Welcome!

Welcome to the start of another new year. It’s great to have you all here tonight!

We have had an excellent start to the year, and I am immensely excited about getting this year underway. The students have shown me their maturity, thinking skills, fun and caring personalities, and a willingness to take learning risks. I am eager to discover more of their personalities and to see how much we can achieve this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for coming along tonight and I look forward to talking with you.

These are some organisational matters to get us going for the year...

Morning Organisation

The classroom will be opened each morning from 8:35am after staff devotions. From 8:35am – 8:50am students are given the opportunity to prepare themselves for the day. They may use this time to organise their books, review their homework, quietly read, independently study, clean out their desk trays, order lunches, hand in notices, or just chat with friends or the teacher. I really enjoy this time chatting with the students informally and building positive relationships.

This is also a good opportunity for parents/care givers to pop in and say hi, let me know about any up and coming appointments, arrange a meeting time, clarify any queries you might have, or just have a quick chat about your child’s education.

Late Arrivals/ Early departures

The school day begins when the second bell goes at 8:50am. Any students arriving after this time will be marked as late and this is recorded on the report card. If for any reason your child is late in the morning, or leaves early in the afternoon, please remind them to pop through the front office.

Canteen and Lunch Orders

The canteen will be open on Mondays and Wednesdays and continues to be operated out of the Bukatila kitchen. Lunch order bags and a canteen list can be provided in class.
Diaries

Diaries are an excellent tool for student organisation, and communication between school and home. Students are required to bring their diary each day and write in it any work to be completed, notes, or notices to go home. The homework contract will be filled into the diary by the students each Friday to encourage organisation. Students need to record what they did for their homework on the night it is completed.

I would ask that diaries be sighted during the week, and signed on Wednesday nights as homework contracts will need to be handed in on Thursdays. I thank you in anticipation of your support with this. If diaries are not signed and homework incomplete on a regular basis (e.g. two consecutively) then students may receive a consequence.

Students Goals

In the first weeks of school, each student creates three goals that they would like to achieve by the end of the term. They also write down how they will achieve these goals. The students then type these up and we will laminate them and stick them to their desk so they can be reminded of what it was they wanted to achieve in these areas. Please talk to your child about the goals they make and ask how they are progressing towards fulfilling them.

Brain Food

Each day at 10am we will have a short break for brain food. Research has shown that student’s concentration is improved in morning sessions by short breaks and healthy snacks. Acceptable brain food snacks include fresh fruit, vegetables or dried fruit. Please note that we are a nut free class.

Seating placements

Seating arrangements will be changed regularly to encourage students to socialise with children they may not normally talk to, and to build skills towards effective working relationships. Consideration is given to special needs.

Homework Expectations

Our homework format is currently under review and will become uniform over the whole school from Term 2. In Term 1 though, this is the format that we will follow. Each week a homework contract will be given out on Fri. This will generally include some spelling work, some other language work, and some review of maths work and possibly some UOI activities. On occasion there will be other activities included as well. The amount of homework given will be 20 mins worth per night (80 mins per week). This is given to students as a contract to fit around lifestyles away from school. If your family/child is busy on a certain night, they can complete the tasks on another day.

Homework contracts are to be handed up on Thursday mornings. If there has been some difficulty completing the contract, please let me know, either by note, email, or in person. If there is no note of explanation provided, unfinished homework will be completed at lunch times.
**Learning Journals**

Each Friday your child will write a reflection of what s/he has learnt over the course of the week. This will then be taken home for you to look at and talk over before you sign it and send it back to school. This affords another opportunity for you to keep in touch with what is happening in the classroom.

**Behaviour Management**

In the first week of school, the students compiled our Essential Agreements. This is an agreement by the students of the behaviours they thought lead to a happy and safe class environment. These will be displayed in the room and regularly referred to.

**Positive Rewards**

Students displaying these positive behaviours and actions are rewarded with a 'point.' The reason they were rewarded the point is recorded on a sheet which they keep in their desk. When they fill up the sheet they get a surprise!

House points are tallied based on these points.

Children may also be sent to the Principal, Deputy Principal, or another teacher as a form of recognition of good work.

Class points are given when the class behaves well as a whole. A class reward is achieved at 25 points.

**Negative behaviour**

For minor misdemeanours, a system of 4 steps is implemented. At step one the student is given a reminder of our essential agreements and the reason for the reminder is made clear. If the behaviour continues, the student may be moved to another position in the classroom, away from distraction. If the behaviour still continues, the student may need to spend some time in our partner class. Step four will result in a note being put in the diary, identifying the essential agreement/s broken and any other details. Students will identify how their behaviour can be improved, and how they will repair any relationships damaged. Parents will need to view and sign this note before sending back to school. An appropriate consequence may also be issued. For more serious incidents, e.g. ignoring teacher commands, being rude, bullying behaviour, consistent minor disruptions, etc; steps may be skipped. Students may also need to see Mr Dow and/or Mr Paterson.

