Welcome to K1/K!

Everybody has settled well into their new school routine and class routine. This is in line with my aim for the year, which is to create a secure and friendly environment in which your child feels comfortable and confident and will enjoy learning.

Here are just a few ways you can help your child make the most of their time in school.

😊 Be interested in what your child does in the classroom.

😊 Talk to your child about their day at school.

😊 Try to get to know your child’s new friends.

😊 Ensure that your child arrives at school before the bell rings.

😊 Please be aware of our school and class rules and ensure that your child understands the importance of following them. Always be positive about school and our school routines and rules.

😊 Try not to be anxious. If at any time you have any concerns or questions always talk to the teacher. Most concerns can be resolved quickly and with little difficulty.

Let’s enjoy school life together and make it a positive and rewarding experience!

The school has developed a new way of presenting our core values and adopted the owl as our mascot to help the children remember those values.

Our school is SAFE

We RESPECT each other as

LIFE LONG LEARNERS
Classroom Promise K/1K

The children worked together to create a promise that will help us have a happy and respectful environment in which to learn.

In K/1K we promise to:

1. We promise to walk around our school and not run.
2. We promise to listen to each other and be kind.
3. We promise to keep our hands and feet to ourselves.
4. We promise to try and remember our class promise at all times.

A number of incentive programs are underway in the classroom, including achievement awards, sticker charts and individual merit systems and Hoot points according to school policy.

General things to remember:

1. **Attendance** at school is compulsory. If your child regularly misses school their learning will be disrupted. If for any reason your child is **absent** from school please ensure that a written note is brought to school and given to the teacher upon the child’s return, as this is a legal requirement.

2. **School begins** at 9.10am and our day **concludes** at 3.10pm. Children should line up quickly and quietly in the morning ready to commence school. At the end of each day a teacher will bring the class outside. Please meet your child near the silver lunch seats. For the safety of our students it is essential that the teacher in charge sees you collect your child. Each child must tell the teacher before he/she goes off to his/her parent/carer.

3. Children who arrive late to school must report to the office and get a late note. Please have a note explaining his/her lateness if possible. If you need to take them from school early please ensure you see a member of the office staff who will call through to the classroom and have your child sent down to meet you.

4. Please ensure all your child’s **items are labelled** clearly with their names, including shoes!

5. Please make sure that they have a school hat and some wet weather gear when necessary.

6. Please continue to encourage your child’s independence for example in tying their own shoelaces. These procedures really do help to make our day run smoothly.

7. **Lunch orders** can be ordered from the canteen. These must be ordered before school. Little lunch orders need to be collected by your child from the canteen. Big lunches are collected
by the lunch monitor and are distributed by the class teacher. The children sit outside on the silver seats to eat and after 20 minutes are then taken onto the grass area to play. They may go to the canteen to buy something at this time.

8. Our school runs a “Crunch and Sip” program. The children are given the opportunity to have a healthy snack during school time. This must consist only of fruit or vegetables and water. We also encourage all children to bring a healthy lunch. Please keep treats such as lollies, cakes, biscuits etc for home.

9. For a classroom to run efficiently we need some extra basic hygiene products. If you are able to donate these at any stage throughout the year it would be much appreciated.
   - boxes of tissues
   - rolls of paper towel
   - dishcloths or sponges
   - hand soap
   - baby wipes

Naturally, it is not compulsory to donate anything, but I would greatly appreciate it if you could.

A Quick Guide to our routines in K/1K:

Home Reading

This is an essential component of the reading program and will begin in Week 4 for Year 1 and week 5 for Kindergarten. Students will bring a book home each night and be asked to record the book title, and have a parent sign. It is recommended that this reading take place each day. The children will be reading at a level below their instructional level so the text should be easy to read. Children need to return their home reading bag each day so that they can change their reading books.

Library

Library will be on Wednesday afternoon and each child is encouraged to borrow from the library on a weekly basis. Please provide a cloth library bag that is large enough to fit a big picture book. If your child misses a library lesson during the week, they may exchange their book at lunch on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Scripture

The children are given the opportunity to attend religious instruction in specific Scripture groups. If you would like your child to attend a scripture class please ensure you have notified the school in writing as we cannot nominate a class for your child. Scripture will be on Tuesday afternoon.
Key Learning Areas:

Literacy

This area covers Reading, Talking and Listening and Writing.

Students will respond to a range of spoken, written and multimodal texts to develop reading, viewing and comprehension skills. A balanced literacy program will immerse our students in quality literature to develop skills of reading, writing and speaking and listening.

Engaging daily learning activities are designed to cater for individual competency and monitor each child’s growth. The students practise reading and writing daily. They compose text by writing descriptively and recounting familiar experiences. Phonemic and phonological skills are developed in the context of reading and writing activities based on quality texts and first hand experiences.

A variety of texts will be used to teach explicit strategies and features of language in the context of our unit of work. These books are often displayed in the classroom and we welcome parents to take a closer look at them with their child. We encourage students to read them and find them in the library to borrow for home.

Some students in year 1 may also attend the Reading Recovery program with Mrs Elfes. Serena Petriella will offer literacy support programs throughout the year. Mrs Elfes will also assist our ESL students with literacy support. Handwriting sessions will focus on individual handwriting needs.

Please encourage your child to hold their pencil correctly during all writing activities at home.

Mathematics

In K/1K, the children will be encouraged to think mathematically. They will be involved in learning in areas such as Number, counting, addition and subtraction, patterns, measuring length, two dimensional shapes, time and the language of mathematics. Much of their work will be done through hands on activities that are fun and interesting. Children are encouraged to investigate and explore mathematical ideas and to share their ideas with others so that they can better understand the concepts covered.

Creative and Practical Arts.

Creative And Practical Arts activities are integrated into the class program. Children will be involved in some drama, dance and visual arts as well as singing and performing at assembly sometime during the semester.

Physical Education and Health

A range of movement and physical activities happen throughout the school day aimed to keep the students fit and alert. Every Friday the students participate in a range of sports activities aimed at
teaching fundamental movement skills with an emphasis on running, jumping, dancing and passing a ball. Playground games will be taught each week and students are encouraged to include games in their lunch and recess play activities. **On Fridays students are required to wear their sports uniform including the Daceyville hat.**

**Buddy Program**

Each Kindergarten student will be paired with an older student from Stage 2 or 3. Buddies will meet regularly to undertake collaborative learning tasks. The buddy program aims to foster positive relationships within the school community and assist in developing your child’s transition to school life at Daceyville.

**Homework - Year 1**

Homework will be set in Term 1 Week 5 for Year 1, which will provide revision and reinforcement for the groundwork established in the classroom. A spelling list will be given each week, which will cover word families and sight words. Homework will be given out on **Friday** and will need to be returned on the following **Friday**.

I hope that 2015 will be a rewarding and enjoyable year for both you and your child. Please do not hesitate to see me if you have any concerns! Finally as partners in education, I hope that together we can develop your child’s love of learning as well as further developing their respect for each other.

Yours Sincerely,

Melissa Keating
Class Teacher

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