Dear Grade 2 Parents,

Welcome to Grade 2. We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas, New Year and took a final breath on Australia Day before it was time to return to busyness of school life.

This year we welcome a new teacher to the Grade 2 team, Miss Amanda Smith (2 Red), and we continue to see the regular faces of Mr Andrew Johnston (2 Yellow), and Mrs Mary Reilly (2 Blue), and Mr Daniel Bau (2 Green).

Students in Grade 2 have a Student Diary. The Student Diary will help with getting information to and from home, for the teacher, parents and students. It will be utilised by being placed daily in the green pouch, alongside the student’s Reading Log, Spelling Homework and any notes that need to be transferred between home and school. So please ensure your child’s green pouch is in your child’s bag, along with the other required equipment and is checked daily. This way everyone knows what is going on.

Reading Logs will run much the same as in Grade 1. Students will read their ‘Take Home Book’, and parents will fill in the details and sign the appropriate place. This will be checked on a daily or weekly basis, depending on the teacher. This is also used to assess how much your child is reading at home. ‘Take Home Books’ will start as soon as testing is completed, until then students are encouraged to read a book of their choice at home each day. ‘Take Home Books’ will only be changed on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays, and will not be changed if the previous book is not returned.

Students are expected to be in full summer uniform with the summer sports uniform on allocated sports days. All this is set out in the School Student Handbook. School uniform includes appropriate socks (brown for boys and white for girls) and black school shoes or black only runners (without brands or labels in different colours). Normal sports runners are permitted on your child’s allocated sports day. School uniform includes the appropriate coloured hair ties and clips (brown, white, yellow & black), and the only jewellery that is allowed to be worn is a simple pair of studs or sleepers for earrings, a cross necklace and a watch. Also please ensure all hair is tied up or clipped back from the face.

As always we endeavour to exclude as many nut based items from school as possible. In Grade 2 we have many children with allergies and in order to protect them and their health we would appreciate that all parents are careful when preparing their child’s food for the day. We know students like to celebrate their birthdays at school with something to share with the class. The best option is individually wrapped lollies, like lollypops, as these are less likely to contain elements of nuts or other ingredients children may be allergic to and can be placed into students’ bags to go home to be enjoyed. If you have any queries please see your child’s teacher.
Hats are compulsory for Terms 1 and 4. All students must wear the St Simons hat at school. If students don’t have a hat they will be asked to sit in the designated shaded area for the duration of recess or lunch.

If your child is absent from school, you must inform the school of your child’s absence, either through the email system, Skoolbag app, or a written letter to the teacher (this must not be written in the school diary) as this letter is documented and filed as part of school and Government requirements.

Could all students please bring all stationery to school. This will be placed in a bag with your child's name on it to be used when required. This process prevents students being without the necessary items for too long. If they have not yet been sent please send in your tissues (3 boxes per student), and sponges (1 pkt per student), as they are a necessary commodity in Grade 2. Thank you to the students who have already brought these to school.

Parents who wish to assist in the school, either in the classrooms or attending excursions, must have a current and valid Working With Children’s Check. Parents wishing to help in the classroom must have completed the school based training program. Information about up and coming school based training program will be in the Contact, so watch out for this.

**Important:** You will find attached the school Cybersafety User Agreement form. This needs to be returned before your child is allowed access to the computer and iPads. Furthermore you need to read the St. Simon's Positive Behaviour document with your child and then fill it in and return it to your teacher.

**During Term 1 we will be covering the following units of work:**

In Mathematics we will be covering the topics of Data and Chance, and Number. We will also be making use of the ‘Maths Toolkit’ which will be used for homework activities that are meaningful to current classroom learning and individual student needs. Please ensure the ‘Maths Toolkit’ comes to school every day so that new activities can be added. In addition the equipment is often used during class times.

The SOSE/Integrated topic for this term titled: 'Us and Friends' will focus on school and classroom rules, working in teams, communicating, conflict resolution, resilience and friendship. This will be closely linked to our Religion focus which is on Reconciliation through the story of the Prodigal Son, with an emphasis on love and forgiveness. This will be followed by Lent and Holy Week, with an emphasis on the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. In the latter part of Term 1 the SOSE unit will focus on Australia.

In Literacy, we will be focusing on our reading skills with an emphasis on reading comprehension, sequencing, predicting and finding key ideas. Additionally, we will be revisiting listening to and following instructions. Spelling will follow the SMART spelling format as used in Grade 1 last year. The spelling focus forms part of the students’ daily homework. There will be a spelling post test each Friday. The handwriting emphasis will be on letter formation and overall legibility and neatness. The punctuation focus will be on full stops, capital letters, question marks and
exclamation marks, and the grammar focus will be on noun types, verbs, adjectives, and proofreading and editing.

Finally, homework for this term will be centred around student’s weekly spelling activities, reading their ‘Take Home Book’, and completing a maths activity from their ‘Maths Toolkit’. Students are expected to complete each of the week’s spelling tasks, read their ‘Take Home Book’, and complete the set maths activity. Homework is compulsory, as outlined in the Student School Handbook. All homework is due on Friday morning. However, we are well aware of time factors in family lives and if you have any concerns about homework please see your child’s classroom teacher.

Student’s Term 1 Specialist Timetable

2 Red
Thursday- Library, Music, Art
Friday- Sport

2 Blue
Thursday- Art, Sport, Library
Friday- Music

2 Green
Monday- Library,
Thursday- Sport, Art, Music

2 Yellow
Thursday- Music, Sport, Library
Friday- Art

Most importantly: The key to creating an effective home-school relationship is communication. Parents please ensure that if you have any concerns that you speak to or email your classroom teacher. However, if it is a matter that needs greater attention than a few minutes before or after school, it is best to make an appointment with the teacher.

Teacher emails:
Amanda Smith asmith@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
Mary Riley maryr@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
Daniel Bau dbau@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au
Andrew Johnston ajohnston@ssrowville.catholic.edu.au

We are looking forward to working with you and your children over the year.

Regards

Amanda Smith (2 Red), Mary Reilly (2 Blue),
Daniel Bau (2 Green), Andrew Johnston (2 Yellow)