Dear Parents,

Each year we feel the Foundation students surprise us by settling so quickly to school routines. This year they have simply amazed us by the speed with which they have risen to the challenges of full school days. They are demonstrating confidence in their surroundings and are comfortably dealing with issues such as meeting new friends and trying new activities.

The major emphasis of our program in Term 1 is to provide the children with a variety of activities and opportunities to develop the attitudes and skills necessary to make a smooth transition into school and to learn and practice various school routines. The Foundation students have already met with their buddies and are looking forward to sharing time together. The Grade 6 Buddies offer great support to the Foundation students in the playground, they are a familiar face for the Foundation students to turn to if they need support and their teachers are not there.

The children are working very hard at developing the social skills of sharing, taking turns and displaying tolerance towards others. Reading, writing and speaking and listening are all interlinked in a whole language approach this term. The children are practising effective and considerate listening behaviours and carrying out a variety of instructions. They are enjoying learning new rhymes, listening to stories and having discussions. They will be completing a variety of number and measurement activities that are linked to our focus ‘All About Me’. These skills are providing the foundations of good social and learning attitudes and sound work habits for the future. We have also been establishing class Norms which are agreed to by the students and which focus on the norm CARE.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION:

Literacy
In Literacy this term we will be focusing on some of the alphabet letters, handwriting, poetry, shared reading, creative responses to texts and diary writing. Detailed information on the Literacy program and ideas on how to support your child with this program will be available in the Foundation Information booklet. The English Online interview, which the children complete during the Wednesday interviews, assists us to form Literacy groups which target individual needs.

Mathematics
This term we will be introducing and focusing on the numbers 1 to 10, 2D shapes, Length, Space and Location, and Ordinal Number. The children will be completing a variety of ‘hands on’ activities in order to support the introduced concepts.
Developmental Curriculum
Developmental Curriculum focuses on the emotional, social, cognitive, language and physical development of each individual child. This approach places the children at the centre of the curriculum and provides experiences and opportunities for them to engage in a more ‘hands-on approach’ to learning. This is achieved through projects and experiences that are of interest to the children and provides opportunities for exploration and enquiry.

GENERAL INFORMATION:
A quick reminder for all families that any money sent to school needs to come to the classroom teacher in a sealed envelope with your child’s name written clearly on it.

Please remember when your child is absent from school a letter is required explaining their absences.

We are asking each family to bring a box of tissues and some Coles Moisturising Hand Wash Aloe Vera 250 ml for use in the classroom. Please put your child’s name on both and bring it to school at your earliest convenience.

To support classroom programs, in particular our Developmental Program which requires large quantities of “construction material”, we ask families to donate a range of household items throughout the year. These include magazines (suitable for Foundation browsing), egg cartons, old wrapping papers, birthday and Christmas cards, ice-cream containers and large yoghurt containers. Unfortunately we are unable to accept toilet rolls due to hygiene reasons however glad wrap rolls or the like are great.

We are encouraging all children to attend the movie night if possible, as it is a great way to meet other parents and members of the school community, not to mention lots of fun for the children. We hope to see you there!

We have a number of children at Wattle Park with severe allergies. As a result of this the school has put into place practices with which we need your support. One of these practices is the removal of peanut butter and peanut / nut related products from the canteen.

In support of this practice PLEASE DO NOT SEND your child to school with peanut butter sandwiches and/or peanut / nut related products.

We know that you will support this whole school decision. We have also spoken to the children about not sharing their food with their friends.

Classroom teachers are available in the classroom from 8:50, this is a good time to let your child’s teacher know if you would like to make a time to chat with them about any concerns. Children can come into their classroom from 8:50. This is an excellent time for them to change their readers and prepare themselves to be ready to start at 9:00. It is important to remember that on days where a teacher has yard duty before school 8:45 – 9:00 children are not able to enter the classroom at 8:50 but must line up outside and their teacher will collect them when the bell rings.
Our classroom programs start at 9am and therefore students arriving late to school are a disruption. If you are late, please go to the school office and sign your child in. You will be given a late slip which your child must give to their classroom teacher.

Thank you for your assistance and support,
Helen Sterling, Julie Gledhill and Pia Chadwick

Gayle Cope

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Friday 6th of February    Foundation Welcome Sausage Sizzle at 4:30pm
Monday 4th of March      First full week
Monday 9th of March      Labour Day holiday
Friday 20th of March     Movie Night
Monday 23rd March        Whole school music incursion
Friday 27th March        End of Term 1 - School finishes at 2.30pm
Parent helper program weeks 7 & 8.

Monday 13th of April   Term 2 Starts