

Monday 29 January 2018

Dear Families of TM4 Students 2018

Welcome to this new school year with your Year 3/4 child. It is wonderful that we can be on this journey of learning together. Weeks 1 and 2 are a very powerful opportunity for us building a class community intent on being ready for purposeful learning. To help us continue to grow in strength and functioning as a focused learning community, please find below some helpful management information.

### **School Diary**

- is the most consistent avenue of communication
- has information for parents
- is for all notes to teachers
- is to accompany your child at all times
- will be signed weekly by parents; partner your child in ensuring that this happens
- if initialled daily by you, it will acknowledge how much of the set learning including reading has been completed by the student
- will be checked off daily by a teacher
- If the diary is lost, misplaced, damaged or vandalised, please purchase a new school diary

### **Parent/Teacher Communication**

You are encouraged to make contact with me as the teacher regularly. Knowing what is going well for your child is appreciated and concerns can be addressed as quickly as possible. Particular learning or wellbeing issues may need to be addressed. To ensure you can have my full attention, it would be appreciated if you **make an appointment**, briefly indicating the focus of the meeting.

It is vital that you let me, as class teacher, know immediately that there has been a change in the family situation. Any change affects your child's ability to participate fully in activities at school. Knowledge of the circumstances allows me to respond pastorally to your child.

### **General Expectations**

Students will share in the responsibility for their own education.

Students will show respect, honesty and persistence towards themselves, others and property.

Students will be punctual during the school day.

Students will arrive at school with enough time to unpack the school bag thoroughly and attend to the necessary organisational activities eg. lunch orders, returning notes and money, completing the time card

Students will always have a communication folder [to be arranged or bring in the one from last year] with them at school. Please label clearly and permanently. If lost, arrange for a new one. The diary and reading material will kept within it.

Label all task sheets with full name.

Come dressed in school uniform with shoes suitable for daily fitness.

When encouraging your child to come to any teacher for further clarification of the learning at hand, it is important for your child to explain what is understood and then what is not understood.

### **Permission Forms/Notes/Money**

- The *thoroughly completed* return section is to be handed into the teacher at the beginning of the school day in the provided sealed envelope displaying on the outside of the envelope your child's name, the correct amount of money enclosed and the name of the event.
- The return section is to be cut off from the information section of the note, especially when indicated.
- Forms and money are to be returned promptly and by the due date to assist with the ongoing further administration of the activity and avoiding extra administration costs of reminders.

Only the required number of notices [and task sheets] will be photocopied. The communication folder is for the management of these materials going between home and school. PLEASE KEEP NOTICES IN A SAFE PLACE.

## **Handwriting**

- Writing will be done in South Australian modern cursive; kicks are always expected on letters as a lead into linking of letters which will be introduced and expected constantly.
- Neat writing is always expected.

## **School Uniform**

As part of our uniform policy to show school pride and create a positive school culture, students must wear the correct uniform every day. This includes:

- t-shirts and jumpers with the school logo
- plain navy blue or red t-shirts, jumpers, jackets, pants, leggings, shorts, skirts and dresses

Label ALL items of clothing clearly with your child's full name and TM4.

Check regularly that the name can still be read.

Items of clothing left around will be sent to a central area in the Pink Unit and then the office to be claimed.

The search for clothing is to be done by the parent or the student before school, at lunch/recess time or after school.

## **Bottle of Water and Ready-to-eat Unprocessed Fruit/Vegetables**

- Water and unprocessed food are encouraged in the classroom. Students will be allowed to eat/drink after thirty minutes after a break time to stimulate the brain and keep learning going.
- Please pre-cut the food if necessary and place it in a small container with a lid so there is no need for your child to clean hands afterwards.
- Check with your child how much s/he eats so that waste does not happen.
- Please keep in mind that the children can register for the Breakfast Club, which must be completed by 8:55 a.m.

## **Nutritious Food for Learning**

Please ensure that you have made an appropriate arrangement for your child to be eating only nutritious food for both during the supervised eating times at lunch-time and recess. This food is essential for your child's learning and growing and is an investment in your child's ability to respond to the educational challenges of the school environment. The pre-packed lunch from home is more likely to be nutritious!

If opting for a lunch order, ensure that it is ready to go into the lunch tray on entry into the classroom. The pre-arranged lunch order is more likely to be a healthier choice than if your child tries to buy over-the-counter at the canteen. Supervised eating of lunch in the classroom is considered to be very supportive of your child being 'learning ready' for the whole day.

## **Home Learning**

- A minimum of 20 minutes of daily reading of your child's reading material is expected. Please continue to share reading experiences with your child by listening and talking about the texts.
- There may be occasions when it is relevant that your child finishes incomplete learning tasks from the school day by the following day in the designated exercise book. This will be indicated in the diary.
- Ways of practising spelling and basic numeracy are up to students and parents.

## **Supporting Reading and Library**

- Self-selected texts may include graphic novels, Internet pages, magazines, pamphlets and information texts
- Every student is expected to read responsibly to the best of one's ability to complete the Premier's Reading Challenge by September.
- Levelled readers will be available for exchanging, three at a time, as part of the library experience on Tuesdays. If read before Tuesday, have your child read the texts again.
- Your child may also borrow three other library books on Tuesdays.
- Students will keep a record of their borrowed texts as they aim to read 1 000 pages for the term.

Please actively support your child in having suitable reading material at ALL times and ensure that your child has the current text s/he can read independently at school EVERY day. Material from home and/or the local library is encouraged, especially for the first two weeks of 2018.

## **Tissues**

Please donate a box of tissues for use in the classroom to keep our noses clean. By sending a box of tissues to school, we can spend the class budget on educational resources. Thank you in advance for your assistance. When your child brings in a box of tissues, I will write their name on the box to show we appreciate you supporting the class.

**Kind Regards, Therese Meyers**

[Therese.Meyers834@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Therese.Meyers834@schools.sa.edu.au)