Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school for another hard working term. It’s wonderful to see all the children back at school and eager to learn. As always if you ever have any concerns about your child please come up and talk to us.

Please be at school on time!

It is important for your child to arrive at school by 8:50am -8:55am. This will enable your child to meet up with their peers and take part in the morning routines. If for some reason your child comes to school after the bell has rung, you MUST accompany your child to the office to obtain a late pass before bringing them to the classroom. The late slip must be handed to your teacher when the child comes into the classroom.

Some events to look out for this term

Friday 2nd May – Walkathon - all money raised will be going towards books. So ask parents, family and friends to support us in this annual fundraiser. Also, don’t forget to wear your hair in a crazy style for this day.

18th - 23rd May - Education week. The school will be hosting a myriad of activities this week so keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming events.

We will also be hosting Shona Bass From the Walker Learning Approach (which currently Prep and Grade 1 do in the mornings - we know it as investigations) to give parents and anyone else in the community an overview of how the approach works. Date to be confirmed

Common words

This term will see a big emphasis on the children learning the common words.

We have already given out sheets 1 and 2. Please practice writing and reading these words at home.

When your child has mastered these 2 lists please add their name to the list of students who need to be tested.

Once a child is able to read and write the words unaided they will be able to progress to the next level.

These most commonly used words are ranked by frequency. The first 25 make up about one-third of all printed material in English. The first 100 make up about one-half of all written material, and the first 300 make up about sixty-five percent of all written material in English.
Curriculum

In writing this term we are encouraging the children to have a go at writing their own story or sentences. We do this by asking the children to write down all the sounds they hear in the word that they are trying to write. We encourage them to have a go first, before coming up and asking for help. If your child is writing at home, please praise all of their efforts to write. Some children might only be able to write the initial sounds of words but with encouragement and support they will begin to look at other parts of the word and slowly start to piece the sounds together.

In Math's this term we'll be focusing on:
- the numbers 1-20,
- ordinal number (e.g. 1st, 2nd),
- looking at odd and even numbers,
- counting from 1-20 and beyond,
- recognizing o'clock time,
- recognizing the Australian coins,
- measuring using informal units,
- Language of position /location and
- The introduction of simple addition and subtraction

Reading –

This term we are expecting the children to be reading at least 4 times a week. Keep in mind that the children are aiming for 50 nights every term. If this is to happen the children really need to be reading most nights. Keep focusing on searching for common words and sounds of letter that they know. Ask questions about the books that you're reading together.

Homework

- Please read and discuss the take home books with your child.
- Please help your child to learn their common words (these are in the students sound book)
- Please help your child to learn and revise the letter names and sounds of the alphabet.
- Encourage correct starting points and formation when writing the letters and numbers.

When implemented with integrity and rigour, the Walker Learning Approach results in:

- Higher levels of engagement and motivation
- Higher oral language skills
- Increased writing
- Positive social skills
- Decreased behavioural problems
- Greater level of personalised learning opportunities
- Improved problem solving and creative thinking
- Increased independence and interdependence

A HUGE THANKYOU TO ALL OF OUR PARENT HELPERS WHO COME INTO THE CLASSROOM TO HELP US WITH OUR LEARNING!