Welcome to 2012!!!!

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to 2012 and to Room 4! Our classroom is part of ‘Block A’. After many hours spent preparing the room I think you will agree that it provides a stimulating and fun environment in which your child will learn. I am pleased to be your child’s teacher and look forward very much to working with him/her. I am sure we will have a great time learning together! It is fantastic to see some familiar faces of siblings of students I have had in past years and I extend a very warm welcome to all new students and families. At this stage there are 25 children in the class, 11 boys and 14 girls.

This newsletter is to provide you with information regarding initial organizational systems in the classroom as well as details of our learning focus for this term.

All teachers are to be in their classrooms by 8.35 each morning and the Unit doors will be locked until then. We would be very grateful if you could wait outside the classroom before and after school in the interests of security and safety. This is just in case I am not in the classroom at that time.

I am keen to foster a sense of responsibility, which happens to be one of the keys to success from Program Achieve, (a program embraced by the entire school) so it would be great if you let your child carry into the room their necessary belongings and support them to put things where they need to go. They need to learn the routines of the classroom and be able to do lots of little things by themselves and they are more than capable of doing many things on their own!

The Diary is the only book I ask you to cover if you are happy to. Please use the diary whenever you have something that I need to know about and I’ll do the same. The children fill out the diary each Monday with known information about the upcoming week as well as spelling words to learn and practice. Readers, the Diary and any Newsletters come home in the large “Reader bag”. Please remind your child to bring it every day. The diary goes in a special container by my desk and their Reader bag goes in their tray. This is all done as they come into the room. When this has been done there is usually something for the children to read on the whiteboard. It will be a task for them to do until 9:00. At 9:00 all children come and sit on the floor.

Starting in week 2, I would love to have some help with Reading first thing in the morning. So if you could stay for half an hour or so to listen to the children, that would be great! Just let me know if and when you are available. It doesn’t have to be on regular basis. Any help would be fantastic! We will be introducing a new Literacy program during the term called Daily 5 and Café. This
was developed by two American teachers and has been very successful. You will get more details at Aquaintance night and as the term progresses.

This semester we have **German** on Thursday with Petra James and **Music** on Tuesday with Kenny Rayner. We also have **Science/Technology** on Tuesday with Jillian Hook. Another component of the teaching program will be **Physical Education** with Karen Pettman (the day for this is yet to be decided). I will let you know when library borrowing day will be.

Throughout the whole year I will be encouraging healthy eating and one of the things I will have is a **fruit or vegetable break** in the morning. We usually have this an hour after starting school. Would you mind adding an extra piece of fruit or vegetable in your child's lunch box to have at this time? It needs to be something that has come from a tree or grown in the ground, not out of a packet. Please be aware that this is only a snack and the children have about 10 minutes in which to eat it. In the past I have found that children who have large pieces of fruit to eat at this time don't get to finish it so please try and select small pieces of fruit for this break. We usually have fitness straight after fruit.

**Acquaintance Night** is a great opportunity for you to meet me and find out in an informal way the things your child will be doing this year. I will fill you in on the routines, expectations, topics etc so that you are aware of things that will be happening. Kimberly and I will do this together and I would also like to spend some time introducing you to the class blog, which is a fantastic tool for keeping in touch with your child's learning. **Acquaintance Night** for R-2 will be Tuesday 14th February 6:30-7:20 p.m.

We are in the Sectional Team called the **Early Years**. This comprises Reception, Year One and Two. Within this team we also have **Curriculum Planning Teams** and my team is made up of Kimberly and the Year Two teachers Renee Hunt and Anita Pinkster.

For the first few weeks we will be focusing on **Australia** (the country, states and cities), the **school norms** both within the classroom and in the yard. We will discuss appropriate and inappropriate behaviour and the consequences for both things. **Getting along** with each other and treating each other with respect will also be an important topic. This is part of **Program Achieve** which is an ongoing topic throughout the year. **Being sun smart** is something that is regularly talked about and we also be discussing this topic in **Health**.

This term our major **Inquiry topic** will cover the areas of **Health** and **P.E.** It's called “Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes”. We will be investigating how our bodies work to keep us alive and healthy.
Through their investigations of this topic, the children will increase their knowledge of the body parts and systems and how they work as well as how we keep our bodies healthy.

You will get details of this as we begin the topic and your child starts to come home with tasks that he/she will need to complete. You may have noticed some of the Show and Tell topics are related to this.

In Maths we will begin the term by focusing on the area of Number paying particular attention to writing them the correct way. We will sort, order, compare and match collections. We will practice counting on as well as using concrete materials to perform operations using number. We will also work with patterning and capacity. In English the children will bring home their readers fairly soon. I encourage the children to read every night with your support. They will also get weekly spelling words, but more details about this later. To follow this newsletter will be a more comprehensive outline of our term’s work.

Please feel free to complete the Information Questionnaire at your convenience and return to me via the Reading bag.

Could you start bringing in your child’s named empty drink bottles and towels to be used as part of our fire safety program if you haven’t already done so? Art smocks are really good to have for clothing protection and the children keep them in their trays. Would you mind supplying a box of tissues when it is convenient, as we tend to go through boxes and boxes of them during the year! Thank you!

Bank day continues to be Tuesday if you wish to do this.

The children have a specific Show and Tell day. You received this in the take home pack given to your child when they came for the class visit last year.

Play, which I’m sure your child did last year will continue to be an important component of our program. At this stage Kimberley and I will be doing Play each morning. An important reflection for the children after the sessions will be to discuss the learning that took place and what ideas they may have for the next day.

As you can see, there is lots of information! I will be able to give you more during our Acquaintance Night Session.

I’ll keep you informed of things happening in our class via the Diary, newsletter or our Blog: http://mrsksclass.edublogs.org. If you have any queries or questions please let me know.

Kind regards, Leanne