Dear Parents and Carers.

Welcome to the 2015 school year and the interesting activities in year 2, in room 13.2. Hope you had an enjoyable break over the summer holidays and are excited to get back to the routines of school again.

As you know both Lynn Johnson and me, Margie Barylak will be the two teachers in 13.2. I will work Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with Lynn being in the room Thursday and Friday. We work together carefully to ensure not only the curriculum needs of year 2 are met, but also the learning needs of all of the students in our care. We feel our teaching collaboration has many advantages in meeting the needs of learners. We look forward to getting to know you and sharing the learning journey with you and your child. To these ends if you feel you can share some of your time with our class, by listening to reading, making blank big books or little books to help with reading and writing, please speak to us about what you can do. We are desperate for your help; just remember police check procedures are required.

We are starting the year learning the techniques for narrative writing. We will be focusing on using capital letters, full stops and good letter formation in the writing process. Helping students learn to use a plan when they are writing to organise their thoughts and to learn to make the story more interesting for the reader. Expect them to write a number of drafts as they learn to stay with one story and improve its quality over a long period. In spelling we will use the Jolly phonics technique of learning sounds. We will have a weekly Oxford work list going home on Mondays, in the communication book, with a test of those words on Wednesday to check in with how we are travelling in learning to spell those words. It would be very helpful if you could support their practise at home, for homework and these words. Daily practise of their reading books is also crucial year 2 home work and so important for their success as strong readers. Your child will have an oral language topic to share with the class, with the oral language roster ready in week 2. Please support your child to prepare to speak to the class with practise at home. We will publish this oral language roster in communication books.

Communication books will go back and forward from home to school daily. Please put any communication for teachers in this book and ask your child to bring it to the teacher’s attention.

We will be working hard to build a classroom culture of collaboration and responsibility in 13.2. Explicitly teaching collaborative skills such as taking turns, building on each other’s ideas, encouraging others and working as a team. Sharing, being encouraging, showing kindness and being a good sport are highly valued cultural features in our room and are explicitly taught, practised and celebrated. You will see us doing collaborative games to help us learn these essential skills for life.

We are starting our maths learning with number and place value. You may be interested to know learners in year 2 work with numbers up to 1000. Investigating sequences, decreasing and increasing in 2, 5, 10 and 100s. Solving simple addition and subtraction and learning to reflect upon and articulate the strategies they are using to problem solve in maths. Learning to see, describe and use patterns is also key parts of success as a mathematician in year 2.

Looking forward to working with you this year.

Kind regards

Margie

Margie Barylak, 13.2 teacher Mondays, Tuesday and Wednesday