



23 February 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

## Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) Parent Information - Term 1 2009

Welcome to Stage 1. We are looking forward to a wonderful year working with you and your child.

### The Stage 1 teachers are:

1D	Mrs Davis	1W	Mrs West	1H	Mr Haydon	1S	Mrs Snell
1E	Mrs Turner	1N	Miss Daher	1/2T	Miss Di Chio	2A	Mrs Chawla
2H	Mrs Han	2M	Mrs Moss	2C	Miss Chan	2/3B	Miss Ballantyne

### Support teachers working with Stage 1 are:

Reading Recovery and ESL	Mrs Short	Reading Recovery and RFF	Mrs Rawle
ESL	Miss Miller and Miss Dobbins	Library	Mrs Kobeleff and Mrs Pickett
RFF	Mr Hutchinson	RFF	Mrs Ewing

At the commencement of the new school year all students K-6 complete a four-week program. The program focuses on social skills lessons, which include learning school and class rules and appropriate ways to play and learn together. The PDHPE unit - Healthy Living, Healthy Lifestyle, promotes and encourages healthy living and a healthy lifestyle. Literacy and Numeracy lessons focus on developing appropriate skills and give teachers time to assess each student so appropriate teaching/learning programs are developed. Students will also learn routines and expectations for behaviour, bookwork and news.

The following overview provides a general outline of the teaching/learning program for the remainder of Term 1. Similar content is taught across each grade and students are working towards achieving Stage 1 outcomes by the end of Year 2. Learning experiences may be presented differently and at different times throughout the year.

### ENGLISH

**Talking and Listening** - Students develop confidence using spoken language as they learn to talk and listen for different purposes. Talking enables students to clarify their ideas, explore issues, solve problems and develop understandings in all Key Learning Areas. Students will learn to engage in a range of activities that include presenting news to the class, working as part of a group or answering individual questions. Class discussions are a valuable way students learn. Students are encouraged to participate in discussions by listening and responding to others in an appropriate manner.

**Reading** - Learning to read is a complex process. For students to read well, they need to develop a range of reading strategies. Reading and writing skills are closely connected. Students develop reading skills, strategies and comprehension through modelled, guided and independent reading experiences.

As part of homework students are encouraged to read every night for at least 10 minutes. Students attend library lessons for 1/2hr per week with Mrs Kobeleff or Mrs Pickett. They will need to bring a library bag to carry the book they borrow each week.

**Writing** - Students develop handwriting, spelling, grammar and writing skills through daily lessons. A range of text types will be taught throughout the year. Students will be involved in all stages of writing from planning and drafting to editing and publishing.

### MATHEMATICS

The strands of mathematics are Number, Patterns and Algebra, Data, Measurement and Space and Geometry. The process strand, Working Mathematically is embedded into the five strands. Mathematics concepts will be taught through daily lessons. Students are encouraged to use concrete materials and to investigate the methods they use to obtain answers. Learning experiences can be whole class, small group or individual learning activities.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT**

Classes will be covering the following units this term:

1W, 1H, 1S, 1D	Build It Up/The Need for Shelter
1E, 1N, 1/2T	Energy Everywhere/Transport
2M, 2C, 2A, 2H	Sign, Sign Everywhere a Sign/Identifying Us

## **CREATIVE ARTS**

The strands of Creative Arts are Visual Arts, Music, Drama and Dance. These strands may be taught by the class teacher or RFF teacher.

## **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

In addition to completing a unit on Healthy Living and Healthy Lifestyle, students will participate in a variety of fitness and sport activities.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Homework** is given on Mondays and collected for marking (as a class or by the teacher) on Fridays. Please encourage your child to do 10-30 minutes of homework per night. This will help establish regular study patterns. Homework is based on work being studied in class and should be able to be completed with minimal supervision and help. If your child is having difficulty please encourage him/her to see the class teacher. Home Readers are sent home weekly.

**Assembly** is on Fridays 12.15-12.50pm. Your child will tell you when his/her class is running the assembly so you can come and watch.

**Birthdays** are a special time. Your child may like to bring mini donuts, cupcakes or fruit to share with the class. Please do not send large cakes, lolly bags, balloons or party poppers as these are too difficult to manage and are inappropriate at school. Balloons may also cause choking or severe allergic reactions in some students.

**Nuts** - Please do not send nut products to school with your child for recess or lunch, these include peanut butter, Nutella and fruit and nut mixes, as several students in the school have allergies to nut products.

**Class Helpers** - If you are available to help in the classroom please see your child's teacher. We welcome any help!

## **USEFUL WEBSITES**

Count Me in Too – [www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/countmein/index.htm](http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/countmein/index.htm)

Board of Studies – <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/parents/#parentsguide>

Should you have any questions or queries please make an appointment to see your child's teacher so the matter can be discussed at an appropriate time. If you have any further queries, please make an appointment to see Miss Daher (Assistant Principal – Stage 1 supervisor) or Mrs Methven (Deputy Principal). Please be reassured teachers will contact you if there are any concerns or questions about your child. For this reason and in case of an emergency, we ask that you ensure your contact information is up to date at the office.

Working in cooperation,

Jeanette Detheridge  
Principal

Kathryn Methven  
Deputy Principal

Nina Daher  
Assistant Principal - Stage 1