

**PUPIL FREE DAY
FRIDAY, MARCH 10**

February, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back to school for 2017. We hope you had an enjoyable and restful holiday break. The Grade 2 teachers for 2017 are Mrs April Anapliotis (2AA), Ms Caitlin Clancy (2CC, Grade Leader), Mr Simon Dundas (2SD), Miss Lauren Ewen (2LE) and Miss Tamara King (2TK). Throughout this year the Grade 2 children will be involved in many interesting, exciting and educational learning experiences. We would like to congratulate all of our students on making such a positive start to the school year.

Each term you will receive a Grade 2 newsletter to keep you informed about important information and special events within the Grade 2 area and how you can help your child at home. The whole school newsletter will be sent home on **Wednesdays** on a fortnightly basis, with the eldest child in the family. Please read these newsletters carefully as they contain a lot of valuable information.

CURRICULUM

In **Literacy** the students will focus on **Reading** for understanding and extending word knowledge through daily independent reading and activities that focus on common words and different letter blends found in words. In the area of **Writing** there is a focus on handwriting skills and students drawing on their own experiences and expressing them through their written work. Students will be provided with opportunities to work both independently and in small groups during reading and writing sessions so that the teachers can target their individual learning needs.

Things that you can do at home to support the skills learned in class include:

- Listening to your child read each night.
- Discussing illustrations in story books with your child and predicting what might happen.
- Reading the high frequency words from your child's home reading diary and asking them to spell these words as well.
- Encouraging your child to talk about daily events in the order they happened, staying on the topic and providing appropriate detail.

Speaking & Listening

Last year Grade 1 students were encouraged to listen to and talk about familiar ideas and information during experiences such as Show & Tell. Throughout this year, this will be done through class discussions and group work so students will not have a set day and will not be required to bring personal items to share with the class. Students will have other opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills as they work towards Grade 3.

Numeracy

During Term 1 there will be a strong focus on **Number**. This will include counting, skip counting, number patterns, place value, problem solving, money, addition and subtraction. We will also focus on interpreting simple maps, collecting data and identifying shapes. Things that you can do at home with your child to support the skills learned in class include:

- Counting by ones, twos, fives and tens from different starting points.
- Recognising and writing numbers between 1 and 1000.
- Making and recognising number patterns.
- Discussing simple addition and subtraction number problems that relate to everyday life; e.g. if I bought 10 oranges and ate 2 how many would I have left?
- Play addition and subtraction games with the family.

Integrated Studies

Our topic for Term 1 is '**Water Works.**' The children will be given opportunities to develop an understanding of water and an appreciation for this precious natural resource. Through investigations students will explore how water is used, where it comes from and how to use it responsibly. Students will learn that there are many things that we can do to help reduce water usage and that it is everyone's responsibility to take actions to care for the environment.



HOME READING

We ask you to ensure that your child's *take home reading book* is read every day under your guidance and supervision and that the reading diary is signed and returned to school every day. Encourage and celebrate all of your child's efforts and ask them questions about each book they take home to ensure that they understand what they have read. Children should also be practising the high frequency words that are included in their diary. Please encourage your child to read these regularly and have a go at spelling unknown words from the list.



Take home book bags were kept at school from last year. New book bags can be purchased from the school office or our uniform shop at a cost of \$10.

HOMEWORK

Homework will start later this term and will be sent home each **Monday** and is to be completed and returned to school by the following **Thursday**. We will have discussed and explained the homework content in a class lesson with the children at school before it is sent home. We design revision activities and it is important that you encourage your child to undertake them each week so that the skills they have learned in class are revised at home. Please ensure that your child writes his/her name on the homework sheet before returning it to school.

SOCIAL SKILLS PROGRAM

This term the focus will be on the 'Top 10 Not Negotiable Social Skills'. In class the Grade 2 students will be focusing on two of the 'Top 10 Not Negotiables' each week. These are the social skills that all of the Iramoo learning community follow and provide a platform for our classes to be calm and provide an appropriate learning environment for your child.

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Grade 2 Specialist Timetable

| | Computer/ICT | Visual Arts | Physical Education | Performing Arts | Library |
|------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 2AA | Wednesday | Wednesday | Monday | Monday | Friday |
| 2CC | Monday | Monday | Wednesday | Wednesday | Friday |
| 2SD | Wednesday | Wednesday | Monday | Monday | Friday |
| 2LE | Monday | Monday | Wednesday | Wednesday | Friday |
| 2TK | Wednesday | Wednesday | Monday | Monday | Friday |

ART SMOCKS

Please make sure that your child has an art smock at school for use during art activities and that it is clearly labelled with his/her name. This can be either a purchased one or an old shirt from home. If your child has had the same art-smock since Prep it may be time to check that it still fits comfortably.

LIBRARY

All Grade 2 students participate in fortnightly library sessions on Fridays and are expected to borrow a book from the library on a **fortnightly** basis. Please ensure that your child has a library bag for these borrowing sessions that is clearly labelled with their name. During the library sessions the students are introduced to new stories and learn how to recognise some popular authors and illustrators. We hope to promote a love and enjoyment of reading. If your child does not have a library bag, a reusable supermarket bag would be suitable.



Please ensure that your child returns library books by Thursday, ready to borrow the next day.

PUNCTUALITY

School commences at 8.50 a.m. It is very important for children to be punctual each morning. They need to be at school by 8.45 a.m. to ensure that learning programs run smoothly and so that children do not miss out on valuable learning opportunities.

Children who are late to school are required to obtain a late pass from the office. If your child is absent from school, a signed note is required when they return to school to explain their absence. Your vigilance in ensuring that your child attends school every day is greatly appreciated.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is important that your child wears the correct uniform to school every day. If your child is not wearing correct school uniform on a particular day, please inform their teacher with a written explanation. Please label your child's uniform items with his/her name.

