30th January 2017

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the St Joseph’s School Community we would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child to Reception Lloyd/Mensforth; we trust you had a safe and happy holidays. Starting school is very important and exciting for both children and parents. This year is fundamental in your child’s education and we hope to instil the love for learning that will last a life time.

It’s with pleasure we welcome Marissa Lloyd to St Joseph’s. Marissa will be working three days a week in the classroom, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday while Mrs Mensforth will be in the classroom Thursday & Fridays. This year we are trialling class swaps with Mrs Lemon’s class so that our teaching strengths can be used to benefit all the students in Reception. In term 1 & 2 Mrs Lemon will be teaching Science for all of the Receptions while Ms Lloyd is teaching Music and Mrs Mensforth is teaching Drama. We will swap classes on Monday and Thursday afternoons and Music and Drama will be taught as well to our class at another time.

**Morning Organisation**

The classroom will be open from 8.30am. This is when the children set themselves up for a successful day at school. Initially the children will need assistance in their jobs, but the aim is to create independent learners, so after two weeks we would like to see the children doing the tasks below independently. Please note – newsletters folders and notes being returned go in the grey tray and will be taken to the office. If your child is late to school on a line up day (Monday, Wednesday & Friday’s) they are to proceed immediately to line up with their bag and not go to the classroom first (this is a safety issue).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sight word books in basket by door.</td>
<td>Sight word books in basket by door.</td>
<td>Sight word books in basket by door.</td>
<td>Sight word books in basket by door.</td>
<td>Sight word books in basket by door.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take home folder on child’s desk.</td>
<td>Take home folder on child’s desk.</td>
<td>Take home folder on child’s desk.</td>
<td>Take home folder on child’s desk.</td>
<td>Take home folder on child’s desk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch box in tub outside.</td>
<td>Lunch box in tub outside.</td>
<td>Lunch box in tub outside.</td>
<td>Lunch box in tub outside.</td>
<td>Lunch box in tub outside, (if no lunch order)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit on desk.</td>
<td>Fruit on desk.</td>
<td>Fruit on desk.</td>
<td>Fruit on desk.</td>
<td>Fruit on desk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reader on desk.</td>
<td>Reader on desk.</td>
<td>Reader on desk.</td>
<td>Reader on desk.</td>
<td>Reader on desk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Return Library book.</td>
<td>Lunch and recess orders placed today by 4pm for Friday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Today students wear their Sports uniform.
Today students wear their Sports uniform.

**Homework**

**Reading** – On the first day of school children will bring home a reader. These books will need to be read by you initially and then re-read by the child with assistance. These books will be swapped every morning and are to be written in your child’s reader log every night. Children are expected to read 5 nights a week as a minimum. This is recorded in their semester report and we believe vital for their reading progression.

**Sight Words** – Sight words will begin in week 2, following the Parent Information Evening. Sight words will be given to you in their sight word books, however we must stress to you that it is very important they learn these words in different contexts. For example: finding the words in books, flashcards or using magnetic letters to make and read the words. Children are expected to practise sight words 5 nights a week as a minimum. When children need new sight words we ask that in their morning prep time that they place their book on our desk and we will test them that day and give them new words if needed. You will receive more information about this at the Parent Information Evening.

**Homework Books** – Homework books will have the weekly class letter in it. This letter will keep you up to date with what we are learning in class, important events and any further information you may require. We ask that you sign these newsletters to acknowledge receiving the information.

Receptions also have a weekly homework Maths task, however this commences in term 2 and more information will be given closer to the time.

**Parent Helpers**

We are seeking helpers for our Literacy block, P.E. lessons, Numeracy, Design and Technology and Computing. A roster will be displayed at the parent information evening for you to put your name down if you would like to work in the classroom. You will need a police clearance to work within the school. Please visit the school front office to obtain the documents required. We will support you and train you for the process therefore no need to be hesitant. It is a great and positive experience to share the learnings of your and others children.

**Library**
The children will be visiting the Library on Fridays for personal borrowing. All Library Books are to be returned Wednesday morning to the classroom’s ‘library tub’. Children will need a labelled library bag, which protects the books.

**‘Happy Camper’ of the week**

Our class theme for the year is ‘Happy Campers’. Starting in week 2, the class will have a ‘Happy Camper of the week’. Please see attached note.

**Share time**

The children will participate in a range of activities as part of our Speaking and Listening program. Some of these activities will need a little assistance from home. More information about these topics will be sent home later this week.

**General Notices**

**Iceblocks** – iceblocks are sold Monday – Thursday for 30c at lunch times, beginning week 2. We encourage parents to treat these as a treat not an expectation.

**Shrove Tuesday** – Tuesday, Week 5 (28th February) Pancakes may be available to be purchased at recess on this day. All money will be donated to charity.

**Hats** – Hats are required to be worn in Terms 1, 3 and 4.

**Allergies** – Whilst there are no known anaphalaxis allergies in our class, this year at St Joseph’s we look to educate students to look after one another. Should your child eat peanut butter / Nutella sandwiches, discuss with them the importance of not sharing food, washing hands after being in contact with nuts and putting away their containers immediately after meals. This will be reiterated at school.

**Lunch ordering** – Lunch/recess orders are placed online and delivered to school fresh on Fridays. Please ensure your child’s lunch/recess order has been ordered via the link we have pasted here ([http://www.flexischools.com.au/](http://www.flexischools.com.au/)) by 4pm Wednesday. This link can also be located on the school website under the ‘about us tab/canteen’. We have attached a copy of the online ordering process for your information. Lunch ordering will begin in week 2 or later depending on our parent helpers with this system. If you would like to be involved in assisting with the school lunches please see Paula Clark or come and let us know.

**Communication**

Your child will bring their communication book home daily. This is used for parents and teachers to communicate. Please use this book to ask any minor questions, inform us of any information (if your child is on the bus), appointments or absentee reasons. We are also available after school every day for a chat. Alternatively you may request meetings with either of us via the communication book if you feel the issue is personal or may take longer than just a quick chat. Should you write in the communication book, I ask you to remind your child to place the book on our desk in the morning to ensure the note is seen (as you can understand, Reception classrooms are busy places and consequently books are not checked everyday).
We would like to extend communication this year with the use of email. We check emails before and after school and will endeavour to get back to you ASAP.

Please do not hesitate to pop in, or email if you have any concerns at all. We are committed to ensuring that every child has the very best, happiest and smoothest start to their school life.

We have many exciting things planned for the year and are looking forward to exploring our class theme of Happy Campers with cooking activities and a teddy bears picnic planned later in the term.

Sincerely,

Marissa Lloyd and Kate Mensforth

www.stjoclar.catholic.edu.au – school website

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