**Fitness**

Our class participates in fitness activities every day (except in the case of unhelpful weather!). On non PE days, only sneakers are required. It is strongly encouraged that all children regularly participate in fitness activities. However if for any reason your child cannot take part, a note must accompany them.

**Nut Free class**

As you may be aware, we have students in both year 4 classes with severe nut allergies. Please do not send any nuts or nut products into school with your child and please do not allow your
child to eat peanut butter before coming into school. If you are making ‘treats’ for the whole class to share, come and see me if you are unsure about what ingredients to avoid.

**Specialist Subjects**

Creative Arts – Taught by Theresa Sugars (Wed)
German – Taught by Frau Schrefl (Wed)
PE – Taught by Mick Phillips (Tues)
We also have specialist Library lessons taught in conjunction with Jayne Zadow.

**Special Days**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Lunch orders (When canteen resumes operation!)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>PE (Children to wear sports uniform all day and take water bottles)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>LLL banking, Lunch orders, German, Creative Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Homework due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Chapel Service (9am in worship centre), Library borrowing</td>
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**Curriculum**

**General**
- Our planning team is the Year 4 class, and we will be working together with this class. Both Karyn and I plan and work together to ensure consistency.

**Mathematics**
- It is still important to use and practise the number facts and times tables at home regularly, and to provide children with opportunities to experience everyday mathematics through shopping, pocket money, cooking and so on.

**Language**

**Writing**
- Writing is involved in all curriculum areas, but I include explicit teaching of different genres. Students are given time to write some pieces of their own choice and will publish pieces of writing. It is important that students learn to edit their own work and I ask students to do this with a coloured pen or pencil before handing it up. Students will also have opportunities to share work in both large and small group situations.

**Handwriting**
- This year students will be encouraged to use linked script for all of their writing. The aim of link script is to develop a fast style of writing for note taking. Formal handwriting lessons will be taken. Pen licences are no longer issued.

**Spelling**
- In this year level we revise prefixes, suffixes and common words, introduce word endings, tense use, and develop a wider range of vocabulary.
- Students can choose their own words from their writing as well as our weekly spelling lists. Each student receives an individual list at their level. These lists generally start at ten words and will vary to fifteen throughout the year. List words will be learnt during spelling lessons, but still need to be learnt/revised at home. We will be learning various strategies to remember words, and editing work for spelling errors and punctuation.
Reading
- As well as whole class activities students will be vertically grouped in order to develop specific skills. Students will respond to reading by either taking part in Discussion Circles or doing a Journal entry. As well as group activities students will be doing individual activities such as author studies, individual reading and class novels.

Christian Studies and Worship
Students are expected to take part in devotions. I also encourage students to take turns in our daily prayers. As part of our response to Jesus love for us, our class will also be involved in Christian service. Through class meeting discussions we hope to make decisions to help others.

Units of Inquiry
- Term 1
  *Sharing the planet*
  Plants are an important part of ecosystems and are necessary to sustain life on this planet.
  *Who we are*
  Children worldwide face a variety of challenges and risks and there are many strategies available to help children deal with these.

- Term 2
  *How we express ourselves*
  Humans can use their creativity to change the environment in which they live to suit their needs.

- Term 3
  *How we organise ourselves*
  Marketplaces depend upon the ability to produce and exchange goods and services.
  *Where we are in place and time*
  Acquiring an understanding of our geographical neighbours develops a global perspective.

- Term 4
  *How the world works*
  Everything in our world is made up of solids, liquids or gases.

If you feel that you have any special skills or resources that may help make our units more meaningful, please let me know.

Computing
We have a set ICT lesson each week however, most skills will be integrated into our units of inquiry and other curriculum areas. All students will need a USB. We recommend that students provide their own earphones in order to listen to interactive programs.
Camp

Camp this year will be held on Monday-Wednesday of Week 5 (28 Feb- 2 March) at Aldinga Beach Campsite. You should have already received some notes to fill out and these should have been returned. If these have not yet been returned, please do this ASAP. Camp will integrate nicely with our first two units of inquiry. A note will be sent home soon where you can express your interest in helping on camp.

Swimming

Lessons will be held in Term 3 or 4.

Differentiated Curriculum

As each student works at different level, and at different speeds, it is important to cater for these needs. I will do my best to support all students to take learning risks within their reach and to encourage them to work to the best of their ability. If at any stage you or your child feels that activities are inappropriate for their abilities, please do not hesitate in letting me know. Students who are under or over stressed are not in the right frame of mind to achieve their potential!!

If you have any queries or concerns, or just wish to come and have a chat at any stage during the year, please don’t hesitate to come and see me. If you require more than a couple of minutes, or wish to speak confidentially, please make an appointment.

I look forward to seeing you and working with you throughout the year 😊
Yours in Christ,
Belinda Glynn