Dear Parents and Carers,

May I take this opportunity to welcome you all to Year 2 2015. My name is Robyn Sullivan and I am very happy to be teaching 2S. The students have very quickly settled into their new class and the students and I are looking forward to an exciting and productive school year.

**DAILY REMINDERS - TERM ONE**

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<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<td>Assembly 2.40</td>
<td>Science- 2S</td>
<td>Chess - 8am</td>
<td>Library 2S</td>
<td>Sport</td>
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<td>SRC - recess (odd weeks)</td>
<td>Scripture 12.00</td>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>Moving Bodies for all Year 2 classes (Term 1)</td>
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**Key Learning Areas**

The six Key Learning Areas (KLAs) in primary school are: English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and its Environment (H.S.I.E), Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (P.D.H.P.E), and Creative Arts. Following is a guide outlining each KLA.

**ENGLISH**

After careful and ongoing assessment, students are placed into literacy groups. During this time, students work independently and with a teacher on a text which is at their instructional level. Students also participate in literacy games, writing activities and ICT usage.

**Reading and Viewing:** This is taught through shared, guided and independent experiences for students. Teachers read quality texts to their classes daily and explicitly teach and model the strategies for decoding, fluent and expressive reading, comprehension and techniques that authors use to engage their audience.
Home reading: This program provides students with the opportunity to read texts at their independent level. These books should be easy enough for students to read without adult assistance as they are designed to improve student confidence, fluency and expression. The changing of home readers will be supervised by their classroom teacher and students should to borrow one book at a time. Please see the document, Helpful Home Reading Hints, which can be found on the school website for more information about this system and how you can help your child with reading at home.

Please note that as reading levels increase it becomes more difficult and takes much longer to move up to higher levels. This is particularly so when students move beyond level 15. From level 15, progressions may be slower and the time it takes to progress will vary. This is because the level of difficulty has increased and students must demonstrate the ability to read more accurately and fluently complicated texts, as well as show an understanding of the text by answering comprehension and vocabulary questions.

Writing & Representing: Students will be exposed to a variety of rich texts in reading. In Term One, writing will be linked to the study of these texts as students develop their creativity and understanding of sentence structure and vocabulary usage. Throughout the year, students will write a range of imaginative, persuasive and informative texts.

Handwriting: This is explicitly taught on a daily basis. Correct formation of the NSW Foundation Style handwriting is taught with an emphasis on correct pencil grip, posture and consistent size and slope of letters. Please see the school website for an example of NSW Foundation font. Neat handwriting and presentation of work is a focus in all writing activities.

Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary: The concepts that will be covered include correct sentence structure, cohesion, punctuation, parts of speech, word building and origins of vocabulary. Students will engage in explicit grammar lessons and will be encouraged to experiment with grammar, punctuation and vocabulary to enhance their writing.

Spelling: Year Two spelling is based on phonological knowledge (how words sound), visual knowledge (how words look) and morphemic knowledge (how words change, e.g. walked, walking). Students study spelling rules in class on a weekly basis and assessment is conducted by dictation and analysis of student writing samples.

Speaking and Listening: These skills are taught explicitly in class and a range of opportunities, both formal and informal, are provided for children to gain confidence when speaking to an audience. Students are encouraged to speak clearly, and to maintain eye contact and steady body posture when speaking. They will work in pairs cooperatively and in groups to present formal presentations including speeches.

HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT

During first term in HSE, the focus is on developing a strong link to culture, tradition and the environment. We will be studying the History unit “Past in the Present”. This unit asks the key questions, what aspects of the past can you see today? What do they tell us? What remains of the past are important to the local community? Why? How have changes in technology shaped our daily life? Students will discuss the similarities and differences of technology from the past through a range of sources and sequence them over time. They will identify a
significant site in the local community and discuss what it reveals about the past and why it is considered important.

**MATHEMATICS**

In Year Two students will work towards mastering skills and understanding in the following strands:
- Number – forwards and backwards counting, addition and subtraction, money skills
- Measurement – length, mass, volume & capacity, area
- Space & Geometry – 2D & 3D shapes, position
- Data – creating & interpreting simple graphs
- Patterns & Algebra – sequencing numbers, identifying patterns

Finding opportunities to practise these in real world situations will assist children in developing their understanding.

