24th March, 2016.

Dear Parents/Carers

What a term! It’s hard to believe that it’s already at an end.

Your children have all settled in well and are beginning to get used to the different routines and structures in Room 14. Here’s a bit of an outline of the timetable of specialist classes and some tasks you might find them working on at home.

Monday – Japanese at 12.30pm with Diana

Tuesday – PE at 9am with Bree

Wednesday – Creative Arts at 2.30pm.

Spelling

Wednesday is also the day the students have their spelling partner test. Students select one word they have misspelt, from a spelling task done earlier this term or from their writing and identify four more words that they will also be able to spell once the misspelt pattern is known. For example if someone spelled ‘about’ as a-b-o-w-t, then the pattern that they would focus on is the /ow/ spelling pattern and they might have words such as about, outside, around, outer and shout.

These are the words that they need to learn to spell over the next week. We ask that one word is worked on per night/afternoon where your child sits down with a timer and writes that one word as many times as possible in 2 minutes. While they are writing, they should be chanting the letters. To go back to the earlier example of about; it might look and sound something like... word is spoken, ‘about’ then chanted as it’s written ‘a-b-o-u-t’, ‘about a-b-o-u-t’ etc. until the two minutes is up. That is all they have to do for their spelling at home, it’s only 10 minutes per week. This is to help that particular spelling pattern become automatic and transferable to other words.

You can assist your child by finding some time to sit down and practise or reminding them to get the stopwatch out and learn their one word for the day.

Thursday – Book borrowing in the Library. Please support your child in helping to find any library books that need to be returned.

Friday – Interschool Sport – Grade 5s

Yearbook

The published Yearbook page is always due towards the end of every month and I expect students to hand in the drafts by the middle of the month. This is slowly teaching your child some time organisation skills. The dates are always written on our ‘tick off’ page and I constantly write reminders about when drafts and published pages are due on the day board. Please assist your child in setting up routines so they are able to have their work completed on time. Grade 4 students are required to complete a background and at least one task, whereas the grade five students need to complete nearly all tasks, just as they would if they were in a 5/6 classroom.
Rights and Responsibilities
We have been working on discovering who we are and what is it that helps define us. This includes aspects of family life, life experiences, (see the timeline below) how we react to situations that arise in our lives and how we can deal with those situations. A part of this is developing our classroom Rights and Responsibilities. We have a draft that we have modified a couple of times and will have a final look at it early next term, just to be sure we are happy with it all. Once it’s signed, a copy will come home for you to keep and a copy for you to sign and send back to school with your child.

Timeline
Over the holidays your child might ask you some questions about their life. We are investigating autobiographies and the students are planning by writing a timeline. Along the timeline they are including events such as when and where born, (they might ask you the actual time, their birthweight and measurements!) siblings births if they were after their own, a significant event from before school, it can be more than one and one or two major events from the time they have been at school.
These timelines will form the basis of their autobiography, so please assist your child with information and remind them to have their time line completed by the start of term 2.

Finally, have a lovely break, even if it’s a short one over Easter. Enjoy the time with your child and we look forward to seeing you in term 2. We’re always here for a catch-up if you need one.

Kind Regards,

Kim Simmons & Julie Lanyon.