CLASS INFORMATION
BOOKLET
2016

Mrs Shelly Pannell
Room 3 Year 1
**WELCOME**
To incoming Year One students and their loved ones, welcome to Room 3! I look forward to working with you all and hope that the year ahead is a happy, energetic and fruitful one.

**TEACHING PHILOSOPHY**
I believe in building self-confidence as a primary key to self-management skills, social skills and resilience. The development of these critical traits enables positive learning and ensures a happy, motivated child. Whilst every child has unique capabilities and needs, some require extra support to achieve these goals, bringing into play the “learning triangle” between student, teacher and caregivers. I strive to build a close and mutually-responsive relationship with my students’ caregivers and encourage all to participate actively in their child’s school life, be it supporting daily homework requirements, spending time in the classroom “on roster”, or simply sharing the 15-minute “settling-in” time at the start of the school day.

**TEACHING METHODS**
My Maths, English, Science and Humanities and Social Sciences programmes cover the requirements of the Western Australian Curriculum and Edgewater’s Scope and Sequence for that learning area. Caregivers have purchased two text books for the iMaths program, which develops investigative skills, problem-solving and essential Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability skills and concepts. The CARS booklet purchased for each student is part of our STARS program, which develops comprehension skills through implementing various reading strategies. Comprehension skills are further developed through our whole-school focus on weekly Guided Reading in small groups.

Along with these clearly defined outcomes, I practise my firm belief in hands-on, experiential learning, both independently and through co-operative partnerships. Singing and movement to music are an important feature of my daily program and help to keep students engaged, active and having fun.

**CLASS ORGANISATION**
Each child is assigned a desk with a drawer in which they keep a loaded pencil case for Art and a larger drawer for scrapbooks. Stationery is shared at each table – I have found that stocks last longer and are better cared for this way. Responsibility for distributing books and stationery and for tidying up after learning experiences is also shared, thus consolidating co-operative behaviours.

I believe that positive behaviour management depends on mutual respect and clearly-defined expectations. Class rules are discussed and settled upon in open forum and we talk about those types of behaviour which would merit exclusion from the group or, at the worst, referral to the office. Children who make an effort to follow the rules are recognized and praised. I encourage parental support where behaviour issues are concerned, and will keep you informed via telephone, note or in person.

**HOMEWORK**
In Year One, homework consists of daily reading and practising the current spelling list, both of which require some adult support and encouragement. If you would like more information on how best to assist your child, I have a handout available. I believe it is vital to implement a daily regimen of reading and completion of assignments, as this will develop self-management skills and create valuable lifetime habits.
ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE

Any absence from school must be supported by an explanation – this can be by note, email, phone call to the office (9405 4007), or by using our online absentee form from the link on the home page of our website. Explanations must be made within three days of the student returning to school. Family holidays during term time must be notified in advance and in writing to the principal.

ICT/COMPUTER

During our computer sessions we will be completing some activities on cybersafety to ensure that students understand how important this is when accessing the Internet, both here and at home.

We will be learning computer coding using materials sourced from code.org. Students will learn through problem-solving how to write code in order to have the computer do something that they have planned.

SPECIALISTS AREAS

Each week the students will attend Music, Art, PE and Health lessons with specialist teachers. Art requires that each student bring a visual diary and a smock or coverall. PE lessons require appropriate running shoes, along with a water bottle and hat. An information booklet about the specialist areas will be available on the website in Week 2 of this term.

SCHOOL WEBSITE/SCHOOL APP

The school website and the app are your ‘one stop’ shop for information about the school, including events, upcoming activities and online forms. Please download the school app as soon as possible from either the iStore or Google Play. The app’s name is Updat-ed and it is free to download. Further instructions are on the website.

INCURSIONS, SWIMMING LESSONS AND EXCURSIONS

These occur from time to time during the year and payment should be made as soon as possible with the return of any permission slips. See the Contributions and Charges sheet on the school website for more details.

NEWSLETTERS

These are published on the website fortnightly on Friday commencing in Week 1. If we have your email address on file you will receive an email alert to indicate that the newsletter has been published and links to it. Important information is always placed in the newsletter.

BULLYING/GRAFFITI

The school has a zero-tolerance policy to both bullying and graffiti. In the case of the former, please contact the classroom teacher in the first instance if you believe that it is occurring. The sooner we know about it the sooner we can deal with it.

UNIFORM AND SCHOOL HATS
School uniforms must be worn each day. They are available from Uniform Concepts in Joondalup. The school has a no-no play in the sun policy – only bucket, broad-brimmed or Legionnaires styles are permitted. Caps are no longer part of the school uniform.

**PRINTING**

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Are you sitting comfortably with both feet on the floor?

Are you holding your pen correctly?

Is your paper at the correct angle?