Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2017, a new year of learning!

Our new class name is 2M. My name is Sally McFadyen and I am looking forward to taking over the care and teaching of your children for this year.

What an exciting term we have ahead of us filled with many special events. We are so pleased to be continuing with our focus on the use of the virtues in our daily lives. Our Opening Mass is on Wednesday 22nd February. Please drop your children at St Mary’s Church instead of at school. Parent Teacher Goal Setting Conferences are on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th February. Please book online. Details will be in the newsletter. We have our Family Fun Night at the Young Aquatic Centre on the Thursday 23rd February.

There will be an emphasis on collaborative learning in the Year 2 classrooms this year. This will see the children working cooperatively to solve problems and achieve their goals.

Our topics across the curriculum this term are:

**RE - God and God’s Creation - “God’s Gifts”** The children will learn that all life comes from God; that we can experience God in different ways and, that as Christians, we are called to use our gifts and talents to respond to others as Jesus showed us.

**Mathematics** - We will begin our year by exploring numbers using an enquiry based approach. We will also look at 3D objects and their properties; collect and record data: investigate length, area and mass of a variety of objects.

**English -**

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**WE LOVE READING IN YEAR 2**

The most important thing we can encourage you to do with your child at home is to

READ, READ, READ!

Consistent daily reading of 10 to 20 minutes duration is the best thing to help the developing and continuing reader so we cannot recommend this activity more strongly.
English will take place in the first session of each day. A 120-minute Literacy block will facilitate the learning and teaching of English in Year 2 with a major emphasis on independent reading and writing. The children will choose their own texts for Independent Reading in the classroom and for home reading. They will also write independently each day on a topic or theme of their choice. The literacy block also includes many diverse activities that focus on other areas of literacy such as spelling, grammar and vocabulary.

**Home Reading** - It is essential for all students to read at home for at least 10 minutes every night. Shared reading is recognised as one of the most important contributions a parent can make to their child's education. Children can read any text they like - books from the library, books from home, newspapers, magazines etc. There are, of course, books that can be borrowed from the classroom for nightly reading if needed. This year every child has been provided with a **Reading Log** to record their daily reading. Please take some time to read through it with your child as it has some really valuable tips and ideas. No reading levels will be recorded in this book. Please return this to school every Friday with homework. If you have any queries, you may use the communications section on each page and send the book in with your child.

**Creative Arts** - Music: Will be learnt with Mrs Presser for an hour each week. Visual Arts will be carried out in the normal classroom routines. Activities this term will involve both drawing and painting.

**PDH** - Mrs Bolger will be teaching Health and Personal Development to the children on a fortnightly basis.

**Science** - Our unit is called 'Push-Pull'. We will be exploring forces with many hands on activities.

**PE / Sport** Children will need to wear their sports uniform on Monday and Wednesday. Lessons will be taken by classroom teachers. This term our focus will be on games that encourage teamwork and cooperation.

**Philosophy** - We are looking forward to introducing your children to Philosophy this year. During these sessions, they will learn to think critically and express their ideas clearly whilst considering the opinions of others.

**Homework** - Children are expected to learn their weekly spelling words by using the testing page in the booklet. Additionally, there is a virtue based activity to be completed in the **reading log** which will only take a couple of minutes of your time. One unit of Math's Mentals must be completed each week.
Library 2W – Thursday  
2M – Wednesday
Year 2 Prayer Service Wednesday 29th March 10.00am
Assembly 2W – Term 1, week 8  
2M – Term 2, week 5

Housekeeping:
* It is imperative that your child arrives at school ready to begin class at 8:50am. Late arrivals not only disrupt the whole class but also impact on a child’s learning. Late arrivals need to come via the office.
* Please note that if your child is absent from school it is a legal requirement that a note explaining the reason for the absence is sent in. A handwritten note, email or notification using skoolbag are all appropriate. Please attend to within one week (seven days) of the child being absent.
* Please label all clothes and belongings.
* Remember to pack hat, fruit and a water bottle each day.
* Please return covered books by next Monday 6th February.

Finally, if you ever have any questions, concerns or would like to just catch up, do not hesitate to make contact and arrange a time. Contact can be made via email or phone. Please allow sufficient time for a response. Alternatively, a note sent to school is another way of making contact.

Many thanks,
Sally McFadyen  
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It is imperative that children read every night!