Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year, we hope you had an enjoyable holiday. We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome new children and their families, and hope you are all settling in well.

A very warm welcome to our new Junior teaching staff: Miss Stephanie Bates, Miss Colleen Scott, Mrs Lisa van Beeck and Mr Tristan Liao.

The Junior School comprises 9 classes and they are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Teacher(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J1S</td>
<td>Vicki Shorthouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J2R</td>
<td>Michelle Reynolds</td>
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<tr>
<td>J3R</td>
<td>Anne Robins and Lisa van Beeck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J4S</td>
<td>Anita Siggins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J5P</td>
<td>Maria Pase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J6R</td>
<td>Sonia Robinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J7S</td>
<td>Colleen Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J8B</td>
<td>Stephanie Bates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J9L</td>
<td>Tristan Liao</td>
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Our Term 1 unit of study will complement and reinforce Roberts McCubbin Primary School’s Beliefs and Understandings and support the objectives in our Safe and Happy Book. We will distribute these books soon and ask that you keep your copy in an accessible place so you and your child can refer to it easily.

**Our UNIT OF INQUIRY this term and our UNDERSTANDINGS**

In Term 1, the children will investigate:

‘How Do Things Move?’

**Our Understandings are:**

- Forces are all around us
- Push or pull forces affects how an object moves
- Size and shape can affect the way an object moves

**Our Learning Assets for the children to learn, develop and demonstrate:**

- What questions can we ask to help us with our learning?
- What do good listeners look like?
- How can we look after and share materials with others?
- How can we share our thinking with others?
- How can we find information to answer our questions?
LITERACY

Our Literacy goals this term will, depending on each child’s developmental level, focus on developing your child’s skills in the areas of handwriting, punctuation, spelling strategies, editing, paragraphing and correct use of upper and lower case letters. Some children will be taking risks in learning the names of letters and their associated sounds; some will focus on correct letter formation, whilst others will need to extend their knowledge of specific blends and spelling of new words. We will practise writing recounts that are either personal or factual with an emphasis on some children taking risks and having a go. The children will also have the opportunity to write narratives and will be exposed to a variety of selected narratives as part of our whole school Literacy focus on Picture Story books during Term 1.

ONLINE INTERVIEWS and ASSESSMENT

During Term 1 we will be conducting the English Online Interview and the Numeracy Online Interview, which assesses the English and Mathematical skills of our junior students. The English Interview assesses students across the three dimensions of VELS: Speaking & Listening, Reading and Writing. The English Online Interview forms part of a state-wide assessment program. The Numeracy Interview assesses students in the areas of counting, place value, addition/subtraction and multiplication/division.

In Term 1 all Foundation students will participate in the English on Line interview with their teacher. This assessment is mandatory for all students in their first year at school and covers specific areas such as letter identification, matching letters to sounds, rhyming words and patterns, reading and comprehension as well as assessing knowledge about writing. The students in their second and third year at school will continually be monitored and assessed in areas of English with an emphasis on reading, comprehension, spelling, dictation and writing. Because some of these assessments are conducted on a 1:1 basis, class teachers need to be released for a few days during the first month of school.

READING/HOMEWORK

As part of our partnership with parents it is an expectation that all parents/carers continue to take an interest in their child’s reading by listening to and sharing the take home book each night and ensuring that the reading log is signed each night. This can involve making predictions about the text and retelling the story. Please also ensure that the reading time is fun and enjoyable. Teachers will remind the children each day about the need to change their book to take home and share.

NUMERACY

This term in Numeracy we are focusing on different aspects of number, like counting, measurement, place value, addition/subtraction and data and graphing. Numeracy Interviews will be starting in late February and March. All children from Foundation to Year 2 will be interviewed individually and assessed. Mathletics is continuing again for 2015. It is a computer/iPad based program which helps build on mathematical skills and concepts. Please be on the look-out for your child’s personalised password to access this program.
HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED THIS TERM
Parents are warmly welcome to assist in the classroom during the morning program starting at 9am till recess. Please be on the look-out for the relevant roster form posted on our Junior School noticeboard located in the Junior School foyer or ask your child’s teacher. Rosters will be available from around Week 3 of term.

SPECIALIST LESSONS
The Junior School will continue to have a range of specialist programs with each lesson running for an hour. The timetable will operate on a Timetable A & B basis each running for a fortnight. Each week your child will attend an Art session, a Performing Arts session and two Physical Education/Sports sessions.
As well as the above specialist classes, each child will access two Library sessions each fortnight and the following fortnight two Robotics sessions.
We are very excited to also offer our Junior School students a half hour Japanese session each week.

Your child’s class teacher will confirm the day your child attends these specialist programs and a class timetable will be sent home.

Your child will need a Library bag for their Library session and an Art smock. Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled with your child’s full name.

SUSTAINABILITY
We are a Waste Wise / Sustainable School and we can continue to reduce the amount of rubbish around our school by decreasing the amount of packaging in students’ lunchboxes. Wrappers will be taken home in lunch boxes and students are being encouraged to be very responsible and bring food along to school in named, reusable containers.
Thank you for your efforts and please keep up the good work!

