Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to our learning community. My name is Joel Sims; I am very excited and feel privileged to be teaching your child this year.

Within the classroom I am expecting children to take responsibility for their learning and give us their very best effort at all times. I believe that all children can succeed, especially when school and home are working together in a positive way.

The following information explains how our classroom is structured.

- We start the day by marking the roll, sending notes to the office, checking for lunch orders and swapping over home readers students have borrowed.

Literacy

- During this time we complete spelling, guided reading, writing, grammar, yellow reading box (comprehension activities), big books and class novel activities. This session is extremely valuable and what we consider to be the most important part of the day. It involves whole class tasks, group workstations and individual activities. Year 2 use a combination of PM and other readers in their reading groups.

Handwriting

- We continue to practice writing using the NSW foundation handwriting style. In year 2 we focus on mastering the correct formation of letters with emphasis on height and size relationships. This year we will be using the text book ‘Targeting Handwriting’ for some of our lessons.

Speaking and Listening

- News is a valuable time for students to develop their talking and listening skills. Your child will have the opportunity each week to present their news. As the term progresses we will give set topics and opportunities for interest talks. Students will also participate in our school public speaking competition.

Home reading

- Home reading is an important part of your child’s development with reading. It helps consolidate and build reading skills. Students are expected to do 10-15 minutes of home reading. This could involve them reading to you, reading to an older sibling or having a book read to them.
- Children have a home reading log which needs to be filled out and returned to school on Fridays along with their homework.
- I am happy for students to borrow books from a selection of readers we have at school, however, if your child wants to read a book or magazine from home, that's fine.

**Mathematics**

- After lunch we start our maths lessons. This will often start with our maths text book *Time for Mentals*. I will then teach a lesson covering Measurement, Space and Geometry, Data, Number and Chance. The numeracy will include whole class and small group activities.
- Our Mathematics program runs in a 5 week cycle. We do pre and post testing to influence our teaching, ensuring our programs are based on the needs of all students.

**History**

- This Term year 2 is studying the unit *The Past in the Present*.

**Geography**

- Geography this year will focus on *People and places*.

**Science**

- During term 2 we will focus on a unit called *Water Works*, followed by a unit on *Push and Pull* in term 4.

**ICT**

- The use of computers, iPads, Interactive whiteboards and other forms of technology across all subjects is encouraged. Our school uses two computer based programs to help consolidate students computer skills, these programs are *Reading Egg*’s and *Mathletics*.

**Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)**

- In PDHPE we discuss the social and emotional foundations of the ‘You Can Do It’ whole school program. These are Confidence, Persistence, Organisation, Getting Along and Resilience. We also have sport on Friday and health lessons. This year students will participate in gymnastics, daily aerobics and visit the Life Education Centre. On top of this Mr Mark Toohey will take the class for 1 hour of PE every Thursday.

**Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)**

- This year K-2 will continue to participate in fortnightly CAPA groups on Thursday afternoons. The activities include: Singing, Drama, Dance, Signing Choir and Visual Arts.
Library

- Library lessons are held every Wednesday morning with our librarian Mrs Ros Beard. They are designed to develop the children’s love of reading and quest for information.
- Children will need their green bag to borrow each week. Please encourage your child to borrow regularly. Ask about the books they bring home and take time to share the books with them.

Focus Friday

- On Fridays many of the children will be attending extra curricular activities throughout the day, the rest of the class will be working on a project to be presented to the class. All students are expected to complete the project at school where possible. The students may need to bring some materials from home to help do their task.

School Rules and behaviour management

- To ensure that a cooperative and happy learning environment is achieved, Stage 1 have developed three important focus areas for rules.
  - Learning
  - Safety
  - Respect

Stage information

- Important information about what your child is doing at school can be read in the newsletter (The Chalkboard), this will go home fortnightly usually on Monday afternoons with any other school notes. Alternatively, it can be emailed to you.

Parent helpers

- Parent assistance is greatly valued and we appreciate any time that you can give. It is often handy to have help during literacy sessions (around 9:40 – 10:30). Parents are needed to help with activities and assist students with their reading. Sometimes you may be working with your child and other times with a different group. Please remember to sign in at the office to get a volunteer’s identification tag.

Fruit break

- Fruit break takes place every morning during our literacy session. It is preferred that children have fresh fruit or vegies where possible. The children are also encouraged to have a drink bottle containing water in our room.
Lunch orders

- Children are able to order their lunch on Monday, Thursday and Friday. If your child has a lunch order please remind them to put it in the lunch order basket in the morning. Alternatively it can be delivered to the canteen before school starts.

Labels

- Please clearly label everything that your child brings to school: Jumpers, hats, lunchboxes etc. If you have lost something you may find it in the Lost Property Box in the Library.

Homework

- Homework will be given most weeks. It will be handed out on Monday and should be returned on Friday. It will consist of spelling, an Activity Grid, Mathletics and Home Reading. It should only take 15 to 20 minutes a night.

Green Bags

- Year 2 still use the green communication bags. If your child needs a new one, these can be purchased from the office for $10.

Banking

- School Banking Day is Monday.

Absentees

- We lawfully require reasoning for students having time off school. This can be done through the app, a note or via email.

Concerns

- Please don’t hesitate in coming to see me if there are any issues you would like to discuss. I am a big believer in parents and teachers working together to help the students reach their potential and I would rather us solve any problems sooner rather than later. My release time is Wednesday from 9:10 to 10:10. If you would like to book an appointment please contact the office or just catch me in the morning or the afternoon.

I look forward to working with you.

Thanks,

Joel Sims