

**Welcome To Room 5**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to 2017 at Coatesville School. We hope that you have had a fabulous and relaxing holiday!

**Communication:**

On Tuesday 28th of February, from 3:15 – 3:45, we will have a sharing afternoon where you will be able to meet your child's teacher (me) and discover more about the children's learning environment.  We will send a reminder notice home closer to the time.  This previous week, you should have received a notice regarding the stationery list, swimming and the school donation.

The junior years are crucial times in your child's education where many of the fundamental building blocks of learning are established.  We value your input and support all through the school year and are happy to answer any questions you may have.  For a quick chat, we are available before school from 8.30 or for a more detailed discussion, please email your teacher to set up an appointment time or simply send us an email with your query and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

**Swimming:**

Swimming will consist of learning in and out of the pool. We will be encouraging water confidence and safety awareness in the water, in addition to practicing basic swimming skills.  We welcome parent help at these times. If you are available and willing to help, please talk to me or see the roster on our room 5 notice board.

Our swimming days are:

**Monday 2:30 – 3:00, Tuesday 2.30 – 3:30, and Friday 2.00 – 2:30.**
Please ensure that your child’s swimming bag and contents are named. Pick up will be at the pool on Monday and Tuesday. Please let me know if your child is attending afterschool care or catching the bus on these days.

**Music**

Our music lesson will be each Tuesday from 12:30 – 1pm.

**Library**

Our library time will be on the Friday of each week. Your child will likely bring home a library book in their book bag that night. Junior students are allowed to issue their books out for one week before they are to be returned. Please bring their books back on or before the next Friday.

**News:** Oral language supports extending vocabulary and builds confidence whilst being the center of attention and speaking to an audience.  On News days, your child is welcome to share an item for news.  They may want to bring an item to show and discuss or may just wish to stand and relate something interesting from their life experience.  Help your child to prepare by discussing what questions they may be asked.  Please do not send precious items to school.

Monday: Anna, Shawn

Tuesday: Ruby, William

Wednesday: Ivy, Luca

Thursday: Ameilia, Beau

**Reading:**  Once reading groups have been established, you can expect a reader home Monday to Thursday.  On Fridays, the children will share a poem with you.  Please do not be concerned if your child brings home a reader that they may have read previously as levels can alter over the holiday period.  Similarly, you may feel that the reader is too easy however please bear in mind that they will have read it to the teacher, to themselves and possibly to a buddy by the time they read it to you. If the book seems too hard please don’t hesitate to let me know and we can discuss some strategies to use at home.

**Writing:**Our learners are all at different stages of increasing their skills and let's remember that this is a very complex task.  Children need to learn the alphabet sounds, learn to form letters, generate an idea, plan their story, retain the idea, write the words they do know, sound out or seek assistance for unknown words, and then learn to read over and edit their work.

You can assist your children by engaging them in writing at home.  Have them help to write shopping lists, or a postcard to Nana, or keeping a journal.  Take a photo of an activity you do at the weekend and help the children to write a sentence or two about it.

**Maths:**The children are increasing their number knowledge and are gaining an awareness of strategies to use to help solve number problems.  Maths is all around us everyday and it is hugely beneficial to include maths in your daily discussions.  You can talk about the measurements you use when cooking, skip count the letter boxes when out walking, count the steps to the dairy, or count how many silver cars you see on the motorway.  Think about the maths language you use, for example: Are there more blue cars than red, is this kitten bigger or smaller than that one, how much money will we need to buy milk and bread?

This term, our strand maths is measurement and statistics.  We will use standard and non-standard units of measure, for example using hand spans to measure our desks, or foot spans to measure the basketball court and then will extend to using rulers and measuring tapes.

**Parent Help:** We welcome parent help in class, on trips and with activities such as swimming. Talk to your teacher if you are available to help.  Helpful tasks could be wiping down tables in the morning to help keep bugs at bay, putting readers away or helping to cut up and sort resources.  All help is greatly appreciated.

**Topic:**  Our school wide topic for this term is Being Successful. There is a myriad of ways that we will integrate this into our learning and we look forward to sharing this with you as our term progresses.

**Brainfood**:  Please label your child's brainfood container.  A small amount of cut up fruit or veges are great choices for brainfood.

**Class Bear**

One of our ‘Star of the Day’ jobs is to look after our class bear (Beary-Bear, as named by the class) for the night and bring them back to school the following day. There will be a story book that will go home with Beary-Bear. Students are encouraged to write a short story and/or draw pictures of their adventures with Bear; these will be shared with the class the following morning.

We look forward to learning more about your children and seeing them flourish as the year progresses.

Kind regards from the Kauri Team,

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