Welcome to the new school year – 2015- and to our Year 2 Class!

- This year the class will be shared by Chris Schmaal and Sarah Lawson. Sarah will be teaching Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. Chris will be teaching on Thursday and Fridays.
- Chris Schmaal will be taking the children for P.E. on Tuesday.
- Japanese lessons will be taken by Briony Ackland on Monday’s.
- Library lessons will be on Friday with Michelle Edmundson.

We have 26 children in the class at the present time.
We aim to provide your child with a safe environment, where sound and progressive learning can take place. Chris and Sarah aim to provide a Christian education that embraces the St Joseph's mission statement and motto: - to live, to learn, to love in all things. Jesus and the Gospel message are central to our teachings.

**Curriculum Areas** that have been planned together and that occur throughout the week are:-
- Speaking and Listening
- Spelling
- Handwriting
- Maths
- Reading – Guided Reading
- Writing
- RE
- Program Achieve

The following **curriculum areas** will be planned individually

- History/Geography and Arts/Technology - will be programmed and taught by Sarah
- Health & Science - will be programmed and taught by Chris.

**Communication Books:** - Please ensure that these are returned each day. Please sign notes - praise and concerns - so that we know the messages have been received. We will endeavour to check for messages and send them home each night! Class notes will sent home via the Communication book. We expect children to be responsible for their books, with the help of parents.

**Newsletter & Website** This year every alternate week we will send home our class newsletter. We will also place a copy of the newsletter on the school website **stjoclar.catholic.edu.au** ⇒ news and events ⇒ class news ⇒ Year 2.

**Readers** We will work on a 5 book a week system, encouraging children to reread the books each night, if feasible. Children who are reading novel type books need only continue with their book. We encourage you to hear your child read frequently and sign off in the home reading book. Reading percentages from this book are recorded for reporting. Our expectation is that children read Mon – Fri night. Weekend reading and holiday reading will net a result over the 100% and is commendable.

**Theme** This term our theme is “Light” which will be integrated throughout the curriculum, especially in Science & English - reading and writing topics. We will learn about various species within our learning and hope not to desensitise those who may be a bit apprehensive about certain creatures! We also started the first week with the mini topic ‘About Me’.
Responsibilities/rules
Class responsibilities/rules have been organised. We discussed them according to what should you see in our ‘classroom window’ The rainbow chart operates for positive behaviour (Individual) with rewards for the end of the rainbow (a dip into the treasure chest) 1. Reminder 2. Reflect- restate expected behaviour 3. Refocus 1 in class 4. Refocus 2 - in another class 5. Rethink room – recess or lunch. See Rethink teacher/Mr Shearer. We will inform you of behaviour that concerns us, via the communication book.

Homework
Nightly reading and revision of sight words is a nightly expectation. Preparing for this term’s speaking topic/project (weeks 6 – 10) will be additional homework for children. Homework of other subjects will be given to children if they do not complete set work in the time given.

Year 2 Classes
We will endeavour to negotiate with Miss Linn to integrate the year levels during the year if possible. We are aware of some need to integrate the separated levels throughout the year! This may be in a social framework or curriculum area eg fitness, excursions.

Australian Curriculum
We will be teaching against English, Science, Maths and History/Geography.

English
Speaking and Listening
Children will be given topics to prepare and have been allotted a speaking day. Incidental, special sharing will also occur when needed, however the main focus is to cover the learning outcomes for Speaking and Listening through the speaking topics. Monday is a sharing time, which is used as the basis for sharing and remembering information for journal writing.

Reading and Viewing
Sight Word Lists. Children will progress through lists. About 3-4 ticks required before continuing with the next lists. Teachers will try and systematically check one grouped reader box per day for sight words, or whole class over a 2 week period. If children complete lists, check with the teacher and then take another sheet of words and stick in memo book.
Reading activities include quiet reading, hearing of children read, The Literacy block -skills lessons - big book sharing - to teach reading skills, Reading Strategies, Guided reading and reading activity groups which cover the learning of sight words, comprehension, reading activities based on texts, computer reading activities, sounds recognition, listening posts activities

Spelling:
This year all classes will continue with the Sound Waves Texts. Children will have a word sound for the week. Children will be grouped according to their spelling level and have a word list each week. Spelling activities include, writing and saying sounds/words, recognition activities, sentences to show meaning.

