Information for Parents

27 January 2016

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to 3 Blue. My name is Mrs Janet Walsh and I will be your child’s teacher for 2016. I am really looking forward to getting to know your child, assisting them in their learning and supporting them through their Year 3 experience. All the Year 3 Class Teachers are excited for the many things that are planned for this year.

A few ‘House Keeping’ matters for your information.

Diaries and book packs were distributed today. Students will be coming home with their Diaries today and I invite you to read through the information and fill in any relevant information. A timetable will be added in the near future when it is completely finalised.

As for book packs, I know how excited children can get about covering their books, but I also know how time consuming it can be, especially if you use contact. I will send the book packs home Friday afternoon, so that you will have the weekend to cover the books. Please ensure all books are clearly labelled. If you would like them earlier than Friday, if the weekend won’t work for you, please just jot a note in the diary. It would be fantastic if all books could be covered for Monday, Week 2. If they are not covered, please send the books into school anyway so your child can still complete work.

Homework will begin Monday, Week 2. It will be distributed and explained to the students each Monday. Homework should take your child approximately 30 minutes a day, inclusive of Reading, Mathletics and Spelling/ Grammar homework. The work set is directly related to what we are doing in class. Homework is to come in each day so that students can use the spelling list in class and so it can be marked (to save me a massive marking session on Friday afternoons). Students will also be able to ask questions if they are not sure of how to complete a task. Homework is flexible. If your child has after school activities which leaves no time for homework that afternoon, then it can be completed on another day, but the expectation is that the book will still come in each day.

Students will have a Library lesson on Tuesday’s. They are expected to borrow a book that can stay at school under their desk to read, as well as one to take home and read.

Sports uniform needs to be worn on Tuesday for Sport and Friday for our class PE lesson.

Fruit Break is still operational this year during the morning session but Afternoon Nibblies will cease due to a timetable change. Students will now only have two periods after lunch so should not need Afternoon Nibblies. Students are permitted to bring a drink bottle, with water only, into the classroom to drink in class times.

This year, I am trialling a new approach in the classroom. Students will not be assigned set seats, although they will still have their own tote tray under a desk. Students will be able to work where they are most comfortable. For some, this may still be at a desk, but for others, they may prefer to stand at a bench on the side or lie on the floor to work. This is to allow students to work where they feel they will work best. Please understand
that students who are not working appropriately where they have chosen will be asked to move somewhere else and incomplete work will need to be completed in Catch-Up Corner. I will be fairly strict with this aspect, particularly in the beginning as I introduce the students to my expectations and routines. If this trial does not work well for the students, we will revert to a more traditional approach.

I do have high expectations of the students, in and out, of our classroom. My style of teaching may be quite different to what they experienced in Year 2. This is a great life lesson for your child and an opportunity to grow. Please feel free to contact me if you feel your child is not coping, particularly early in the year, as I do not know your child well yet. My expectations will be communicated clearly with the students from the beginning.

Part of my role at Scone Grammar School is Primary Curriculum Coordinator. This involves me having extra time off class. When I am out of the classroom, besides the normal specialist teachers, your child will also see three other teachers in a cycle. To ensure stability and the best for your child, the teachers coming in will have their set subjects to teach. Miss Davies will teach Science, Dance, Drama, as well as her usual French lessons. Mrs Tesoriero will teach Art and Mrs Saunders will be teaching Health. This is all outlined on the timetable which will be in the diary ASAP.

Attached to this letter is a very quick questionnaire asking you to please identify 5 things that you would really like me to know about your child. These responses will assist me in understanding your child a little quicker. Feel free to just jot them down on a piece of paper and pop in the diary if you’d rather not print out the page. I look forward to receiving these responses and building strong relationships with both you and your child.

I believe in open communication, therefore if you have any questions or need to contact me, please don’t hesitate to do this. You can ring the office and leave a message for me or you can send me an e-mail to jwalsh@sgs.nsw.edu.au.

I look forward to meeting you all soon and enjoying a wonderful year with 3 Blue.

Kind Regards

[Signature]

Janet Walsh

Year 3 Blue Class Teacher
5 things I would like my child’s teacher to know.

Child’s Name: ___________________________  Date: ______________

1. _____________________________________

2. _____________________________________

3. _____________________________________

4. _____________________________________

5. _____________________________________

Parent Signature: _________________________