1C Teacher: Mrs Ruth Keirsnowski

Other specialist teachers:
Mr Brian Hensler: Music - Monday and Tuesday
Mr Evan Mackay: Sport - Tuesday
Mrs Jo Corcoran: Library - Friday

HOMEWORK:
Home readers are sent home from Monday to Thursday nights. Please ensure the small reading book is practiced well enough that your child is ready to read it to another child in the morning at school.

Spelling:
Spelling practice includes two types of words required for effective writing in Year One.
1. Phonetic words - these words can be spelt correctly by listening for each sound in the word and using a single or pair of letters to represent each sound e.g. c-a-t or ch-o-p
2. High-Frequency words - these are words used regularly in our speech and writing. They may sometimes be phonetic also, but usually do not follow a spelling pattern taught in year one e.g. two, the

Sight Words: These are the same as the High-Frequency words required for effective writing. If your child has not completed the set of 100 most commonly used words, we would encourage you to practice these a few at a time until they can all be ready quickly and easily.

Other information:
Absences:
If your child is absent from school for any reason, please contact the school or us via a note, email or a phone call. Rolls are marked twice daily and each unexplained absence must be followed up so your assistance with this is much appreciated. Attending school every day, including Fridays, birthdays and the last day before holidays, is greatly encouraged.

Parent Help
Parent help is greatly appreciated and as Teach-aide times are confirmed and other support staff are placed, I will confirm a timetable for activity group helpers.

School Expectations: Our school expectations for everyone at our school are:
BE SAFE, BE A LEARNER, BE RESPECTFUL

Behaviour Management:
Positive reinforcement of behaviours is encouraged with lots of praise along with both individual and whole class reward systems (stickers, stamps and little prizes). 'You Can Do It!' awards are also given on parade for great effort in the areas of our School Expectations.
Warnings are given for negative behaviours such as not listening, being disrespectful or unsafe. After a warning, children's names are placed on the white-board with a tally mark. This encourages them to think carefully about the choices they are making. If behaviours persist and children receive a total of five tally marks, you will be contacted to inform you of their major areas of concern. They might also be required to work by themselves in a quiet area. Inappropriate playground behaviours may result in your children going to the 'Responsible Playspace’ or 'Rethink Room' at playtimes, whilst they work on making better choices.
Parents will be informed of any on-going disruptive behaviours but also of improvements and positive incidents in these circumstances.

**No hat, no play, no fun in the sun today:** If a child forgets their hat they will need to play under a covered building or go to the library. Spare hats are available if required but only for irregular occasions.

**Bookwork:** Our school has committed to improving students’ bookwork across the board. In our class we will be praising students’ efforts for neat handwriting, tidiness and following instructions when setting out work. We will choose fine examples of work to show others and display in the classroom. It may not always be the neatest work but perhaps work from a student who is showing great improvement and effort. Please help us with this by encouraging your child’s homework to be completed in a neat and tidy manner – lead and coloured pencils only.

**Tuckshop:** Ordering tuckshop is now completed on-line. Please let your child know when and what they are having for tuckshop so we know when to send tuckshop boxes down and also whether their order is correct.

**Food:** Please send a healthy snack that is easy and quick for children to eat for brain break. Cut-up fresh fruit (not in tubs of syrup or jelly), cheese, yoghurt (not chocolate) and vegetable sticks are ideal. We have talked to children about their ‘must eat’ items, such as sandwiches. Please consider the rest of your child’s lunch in terms of the amount of sugary and/or processed foods and nutritional value.

**Special Events:** We have some special events throughout the year:
- **Term 1:** Amaroo Environmental Centre (Tuesday 17th February) and the Fun Run
- **Term 2:** Arts Council performance and Sports Day
- **Term 3:** Under 8’s Day and the school Spellathon
- **Term 4:** Swimming lessons

Please check emailed invoices for dates that money is due for excursions as the office cannot accept late payments.

**Tissues:**
Thank you to those of you who have sent in a box!

**Units of Work:** In Term One we are learning about the following topics:
- **English:** We are studying storybooks that show characters with different and changing emotions. Children will need to know book language (ie author, illustrator, etc) and make a short speaking presentation about a character from a favourite book and the emotions that character feels.
- **Maths:** Time (calendars, days of the week, months of the year), counting to 20 and beyond (in ones and twos), the concept of addition and measurement.
- **Geography:** The content provides opportunities to develop the following concepts for geographical understandings: place, space, environment and scale. Students look at how places are used and how spaces can be arranged to suit different purposes.
- **Science:** ‘Schoolyard Safari’ looks at the environments around our school and the creatures we might see in them.
- **Technology:** This will involve the children designing and creating a display towards the end of the term.

**Media Permission:** Some children do not have media permissions for their photos to be shared on the internet. Sometimes in the class we will take photos to display and remember special activities. These photos are not put onto the internet or social media but are a memory for your child’s year. Please let us know if you are happy for this happen or whether your child’s photo should not be taken at all.
**P&C Support:**
Throughout the year, the P&C hold a variety of fund-raising opportunities. Please support these occasions as funds raised are spent directly on resources for your children’s classrooms and comfort. If you are interested in supporting this hard-working team, the first General Meeting will be held on Monday February 9th. Please contact the school office for times and venues.

**Banking:**
Opening an account with the Commonwealth Bank and making deposits is available through the school. Forms can be collected from the classroom and once a deposit book is issued, deposits will be collected each Tuesday.

**Uniform:**
As endorsed by the Highfields State School P&C Association and School Council, this is a “school uniform” school. All students are encouraged to wear school uniforms.

Attire should be suitable for outside and inside activities:
- Footwear shall be flat-soled and enclosed (depending on the activity).
- Hats shall offer protection to all of the head including face, ears and back of the neck. (“Broad brimmed” and “ legionnaire” hats with an 8cm wide brim are the preferred style - no “baseball” style hats).
- Clothing which protects the shoulders and neck from the sun should be worn when students are participating in outdoor activities. Clothing which promotes messages that may be deemed offensive (conflicts with school values) shall not be worn.
- Underwear shall not show outside or through clothing.
- Hair shall be clean, tidy with no extreme colours (appearance) and tied back for certain tasks and activities (safety/health).

The uniform is to be worn for sporting and cultural activities for which the students are representatives for the school, eg. School excursions

Students are to wear clothes which are neat, clean and appropriate for full and safe participation by the student.

Jewellery should compliment the uniform, not detract from it (appearance). Wearing of jewellery is discouraged on the basis of safety. The following items are deemed acceptable:
- 1 pair of earrings - stud/sleepers only (safety);
- 1 significant/personal/discreet/simple necklace – concealed by shirt (medical and safety);
- 1 watch;
- 1 minor/discreet/simple ring (safety);
- 1 significant/personal/discreet/simple bracelet/bangle (safety).