**Welcome to Year 2!**

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

Welcome to Year 2! We are looking forward to a fun, creative and dynamic year with your child. The Year 2 team consists of Miss Skinner (2S), Miss Anderson (2A), Miss Almir (2B), Miss El Moussawel (2E) and Miss Jebara (2J). Other teachers that may work with your child are Miss Blanning-Pascoe and Mr Simpson. In this letter we have included an outline of the basic organisational things you will need to know, as well as any equipment you may need to send to school.

**School Routines:**

**Arriving at school:** Please ensure that your child arrives at school between 8.30am-8.50am so that he/she is ready and at lines when the bell goes at 8.57am.

**Leaving school:** School finishes at 2.45pm. Please be on time to collect your child, or ring the office if there is an emergency that will cause you to arrive late. Please wait at the bottom of the stairs, as it can be distracting and disruptive to students' learning if parents or younger siblings are on the veranda.

**Absences:** Students are legally required to attend school every day that the school is open, unless they are genuinely sick. If your child is unable to come to school, please send a note to the teacher by the next school day explaining why he/she was absent.

**Crunch and Sip:** Students will participate in crunch and sip daily. During this time, they will be able to eat fresh fruit or vegetables and have a drink of water. They will not be allowed to have poppers, fruit cups or yoghurt.

**Lunch Box Ideas:** We promote healthy eating at Blaxcell Street Public School so please keep this in mind when packing your child's lunch box. Some healthy ideas are: sandwiches or wraps, fruit or vegetables, cheese, yoghurt, water or fruit juice. No soft drink will be allowed to be consumed while at school.

**Canteen:** If you would like to purchase food from the canteen, please go to the canteen before school and fill out a lunch order. Sandwiches will only be available to order after 9am.

**Voluntary School Contributions:** Please make sure that when school contributions are paid that the money goes straight to the office as teachers should not be handling money.

**Home Learning**

Home learning will be handed out *fortnightly* (due Friday even weeks) to enable you to spend quality learning time with your child. The activities are set out in a grid and need to be coloured in and glued into their home learning book once completed. Reading is compulsory and we ask that your child reads by themselves, to another person and is read to every night.

*Home Reading* books will be handed out and must be returned every week. Students who read and bring back their books regularly will be invited to a special book party at the end of each term. Students will not be allowed to borrow another home reader if they have not returned the previous one. It is expected that the home reader will have been *read 10 times* before being returned, in order to develop fluency. Lost home readers will incur a fee made payable to the office.

**English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D)**

With the vast language backgrounds other than English at Blaxcell Street PS, we have 5 specialist EAL/D (English as an additional/Dialect) teachers – Mrs Donohoe, Mr Simpson, Ms Zin, Ms Reed (Monday and Friday) and Mrs Melisi (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday) working across K-6. As a qualified EAL/D team we will be providing a New Arrival Program (NAP) to newly arrived students from overseas to support them in acquiring the English language. In small groups, we work on developing their listening and speaking skills, reading and writing in English to help them become active participants in all aspects of school life.

We are also assigned to different grades to support all students in literacy and numeracy.

**Year 2 – Mr Simpson:** My main focus is assisting Year 2 with reading, phonics and spelling. I will also be helping newly arrived primary students acquire and develop their skills in English.

**Community Language and Cultural Studies**

The language and Cultural studies area at Blaxcell Street PS is an essential part of a board and balanced education for all learners. Learning another language extends the cognitive and conceptual development and problem-solving skills of learners. It increases their awareness of how language works and can assist significantly in developing literacy. The language and cultural understanding develops and promotes cross-cultural relationships to contribute to all key learning areas.

Our community Language and Cultural Studies team comprises of:

* Mrs Alca and Mrs Shmeissem as our Cultural Studies teacher
* Mrs Cheung as our Chinese teacher
* Mrs T. Nguyen as our Vietnamese teacher
* Mrs Moussa, Mrs Ramsey, Mr Riad and Mrs Eter as our Arabic teachers

R/Assistant Principal Mrs J. Nguyen will we working with both EAL/D and Community Language/Cultural Studies teams and will be available through the office on appointment.

**Numeracy**

This year, your child will be developing a deep understanding of mathematical concepts and the relationship between these concepts. As your child progresses throughout the year, encourage them to talk with you and explain how they came up with a solution to a mathematical problem. The aim is to build mathematical meta-language in order to explain understanding through the use of questions and investigations.

**Human Society and its Environment / Science and Technology**

Students will be participating in Human Society and its Environment (HSIE) and Science and Technolgy units that cover all the remaining Key Learning Areas in the NSW Syllabus. Both areas aims to help students acquire a holistic understanding of the world around them by exploring a central idea. The central idea is designed to promote conceptual development and aims to extend their critical thinking capacity.

The HSIE / Science & Technology units for Year 2 and their associated Key Learning Areas are:

* HSIE – Semester 1: The Past in the Present (History)
* HSIE – Semester 2: Exploring Places (Geography)
* Term 1: Water Works
* Term 2: All Mixed Up
* Term 3: Watch it Grow
* Term 4: Push-Pull

**Class Routines**

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| Library lessons are 30 minutes each week.2S – Monday 2:15-2:452A – Thursday 12:15-12:452B- Wednesday 2:15-2:452E – Monday 9:10-9:402J– Thursday 11:45-12:15 | Fitness and Sport lessons develop your childs fundamental movement skills. Please ensure your child wears his/her full sports uniform and brings a water bottle. Fitness and Sport on Wednesdays | Community Language lessons are twice a week. Your child will attend Arabic, Chinese, Vietnamese or Cultural Studies.Monday 1:15pm to 2:15pm and Tuesday 11:45pm to 12:45pm | Scripture lessons are 30 minutes a week. Your child will attend Islamic, Catholic, Christian, Buddhist or Non Scripture.Tuesday - 2:15pm to 2:45pm | Assemblies are held for K-2 every three weeks on a Friday from 11:45pm. |

**Classroom Needs:** All of the items on the ‘School Supplies' note issued to you by now, need to be purchased for your child. This includes a strong and durable library bag (this can be purchased from the office, or can just be an ‘enviro' bag from a supermarket).

**Parent and Teacher Interviews/Contact:** These will be held late in Term 1. It is important for you to come and speak with your child's teacher, so that you are aware of his/her progress at school. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning at any other time, please make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher before or after school.

**LaST**

Students in Year 2 with additional learning needs will have access to support from a number of specialist Learning and Support Teachers. Students with evidence of additional needs will receive support as appropriate in the areas of reading, numeracy, socio-emotional needs and diagnosed disabilities. This support will be available through in-class, small group and one-to-one interventions. Learning Support Specialist Teachers are readily available to discuss these interventions further. Please contact the school directly to arrange communication with them. Kristy Nichols and Erin Forster (Learning and Support Team Leaders).

Thank you for your support.

***Miss Skinner Miss Anderson Miss Almir Miss El Moussawel Miss Jebara***

 ***2S 2A 2B 2E 2J***