Dear Parents and Guardians,

A big welcome to all KR families! I am very happy to be joining you and your children on this exciting initial stage of their primary school journey. Our early days of Kindergarten have been spent learning about how to be happy, safe and successful at school. The children have been finding out about school routines, how to use their classroom and playground environments and who makes up our school community. I am delighted in getting to know each child, discovering their very individual interests and competencies. The children have enjoyed getting to know each other and bond as a class group.

This term students will be engaged in a unit of work that explores their new community at Daceyville Public School. They will investigate what it is that makes them uniquely themselves and what makes them similar and different to their classmates. The children will become familiar with the people who work in our school and how the spaces within our built and natural environments benefit their learning. A range of interactive and cooperative learning experiences will provide students with opportunities to and extend and enrich their knowledge, skills and understandings.

**Literacy**

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 abilities and monitor each child’s growth. 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 these books and find them in the library to borrow for home.
Shortly each child will be allocated a News day and every week your child will be asked to address the class group for two to three minutes on a particular topic. You can help your child prepare for this public speaking activity by giving them ideas on what to speak about and providing them with an opportunity to practise their presentation.

These are the topics for this term:
Week 5 (week beginning Monday 23rd February) **Show and Tell**
Week 6 (week beginning Monday 2nd March) **All about me**
Week 7 (week beginning Monday 9th March) **Show and Tell**
Week 8 (week beginning Monday 16th March) **My birthday**
Week 9 (week beginning Monday 23rd March) **Someone in my family**
Week 10 (week beginning Monday 30th March) **Show and tell**

**Numeracy**

The Numeracy program will concentrate on number, counting, addition and subtraction, patterns, measuring length, two dimensional shapes, time and the language of Mathematics.

A brief overview of this term’s student outcomes:

- Counts forwards and backwards,
- Builds and subtracts numbers by using materials to represent each number,
- Recognises, describes and continues repeated patterns,
- Describes length and distance using everyday language and compares length using direct comparison,
- Manipulates, sorts and describes 2D shapes using everyday language,
- Connect days of the week to familiar events; sequence and order the duration of events.

**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.**
Crunch and Sip

We are a Crunch and Sip school which means every class takes time to have a healthy snack during learning. Please pack your child a small snack of fresh fruit and/or vegetables and a bottle of water daily.

Creative Arts

Students will be involved in a range of creative and performing arts activities through the school week. This term students will explore and learn skills in Dance, Drama, and Music. They will showcase their learning at several performance opportunities such as school assemblies. Students will view artworks and learn Visual Arts techniques through the use of a range of materials. Activities are designed to unleash self-expression, creativity and talent.

Library

Students will visit the Library once a week on Tuesday to borrow books and enjoy a lesson with Mrs Bowring, our school librarian. Students will need a Library bag to borrow books (separate to the coloured Home Reading bags given out at Orientation sessions last year). Library books should be left at home throughout the week and only brought back to school each Tuesday.

Home Reading

Students will begin Home Reading as the term progresses. A comprehensive information pack will be sent home with guidelines for reading with your child. The coloured Daceyville bag provided at Orientation last year will become your child’s Home Reading bag. This is to be brought to school every day as it also serves as a communication folder for notes.

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.

Daily Routines

Below are some reminders about important routines at Daceyville:

- **Bring your child to school before the morning bell so that they are ready and lined up with their class by 9.10am. Parents are requested to remain on the playground as the students move off to classrooms.**
- **If your child is kept home from school, explain your child’s absences in a letter, ring the school office or tell the teacher in person.**
- **At the end of the school day collect your child outside the building near your child’s classroom at 3.10pm (from week 4 onwards).**
• Please label all of your child’s clothing, hats, drink bottles and lunch boxes. This will ensure the safe return of your child’s belongings.

• Please ensure that your child has fresh water and healthy food items packed in their lunch daily. A healthy lunch will maximise your child’s learning and help them to feel settled and alert during the school day.

• We love to have parents helpers in the classroom from term 2 onwards. If you have any time available throughout the week please let us know.

For a classroom to run efficiently we need some extra basic hygiene products. If you are able to donate something from the following list it would be much appreciated.

• boxes of tissues
• rolls of paper towel
• dishcloths or sponges
• spray cleanser (for cleaning our tables)
• hand soap

I am looking forward to a productive and happy term with the students. Please feel free to contact me on (02) 9349 1211 if you have any concerns or enquires about your child or the learning program.

Kind regards,

Brooke Rush

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**Important dates:**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17th February</td>
<td>Scripture begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17th February</td>
<td>Parent Information Evening @ 5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 19th February</td>
<td>School Banking starts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4th March</td>
<td>Opera Australia - Cinderella</td>
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<td>Monday 16th March</td>
<td>School photos</td>
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<td>Monday 23rd - 27th</td>
<td>Parent-Teacher Interviews</td>
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<td>1st April</td>
<td>Cross Country Carnival</td>
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<td>2nd April</td>
<td>Last Day of Term</td>
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<td>20th April</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<td>21st April</td>
<td>Classes resume</td>
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