



# Year One Parent Information Evening

Teacher: Miss Bianca Van Ryt

15<sup>th</sup> February, 2010

## **Morning Procedures**

- Children are to wait in the grassed quadrangle area not at the door.
- At 8:30am the door will be opened and students may enter.
- Children must bring their take home folders into the classroom.
- They are to put their chair down, take their pencil case out and wait quietly on the mat.

## **End of Day**

- I will walk the students from the classroom to the under covered area at the front of the church leaving the classroom at 2:45pm.
- If you wish to collect your child from the classroom or on the way to the church that is ok but please have your child come and let me know they are going with you.

## Parent/Teacher Contact

- I have an open-door policy. So if there is something important regarding your child's wellbeing that you feel necessary to tell me, please do! Just knock on the door and I will make time.
- If there is something you wish to discuss with me please send a note and I will see you to make an appointment. Feel free to discuss anything that may become a problem/concern for your child.
- Parent/Teacher interviews will be in Term 2.
- If your child is absent upon their return they must have a note explaining their absentee for legal reasons.
- Please check your child's take home folder every night for notes from myself or the school.
- Library day is Tuesday.
- Newsletter day is Thursday.
- If your child is receiving a merit award at Friday's assembly you will receive a note from me in advance to pre-warn you.
- Please keep a clean change of underwear and pants/shorts in your child's school bag if an accident occurs.
- Please remind your child that if a problem occurs at recess or lunch to go and find a duty teacher straight away so as to help them sort out the problem. There are 4 teachers on duty at recess and lunch at all times.

## Literacy Program

- St. Vincent's is a *RA/Se* school – Raising Achievement in Schools
- From the start of the day right through to Recess is known as literacy dedicated time. During this time your child will be involved in a range of rotated activities.
- Over the course of a week your child will have completed a:
  - computer-based literacy activity,
  - a guided reading session with myself,
  - a text level activity based on the big book for that week,
  - a sentence-level activity and
  - a word-level activity.
- Each week 5 focus words will be taken from the top 100 sight word list that every Year One student should be able to read by the end of the year.
- You can help your child's reading and writing by:
  - Rhyming verbally
  - Identifying initial sounds
  - Clapping syllables
  - Breaking down words from cat to c-a-t
  - Changing the beginning sound of words to make rhyming words cat/bat/mat
  - Please encourage your child to have a go in all areas of their learning. Mistakes are not a bad thing and as long as your child is trying their best they will learn from their mistakes.

## Homework

\*15 minutes total per evening

1. **Home Reading** – Your child is to read to you every night. Please record the book title and any comments in the yellow home reading booklet.
  2. **“Words I Know” Booklet** – Your child is to practise their sight words every night. Each child is then tested on their knowledge of the sight words. When a sight word is correctly read at school it is highlighted. Each child works at their own pace until the whole book is finished.
  3. **Spelling Book** – not started until Term 2. Each child is given a set of 5 words to write into their spelling book on a Monday. Each night for homework they are to look, cover, write, and check for each word. Friday the class is tested on the words they have been practicing.
- Reading – decoding words, comprehension, expression and fluency are the four components of reading. Once I have finished testing each child individually with the RAISe observational surveys a reading level will be obtained for your child. Home readers therefore will not be sent home until this testing is completed.
  - Reading enjoyment is very important in the beginning to read phase. Home reading is not meant to be challenging, rather it should be a time for your child to practice their reading skills and spend some quality time with you. During this time ask your child questions related to the book to encourage comprehension of what they are reading.
  - Any work that is sent home is for you to look over and know what we have been learning about that day/week. Please take time to let your child share their work and talk about their learning.
  - Incidental learning at home is always valuable. There are many opportunities. For e.g. cooking, counting, general shopping chat & reading sign posts.

## Assessment

- There is ongoing assessment all year.
- Term One I am gathering information which I will share with you in our parent/teacher interviews next term. The information gathered is to form an overview of your child's development through observational notes, phonological awareness testing and reading level tests. I will also be testing in the Mathematics area of number, counting, measurement and spatial awareness.
- Term 1: Portfolios will be sent home.
- Term 2: Parent/Teacher Interviews  
Semester 1 report is sent home.
- Term 3: Learning journey open night will be held towards the end of term.
- Term 4: Semester 2 report is sent home.

## Discipline

- In the classroom I use a happy face board. Whereby if your child is seen making a good choice and following the classroom and school rules they receive a tick next to their name. Over the course of a week if the student has received 3 ticks they choose a prize from the prize box.
- I follow the *1, 2, 3 Magic* behaviour management program designed by Dr. Thomas W. Phelan. When a child is seen making a negative/not so good choice they are told “that’s one”, if another not so good behaviour is displayed they are told “that’s two”, and if a third not so good behaviour is displayed they are told “that’s three, go and sit on the time out chair” where they are to stay for 5 minutes.
- I encourage accountability from each child and an understanding of fairness and caring. We have our own classroom rules which the class brainstormed and drew together which the students are to comply with.

## Parent Help

- After testing has been completed and the children are familiar with the literacy rotation groups a roster will be put up on the door for you to write your name down to help; hopefully around week 5.
- Your help is required during the literacy dedicated time (8:30am – 10am) from Tuesday through to Friday.
- You will be assigned a small group to facilitate the literacy activity.
- Confidentiality is extremely important and an understanding that we are not to be judgmental of other students as each child develops at their own pace.

## Excursions

- An excursion will be organised for the children to attend during the course of the year.
- If you are able to offer your help at that time it would be very much appreciated.
- Look out for a note to be sent home regarding this in the future.
- Please feel free to offer any ideas or let me in on any connections you have that may be beneficial to the children's learning.

## Uniform

- Correct uniform must be worn at all times.
- Sports day is every Tuesday therefore children are to come to school in their sports uniform.
- Every child must wear a hat when playing outside.  
No Hat – No Play.