Handwriting:
Children will have formal lessons to continue correct formation, spacing, style skills.
Please encourage your child if working at home to use a correct pencil grip and begin letters from 2 o’clock or the top. Generally children who have started school with incorrect or variations on pencil grip continue with this despite constant correction. Pencil grips can be purchased, but to be effective would need to be on every pencil.

Writing:
These lessons have been planned together to give a balance of different genre through various texts. Genre to be covered –include Recount, Procedure, Narrative, Information Report, Descriptions. Text types include lists, letters, poetry, stories, journals, book making, labels, Science reports etc.

Maths:
This year all classes will continue with the iMaths Texts. The program teaches blocks of topics and then incorporates an Investigation which uses various maths concepts. Children will use iMaths and Maths Plus as text books for consolidation of lessons. iMaths activities can also be accessed online with a student code. Strands include Number & Algebra, Measurement& Geometry, Statistics & Probability. The children will begin learning from Number –(Numeration, Addition, Subtraction, Division, Multiplication, Fraction, Money) Space – (2D, 3D, Position, Graphs) Measurement- (Length, Area, Volume, Mass, Temperature, Time.) Numbers 10-19, 20 – 50+ for revise 1 – 20, then work on number up to 1000.
Religion: - We will be teaching both Crossways and MITIOG units simultaneously. This term we will be teaching Being Human and God Loves Me and a unit on Lent and Easter. Prayer Circles, singing and strength cards. RE Lessons - Programmed lessons taught by Sarah and Chris. Friday Mass Week 2, 3, 7. Buddy Mass Week 7. Wednesday Week 6, 8 & 11. Class Liturgy Service is in Term 4 Week 2 Carinya Visit is in Term 2 Week 4. *Stational Mass February 20th and Andrew Chinn 5th February.

Science: -
Technology: - Digital Technologies Critique, Design, Make and Appraise
History: - Families Past and Present, significant person/building
Health: - Program Achieve – Revision of Keys, Revision of Success/Worry scale/Feelings thermometer.
Fitness: - Can include Long Run, Obstacle, Relays, Stretching, Skipping, Health Hustles, (subject to suitable weather)
The Arts: - Visual Art techniques will be specifically taught as well as being integrated in other subject areas. Drama and singing will also be integrated throughout the curriculum areas.
Buddies: - Year 5 class Mr Slattery

School Starts: - 8:50. Children who are not here significantly miss out on an organised start to the day and this impacts on their learning and interrupts classes with instructions having to be given again on a 1:1 level.

Fruit time: - Approx 10.00. This really does seem to help the children as 11.00 is too long from morning breakfasts! Please give children easy to eat pieces of fruit/veg. NO whole oranges; pieces are preferred, even with apples. This time is designed to be a very quick snack and not a lengthy procedure of peeling or eating and/or wasting food because it is too much.

Reading Recovery/LAP: Paula Clark will work with children who have had 5 terms at school or more and require extra assistance. Helen Smith, volunteers time for LAP. We will contact you if your child is in need of assistance with these programmes. Time is also allocated to ESO workers for children in need. Sue Wurst, Jenny Faulkner, Frankie Sandow work in this area with Literacy and Maths.

Parent Help: - Please if you can help with reading, computer, creative areas, fill in the parent help sheet. Thank you if you have already volunteered. We appreciate all help, especially with hearing children read, it makes a huge impact on their learning. We will notify you of the confirmed time and days and task.

Excursions: - We will joining the other JP classes for a combined excursion as well as other excursions throughout the year.

We look forward to working with both you and your child this year. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact us at any time.

Chris and Sarah