SUN SMART
As you are aware, our school policy states that Sun Smart hats must be worn during Term 1. Please ensure that your child remembers to bring their named hat and drink bottle to school each day. We also strongly suggest that sunscreen is applied each morning before your child comes to school.
A ‘no hat, no play’ policy applies.

CANTEEN
The canteen will operate in Term 1 and we ask that you refer to our school newsletter or website for further updates.

BANKING
Banking will continue to run on Tuesdays and all new students will be provided with an information pack from the Commonwealth Bank sometime in the near future.
OTHER REMINDERS:
- Ensure children’s belongings are clearly labelled
- Provide your child with a healthy lunch and snack. Brain food snacks (eg: fruit, dried fruit & vegetables) are eaten during learning time if children are hungry
- Remember that they may not manage to eat all their lunch, although we will encourage them to finish as much as a possible
- Provide a water bottle with secure lid (no glass bottles or cans)
- Provide 2 boxes of tissues which can be handed to your child’s teacher
- Provide liquid hand soap/sanitizer

HEAD LICE
We would ask that you are vigilant about checking your child’s hair for head lice and ensure it is treated effectively. It is greatly appreciated by other parents who do take the time to ensure that your child’s learning time is not continually disrupted with head checks.

iPADS
In 2014 we introduced Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) as an integral learning tool as part of our teaching and learning practice. There are certain protocols and guidelines which teachers will revisit with their students. They are a learning tool used under the direct supervision of teachers and we ask that students bring their iPad to school each day fully charged. More information and acceptable use guidelines will be made available soon.

OVERDRIVE APP FOR iPADS
Overdrive is a free app for iPads that allows you to borrow eBooks and audio books from many libraries in Melbourne and around Australia. Many of the Junior School children have this application on their iPad and they are reading their eBooks during our daily reading time. You can access OverDrive through the App Store and you will need to be a member of the library you wish to borrow from. This can be done online or in person at the library.

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION
All parents/ carers are required to communicate in writing any explanations regarding child absences and planned holidays, as this is a legal Departmental requirement.

Please take the opportunity to visit the Junior School foyer to view updated information and PFA information and make sure that you check your classroom windows for latest news.

Please check for a notice that will be sent home to Parents of Foundation children, so that you can meet and talk to your child’s class teacher about any concerns and issues. These meetings are usually conducted on one of the afternoons in February. Please look out for this notice and pop your name against a suitable timeslot.

Parents of children in years 1 and 2 will have the opportunity to meet their child’s class teacher later in the term, for a short informal meeting. This is an ideal opportunity to discuss your child’s ILP (Individual Learning Plan), if they are on one. Your child’s teacher will keep you informed.
**Foundation students** will begin full time from 8:45 till 3:30 on **Monday 23rd February**
The morning bell is 8:45am. This bell is the time when we come into our classrooms so we can organise the things we need for the day. We would appreciate all children being here at this time so we can all start our work together on time. Adjusting to a new school routine can be daunting for some new students and we encourage your child to develop their skills in unpacking their bag, putting their take home folder into the appropriate box and any other requirements.

**Garden Areas**
Just a friendly reminder that all garden areas are out of bound areas. We take great pride in caring for our school environment and we appreciate your support in reminding your children, including pre-school children, not to play in our garden beds, pick flowers or drop litter.

**School Picnic**
We would love to see all families attend our annual school picnic held on our school oval on **Thursday February 26** starting at 5pm. It is always a lovely evening where you have the opportunity to catch up with staff members, other families and meet new members of our school community. Please look in our school newsletter and website for further details.

**Back to School Night**
We are holding a Back to School Night on **Monday February 9** starting at 6pm. The Junior School team will discuss relevant curriculum areas such as Literacy, Numeracy, Inquiry and ICT. We will also discuss the use of iPads and a brief overview of our specialist programs. You will also have the opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and visit their classroom. The meeting will be held in J5P and run for approximately an hour.

**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>Curriculum Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>Year 1-6 students commence</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>Foundation students commence at 9:30-1:40</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>Assembly in school hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>All Students start at 8.45am,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Foundation students finish at 1.40pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>Back to School Night for P-2 @ 6-7pm</td>
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<td>February 19</td>
<td>Professor Bunsen Incursion: The Science of Toys</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>Helping Your Child Learn to Read - Session 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>Foundation Students commence full time</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 26</td>
<td>School Picnic</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>Helping Your Child Learn to Read - Session 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 5 and 6</td>
<td>Curriculum Days (pupil free days)</td>
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<td>March 9</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<td>March 13</td>
<td>Parent Helpers Information Session</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
<td>School Fair</td>
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<td>March 16</td>
<td>Planning and Cultural Diversity Week</td>
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<td>March 27</td>
<td>End Term 1</td>
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From the fabulous Robbie Mac Junior School Team.

We hope you all have a productive first term.