Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term 1, 2016. We hope you and your children have had a positive start to the school year. The students look happy and eager to be back at school and engaging in their collaborative learning spaces.

Reminders

Ready to Start:

The first school bell rings at **8.50am** and this is the time the students enter the building quietly and hand notices to their teacher, place their iPad in their classroom and prepare themselves for learning. These routines are in place to allow the children ten minutes to settle and connect with friends. Parents can also briefly catch up with the classroom teacher at this time. Please note that this is just a very quick chat. Alternatively you can e-mail your child’s teacher to organise a time to chat. **Learning starts at 9am.**

**English** – Our teaching and learning of English integrates Reading and Viewing, Writing and Speaking and Listening skills with our Inquiry learning each term. Some of the programs to listen out for as we introduce them in Middle School are Razzle Dazzle (targeted spelling program, running weekly), Writer’s Notebook and “Read-it Read-it” (home reading).

As part of our Home Learning program, we strongly encourage students to **read at least 5 times/week** (as appropriate to individuals). Home reading is organised through weekly library borrowing. Students can borrow 4 books, including chapter books, to share between class and home reading.

During Term 1 we will focus on **Information texts** (for the purpose of persuading or informing).

**Mathematics** – **Please send a pack of playing cards to school in a plastic container for your child.** A unique deck of cards for each student assists classroom organisation greatly.

Middle School will continue working with Michael Ymer this year. We will be continuing to adopt his practices into our maths lessons. The emphasis at this level is that students study coherent, meaningful and purposeful mathematics that is relevant to their lives. Students still require active experiences that allow them to construct key mathematical ideas, but also gradually move to using models, pictures and symbols to represent these ideas.

At home, you can support your child by revising automatic recall of multiplication facts and number facts, eg 3+4, 7+3 and also involving them in real life maths such as shopping, holiday planning, cooking and so on.

**Inquiry** – Continuing from our Kick Start Kew program students will explore their role in the community as learners - their strengths, areas for development, including learning styles and habits for individuals - managing learning and building and maintaining positive learning and social relationships. They will look at local government and its role in the community. This will integrate with our English learning as students apply persuasive skills to prepare advertisements, informative and promotional materials about themselves and local services.

**Term 1 Events**

- **February 10-12**: Year 4 Camp
- **February 16 & 18**: Parent Teacher Interviews
- **February 16-26**: 34K, 34N & 34E Swimming (Tu-F)
- **March TBC**: Clean Up Kew on foot excursion
- **March 9**: ICT/iPad Information session
- **March 1-11**: 34P, 34J & 34S Swimming (Tu-F)
- **March 23**: Curriculum Day
- **March 24**: End of Term 1 – 2:30pm finish
Year 4 Camp – Year 4’s are heading off to YMCA Mt Evelyn Camp for their first camping experience! We will be participating in exciting team building activities such as the giant swing, flying fox, archery and an open water learning experience. Keep your eye out for the postman!

FISH Philosophy – We will be building a culture around the Fish Philosophy in Middle School. Listen out and ask your children to share their knowledge about this in the coming weeks.

Swimming – 34K, 34N and 34E will be going to swimming at Kew Recreation Centre in the 2 weeks after Year 4 camp this term (Tuesday 16th February to Friday 19th February and Tuesday 23rd February to Friday 26th February).

34P, 34J and 34S will be swimming the 2 weeks after that (Tuesday 1st March to Friday 4th and Tuesday 8th March to Friday 11th March).

iPad and ICT – ICT/iPad Information Evening Wednesday 9 March: 6.30-7.30 pm Room 3
The purpose of the ICT/iPad session is to look at iPad basics - setting up your iPad, in app restrictions, disabling certain settings, enabling age restrictions, and to outline the direction and vision for ICT at Kew Primary School.

Home Learning – Home Learning provides an opportunity for parents to share their children’s learning and fosters effective lifelong study habits. Students have the opportunity to extend class work as well as practise skills at home.

We aim to develop organisational skills, independence and responsibility, encouraging students to reflect on their learning and seek help when needed.

You can assist by:

- Being positive about school, discuss daily events and learning with your child
- Encourage resilience and independence
- Encouraging self-discipline
- Showing interest in and revising completed home learning tasks
- Allowing children to retain ownership of their work

We strongly encourage students to read at least 5 times/week for 10-25 minutes and revise number facts (i.e. times tables, division, addition and subtraction facts) regularly too. Home reading is organised through library borrowing.

Routine home learning tasks will begin later in the term and will be on a fortnightly rotation.

Thank you for your continued support,

Middle School Teachers

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