark our Maths homework as a class, as I have found that this provides valuable opportunities for the children to discuss and share their strategies and to learn from each other. Thank you for your support in encouraging your children’s organisational skills.

**Year 3/4 Camp**
The students will be attending a camp at Lake Burrendong from Monday 27th February – Wednesday 1st March (week 5). It is certain to be a wonderful experience and a very enjoyable way for the children to begin participating in the school’s outdoor education program. I will provide you with more details at the Parent Information Evening.

**Other Information**
- Please send in a small cushion to school for your child to use during silent reading times or at other times.
- Please send in a book from home to read during silent reading times. This will need to be regularly updated.
- Please send in a USB stick (8GB or bigger) so that digital copies of some work can be sent home for you to keep and enjoy.
— Library classes will begin next Monday. Please send your child with their library bag in order to protect the books.
— PE classes will begin this Friday. Please send your child with their swimming equipment.
— Monday 6th February – Junior School swimming heats (sport uniform).
— Tuesday 7th February – Parent Information Evening – 7pm, Year 4 classroom.
— Friday 17th February – Junior School Swimming Carnival (sport uniform – house shirts).
— Friday 17th February – ‘At Home’ evening on Watson Oval to welcome new parents.
— Monday 27th February – Wednesday 1st March - Lake Burrendong Camp
— Friday 3rd March – 4D will be running the assembly.

During the Parent Information Evening I will explain these items in more detail and answer any queries that you may have. I am looking forward to seeing you and to the year ahead.

Yours sincerely
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