February 2015

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

My name is Mr Robert Brannigan and, together with Mrs Fiona Gray, we will be teaching your child this year. I will be teaching 6/5B on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, while Mrs Gray will be teaching on Wednesdays. We will have a collaborative, consistent approach to class management, welfare and content. We have regular meetings to consult and plan together.

We will endeavour to instil and support independent, mature work habits and promote a positive attitude towards learning. We value making school and our class a happy, safe and successful environment for your child. As is our custom, respect and responsibility for themselves and others will be expected.

There will be a big emphasis on developing organisational skills including time management, responsibility for belongings and a commitment to finishing work to a high standard. Together with this comes a responsibility to attend school regularly. Frequent absences and/or partial absences will be monitored, recorded and followed up on.

As society changes we believe it is imperative that we teach our children the technical skills they will need to have to access information in the years to come. Computer skills, including Internet skills, will be taught within the class and using the computer lab. These will also be reinforced in the library. We are fortunate to have an interactive Commbox television in our room with Internet access, which we will be using to support class learning programs.

This semester we will be studying Australian history and geography. Science lessons will focus on environmental education, plants and animals.

In **English**, the children will be in reading groups. There will be an emphasis on consolidating skills, expanding vocabulary, increasing fluency rates and developing comprehension. In written language there will be a focus on teaching features such as summarising, skimming and scanning as well as spelling, grammar, punctuation and sentence structure. This term we will be analysing text features of persuasive and imaginative texts.

In **Maths** the children will be in number groups which will focus on teaching and consolidating mathematical concepts. Class activities will focus on improving speed and accuracy at solving algorithms and problems. This includes the children’s ability to remember the times tables. We will also be extending children’s skills and strategies into open-ended problem solving.

Fitness and sport will be taught over three weekly sessions. In Personal Development we will be consolidating social skills this term. To reinforce sound eating habits recess is referred to as fruit time. **Please encourage your child to eat well by including fruit for this time but remember we have a nut free policy at our school.**

**Homework** will be distributed on Monday. It needs to be handed in on **Fridays**. It includes home reading, spelling, maths, general knowledge and revision and general consolidation of concepts taught in class. Homework will be set utilising **Mathletics** and **Reading Eggs** (two Internet sites.)
Mental arithmetic homework from the text book will need to be brought to school each Friday.

Please encourage and support homework tasks ensuring they are completed on time as practice and perseverance are important work habits for students to develop. This will also assist in the transition to high school for students next year. I will be informing parents and caregivers of non-completion of homework through ClassDojo messages. As well, I will be sending positive information about your child’s progress, improvement and behaviour through ClassDojo. I am sure I will be able to send many of these messages!

To encourage and support literacy skills all children are expected to participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

On the following page is our Class Management Plan. This plan was made in consultation with the students. Please read through it with your child and return the bottom slip to school as soon as possible.

We are available most days before and after school. If you have any concerns about your child’s progress please ring the school on 9790-6158 to make an appointment.

Yours sincerely,

Mr R Brannigan and Mrs F Gray
Class Teachers

Mrs F Bonello
Principal