SUNSMART



During Term 1 and Term 4 every child is required to wear a hat when outside. The hat must be a broad brimmed or legionnaire's hat that will provide shade for the face, neck and ears. Children will require a hat every day during this term for all play times and Physical Education sessions. Please ensure that your child's name is written clearly inside his/her hat. Children who do not have a hat at school have to stay under covered areas during play times, remain indoors at lunchtime and will not be allowed to participate in any outdoor activities. Our Term 1 and Term 4 policy is **NO HAT NO PLAY**. Our SunSmart policy is available to view on our school website at www.iramoops.vic.gov.au Hard copies are available on request. Hats can be purchased from our uniform shop.

TISSUES, SPONGES & SOAP/HAND SANITISER

Thank you to those parents who have already sent these items along. It is greatly appreciated. If you haven't, please do so as soon as possible as we make very good use of them during the year.

FRUIT AND WATER

Consuming water and fruit are great ways to get the brain working! We encourage all children to have a bottle of plain water at their table that they can drink throughout the day. **No cordial or juice please.** *Healthy* lunches and snacks are also encouraged.



CLASSROOM HELPERS

Throughout the year we will require families to support our programs including excursions and reading with our students. You will find a form attached to this newsletter to indicate if you are able to assist in our Grade 2 classrooms during the school year. Please return this form to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Your help and assistance will be greatly appreciated and many thanks to those who have already offered their assistance.

MATHLETICS & ABC READING EGGS

We use two interactive e-learning resources called **Mathletics** and **ABC Reading Eggs** to compliment our teaching of Mathematics and English. Both programs originated in Australia.

Mathletics and **Reading Eggs** provide opportunities for your child to improve his/her mathematics and reading skills in an engaging and fun way. The primary goal is to improve mathematics results and essential reading skills.

These programs can be used online from home. Each child can use their Mathletics username and password to access both of the programs.

Mathletics can be found at www.mathletics.com.au

ABC Reading Eggs can be found at www.readingeggs.com.au

If you require further information about Mathletics and Reading Eggs please contact your child's teacher.

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Below is a brief outline of what all Grade 2 students will be learning about this term in our specialist areas.

Visual Arts

This term in art Grade 2 students will be experimenting with mixed media while they explore a Space theme. For their initial task students will be using their creativity and imagination to create a colourful space creature, this task will involve them using paper and other art elements to bring their creature to life. They will also use painting and construction skills to create a solar system of the planets. The skills they will focus on this term will be collage, gluing, painting and construction.

Performing Arts

Musical activities this term will involve students improvising and echoing sounds, rhythms, and melodic phrases. They will classify percussion and tuned instruments. Students will also explore tempo (how quick the music is) through movement and performing. They will be introduced to the Groovy Music

computer program (Groovy Jungle) and then create a musically layered piece of their own. Students will also be using an array of costumes to create characters and will interact with others to develop a skit. This year students will have an opportunity to participate in a school rock group. If you believe that your child shows talent and commitment in the field of singing or playing musical instruments, please encourage and support them to audition. Auditions will be held in the next few weeks. This year's touring performance will take place in Term 1. The performers are a Spanish group and students will prepare for the performance by singing and playing accompaniment to songs that will be included in the show.

Physical Education (Phys. Ed)

During Term 1, Grade 2 students will be identifying their physical strengths and begin to set goals to achieve in Physical Education for 2017. They will be reminded of the importance of working together and 'getting along' with their peers in teams, as well as striving to achieve their own personal best. Students will learn some simple rules for playing bat tennis as well as working towards improving their striking skills through hitting a stationary target and later more emphasis will be placed on hitting a moving ball.

Throughout the term students will be training for our Iramoo Junior Cross Country where they will be developing their running endurance. Parents are encouraged to help prepare students by supporting training at home. Our Junior Cross Country will be held on **Monday, March 27** and students are encouraged to do their best. Students will then focus on kicking a ball to a target (such as partner or goals) in a straight line. During lessons each skill will be demonstrated to the students and they will have opportunities to practise these skills through fun individual drills and exciting games with their classmates. Regular feedback will be given to students to help them improve their performance.

****Spectators are welcome to take photographs at our school events but must of course be respectful of their use on social or other media, not posting a photo of any child without permission from the child's parent.**

Information & Communication Technology (I.C.T)

Grade 2 students will start the year using the computer lab to do some very important testing for Numeracy and English. The results from these activities will be very helpful to the classroom teachers in their planning. Students will then revise the rules and routines expected in the computer room and when using iPads and laptops in the classroom. They will explore and learn about musical instruments and compose their own tunes using the Groovy Music program. This work will be supporting music concepts covered in Performing Arts lessons.



Spanish Language

Those Grade 2 students who showed a particular interest in learning Spanish when they were in Prep and in the Grade 1 Spanish 'lunchtime club' last year will have the opportunity to continue Spanish club this year if they choose.

**APRIL ANAPLIOTIS, CAITLIN CLANCY (GRADE LEADER), SIMON DUNDAS,
LAUREN EWEN, & TAMARA KING
GRADE 2 TEACHERS**



To be returned to school by Friday, February 24, 2017



IRAMOO PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 5152

GRADE 2 PARENT HELPER

CHILD'S NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME _____ (PLEASE PRINT)

I am interested in helping with reading in the Grade 2 classroom from the **beginning of Term 2**. I can help on:

Please tick your preferred day(s):

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY

Your child's classroom teacher will notify you shortly to inform when this will commence.