Dear Mums and Dads,

Welcome to Gr 4, 5 and 6!

This year, your child will embark on an exciting educational journey involving lots of research, individual thinking, team work and fun!

We have already gelled as a whole grade and are working very well together. I am emphasising a very high standard of work presentation and general in-class behaviour. In our first week we discussed and revised two key words in our classroom - Choice and Respect. Make the right and correct choice and always show respect to others.

We will be working on different themes and focuses during the year and our first term theme will be The Lion, The Witch and Wardrobe. Many of our class lessons in most curriculum areas will be based on sections of this text.

Overview of Curriculum Areas:

English / Language:
The class will cover a number of different genres of text types looking at reading and writing conventions including text type and style, narratives, persuasive arguments, expositions, conflict and resolution, paragraphing and more. We will learn and use descriptive adjectives, nouns, verbs and other spelling conventions in our everyday word work.
Our morning sessions generally commence with a reading and then writing workshop.
A key resource in writing I will be utilising is the PM Writing series.

Mathematics:

We have started the year by revising place value and will move on to number facts and patterns, graphing, addition / subtraction, decimals, fractions, multiplication / division and more. I will be following the Nelson Maths sequential program.

Science:

In science the students will be conducting a number of experiments in which they will use prediction and conclusion techniques, reporting and summarising. I may occasionally ask for help with some basic materials from home for a few of these sessions!

Information Technology:

Our class has already designed and commenced construction of a pool safety fence and will build additional items to add to their design such as lounges, diving boards, and alfresco dining areas. These sessions will involve detailed research, planning and design. We will be using a variety of mediums to complete the tasks including computers, atlases and library resources.

General:

Some parents may be concerned about the spread of year levels in the one class however, even in a straight grade there are always varying abilities of students. We endeavour to cater for every individual student's level taking into account existing knowledge and capabilities. Mrs Hogan is taking an extension group in mathematics and assisting with a reading and spelling program with other students.
If at any stage you have any queries or concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact the office to make an appointment with me. You are also most welcome to visit the grade to have a look at what we are doing generally any time.
If you are able to assist in any area or activity, please let me know – your expertise is always welcome!

Homework:

The students will generally be given a homework sheet which will contain a variety of activities including reading, writing, mathematics and more. It will also include your child's spelling words for the following week. These words will come from spelling lists but also from the students' own writing and personal work in the classroom.

Reading at Home:

As we know, reading is a very important key skill which assists in all areas of the curriculum. It would be wonderful if your child was able to read every night but life is very busy in all families and I understand that for most of us, this is impossible! However, I would really like all my students to read at least 4 times per week, morning reading before school is fine too. Apparently there is a student myth that you don’t read on weekends as they are “holidays” Mr Simmons! Well, not true – weekends are an ideal time to catch up on reading that may have been missed during the week, even if only for 5 - 10 minutes.

Finally!

I am very lucky to have a whole grade of nice, personable students who have started the year in a fantastic fashion. I am really looking forward to teaching and guiding them through a great learning experience and I know that we will all achieve great success.

Thank you

Mr Dale Simmons
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIMETABLE</th>
<th>9.00</th>
<th>10.00</th>
<th>11.30-12.30</th>
<th>12.30-1.30</th>
<th>2.15</th>
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<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>ASSEMBLY READING WORKSHOP</td>
<td>WRITING WORKSHOP</td>
<td>11.30-12.00 (MUSIC)</td>
<td>12.00-12.45 WORD STUDY 12.45-1.30 MATHS</td>
<td>SILENT READING PROJECT INQUIRY</td>
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<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>READING WORKSHOP</td>
<td>WRITING WORKSHOP</td>
<td>MATHS (ART)</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>READING WORKSHOP</td>
<td>WRITING WORKSHOP</td>
<td>MATHS</td>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>SILENT READING BEHIND THE NEWS</td>
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<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>READING WORKSHOP</td>
<td>WRITING WORKSHOP</td>
<td>MATHS 11.30-12.15</td>
<td>12.15-12.50 WORD PLASTIC POCKET GAMES PERSONAL WORDS ACTIVITY 12.50-1.30 (JAPANESE)</td>
<td>SILENT READING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</td>
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<td>FRIDAY</td>
<td>READING WORKSHOP</td>
<td>WRITING WORKSHOP</td>
<td>MATHS</td>
<td>WORD WORK</td>
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<td>GAME OUTSIDE</td>
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