Welcome to Room 6! I am very excited to be beginning a new year at Plympton and getting to know your children. We had a very busy first day today, getting to know one another and beginning to establish class routines.

Children will bring home a green “take home folder” nightly. This will contain a Communication Book for us to share information with one another. Please check each night for notes and write in any information relevant for me. All children should be reading nightly at home and will be provided with a reading text for oral reading practice as well as a sheet of 5 “sight words” which are to be learned by rote: that is “look and say”, not sounded out. If your child does not know the word or hesitates, simply tell them the word. This is the best method for learning these words. Once they can say all 5 words without hesitation, I will provide them with the next 5. They will be tested later to make sure they have retained the words.

When reading texts at home, of course memory and picture clues play a large part in early reading. We want the experience to be pleasurable and to encourage your child to enjoy reading. It is not a test and your child needs your support. At this stage it is appropriate to read the text several times. You may read it to your child first, then read it together, and then see if they want to “have a go” themselves with your help. “Have a go” is an important strategy in many areas of learning and is a commonly used phrase at school. I would appreciate your help if you are at school in the mornings. Every child will reread the text they practised at home to an adult, and have their reading recorded.

As a safeguard, we ask that you only listen to your own child read in the mornings (if you are available and have the time). I would really appreciate your help in listening to other children read as well, but in order to do this we ask that you request a National Criminal History Check form from the front office. This will be at no cost to you. This process will also enable you to assist in the classroom and on excursions if you wish.

Children may bring their books home at any time, but please ensure the books are at school for use in lessons the next day.

As we will be having daily fitness sessions throughout the year, please ensure your child’s footwear is appropriate for physical activity. All items brought to school should be clearly marked with your child’s name so they can be returned if misplaced.

I will let you know details of our class program and other routines as soon as possible. Please supply your child with a bottle of water each day and a piece of fruit/vegetable for snack time at around ten o’clock. This should be easy to eat, unprocessed and “non-messy”, e.g. banana, small apple, carrot, cucumber, snow peas, tiny tomatoes, etc. They can keep water on their table to drink as needed throughout the day (with top-ups as needed). If you send along refrigerated or iced water, please use a covered or wrapped bottle so we do not have wet tables and books. Please also be aware that frozen water takes some time to melt ready for drinking.

Please keep in contact with me via your child’s Communication Book, particularly if you are unable to visit the classroom in person. Brief conversations are often possible before and after school, but please let me know via the Communication Book if you would like to make a time for a longer discussion in person or by phone. Any information which you think is relevant or helpful is welcome to inform our teaching and ensure the best care for your child. We will also keep you informed via the Communication Book so it is important that it is checked and returned to school daily.

We are having Acquaintance Night for Reception classes on Monday 2nd February from 6.30 – 7.30pm. We will meet initially in the Library to talk about curriculum and then move to individual classrooms to discuss class routines.

I am looking forward to a great year, working together with you to maximize your child’s opportunities to learn.

Regards,

Stephanie Kakoschke (Ms K)