This year, Mathematics will be taught with a focus on the inquiry process, allowing students to participate in investigations whilst developing the set skills required by the curriculum. This process aims to make learning authentic for each student and encourages students to be active participants in their acquisition of knowledge.

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

This year Year 2 students will participate in weekly science lessons with Mrs. Rao for a total of 80 minutes. In these lessons, students will develop their knowledge about scientific processes, hypothesise and conduct experiments to test predictions. This term the students will be studying Water.

**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PDHPE)**

**PDH** programs for Term 1 will focus on safe living and values. Safe living addresses road, fire, beach and sun safety, as well as emergency procedures and hazards around the home and school. Students will also participate in a weekly Peer Support Program (Term 1 only) which focuses on values and friendship.

**PE** will consist of a weekly program provided by Moving Bodies. This program provides students with an opportunity to participate in specialised teaching of athletics, dance and gymnastics. Year 2 has Moving Bodies in Terms 1 and 3 on a Thursday. Students wear their normal school uniform and school shoes on this day. Girls may wear bike shorts (or similar) underneath if wearing a dress for the gymnastic component in Term 3.

In addition, students will participate in weekly sport in where they will further develop their fundamental movement skills and engage in a range of team sports. Occasionally, students will use Holly St Oval as an additional sports venue. Please ensure that you have given permission for your child to use this venue.
CREATIVE ARTS

Students will be provided with many opportunities to engage in Visual Arts and Craft, Dance, Drama and Music activities throughout the year, focusing on creative development and individual responses to artistic forms. These lessons will be integrated from all Key Learning Areas and occur weekly. An art smock or old t-shirt is required for all students.

ORGANISATION

Please encourage your child to be prepared for school each day and to be responsible for packing their school bag with everything they need, including all labelled stationary requirements.

Library: These lessons will occur every Wednesday. Please ensure that students have packed their library bag. Year 2 students may borrow 4 books at a time this year.

Scripture: These lessons take place each Wednesday. Lessons for K-2 are from 12.00-12.30pm. Please send a note to the school office if you wish your child to change classes. Please note that changes will be made at the end of each term only.

School Reward System: Castle Cards, Merit Certificates and A-Day Awards are given out throughout the year. Once your child receives 10 Castle Cards please hand into your class teacher in a named envelope. A Merit Certificate will be handed out in class. 10 Merits earns a Bronze Award, another 10 a Silver Award and a following 10 earns a Gold Award. The cycle begins again with Bronze, Silver, Gold Award II. This award system continues throughout their school life at Castle Cove so children should retain all awards.

Attendance: If your child has been absent from school please send a note within two days of your child’s absence stating the dates and reason for. If they are not in the classroom by 9.25am or they have to leave early please complete a partial absence slip at the office and pass it on to the class teacher (we need these for our roll which is a legal document).

Notes: Please deposit all notes that have money enclosed into the letter boxes at the office. All other permission notes are to be handed into the classroom teacher.

Teacher Meetings: On Monday mornings and Wednesday afternoons all teachers attend staff meetings/professional development. They also attend a range of team and curriculum meetings. As these occur immediately before and after school the class teacher will arrive at bell time on Mondays and will need to leave promptly some afternoons. We would appreciate your cooperation in avoiding lengthy conversation during these times. Please make an appointment with the class teacher if you feel the question or comment requires quite some time. Alternatively, please email the class teacher and we will reply as soon as possible.

Mastery Badges: Homework will focus on skills mastery. This includes students reading at home every night and rote learning basic mathematics facts. Students are also expected to read and record books read, for the Premier’s reading Challenge. Homework is aimed at assisting students to master the basic skills required to successfully participate in literacy and numeracy based tasks at school. The badge system allows students some choice in their learning as well as incentives and recognition for achievement.
HOW TO CONTACT YOUR CLASSROOM TEACHER

We value our contact with parents and believe that we are most successful when working in partnership with children’s families. Therefore, I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns that you would like to raise.

Robyn Sullivan: robyn.e.sullivan@det.nsw.edu.au

I am looking forward to working with you and your children this year.